If there’s one thing SES Student John Weekley is passionate about, it’s Legos. So when his Eagle Scout coach asked him to start thinking about his final project back in 2019, John’s answer came easily: “I wanted to build a Lego Table for SES where ALL my friends can build and play together!”

An Eagle Scout’s Service Leadership Project is no easy task to complete. After getting his project approved by the Boy Scouts of America and obtaining permission from SES Principal Erin Upton to donate the table, he had to start focusing on the fundraising he would need to get materials. He sold candy bars and attended many local sales in his community to get the word out about his project.

John said that “a scout is thrifty and conservation minded,” so he started collecting used Legos from his community as well. By the end of 2019, he had collected 58 lbs. of recycled Legos! John was on a roll with his project until all of a sudden – a pandemic hit – putting everything on hold.

Continued on page 5
IT'S BACK! After having to postpone our initially scheduled fall event, the Get Connected: Special Needs Resources Fair will now be held on Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This exciting event will bring together Central Maryland families who are looking for services, products, and/or agencies that assist the special needs community. Whether you are looking for resources or looking to participate as an exhibitor, you will benefit from this one-stop informative event.

The Special Needs Resources Fair, hosted by St. Elizabeth School, brings together therapists, experts, consultants, products, and services that foster happy, healthy, and productive lives for those with special needs. Our goal is to connect families with special needs to the many resources available—whether it’s information on speech therapy, sensory integration, summer camps, assistive technology devices, advice on estate planning, and more.

Two workshops will be held that day: Advocating for Your Recently Diagnosed Child: A Parent’s Perspective (at 10 a.m.) and Advocating for Your Child After High School (at 12:15 p.m.)

To register as an exhibitor or to learn more, visit https://www.stelizabeth-school.org/special-needs-resources-fair. This event is free to families attending.

Join us at the SES Bull Roast on April 30 for an afternoon of music and dancing, delicious food and beverages (oysters on the half-shell, shrimp, pitted beef, wine, beer, and more), money and mixed wheels, silent and long arm raffle auctions, and lots of fun!

Don’t forget to register by March 31 to take advantage of Early Bird prices. To register or learn more, visit http://www.stelizabeth-school.org/SES-Bull-Roast.
HOLIDAY FUN AT SES

FALL FEST 2022

A few days before Halloween, SES students and staff showed off their spooky sides at the annual Fall Fest.

The hallways were filled with original costumes, and students got to participate in a variety of activities, including pumpkin painting, hayrides, face painting, cornhole, and more!

THE ANNUAL SES THANKSGIVING DINNER

For the first time in three years, SES once again opened its doors to students and their families at the SES Family Thanksgiving Dinner.

The school gymnasium was transformed into a homey restaurant for the night of November 16. Staff donned their hairnets and served delicious meals to over 200 guests.

This was no ordinary Thanksgiving feast - SES Kitchen Manager Jamaal Wilton and his assistant Donna Smith prepared each dish from scratch with the freshest ingredients. Yes - that includes over 50 homemade pies!

The night was a great success, and SES thanks all the families who joined us for this special tradition.
THE BUZZ AROUND SCHOOL

SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY

On December 7, staff and family members gathered in the school gymnasium for the Senior Recognition Ceremony. This event is always an exciting step towards graduation for SES Seniors because it’s the day they receive their class rings! Additionally, students picked staff members to speak about them at the ceremony, and there was plenty of praise and encouragement to go around from their speakers. Congratulations, Seniors! We hope you’ll wear your rings with SES pride!

A VISIT FROM EDGAR ALLAN POE

Students in Tamarra Parsons’s English classes got a special treat before Halloween – a visit from the great Edgar Allan Poe!

Some of her students were currently studying Unit 2: Words and Style, so Ms. Parsons thought it was a perfect time to invite Mr. Poe in for a special presentation and reading of The Raven.

Her 10th grade class have been learning a lot about the writings of Edgar Allan Poe along with the films of Alfred Hitchcock. Other students were invited to attend the reading as well.

It was a spooky, fun way to learn more about this local literary great!
CONTINUED:
LEGO TABLE FOR ALL ABILITIES

You might remember that we mentioned John in a 2020 issue of Milestones, as he was still keeping busy sorting and sanitizing all the recycled Legos he and his team had collected.

But lo and behold, John’s project was back in action again once in-person classes started up again. In true project manager form, John began organizing his volunteers for the final table build.

John assigned roles and responsibilities, and made sure that each task was completed safely. After seven hours, the table was built! Next on the list was painting, so John selected the SES colors blue and gold, and his dad did a great job painting the new table. Finally, it was on to the last phase of bringing the table to SES - sorting all those fully sanitized donated Legos into bins.

Overall, John’s project took just over three years to complete; along with 25 volunteers and 154 service hours. He raised a total of $1,244.40 for supplies and materials, and donated the remaining balance to SES for any potential maintenance that might be needed in the future.

On December 3, SES students, staff, and parents gathered in the indoor playground to get a first glimpse of John’s amazing Lego table and to hear his full presentation about his project journey.

Ms. Upton handed John a Certificate of Ingenuity for his tireless efforts to create a table for his peers.

Students could barely wait to get their hands on those Legos. John and his parents, Daniel and Amy Weekley, demonstrated how the table has two convenient leaves that fold out and can be readjusted to anyone’s height. At one point, there were seven students enjoying the table at once, including two in wheelchairs.

Thank you, John, for embodying the Eagle Scout spirit and the St. Elizabeth School spirit by creating this table that students will enjoy for many years to come.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Presidents' Day
School Closed for Students and Staff
February 20

Special Needs Resources Fair
March 25
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Spring Break
School Closed for Students and Staff
April 3 - 10

SES Bull Roast
April 30
Martin's Valley Mansion
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Visit www.stelizabeth-school.org/cash-prize-raffle
to purchase raffle tickets.

The person who sells the most raffle tickets will
win a FREE ticket to the SES Bull Roast on April 30!