

Centered in Christ and rooted in social justice, Lumen Christi Academies develops the whole person through a collaborative experience that is dynamic, innovative, and accessible to all.

Faith

Dia De Los Muertos - Day of the Dead

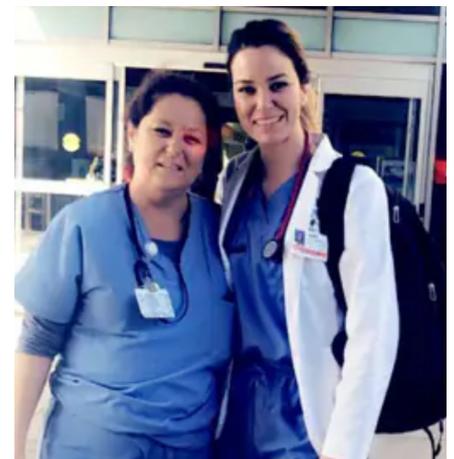
Our schools celebrated El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with variety of age-appropriate activities ranging from creating posters, to making rather elaborately decorated "altars", on which "ofrendas" (offerings) are placed in honor of a deceased person. At St. Paul School Junior High students led a buddy activity on All Souls Day, helping their younger grade buddies make remembrance altars for beloved family members. Creatively decorated altars and ofrendas are prominently displayed in our schools as staff and students remember loved ones who have died and pray for the repose of their souls throughout the month of November.



Excellence

Alumni Spotlight - Dr. Johana Peña

Mr. Tim Jones, St. Anthony's Junior High ELA teacher, recently shared an inspiring story about Dr. Johana Peña, a St. Anthony Alumna, who was recently showcased in a Washington Post article titled, [*She's a medical student. Her mom is a custodian at the hospital where she trained.*](#) As Mr. Jones pointed out, Johana's story "illustrates how hard immigrants have to work in this country to be afforded the privileges that many of us take for granted." Dr. Peña's story is a wonderful reminder of the seeds our staff water and the future promise they hold.



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Veteran's Day Celebrations



One of the beloved traditions at Queen of All Saints is for students to make lap blankets in honor of Veterans Day. Families donate the fleece for the blankets, and students patiently and lovingly make the blankets to donate to veterans and a local veterans hospital. This year the students made twenty colorful warm blankets which were blessed by our pastor, Fr. Neal Clemens, at our annual Veterans Day Assembly.



"We really enjoyed hearing about Mr. Smith's experiences as a military veteran."

St. Peter Martyr 6th graders completed research projects on each branch of the military and 7th/8th graders wrote Veteran's Day acrostic poems. Mr. Smith shared stories from his Marine Corps days. Franco, 7th grade, Mr. Smith also brought in his old uniform and other items from training which he shared with the 5th and 7th Graders. Students appreciated the opportunity to connect with a real-life veteran. As Violet from the 5th Grade pointed out, "It was fun to hear about how much he learned while in the Marines."

To our men
and women in uniform,
past, present, and future,
God bless you and

Thank You.

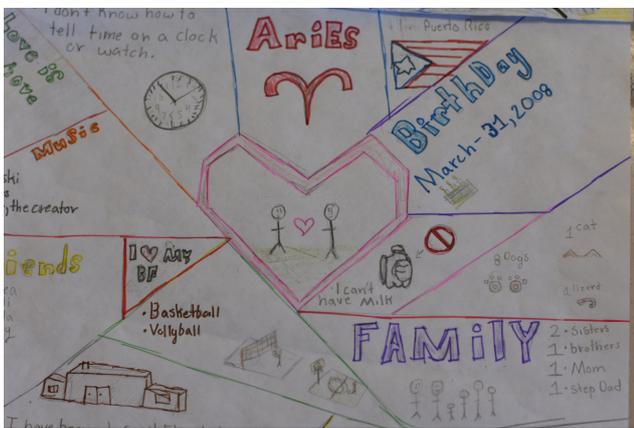


Identity Maps

After reading the poem, **“Identity” by Julio Noboa Polanco**, Mrs. Michelle Escobar and her St. Elizabeth Junior High students analyzed the text and reflected on noticing and wonderings about the speaker’s identity, namely:

- What they noticed the speaker had to say about his identity?
- What they wondered about the speaker’s identity?”

The 7th Grade is also reading, **“Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess” by Richard Platt** and the 8th Grade read **“The Crossover” by Kwame Alexander**. Both novels revolve around the main character learning who they are and what factors helped form who they are. As a culminating activity, the 7th & 8th Graders created their own identity maps to share who they are right now. Check out a few of them below!



Laudato Si' - Care for Creation

The St. Elizabeth Care for Creation Team serve as student leaders in carrying out the call of Laudato Si'. Their foundational approaches stress:

- Relationship with Creation
- Education about Creation
- Compassionate Action for Creation.

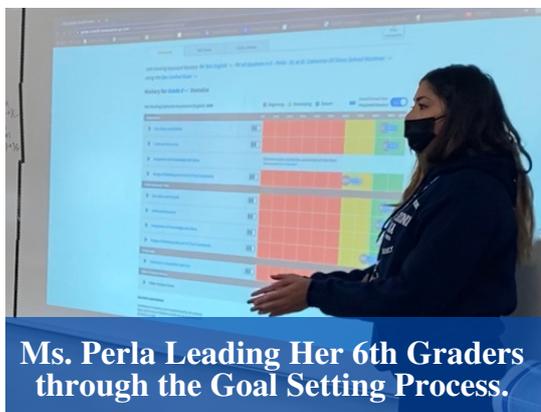
They first focused on creating a waste management system, thanks to their efforts, all classrooms and school areas now feature a three bin system: compost, recycling, and landfill bins. The first student led campaign focused on composting all the paper towels used on campus. Now they are honing in on all other aspects of waste management.

The Creation Team has led school wide activities, created a landfill-recycling-compost collage/mural, and have posted signs throughout the school so that people know which items go into which bins. Once their waste management efforts have taken root, they plan to lead educational and activity efforts focused on cultivating a relationship with our land here in Oakland, as well as educate and take action on the climate crisis. They hope to collaborate with other LCA schools, and have already been in contact with Mr. Lozano's 8th grade class at St. Peter Martyr.



Excellence

Goal Setting



St. Catherine of Siena 6th Graders are using the Monitoring Student Dashboard to review their class data as a whole following the most recent STAR Assessment. They used this data to see how they could set goals together as a team. Their class determined they will work on informational text reading and a range of reading to improve their performance scores as a whole class before the end of the trimester. Students will now be provided targeted assignments to practice the skills identified as growth areas.

Professional Learning Communities & NCEA CLLs

Partnering with NCEA, teachers across the network have had opportunities to reflect on setting monthly goals for themselves. Through Classroom Learning Labs (CLLs), teachers have been able to watch teachers in our LCA network teach using similar instructional methods. In October they observed Joe Lozano, Junior High Junior High teacher at St. Peter Martyr and this month they observed Stephanie Pacheco, First Grade teacher at Queen of All Saints. This collaborative practice allows teachers to become self-reflective and discuss in their PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) about ways to strengthen their instruction.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLCs)

Teacher collaboration to improve learning through action-based research

CORE PRINCIPLE



Developing Teachers will yield academic success

WHY INCORPORATE PLCs

Classroom Teachers discover and reflect



PD is Student Centered



Data Collection is school specific



Culture of Collaboration

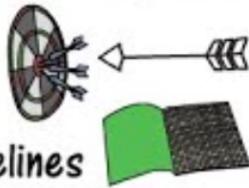
Teacher Autonomy

PLC EXAMPLES

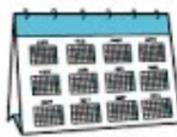


Steps to IMPLEMENT a PLC

2. Mission/Goals



3. Dates, Locations



4. Teacher Leadership



5. Collaborate on an Action Plan

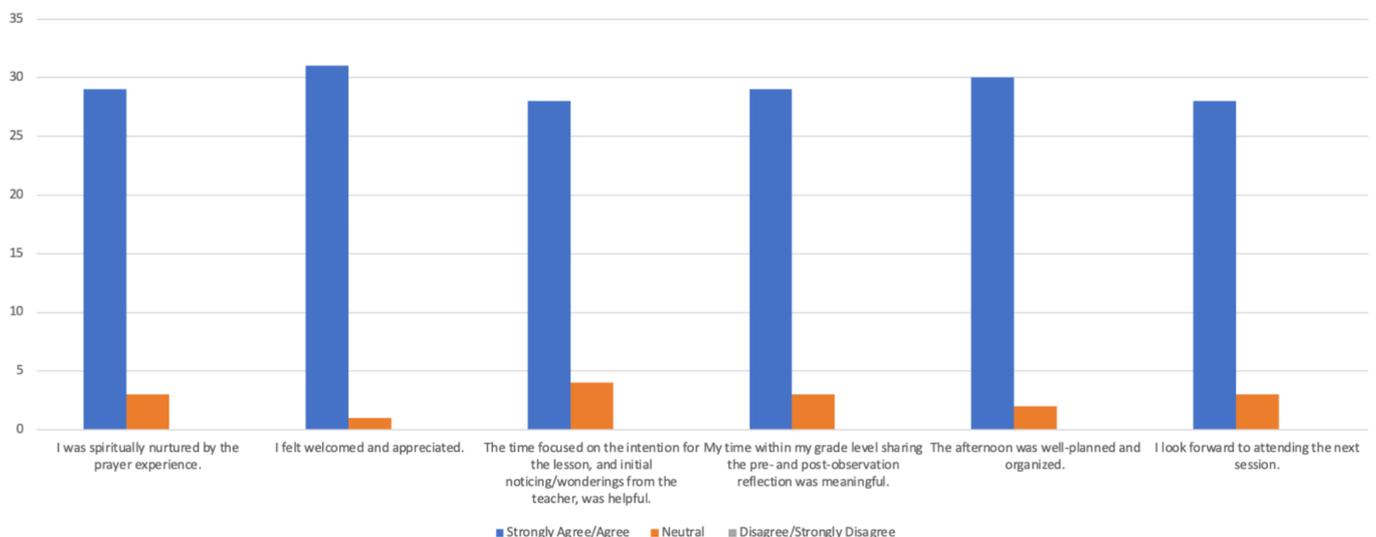


6. Evaluation



Academic Excellence PLC Day Feedback Synopsis - 10.18.21

32 Participant Responses to the Statements Provided



Teacher's Insights Following Our Two NCEA CLL Sessions

“ Watching Stephanie teach in her classroom! What a bright light and positive role model. You could tell how much she truly enjoys teaching, and how much her students love her! Beautiful to watch!

“ Seeing one of our teachers recording of their station rotation. Great Job Joe! As well, I love meeting with my grade level, reflect and talk about our classrooms.

“ I really enjoyed watching Stephanie's class and getting more ideas for mine.

“ The station rotation video of Joe's classroom really helped give me an idea of what to do differently in my class.

“ I enjoyed watching Stephanie implement effective whiteboard use in her teaching. I would like to use these strategies in my own classroom. I appreciate that Stephanie gave students meaningful, individual feedback and would bounce around from student to student.

“ I heard so many ideas from Joe's lesson that I would like to implement in my classroom during station rotation time. I am going to begin using the "1, 2, 3" check in at the end of stations (students get it, students need some help, students need a lot of support

“ I enjoyed Stephanie's video of her class working on three math adds problems. She was very concise in explaining how students work to show their work.

World Drawing God Day

Many of our schools shared the beautiful children's book *Drawing God*, by Karen Kiefer with our students ahead of the Third Annual "World Drawing God Day". In the story, young Emma is inspired to draw like Picasso after a field trip to the art museum and decides to draw God. Emma shares her drawings with her classmates who are inspired by Emma's joyful and infectious spirit, and decide to draw God as well. Every picture of God is different! As they participated in "World Drawing God Day", students across our network discovered how they see God in unique and beautiful ways. Here are a few of the student drawings completed during this wonderful celebration of God's presence in our lives.

