Spring event brings fun and excitement to center

Spring is in the air, and signs of new life and growth are all around us. On Wednesday, May 4, fifteen students gathered at the center for our annual spring festival. The event began with an egg hunt, in which students were divided into teams of two students each. Team members searched for eggs hidden in the various rooms of the center, directed by clues such as "Only positive attitudes and hidden eggs are found here", and "Go to the golden chair surrounded by stories and shaded by flora". Following the egg hunt, pizza was available for supper, and then- a raffle! Students waited in eager anticipation for their ticket number to be called, after which they could choose from a variety of prizes that were available. The spring event concluded with some time in the gymnasium at Cristo Rey Hall, with basketball and beanbag toss among the most popular of activities. The community spirit of the center is most visible in its holiday and seasonal festivities, and this year’s spring event was no exception.

Center hours are: Mondays through Thursdays, 4 p.m.- 5:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.
Questions? Contact the center at (262) 898-7250
Many books have been purchased, bringing a wide variety of new titles to the collection that will provide students with greater enjoyment and success both in academics and in life. The center recently enhanced its already-extensive book collection with a selection of new titles for middle school and high school-aged readers. Several of the books encompass themes related to diversity and inclusion. Titles include *Becoming*, the autobiography of former First Lady Michelle Obama, *This Is Your Time*, by Ruby Bridges, who played a key role in the integration of public schools in New Orleans in 1960, *Never Caught: The Story of Ona Judge*, by Erica Armstrong Dunbar and Kathleen Van Cleve, which tells the story of a girl who escaped her enslavement by George and Martha Washington, *Unbeatable*, by Phillip Hoose, which documents the basketball success of all-Black Crispus Attucks High School, in Indianapolis, which eventually included future Milwaukee Bucks legend Oscar Robertson, and several titles from the *Native Trailblazers* series, which gives portraits of accomplished people from Native American backgrounds in fields such as politics, sports, and music. Students are encouraged to read these new books during the time they spend at the center (once their homework is completed, of course!). However, they are also welcome to check the books out from the center to read them on their own time.

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**Middle School—**

Vanessa, a fourth grader, has been attending the center regularly this year. Vanessa is always very polite and friendly among teachers and students, and she enjoys being at the center with her friends. She likes to draw and make bracelets when she is at the center. Vanessa always has a positive attitude, and she brings joy to all of those whom she encounters. Congratulations, Vanessa!

**Student of the Month—April 2022**

**High School—**

Ca'Vana has been a dedicated student and regular attendee at the center this year and during her junior high years. As a freshman, she has shown great wisdom and maturity. Ca'Vana shows an interest in her future as well, as she is enrolled in the Countdown to College program sponsored by St. Mary's University. She is an inspiration to her fellow students, and we are delighted to have Ca'Vana with us at the center. Congratulations, Ca'Vana!

**Reflection**

As I sit at my desk typing this, it is beginning to dawn on me that another school year has almost passed us by. Has it been a year of hope and fulfillment, or disappointment and frustration? Sometimes, it seems like it's a little of both. Often, it takes the perspective of years to see what the current moment means for us, and just why we have ended up at the place in which we are today. It has been a busy and productive year here at the center, and we can look back on lots of accomplishments and memories created. But it is now almost time to say goodbye for the summer. Maybe you are looking forward to that long-awaited vacation, or to relaxing at the beach or the pool. Take time out of your day to celebrate your achievements, and to be thankful for the moments we have been given. They won't last forever. Thanks to all staff, students, and volunteers for making this a fun and memorable year at John XXIII Center. Br. Johnathon Emanuelson, J23 Center staff