

January 4, 2012

Following the annual October Student Council elections, the 2011-2012 Student Council Officers and Representatives gathered in their first bi-monthly meeting and set the strategy for the coming year's activities.

At this meeting, Mrs. Pendery, recited to the students Article II of the St. Mary's School Student Council Constitution.

It reads as follows: "The purpose of this body shall be to represent the views of the student body, to provide service and activities for the school and community and to provide leadership training and experience for the students."

It was at this point that the topic of a fellow student council member, Christina Taylor Green, living in Arizona, was brutally shot and killed. After much discussion over this tragedy, it was decided that St. Mary's Student Council would reach across the country to another community, and student council, and somehow offer our condolences.

Many ideas were tossed about, and a brief history of Christina's life was outlined for the students.

Christina was just nine years old and had big plans to serve her country one day. On January 8, 2011, she went to a political outing to "learn more about politics". She talked about "getting all the parties to come together so we could live in a better country." It was on this day, that she would die in a senseless shooting that killed six people.

Christina was born on 9-11. She had used her birth date as a source of inspiration during her short life. "She always thought about how she was born on 9-11, and she saw the positive in it. She thought of it as a day of hope and change, a chance for the country to come together to be united", her mother said.

Christina was in third grade and was recently elected Student Council President at Mesa Verde Elementary School, in Tucson, Arizona.

Christina was raised in an observant Catholic household. She had just received her first communion and was a member of the church choir.

After hearing all of this, St. Mary's council members decided that they would like to send a United States flag and display case to her school, in her memory, along with handwritten sentiments on a banner with a quote from John Quincy Adams- "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." This "Community Service Project" has definitely taught our students that even someone nine years old can have a positive impact on lives- even through tragedy. THAT is leadership!

The school's weekly Monday Morning Prayer Service on January 9, 2012, will be dedicated to Christina's memory- in honor of the 1-year anniversary.