

## **Saint Jude School students take turn to help community**

### **Friday**

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By Jeff Gilbride/Daily News staff

Madeline Mancuso, 92, found herself entrenched in an intense game of Boggle yesterday. Her opponents were roughly a quarter of her age. A resident of Francis Cabot Lowell Mill, Mancuso spent the afternoon laughing and talking with students from Saint Jude School on Main Street.

“It makes you feel like you have your own children,” she said. “It makes them feel like they are helping us.”

The visit to the low-income housing complex was part of the school’s Celebrate Service Club.

“I think it’s important to make other people happy so they won’t be lonely,” said Blessing Ajaero, 13, of Waltham. “We’re just enjoying playing games with them and enjoying their company.”

The group meets twice a week after school to plan good deeds in their community.

“We are freely choosing to take time out of our day to see them,” said Meg Palmer, 11, of Waltham. “We want to do this. It makes me feel happy because I’m helping somebody else.”

Since its inception last year, the club has taken on a variety of projects, including making food baskets for Bristol Lodge, a shelter for homeless men, raking leaves for elderly residents on Main Street and entertaining senior citizens at Maristhill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Mill resident Therese Aucoin provided the board game for one group of students.

“I brought down the Boggle game because I forgot how to play it,” Aucoin said with a laugh. “The first game was won by an 84-year-old woman and almost all these kids are under 12, but they are good sports.”

Other students played card games with David Sandison.

“It’s nice to have new people come in and visit,” Sandison said. “It gives us a good time and we get to know each other.”

Sister Katherine Martin said the club is working hard to live up to a theme adopted by Catholic schools across the country.

“The purpose of the club is to be of service to others,” she said. “The theme for Catholic schools across the U.S. this year is service. In brainstorming what to do with this theme, we came up with this club.”

Doreen Gulledge, a music teacher at the school, said she hopes the club instills a nurturing value in students.

“It’s important for kids to know how to service people in many ways,” she said. “They are the future. It’s good to learn these things when they’re young, to take care of people.”

*Jeff Gilbride can be reached at 781-398-8005 or at [jgilbrid@cnc.com](mailto:jgilbrid@cnc.com)*