



SUMMER 2017



CLASS OF 2017

Congratulations to our sixth grade graduates! We are so proud of the young men and women you have become and pray that you will continue to walk in the footsteps of Joseph wherever your future may take you.



AN EMPATHETIC HEART

Sometimes, it takes immersing oneself in another's culture to really understand how different, yet so alike, we all are. For Wesley Williams, first grader at Saint Joseph Catholic School, that realization came much sooner than it does for most.

Wesley's mother, Jill, was born in the Philippines, and she and her husband, George, have made every effort for their family to visit the Philippines on an annual basis. "We wanted Wesley to grow up close to family despite the distance," says Jill. "We hope he will have a good blend of Philippine and American values and culture."

Wesley has always been an altruistic child, sharing his food and toys with friends and always showing an eagerness to help others. But it was during the family's 2016 trip to the Philippines that Wesley became acutely aware of many of the less fortunate children in the Southeast Asia nation. And he instantly wanted to help.

Wesley saw a little boy hiding in the trash and looking in on those eating at Jollibee (akin to our McDonald's). Jill didn't see the child but she wondered why Wesley started asking questions about the life of those less fortunate. After they left the restaurant, Wesley told his mother about the child and was hopeful that he would see the child again so that he could give him some food.

"In my hometown, Wesley became aware of young children working to help their parents. These children would be up before sunrise to sell food and crafts before they got ready for school," says Jill. "Wesley would get up at 4 a.m. so that he could buy the rice cakes and bread that the children were selling. He said those were his favorite, but he also didn't want the children to be walking the entire village just to sell their stuff."

When the Williams family returned home, Wesley decided to put in a “café” in his kitchen at home as a means of funding his plan for feeding the children. He named it “Fruit Happiness Café,” where he made small snacks for the family in exchange for \$1. Wesley requested to hold a birthday party for the less fortunate children. With the memory of the child he had seen a year ago, and himself a big fan of Jollibee, Wesley requested to buy the local children food from Jollibee. Wesley and his family catered food for 125 children. They also played some games and had an appearance from the Jollibee mascot. “The children were very thankful and said they had a great time,” says Jill. “Some came to hug us, and they thanked us over and over for sharing with them. One girl told us she finally got to go to a birthday party. They all wished Wesley happy birthday and prayed for many more. As for Wesley, he said he is glad everyone liked Jollibee!”



When asked why he chose to give back in this way, Wesley’s answer was simple, yet so thoughtful. “They are children that are poor and they just want a little bit of stuff like food and family. They are hoping at least one person can give them the stuff that they want and need.”

The first graders at Saint Joseph School were so moved by Wesley’s actions that they quickly adopted his service-oriented attitude. The children collected school supplies to donate to a small parish school that serves impoverished children in the Philippines. Together, these children have made a positive impact on the lives of others. And for that, Wesley is very happy. “I felt joyful because the first graders are helping the same children that I helped,” he says. A testament to the real difference a collective impact – and a first grader! – can make.



ATTRACTING THE BEST

In order for your child's academic experience to be extraordinary, Saint Joseph strives to hire the best, brightest educators in the Midlands. We are proud to welcome three new teachers for the 2017 – 2018 school year who will round out an already incredible roster of qualified and enthusiastic staff. Here is just a brief interview with these remarkable educators:



TAMMIE MADDOCK | New 3rd Grade Teacher

What is your work/educational background?

I have a BS in Marketing and an MBA from Clemson University. After working in business and in the Development Office at Furman University, I stayed home to raise my children when they were very young. Then I went back to school to pursue a degree in teaching (MAT Early Childhood & Elementary Education)

When/how did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

I always wanted to teach and work with children. Once I had my own three children, I knew it was time to focus on working in a field I felt called to be a part of. I think it is very important that children enjoy learning and I love having the opportunity to be a part of the journey.

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

Family time is very important to me, and I thoroughly enjoy spending time outside of work with my husband Mike and my three children; McCarley, Ashley, and John. We enjoy participating in and watching a variety of sports and outdoor activities. I am a HUGE Clemson fan and also really like history and enjoy visiting historic places.



KATE REESE | New 5K Teacher

What is your work / educational background?

I am a graduate of St. Joseph (2006) and Cardinal Newman (2012). I went to college at USC and finished in May 2016 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I just completed my first year of teaching in Eastover at Webber Elementary.

When / how did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

I've always loved working with kids in various kinds of settings whether it was teaching bible school, coaching, or babysitting. When planning for college I knew I wanted a job where I could make an impact on the next generation - and teaching was a great way to do that!

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

I enjoy spending time outside — going on walks, watching baseball, gardening. I like watching, coaching and playing sports. I played basketball and tennis at Cardinal Newman and have kept up with them a little throughout college. I am recently married. My husband and I like to travel, find new places to eat in Columbia, and spend time with our families.



BRITNEY TEMPLE | New 5K Teacher

What is your work / educational background?

I have a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Divergent Learning. I received both degrees from Columbia College. Go Koalas! I have taught kindergarten at the Cutler Jewish Day school for the past 4 years.

When / how did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

When I was in high school I participated in the Teacher Cadet program. That's when I realized I wanted to not just be a teacher, but be a kindergarten teacher!

How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

I like to work on projects with my husband and spend time with my friends and family. I also enjoy decorating and doing crafts.

2017 Saint Joseph Awards Day



Top 3 Accelerated Readers in the School (l-r) 1st Place, Walker Bailey; Media Specialist, Shauna Kinsey; 2nd Place, Caroline Timmons; 3rd Place, Reagan Hines; and Principal Donavan Yarnall



All A Honor Award for earning all As for every quarter in both 5th and 6th grades (l-r) Ellie Tanner; 6th Grade Teacher, Chris Bailey; Luke Bradley; Principal Donavan Yarnall



Outstanding Cantor Award (l-r) Music Teacher, Mary Lee Coultrap; Ellie Tanner; Ally Cannon, Principal Donavan Yarnall



Saint Joseph Merit Award for Outstanding Character (l-r) Front Row – Paul Martin Zamora; Dominic Reiff; Walker Bailey; William Andrews; Andrew La; Back Row – Grace Woodham; Catherine Bresnahan; Ally Cannon; Madison Clary; Abby Suber; Ellie Tanner; with 6th Grade Teacher, Mike Harmon, and Principal Donavan Yarnall



Catholic Math League Top 3 Students in 3rd-6th Grades Front Row- 3rd Grade Olivia Mikes, 3rd place; Natalie Montague, 2nd place; Jack Seezen, 1st place; 4th Grade Jack Clary, 3rd place; Crosby Long, 2nd place; Isaac Yarnall, 1st place; Back Row - 3rd Grade Teacher, Jude Barrineau; 5th Grade Duncan Wilson, Laiih Jabali, 2nd place (tied); William Killoy, 1st place; 6th Grade Inara Spector, 3rd place; Catherine Bresnahan, 2nd place; Walker Bailey, 1st place; Principal Donavan Yarnall



All A/B Honor Award for earning all As and Bs for every quarter in both 5th and 6th grades (l-r) Front Row – Samuel Sullivan; Adam Trimmier; Jake Treiber; Michael Leonard; William Andrews; Walker Bailey; Andrew La; Hamilton Moore; Dominic Reiff; Patrick Walsh; Daniel Watson; Paul Martin Zamora; Back Row – Tiffany Tuorto; Abby Suber; Inara Spector; Elliott Cox; Ally Cannon; Madison Clary; Catherine Bresnahan; Isabella Dick; Lilly Lemon; Grace Woodham; Principal Donavan Yarnall; 6th Grade Teacher, Chris Bailey

May Crowning and Mother's Mass



During May, the month of Mary, we held a special Mass to honor our heavenly mother and our graduating 6th graders' mothers. Our 2nd graders, who had just made their First Holy Communion, led the procession into the church and received Communion with the student body for the first time. Beloved teachers, Chris Castellano (4K) and Teresa Elam (5K), who are moving on from Saint Joseph this summer, crowned Mary with a ring of flowers.

Field Day



Saint Joseph students always look forward to our annual spring tradition of Field Day. PE teacher, Karen Tucker, puts together a day of fun outdoor games for every grade. It's one of our favorite days of the year!



MIDLANDS GIVES

Many thanks to all those who gave so generously to our Saints Fund during our Midlands Gives day of giving this spring. We were overwhelmed with the tremendous support we received from our families, parish, and community. We are thrilled to share that we raised just over \$30,000 during the 24 hour giving period. This money will go a long way towards making a quality Catholic education possible for more families. We are so grateful to our Matching Gift Angels, volunteers, Dano's Pizza, and all those who made this year such a success.