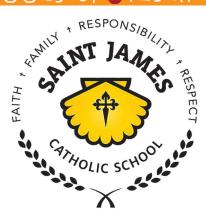
## SALINE COUNTY SCHOOLS SPE

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## \* RESPECT ...



St. James children have been abuzz with nature studies this year! While Mrs. Vasa's Kindergartners have been investigating beautiful rocks, Sister Peter Maire's first grade children have discovered sunflower seeds hundreds and hundreds of them all arranged in fascinating patterns.

Mr. Teixeira's second graders have been champions of the insect world these past weeks discovering crickets, ants, grasshoppers, praying mantises, and more. They have taken the time to render carefully the ant noticing the distinct body parts. Taevon Reffett, nonetheless, declares his favorite insect to be the cricket. Out of the 18 insects he caught so far this year, the cricket has been the most fun.

Pinecones, feathers, rocks and seashells have been the source of careful observation in Mrs. Uhing's third grade classroom where students, after drawing their specimens, write about what they notice, of what they wonder, and of what the object reminds them. Kevin Carbajal Romero stated, "I really liked drawing feathers. They reminded me of a tiger because swim. of their color patterns."

Mrs. Talkington's fourth graders jumped into nature studies with vigor these days. They first drew "secret plants." The challenge was to see if they could render with so much

precision that classmates, after looking at their sketches, could find the plant. Next, the children looked for and drew animal homes found on the school grounds. They discovered spider webs, bird nests, wasp nests, and of course, cricket lodgings. Joselyn Chavez Mendoza chose to draw the spider web in her nature journal. She wondered, "How do they make those webs?"

Sister Mary Ruth's and Sister Mary Guadalupe's fifth and sixth graders have practiced paying attention to detail by observing and drawing the various life cycle stages of Monarch butterflies which include egg, caterpillar (or larvae), chrysalis, and adult butterfly. Ahniyah Godel enjoyed this activity so much that she kept a book on butterflies and moths right in her desk to read in free moments. Ahniyah learned that there is a Queen Butterfly, often mistaken for a Monarch, but slightly smaller and without the black veins. She wonders if the Monarch caterpillar ever sleeps. Her friend Alexia Marino Alarcon wonders if Monarchs can

St. James School hopes that the joy and marvel which the children experience in observing nature will point them straight to God our Father who is the Creator of all these wonders on earth.



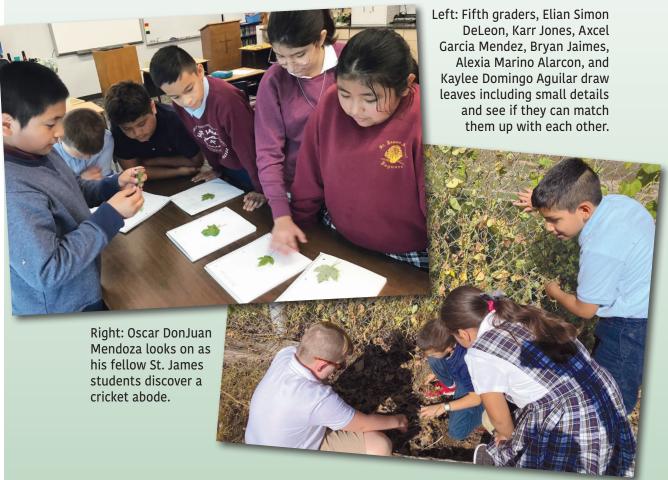








Top to bottom, left to right: Broden Snyder in grade 3 enjoys a stickbug. Salvador Mora Cardenas in grade 4 examines a flower and makes note in his nature journal. Austynn Harvey examines some rocks and Mrs. Vasa's Kindergarten room. Broden Snyder and Leandro Lopez Rodriguez search for crickets. Tobias Rodriguez Lopez, grade one, is particularly pleased with his sunflower seed.



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