



OMPH School Scene

Choose Kindness



The fifth grade class at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic School recently read their first novel of the academic year entitled, *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio. It is a story of a fifth-grade boy with Treacher Collins Syndrome who attends school for the first time. It tells of the challenges he faces in the school setting and at home with his family as he adjusts to life in a new environment. As the novel unfolds, the children at Beecher Prep grow to accept him despite his facial deformities and learn how important it is to get to know someone on the inside.

In our class, students had the opportunity to read the novel and demonstrate their understanding through the use of Literature Circle Groups. This research-based strategy gave students the opportunity to practice 4 roles: Discussion Director, Word Wizard, Literary Luminary, and Illustrator/ Summarizer. Students got the opportunity to read a portion of the text through a certain "lense," or role. Then, students met in small groups to discuss their findings and new understandings. Literature circles gave students an opportunity to be the facilitators of their own learning while being truly engaged and excited about the process.

Through the use of this high-interest novel, the fifth graders at OMPH Catholic School discussed critical themes like friendship, bullying, perseverance, and kindness. After reading the novel, students were assigned a culminating project that included redesigning the cover, summarizing the novel through a comic strip, and writing letters to a main character of their choice. The students should be proud of their hard-work on this project!

In the novel, the main character, Auggie, has a teacher who reads precepts to his class as life lessons. As a fifth grade class, we have adopted this tradition. Each day we read a precept and reflect on its meaning and message within our own lives. Many of the precepts tie in values discussed and taught in our Religion class. For example, St. Basil stated, "A tree is known by its fruit, a man by his deeds."

Theresa Sheckler, Fifth Grade Teacher



MATHCOUNTS

Congratulations to members of the OMPH MATHCOUNTS Team who participated in the Lincoln Chapter Regional Competition at Millersville University. Our high scorer placed in the top 25% of nearly 200 participants. We are proud of our mathletes!



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