

Hungry Pandas 2nd Annual Cake Decorating Contest

A highlight of Catholic Schools Week was the second annual Cake Decorating Contest organized by Padua's culinary club, the Hungry Pandas, led by Moderator, Susan Poppiti, and Sous Chef, Ally Stuebing. On Tuesday, January 30th, during Flex in the café, five teams (each containing two faculty members and three students) toiled away on their fondant and buttercream masterpieces.

This year's theme, "Pandas at the Beach", inspired a myriad of fondant pandas lounging on beach towels and paddling on boogie boards. A fondant Panda mermaid even appeared on the winning cake created by Bridget Cahir, Rachel Delate, Clare Mazzeo, Mrs. Buchanan, and Mrs. Fenimore.

Faculty member pairs volunteered to serve as team captains, and students purchased \$1 chances to participate on the team of their choice. Hungry Pandas will use the proceeds to purchase ingredients for the breakfast they will prepare at the Ronald McDonald House in March.

Each team was provided with a two-tiered nine-inch homemade cake along with fondant, buttercream icing, and decorating tools. Guest judges – Head Chef Bill Wallen and Sous Chef Jessica Wallen of The Gaslight restaurant in Philly and Erica Razzo of Capiche Event Planning and Consulting in Wilmington – had the difficult task of selecting the winning cake. The café was filled with students and faculty cheering on the competitors.

This new Padua tradition not only raised money for a Hungry Pandas service project, but also permitted teachers and students to join together in the spirit of collaboration and competition.