



THE DOLPHIN POD

St. Michael's School Monthly Newsletter

Dear Families and Friends of SMS,

It is my pleasure once again to extend greetings to you, this time in the month of March! We have come through a busy and exhilarating time of Semana Dominicana, with its accompanying displays, presentations, and of course Noche Dominicana; our sports teams were involved in tournament play almost every weekend; finally, of course, great teaching and learning continued at their great pace!

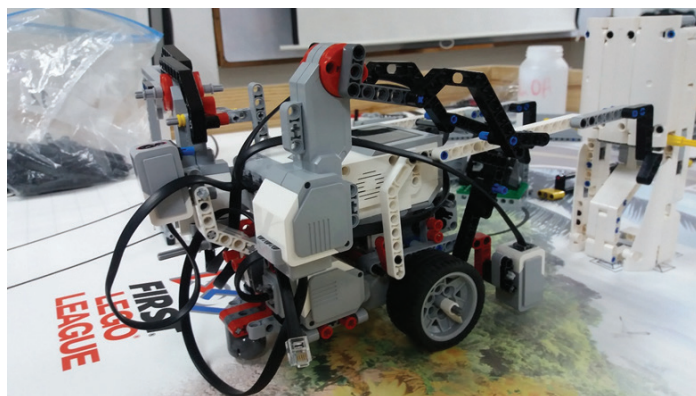
Our next large events are ones to which students and parents look forward every year – Spirit Week and the Dolphin Cup! Planning for these huge events is taking place even as I type these words. We are looking forward to more great experiences of fun and friendly competition and camaraderie.

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the 3rd Quarter (March 29)! We trust that all is well with you and your child as the school year progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Until next time,

Let's Go Dolphins!

Michael J. Schneider,
Headmaster

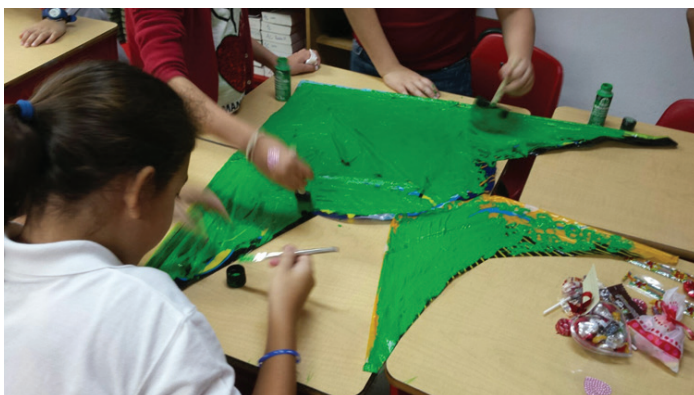


LEGO LEAGUE

Here are some more pictures of last month's activities. Here you can see two different accomplishments...core values and robot games. The challenge was to try to be coordinated as a team.

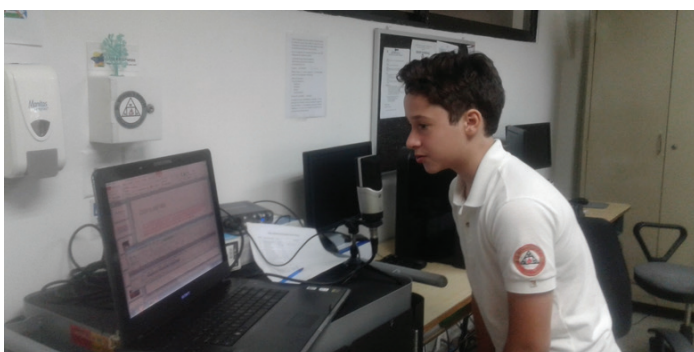
4TH GRADE

4th Grade students have been active, putting together their presentation for "Semana Dominicana", and doing collaborative work regarding the customs and traditions of the Spanish people during our colonial time.



6TH GRADE

6th Grade students developed a project where they had to locate, investigate, film, and edit images to create a virtual map of the Colonial Zone for “Semana Dominicana”.



8TH GRADE

8th Grade has been working on reading and analyzing the informational book “Hitler Youth” in literary circles.

Our students have been assigned various roles with varied perspectives as well as sections of the book. Therefore, each and every student has their own unique viewpoint on the text. After group discussions of their readings, in which they share observations and

research results on vocabulary, etymology, important connections to other texts, history and contemporary society, students publish online blogs and interactive presentations with their detailed analyses and reflections on the Holocaust, Nazi Germany, the impact of Adolf Hitler on the world, etc. Similarly, their job includes teaching their classmates what they have learned through in-class project presentations. It is a truly rewarding experience to teach a young generation of critical thinkers, team players and orators who are so talented and capable.



AP LITERATURE

AP Literature students have been working on poetry, but they are now moving into Shakespeare mode. They will be revisiting Othello in all of its splendor and focusing on gender roles within his play whilst comparing it with adapted versions that they have been learning about through Peter Sellars’s online lecture, and with the input of Toni Morrison, the Literature Nobel Prize winner in 1993. They have also been practicing their research skills and APA formatting in order to continue getting ready for their college years to come.

AP LANGUAGE STUDENTS

AP Language students have almost concluded their work with poetry and analysis. They are revisiting various themes of Thoreau’s Walden and have viewed PBS clips on Thoreau and his works. Students will also be developing essential questions to address Thoreau’s views of Transcendentalism. We will be moving on to a look into two unique authors, Herman Hesse and Franz Kafka, to identify rhetorical devices, themes, voice and motivation, especially in their literary works of Demian and Metamorphosis.

2ND GRADE

2nd Grade students are working on multiplication tables and measuring different objects around the school.



JR. ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM.

Our SMS parents participating in Jr. Achievement Program.



ALGEBRA

Algebra 1 students from 8th Grade were studying polynomials. In order to understand them better, the class used Algebra Tiles to represent different terms. With this in mind, students were given a set of tiles and a cardboard, and through different periods they were asked to represent polynomials first, then move on to

addition and subtraction, and finally multiplication of polynomials. With these activities, they were able to represent operations in a very practical and visual way, and were also able to understand them very easily. These activities presented excellent results for the students! The teacher was able to work one- to- one with students who required more support, and those who were more advanced, were able to develop their abilities and solve more complex higher level thinking activities.



5TH GRADE SPANISH

The 5th Grade Spanish class engaged in collaborative work with spelling. They worked in teams searching in magazines and newspapers for specific words. As a result, they created a book with a specific theme.

4TH GRADE SOCIALES

In Sociales class, our 4th Grade students have been working with Project Based Learning on Weathering and Erosion. They investigated the present issue of erosion in Loma Miranda, La Vega. Linked to this same theme, in Spanish class we are working on Persuasive Literary Genre applied to the real world and looking for possible solutions for situations happening in the Dominican Republic. Students created banners as part of their investigation to persuade those who are responsible in affecting the Loma Miranda area to halt their hazardous activities as well as making the community aware of this situation.



DEBATE TOURNAMENT

On Friday February 3rd and Saturday February 4th, our SMS Debate Teams participated in the St. George Debate Tournament. Our Middle School team won 1st place in their category! In addition to this, our Junior Varsity teams made it to the eighth and semifinal rounds.

Although not every team qualified during the round robin portion of the tournament, they had a great performance and an amazing experience. Well done Dolphins!



NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION

The SMS Debate Club revived their certificates from the National Speech and Debate Association. This association is responsible for regulating all the US and Dominican debate activities, and also keeps the score of all its members. On February, eight of our SMS students were honored during the flag ceremony with certificates displaying the degrees they have accomplished throughout the year.



ART DEPARTMENT

Through different drawing techniques, painting, sculpture, and recycling, the St. Michael's School Art Program is full of activities that develop the artistic abilities and expression of our students.

During the month of February, our Art Department, led by Paola Fernández, worked with elementary students on different projects related to our art and culture. It was a great team effort! The students demonstrated

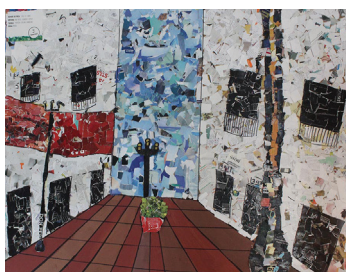
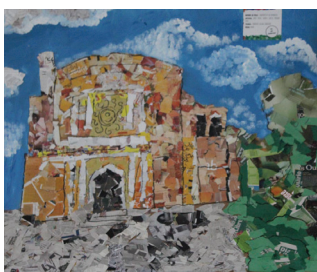
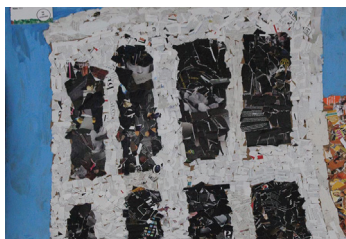
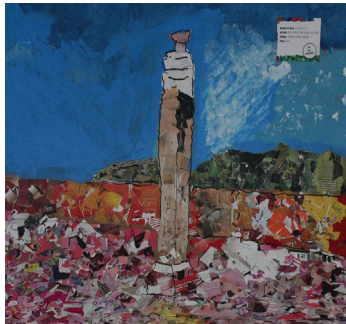
their extraordinary talents and artistic abilities.

Students from 2nd Grade worked on city landscapes using different techniques and recycled materials. This beautiful work was used to decorate classrooms during Dominican Week. The 3rd Grade students worked on a mural of one of our most emblematic masterpieces by Dominican artist, Guillo Pérez.

Collages representing our different buildings in the Colonial Zone were made by our 6th Grade students. It was an impressive and excellent job!

The 1st Grade students, together with their art teachers, worked on a series of painted umbrellas inspired by Cándido Bidó. These works of art were placed as parts of the scenery and decoration for Dominican Night. Students also made sculptures of our traditional Limé Dolls out of clay, learning other ways to express themselves through art.





NOCHE DOMINICANA

On Thursday, February 23rd we celebrated our traditional Dominican Night, in which we honor our music and culture through various presentations. It is a very special activity in which our entire community comes together to share a magical fun-filled night, that is the delight of all!

The 1st Grade students danced to the rhythm of merengue, sung by our guests of honor. Also, six students made a tribute to the group 440, singing several of their songs. We cannot forget to mention the Limé Dolls comparsa (dance group), formed by our teachers and staff, who danced to the music of 440. The 12th Grader's farewell dance included "Carnival" personalities, and was a spectacle of our colorful Dominican culture.

Part of our Dominican Night is to honor those artists who have raised our culture to the highest levels. On this occasion, we honored three great Dominican singers, whose beginnings in music were with the group 440: Maridalia Hernández, Adalgisa Pantaleón, and Mariela Mercado.

To top it all off, we all enjoyed the taste of the wonderful typical Dominican cuisine served by staff in counters created to look like typical colorful dominican rural houses.





SEMANA DOMINICANA

From February 17th to March 3rd, SMS celebrated its traditional Semana Dominicana with performances and presentations, in which students from 1st to 12th grades displayed the different aspects of our Dominican culture and tradition. These presentations were the results of weeks of research and work on behalf of our students.





BOYS SCOUTS

The 1st Baron Robert Baden-Powell was the founder of the modern Scouting movement, starting the first Scout troop in 1909. Each February 22, his birth (1857) is celebrated world-wide by all Scout Associations. SMS Scouts: Manada 22 commemorated Founder's Day by wearing their Scout uniforms and honoring him during Flag Ceremony.



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION CLASS:

Please check out our Technology Integration Website where you can find all the activities from 1st to 12th grade: <http://sms2016-2017ti.weebly.com/>