

## November Newsletter

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Once again, I am thrilled to write a newsletter conveying wonderful news about our school. We have received the reports on standardized testing. The school students averaged at the 73rd percentile (did better than 73 percent of the students that took this test). It is evident that our students are receiving a superior education while in a caring, value-centered environment. Individual test reports will be going home with the report cards at the beginning of December. This way, you will be able to discuss them with your teachers during parent-teacher conferences, which are scheduled to take place on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Please, check the calendar for the month of December. Notice that December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> are half days for grades K through 5, with dismissal at 1:00 PM, followed by teacher conferences. However, the Middle School has no class on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and a half-day (1:00 PM dismissal) on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. This to provide our Middle School parents the opportunity to meet with all Middle School teachers at their conference. Therefore, **please do not send your Middle School student on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> since the teachers will be at conferences all day.**

Regarding our facilities improvement, we have obtained all permits required for the construction of our new administrative offices. The project has been initiated and is now well on its way. We are hoping to be installed in our new offices shortly after the Christmas break.

The School Board has been, and continues to be very busy. To satisfy the accreditation requirement for continued School Board development, some members attended the "Your Board Made Perfect" workshop, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut on October 22, 2008. The information they obtained in this workshop is aimed at improving nonprofit fundraising and governance. In addition, the Board has been working on our long-range plan for the school. Thank you to all the parents, parishioners, faculty and staff that participated in our on-line survey. Your input is of much value helping us identify and prioritize the needs of our school. Congratulations to Mrs. Takako Dolan, a first grade parent, who won the \$100.00 gift card to the Par Four Restaurant.

Middle School News: The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are the winners of the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of October. As a reward they had a pajama day and movie on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition, 16 Middle School Students received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record. They are Megan Bosetti, Sofie Clark, Joey Warmus, Justin Bell, Alyssa Daneault, Morgan Gagne, Brigid Horan, Andrew Luo, Bianca Matira, Xavier Mills, Vernon Powe, Katie Bosetti, Justin Cavitt, Joseph Granatosky, Meredith Haluga and Julia Scott. Congratulations to all the winners!

Members of the Sacred Heart Stewards Service Club have been busy making rosaries to be sent to missions around the world. They are also considering other projects to benefit our community. Stay tuned as you will hear from them very soon. Also, on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Middle School celebrated National Mix It Up At Lunch Day. On this day, students were encouraged to sit with somebody different and make new connections. These activities are geared towards fostering an atmosphere that promotes social responsibility and positive interpersonal relations among our students.

Elementary School News: On Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, our kindergarten students went on a field trip to Alice Acres Farm. They had a great time! In addition, on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Fleury's kindergarten students brought apples and helped make applesauce, which they shared with the rest of the faculty and staff. It was delicious!

Other News: Regarding our Athletics program, we have completed the soccer season. Our students did a great job representing our school. We have already started practice for our basketball season. We have three teams: Girls JV, Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity. They are all pumped up and ready to go!

Four of our students participated with the Future Musicians of Connecticut Eastern Regional Band, which took place on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at St. James School Manchester. They were Justin Cavitt, Victor Calle, James Rose, and Charlie Rose. What a great experience! There were a total of 96 students from 16 different Catholic Schools participating.

Our whole school prepared Veterans Day Cards as a project in Art class (no last names included). These cards were sent to a local Veterans Hospital as well as some service men currently on active duty, who are related to our students, faculty and staff. We would like to convey our special thanks to Mrs. Julie Sparks, our Art teacher, for taking this initiative.

The Halloween Party on October 26<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Students dressed up, participated in a number of games and brought in candy and a can of non-perishable food. Once again, we had another opportunity to have fun with a purpose. Thank you to the Guild and the many parents that volunteer to provide this much fun to our kids.

Fundraising continues strong at Sacred Heart School. The Marathon took place on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and was a great success. It sure put the fun in fundraiser. Our students raised over \$34,000! Once again, many persons are responsible for the success of this activity. Our special thanks go to all the room mothers, the Guild officers, and all the members of the Marathon Committee, especially to its chair, Mr. Ron Foular. And on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Sacred Heart Church Knights of Columbus sponsored Oktoberfest, a dinner-dance to benefit our science program. It was well attended and we had a great time. On behalf of our school, I would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for supporting Sacred Heart School. We are very lucky to be part of a parish community that embraces and supports our mission.

During the week of October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 7<sup>th</sup>, our school conducted a Holiday Food Drive to benefit Groton Human Services, which provides holiday baskets to approximately 500 families at each holiday. We want to thank all of our families that so generously donated food for our drive. Representatives from Groton Human Services were thrilled with our contributions. Thanks to your generosity, many families will enjoy a full Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinner.

And speaking of Christmas, it is almost upon us! This is a busy time of the year with many fun activities. Let us not forget the real reason for the season. As a Catholic school, our activities revolve around the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There will be more opportunities for charitable work as well as joyful celebrations. One of our finest celebrations is our traditional Lessons and Carols, a combination of Biblical readings and Christmas hymns performed by our students. I would like to remind you that this is a formal school activity and that, as such, **attendance is mandatory**. I can assure you that you will very much enjoy seeing your child(ren) participate. It is truly a feast for the spirit and the senses.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving. May all of us, as we gather around the table with our loved ones, thank God for sending us His Son and for loving us as His own sons and daughters. May His love continue to grow in our hearts.

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle