

Nature Notes

A weekly round-up of useful information we explore the natural wonders around Nolan Catholic High School.

October 17, 2019

Question of the Week:

Why do we call this season fall?



<https://donnalong.com/nature-in-autumn/>

<http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-autumn/>

Answer:

Both “autumn” and “fall” originated in the 1600’s. Before that, people called the season “harvest”. Autumn is the typical word used in England, and comes from Latin roots of unknown origin. “Fall” is used more in America, and thought to be an abbreviation of the phrase “falling of the leaf”. As people moved from the farms to the cities, the phrase and then abbreviation gradually replaced the harvest name.

Season changes have less to do with the earth’s distance from the sun, and more to do with the tilting of the earth’s axis. Fall begins with the Autumnal Equinox, a day when there are exactly 12 hours of daylight. The first full moon after the equinox is called a harvest moon. Before artificial lighting, farmers depended on that harvest moon to provide the additional light needed to gather crops. The full moon after the harvest moon is called a hunter’s moon, because of its value in helping hunters track prey after sunset.

Good Reads

Find out why St. Kateri Tekakwitha is called the patron saint of environmentalists. I especially love that she would make small crosses out of sticks when she was in the woods, and leave them as a prayer reminder for others.

<https://catholicecology.net/blog/reflecting-blessed-kateri-tekakwitha>

We are losing our attitude of wonder, of contemplation, of listening to creation and thus we no longer manage to interpret within it what Benedict XVI calls 'the rhythm of the love-story between God and man.'

- *Pope Francis*

Courtyard Adventures



Found a female Gulf Fritillary butterfly enjoying the Salvia in the Activity Courtyard today.

Her wing pattern from the underside looks completely different.



Check out this website for more about Gulf Fritillaries:

<https://www.butterfliesathome.com/gulf-fritillary-butterfly.htm>

Please remind your students that they can use the courtyards during passing periods.

Remember, I'm available to help with activities and lesson plans if you want to get your students outside but don't know where to start. Email or come by my office anytime.

Where to find Emily next week

Monday 9:30-2

Tuesday 8:30-2

Wednesday 9:30-2

Thursday out of office

Friday- teacher in-service

Outdoor Learning Headquarters

In the office immediately to the left of the teacher boxes in room D22.

Please come by anytime! Let's chat about how we can work outdoor learning into your lesson plans!

ebreclaw@nchstx.org