Big start:
NBA player turned ESPN analyst Tim Legler discovered his basketball calling at SMCS

Basketball just wrapped up at Saint Mary’s Catholic School. During the season, on most weekdays you’d find at least one team of players practicing in the gym for a weekend game. Today’s Saint Mary’s ballers are part of a basketball program that’s existed at Saint Mary’s almost as long as the school has been around. Saint Mary’s basketball has benefited hundreds of children, and has helped launch one NBA career – so far.

Saint Mary’s 1980 graduate Tim Legler came to Saint Mary’s for seventh grade, after moving from Baltimore to Richmond. The move was a tough one, since he left many friends behind.

“The people I met in seventh grade at Saint Mary’s were really the first new friends in Richmond for me,” Legler said. “Saint Mary’s was special to me because it really helped me get over the sadness of moving ... I think the small setting of a private school really helped me feel welcome and comfortable. “It was also at Saint Mary’s that I started to play basketball for the first time, at recess,” he said.
Discovering the drive
Legler remembers Saint Mary’s basketball program being the first time he’d participated in the sport in an organized fashion. He said he was more interested in baseball till then, but in eighth and ninth grades he grew roughly seven inches, “and decided to give hoops a try.”

That SMCS beginning led Legler on toward a stellar career that included 10 seasons in the NBA.

After graduating from Saint Mary’s, Legler went on to attend John Randolph Tucker High School in Richmond.

“I think people started to realize basketball could be something special for me between tenth and eleventh grade,” Legler said. “I fell completely in love with the game and loved the fact that I didn’t need to rely on anyone else to practice.”

Powered by passion
“I had an intense work ethic, so once I developed the passion for the game I really improved dramatically pretty quickly, and by my junior year at Tucker I was one of the best players in Richmond,” he said. “By my senior year I was an all-state player.

“The realization that I had a talent and a passion for it gave me a very clear vision on what my ultimate goal would be so I could really focus on making my dreams come true,” Legler said.

From Tucker, Legler went on to attend La Salle University, where he became an Academic All-American and scored 1,699 career points in four seasons for the men’s basketball team. He led La Salle to the 1987 National Invitation Tournament championship game as well as the 1988 NCAA Tournament.

Legler went undrafted in the 1988 NBA draft and went to play basketball in Europe. After a few seasons there, he came back to the U.S. and played in the Continental Basketball Association with the Omaha Racers. He helped Omaha to a CBA championship while leading the league in scoring.

Three-point wiz
Legler played in the NBA at the shooting guard position from 1989 to 2000. He is probably best known as a player in Washington, where he played four seasons – two with the Washington Bullets and two with the renamed Washington Wizards – from 1995 to 1999.

Legler is well known as an accurate three-point shooter, and made 260 of his 604 attempts from that range in his career, an accuracy of 43%. This figure ranks fifth on the all-time list.

“My three point shooting developed in high school as I worked tirelessly to perfect my shooting mechanics and shooting range,” Legler said.

Dad points
Legler said his favorite team to play on was the 1995-96 Washington Bullets.

“It was my best year in the NBA,” he said. “I led the league in three-point shooting, won the Three Point Shootout at All Star Weekend, I had great friends on that team and my favorite coach, Jimmy Lynam.

“One cool thing from that season:” he said, “my daughter Lauren was born around 10 days before I won the Three Point Shootout, and I took the $20,000 prize and put it into a college fund for her. Two years ago she graduated...
from college using that money and the interest it generated over the next 21 years to fund the majority of her college education. Proud dad!

**Team spirit**

During his time in the NBA, Legler also played for the Phoenix Suns, Denver Nuggets, Utah Jazz, Dallas Mavericks and Golden State Warriors. His career ended due to a recurring knee problem.

“The best part about playing in the NBA is the relationship that you build with your teammates,” he said. “There is so much pressure to win as a pro that the feeling of running onto the court with a group of guys who are going to battle with you and support you is a great feeling. The adrenaline rush of hitting a big shot in front of 20,000 people is pretty awesome, too.

“The part people don’t see that’s tough is traveling and being away from your family,” he said.

**Beyond the court**

Legler is now in his 19th season at ESPN as an NBA analyst, where he breaks down the NBA on all the various ESPN platforms on TV and radio at the main ESPN studios in Bristol, Connecticut. He said he usually works two to three days a week during the regular season, and most days of the playoffs from mid-April through mid-June. He also hosts an NBA radio show two to three days a week on Sirius XM NBA radio.

“I’ve been blessed that the game of basketball has given me the opportunity to not only travel all over the country, but all over the world,” he said. “It has given me so much interaction with different people and perspectives, and I’ve made lifelong friends with people in virtually every place I’ve traveled or lived.”

**Home away from home**

Though his career has taken him all over, Legler said Richmond will always be the place he considers home, because he moved to Richmond at such a formative time in his life.

“I ‘grew up’ there,” he said. Legler said that his mom, sister, nieces and nephew are all local to Richmond, and his late father is laid to rest in Richmond. His high school basketball coach, Ralph Crockett, is still in Richmond, as well as a lot of high school friends. He’s very close to his family, and loves to come back to see them.

“The people are always so warm and friendly,” he said. “It’s just easy to be there.”

Likewise Saint Mary’s: “One of the things I remember from Saint Mary’s was how we had to set up the chairs for Mass or assembly in the gym and that meant there were times we couldn’t shoot baskets in there! I also just remember how much the teachers cared about us and how much it felt like a second home to us.”

**Ball in the family**

Legler is proud of his children, who live near him in New Jersey. His daughter, Lauren, is 23 and was a 1,000-point scorer at Neumann University in Aston, Penn. She was also an All-Academic member and graduated with a 3.9 GPA in elementary education. She’s currently a second-grade teacher in New Jersey, Legler said.

His son, Ryan, is 20 years old and currently playing basketball at Rowan University as a junior. He’s got a 3.6 GPA as a business major.

Legler’s wife, Christina, is from Allentown, Penn. She was a Philadelphia Eagles cheerleader for five seasons. She’s also coached cheerleading at Clearview High School in Mullica Hill, N.J., and led them to a national championship two years ago.

**Dedicate yourself**

Together, the Leglers are huge dog lovers and dog rescue advocates. They have five dogs, one of which was adopted from Richmond three years ago.

Legler said he loves to spend time with his wife, kids, and dogs. He enjoys playing golf, traveling, going to movies and decorating for and celebrating Halloween (he and his wife are famous among their friends and neighbors for their Halloween shenanigans).

Advice from Legler for today’s Monarchs? “My main advice to young people who want to know how to make their dreams come true: find something that you truly love, dedicate yourself to exploring your potential in that area – never consider the time you put in as ‘work’ – think of it always at time spent doing what you love and investing your time in your future success. You must have the ability to overcome adversity and setbacks. It will prove how much it means to you to succeed.

**Choose joy**

Legler’s advice for all of us?

“Cherish your families, faith and close friends,” he said. “Believe in yourself because each of us has special talents and skills. Stay true to what you believe is right.

“Don’t dwell on mistakes or failures,” Legler said. “Learn from them and look ahead to the next day, the next challenge, the next opportunity. And, finally, happiness is a choice – it’s a positive mindset that anyone can have.

“Choose to love life.”
Joan Farina: This Saint Mary’s grandparent and carpool volunteer is glad to give back

To families who drop off their children in back carpool in the mornings at Saint Mary’s, on Mondays and Thursdays, grandparent Joan Farina is the happy face at the end of the line. Whether or not you have a child to drop off at the Early Childhood Development Center entrance, she’s there to give you a smile and a friendly wave. Joan’s been volunteering to help with Saint Mary’s carpool for eight years now.

Joan, who’s been retired for several years from a job at Capital One, said she started helping with carpool eight years ago when the PTO required families to complete a certain number of service hours each year (the PTO still encourages that today). Joan started helping at the middle school door when her grandchildren Antonio and Caitlin were students, and when her younger grandchildren, Isabelle and Benjamin, started school here in the ECDC wing, she started helping there. She’s been helping at ECDC ever since.

“I will do it as long as I can,” said Joan. “Those kids are so adorable! I like to do ‘national whatever day.’ On April Fool’s Day last year I wished them Merry Christmas and even started singing a carol.

“Everyone had a reaction,” she said. “Some caught on, and some just thought I was crazy. I loved it – it made my day!”

Joan and her husband, Jim, are both from New York – Jim from Brooklyn, raised in the Bronx, and Joan from Upstate. They moved here 37 years ago after time in New York, Connecticut and Georgia. They’ve been married 54 years and are parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, where Joan is head usher at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturdays.

Both retired, they like being able to spend time with their grandkids and time volunteering. They have four children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Joan also is an avid quilter, and she’s been known to make a cake or two – in fact, she made a cake for the graduation reception the year her grandson, Antonio Diaz, graduated (see picture).

Joan said that helping with carpool has been a great way to get to know a lot of people at Saint Mary’s – other parents and grandparents who are helping with carpool and also parents who are dropping off their children.

“A lot of parents are active here,” Joan said, “and when parents get involved, kids get involved. That’s so important.”

In addition to being thankful for the people she’s met, Joan is most grateful that her grandchildren come to a school where they can receive religious instruction.

Underneath the cake pictured above, she placed this message: “Graduates: St. Mary’s has given you the solid foundation in your education. You can now in confidence take the next steps to reach your goal in life and follow your dreams!”
Saint Mary’s third-grade teacher Ellen O’Leary reports on our LEGO Robotics teams, which have worked hard and earned success.

The Brickheads – Noah Lohr, Owen Glass, Kiran Sabharwal and Maggie O’Leary – all from SMCS class that graduated in May 2019: The Brickheads decided to compete in First Lego League (FLL) for their last year of eligibility. They did a wonderful project on Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). They designed a prototype with input from a company in Florida that makes industrial-sized water bladders. This prototype, when utilized, would keep untreated sewage out of Virginia waterways. The Brickheads were also invited to join the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Student Leadership Board as part of their project.

In addition to their project about combined sewage, the Brickheads also had a great robot this year. They earned the following awards:

Regional Tournament:
- 2nd Place Champions Award
- 1st Place Robot Performance
- 1st Place Project Innovation Award

State Tournament:
- 1st Place Gracious Professionalism Award

The Nacho Bricks – Hazel Cabugason, Alexander Tinker, Lucas Gonzalez, Connor Giddings, Richie Schrier, Mallory Billiet, Zach Chilton, Grace O’Leary – current Saint Mary’s sixth graders: The Nacho Bricks created a foundation drain cleaning robot. This robot will bore into clogged foundation drains and clean out the clogged silt and remove it from the drain, allowing water to flow. This potentially could save a homeowner thousands of dollars in foundation drain replacement. In addition, they also contacted an expert in the fuel/oil industry who said that their prototype could have use in the field, as that industry has many long pipes that need to be cleaned out frequently.

They had a great robot as well, and won these awards:

Regional Tournament:
- 1st Place Champions Award
- 2nd Place Robot Performance Award

They also competed at the state tournament in December.

Bob’s Bricks – Annie Keating, Noah Thoene, Luke Lohr, James O’Leary – current Saint Mary’s fifth graders: Bob’s Bricks had a great project about cleaning commercial kitchen ducts to prevent kitchen grease fires. They created a robot prototype to be put into the duct to clean areas that are hard for professional duct cleaners to reach. They also have a camera attachment for this robot so the restaurant owner can monitor the grease level in the ducts.

They competed at the regional tournament and finished in the top five in robot performance.
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Please visit the school website at www.saintmary.org to see the link to purchase tickets!
Future Full of Hope gift provides scholarships to new Catholic students enrolling at Saint Mary’s

Challenge gift from anonymous parish family gives more families access to Catholic education

Catholic schools combine Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence, emphasize moral development and self-discipline, instill in students the value of service to others, and prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders. These are a few of the qualities that set Catholic education apart, and are some of the reasons so many members of our school and parish community believe in supporting Saint Mary’s.

An anonymous parish family believes so strongly in the value of Catholic education that it has made an extremely generous donation to the school for the next 10 years, challenging the school and parish community to consider matching the annual donation. The donation and any matching gifts will establish a scholarship program for Catholic students interested in enrolling at Saint Mary’s Catholic School in future years.

The program, called The Future Full of Hope Challenge, is based on Jeremiah 29:11, which states: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord … ‘Plans to give you a future full of hope.” The donor family has pledged a 10-year gift of $100,000 per year to establish the scholarship program.

The need for scholarships already exists. During the 2019-20 school year, more than 20% of the students at Saint Mary’s received some form of financial assistance, totaling more than $275,000. While this was an incredible help to the families receiving help, more than $175,000 in unfunded financial need was left unmet.

Through The Future Full of Hope Challenge, the donor’s annual contribution will begin the good work, and matching gifts will be used to expand the scholarship program. It is the desire of the donor to generate matching gifts each year that equal or exceed the annual $100,000 donation. Matching gifts can be made in several ways:

- Cash donations
- Stock donations
- IRA distribution donations
- Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit donations
- Planned/estate giving

The Future Full of Hope Challenge will provide scholarships to Catholic students new to Saint Mary’s Catholic School. The scholarships will be based upon financial need and could provide up to 50% of total tuition per new Catholic student. Scholarships may continue for the length of enrollment based upon demonstrated financial need.

To find out more about The Future Full of Hope Challenge, or to make a contribution, you can use the enclosed remittance envelope, or you can contact parish Finance and Development Director Gregg Kamper at gkamper@stmarysrichmond.org, or school Development Coordinator Jennifer Janus at jjanus@saintmary.org. You can also make a gift online at www.saintmary.org/give.

Thank you!

#GivingTuesday Matching Challenge Update

Through your generosity, you helped Saint Mary’s raise more than $30,000 as part of the 2019 #GivingTuesday matching challenge. In fact, because of this great success, the school is less than $10,000 away from reaching its 2019-2020 Annual Fund goal of $65,000. Want to make a gift that will help us reach the top? Please do! You can visit saintmary.org/give, or use the enclosed envelope to mail a gift! You’re making the difference at Saint Mary’s, enabling our students and teachers to have all they need to succeed! Thank you.
Saint Mary’s 2011 graduate Logan Harvey took an entrepreneurship class during his junior year at Wake Forest. What started there as a class-project-inspired idea to solve the parking problem on Wake Forest’s campus turned into something more for Harvey.

This article in the Winston-Salem Journal tells the story of how Harvey began his company, FanPark: https://www.journalnow.com/sports/college/wfu/former-wake-baseball-player-set-out-to-solve-parking-issues/article_0b0b60aa-b9b2-55a6-85b4-19c0c6ba3e1e.html

FanPark is Harvey’s app that allows people to reserve parking spaces ahead of time for events where parking has traditionally been a headache.

Harvey played baseball at Wake Forest, and because of regulations associated with Harvey being a NCAA athlete, FanPark had to remain a side gig till his final baseball season ended and he graduated Wake, which happened in May 2019. Harvey says FanPark’s been in official business now for about six months, helping ease parking at Wake Forest football games and at the Dixie Classic Fair in Winston-Salem, N.C., in October.

Harvey works directly with private property owners or event coordinators to set up available spaces, which

FanPark app users can reserve and pay for online. For Wake Forest football, that means parking spots for fans. At the Dixie Classic Fair, it means a special, pre-reserve VIP lot so that fair-goers can pay to park close.

Does Harvey think his Saint Mary’s education helped prepare him to be an entrepreneur? Absolutely.

“Being at Saint Mary’s from pre-K to eighth grade, I really learned who I was as a person,” Harvey said. “My morals and integrity were set. I know I can be a good business person just by being a good person.

“Parking isn’t really cool or glamorous – it’s what parking gives you access to,” he said. “It makes memories more accessible. That makes me feel good.”

After the Dixie Classic Fair last year, a customer contacted him to thank him for making the fair more accessible to her and her husband, who was wheelchair-bound.

“It’s my gift to society,” Harvey said. “I’m making a tangible impact on peoples’ lives. It seems small, but the less time you spend looking for a parking space, the more time you can spend with your loved ones.”
Pausing to consider, most of us realize that in the course of our normal days, we cross paths with special people. Sometimes we know just who they are and why they’re special, but other times someone amazing might be right beside us and we aren’t aware.

Sitting most Wednesdays at the student Mass is someone like that – a celebrity chef, a decorated war hero, a Guinness Book of World Records record holder and an author and teacher who’s also a philanthropist extraordinaire: Chef Paul Elbling.

If you recognize Chef Paul, you might know a little of his story – maybe you know that he helped start the French Food Festival in Richmond 12 years ago to benefit the Little Sisters of the Poor – an endeavor that has raised more than $5 million for the Little Sisters. If you’re a native Richmonder, you’ve probably heard of La Petite France, the restaurant Chef Paul and his wife, Marie-Antoinette, owned and operated here for 35 years. If you get a chance to talk to Chef Paul, though, you’ll shortly realize that there’s a lot more to his story.

Chef Paul was born in Alsace, France, in 1940. He said he always wanted to cook. His mom was a schoolteacher, and from boyhood, Chef Paul was behind her whenever she was in the kitchen. Later when he went to school at Ecole des Missions des Peres du St. Esprit, a seminary, and worked in the kitchen there, he decided he wanted to be a chef, not a priest.

Chef Paul said that during World War II, when Alsace became Germany, the Germans took French men from the region to fight for Germany on the Polish front – his family did not know where his father was for several years during the war. His two older brothers were members of the French Resistance. He, his mother and his sister were forced from their home to a labor camp in Germany.

At the end of the war, they returned to find their home destroyed. An American Lieutenant from Chicago named Joe O’Neill drove them to Chef Paul’s grandmother’s home to live. The Elblings and O’Neill kept in touch for years afterward.

“It was the nicest thing,” said Chef Paul, who had been about five years old at the time. “He gave us Spam, coffee, sugar, flour – right then I decided: One day, I’m going to be an American.”

Chef began his professional training in 1953 with a three-year apprenticeship, and began working in well-known kitchens – among them the famous Carlton Hotel in Cannes, and the Georges V Hotel in Paris. From September 1959 to August 1962, he was in the French army as a paratrooper during the Algerian War. His service ended in 1962, when he was shot in the leg during a jump to help evacuate injured. That same year, after recovering, he became chef of the DAS AL TEN GOLDEN KREUTZ in the resort town of Baden-Baden, Germany.

He met and married Marie-Antoinette and in 1967 they moved to the United States, where Chef Paul served as chef in the restaurant Chez Francois in Washington, D.C., and later as executive chef in the Washington Hotel. Seeking a calmer life, they moved to Richmond in 1970 and opened La Petite France. The restaurant was well-lauded. Declared reviewer Jody Rathgeb of the Richmond Times-Dispatch wrote that La Petite France ‘simply and quietly does everything right.’

And what’s this about the Guinness Book of World Records? Chef Paul holds three: for the world’s largest omelet (10,470 eggs!), the world’s largest ice carving, and the longest sandwich. The Guinness Records are just a drop in the bucket of Chef Paul’s long list of accomplishments, awards and honors, among them military honors, civic awards and of course, culinary commendations.

He has his European Master Chef Degree, and holds an honorary doctorate in the culinary arts from Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, N.C., where he’s spent time teaching and is also on the board of directors. He’s part of a national team competing in the International Culinary Olympiques, where he’s won gold medals in the past.

Chef Paul has received numerous honors and awards, but some of the awards that shine brightest are those honoring his charity work. The three Guinness Book records? All for charity. Likewise 45+ years of work helping the Little Sisters of the Poor and years of service with and membership in the Knights of Columbus. Also this: Chef Paul and Marie-Antoinette have supported Saint Mary’s Catholic School for years.

The couple doesn’t have children, and I asked Chef Paul why he and his wife support our school.

“I love what you are doing,” he said. “It’s a wonderful school. On Wednesdays when I attend Mass, I love to see the kids – I just love to be a part of it.”
Alumni news

Alicia Hudalla, SMCS 2010: Alicia just finished the fall semester of classes, during which she was taking microbiology and biochemistry as prerequisites for physician’s assistant (PA) school. At the same time, she has been working three jobs in order to get clinical hours, also for PA school. These three jobs are: a physical therapy tech, a scribe in the St. Mary’s Hospital ER, and a patient care tech in the ICU at St. Mary’s Hospital. Alicia is not allowed to apply in the spring for PA school until she has 1000+ hours of these clinical hours, which can be defined as “hands on, paid, patient care.” This semester marks the accomplishment of Alicia reaching that 1000-hour goal, and finishing all prerequisite classes, with the exception of one, which she will take in the spring. Now she’s just waiting for applications to open this spring and hopes she will be accepted to start somewhere fall of 2020 or spring of 2021. “This has been such a long process, so I am excited!” Alicia said.

Christian Largo, SMCS class of 2013, keeps on winning – he captured a gold medal in Tokyo in late September in a Paralympic powerlifting competition. Christian was featured on WTVR’s hometown heroes segment in January. You can view the segment here: https://wtvr.com/2020/01/16/christian-largo-heroes/.

Abby Kupstas is now in the 11th grade in the Center for Leadership, Government, and Global Economics at Freeman High School. This past fall, she served as the assistant drum major in Freeman’s marching band, and she is currently 1st chair clarinet in the Freeman wind ensemble. She also plays in the jazz band at Freeman and runs indoor track in the winter. Outside of school, she participates in the Central Virginia Wind Symphony, Henrico’s All-County band, and All-District band. This year, she was also selected as the Girl Board Member for the Girl Scout Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is still searching for where she’d like to apply for college in the fall, but she knows she would like to major in something education-related.

Michael Morrissey, SMCS class of 2018, leads the Benedictine Cadets as the team captain for both cross country and indoor track. Michael continues to finish among the top in his class academically. He is also the head coach of the Saint Mary’s girls 6th and 7th grade basketball team.

Lauren Park, SMCS class of 2016, will be graduating from Trinity Episcopal School in May with an IB diploma and four years on the girls varsity soccer team as goalkeeper. She will be heading to Boston to attend Wellesley College in the fall of 2020 where she plans to study biology and environmental science and will be playing goalkeeper on the women’s soccer team. Lauren sends her best wishes to all of her Saint Mary’s family.
Drew Spicer, SMCS class of 2003: The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association just came out with its list of 2019 high school coaches of the year, and guess who is representing the state of Virginia for the girls’ XC coach of the year? Our very own graduate and former faculty member, Drew Spicer. Way to go, Coach!

Luke Sykes, SMCS class of 2013, is doing extremely well at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, said his dad, Mark. Per Mark, although the academics are rigorous, Luke has managed to earn a gold or silver star each trimester. The academics at Saint Mary’s and Benedictine prepared him well for the USMMA!” Mark said.

Luke is currently a midshipman second class – i.e. a junior. He will be a senior (midshipmen first class) when he returns to school in July. Right now his is on his second sailing aboard the Taino and will be on ship for 100 days. Last year he sailed on the military sealift command ship the USNS Larime in the Mediterranean. While aboard ships, Mark said, the midshipmen work during the day and complete several extensive projects (usually at night), which must be turned in when they return to school. The students spend a total of 300 days at sea during their four years at the Academy. Last summer Luke had a two-week internship with the Navy SEALs in Little Creek, VA.

Once Luke finishes his sailing on the Taino, he will undertake a two-month internship at Newport News Shipyard for his major, which is marine engineering and shipyard management. Following his internship, Luke is awaiting selection to attend SEAL Officer Assessment and Selection in Coronado, Calif.

Jim Wentzel, SMCS class of 2018, now a sophomore at Benedictine College Preparatory School, placed first in the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest of the Richmond Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and also placed first in the Joseph Rumbaugh Oratorical Contest for the chapter – the only double win that members of the chapter can remember ever occurring. Jim’s essay was forwarded for judging at the state level, and he presented his oration at the state level of competition on February 8, 2020 at the Virginia State Sons of the American Revolution Convention at the Omni Hotel in Richmond.

Some updates on sports accolades from SMCS class of 2016:

Jessica Rathbone – Golf 2nd team All-Metro
Ellen Herrera – Cross Country 2nd team All-Metro
Jordan Bendura – Cross Country 1st team All-Metro

Jordan runs for Drew Spicer (see above!) at Deep Run High School.

Got SMCS alumni news to share? We’d love to hear from you! Please email Development Coordinator Jennifer Janus at jjanus@saintmary.org.
Saint Mary’s Catholic School
is now on Instagram - @SaintMarysRVA
www.instagram.com/saintmarysrva - check it out!

Saint Mary’s 6th grader Ella Wiatt summited Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, in February. Her mom, Kisoon, says it was negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit and the winds were 45 miles per hour, but Ella made it, walking 10 hours to get to the top! Ella also loves ice climbing.

In February, Zoelie Murphy (4th grade), Anna Riesser (6th grade) and Julia Riesser (4th grade) competed in the National Indoor Hockey Tournament in Lancaster, Penn. Representing the Panthers United Field Hockey Club out of Chesterfield, Va., their team won all five of their games, becoming the NIT champions in their age pool.

Congrats to our 3rd/4th-grade boys’ basketball team. They won the silver division championship for their age group. Go Monarchs!