

April Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Happy Easter, everyone! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Through Christ's death and resurrection salvation has come into the world restoring our hope for eternal life with God. What a joy it is that our students have the opportunity to study in a school where we can prepare for and celebrate these spiritual feasts. Our school continues to grow and to provide plenty of opportunities for the intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual growth.

Middle School News: The 6th graders are the winners of the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of March. However, the 8th grade came in very close, less than a point of a percent behind. The following students received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record: Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Shannon Forrester, Patrick Griffin, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Briana Kleiner, Kathleen Kuchenbrod, Francesca Matira, Joey Warmus, Morgan Gagne, Molly Lang, Bianca Matira, Xavier Mills, Katie Bosetti, Claire Bowdy, Justin Cavitt, Ben Clark, Joe Granatosky, Meredith Haluga, Dominic Jengo, Pattie Poitras, Iesha Preston, Julia Scott, Coriene Smith and Caitlin Wagner. Congratulations!

The Sacred Heart Stewards Club's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Campaign during Lent was a great success. They have collected a total of 2,972 items. They also received \$1,130 in cash donations! In addition, on Wednesday, March 25th, they went to cook and serve food at the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen in Norwich. The guests and staff of the soup kitchen were extremely grateful to our students and had wonderful comments about them. Finally, to complete their campaign drive, on Friday, March 27th, they built a cardboard village in front of SHS and spent the night outside to taste the homelessness experience. What an incredible journey of awareness and growth! They are a fine representation of our school's commitment to the development of leaders focused on faith-based social responsibility. Special thanks to Mrs. Marissa Mills, SHC DRE, and to Mrs. Nancy Pescatello, SHS Director of Campus Ministry, for organizing this amazing activity, and to Nurse Cathi McMickle for joining them in the cardboard village.

Elementary School News: The first edition of our school newspaper, The Sacred Heart Times, went out on March 26th. This new extracurricular activity is designed for third, fourth and fifth grade students. They come up with their own questions for the interviews and the quality of their articles is impressive. What a great opportunity for them to develop new skills as they report what is happening in their school! Thank you to Mrs. Barbara Hamanaka, Mrs. Kathleen Doyle and Mrs. Trisha Fleury for sponsoring this great activity.

On April 8th, our 5th grade students went to the Garde Theater to see Blues Journey, a fascinating story about the history of Blues music. It was a great cultural experience, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Enrollment and Registration: Registration for next year is looking very good. Remember that the deadline to send in the complete application for tuition assistance from the Catholic Foundation from the Diocese of Norwich is April 30th, 2009. **This application replaces our old financial aid application, so there will be no other opportunity to apply for financial aid later.**

Raffle: Thank you all for helping with our school raffle benefiting our Science laboratory. So far our school has brought in \$10,410 in raffle tickets sales. Our teams from St. Patrick Church in Mystic and from Our Lady of the Lakes in Oakdale have sold an additional \$3,123 for a grand total of \$13,533. Other school parent teams have been selling at St. Mary's Mother of the Redeemer, Our Lady of Lourdes and Sacred Heart Church, but those totals are not in yet. Sales will continue until the end of May.

Other News: On March 17th, our school celebrated St. Patrick's Day enjoying a fantastic performance from the talented dancers from Spirited Soles Irish Dance School. Our students looked great in green!

On March 20th, volunteers from Junior Achievement visited our school and provided our students with their hands-on program that teaches key concepts of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

On Sunday, March 22nd, members of our Children Choir participated in the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council Choir Festival. They were Megan and Katie Bosetti, Vincent Gocon, Christina Lawton, Charles and James Rose, Shenandoah Terry, Kimberly Thomson and Edyta Wolk. Thank you to our music teacher, Mrs. Barbara Billings, for leading our students in this wonderful extracurricular activity.

On March 23rd, members of our faculty and staff attended a retreat at Immaculata Retreat House in Willimantic. The topic of the retreat was “Happiness and Holiness – Two Sides of the Same Coin”. It was a great day and we sure were happy and relaxed at the end of the day.

Our Athletics program continues to thrive. Our school is offering Track and Field this spring season. Practices started on Wednesday, March 25th and are led by our PE teacher, Mr. Sheridan (thank you, Mr. Sheridan!). Weekly practices are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3:00 – 5:00 PM through the end of May.

Keeping up with our Catholic mission and identity, on March 26th, our students, second grade and up, had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Thank you, Fr. Dariusz, for making the arrangements to have two other priests come and help administer this sacrament.

On Saturday, March 28th, five members of our school band participated in the Future Musicians of CT All State Band Concert. They were Courtney Rose, James Rose, Charlie Rose, Victor Calle and Justin Cavitt. This concert took place in Central Connecticut State University. It was fantastic! These students will now have the opportunity to perform at the Lincoln Center in NYC on April 27th, and in the Old State House in Hartford on May 22nd.

On March 31st, Most Rev. Michael Cote, Bishop of Norwich, visited our school. It was a very pleasant visit and he was very impressed with our students, faculty and staff. We were very glad that this year’s visit was such a success.

And last, but not least, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Laura Manfre, President of our School Advisory Board, Mrs. Anna Lawton, volunteer coordinator for the Guild and Mr. Bob Szegda, member of our School Advisory Board, who are our school nominees for Volunteers of the Year. Mrs. Manfre’s leadership in the preparation of our school’s long range plan, Mrs. Lawton’s invaluable help in coordinating volunteers for the various school activities, especially the lunch room, and Mr. Szegda’s countless hours of volunteer work as he provided all of the electrical work for all of our school’s renovations, led to these nominations. They were recognized at the Connecticut Association of School’s Volunteers Recognition Dinner on Wednesday, March 25th. Even though we can only nominate three persons per year, I would like to acknowledge that many, many other volunteers could have easily been nominated as well. It was very hard to select only three. All of you offer your time and efforts with such love and expecting no recognition. I have been personally touched by this example of dedication and commitment to our beloved school. It is all for the good of our children and that is what brings us all together. On behalf of our entire school community, I would like to say THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, no matter how big or small your contributions. They are ALL very important and are what makes our school the special place that it is.

May the risen Lord bless you and your families this Easter season and always!

In Christ’s love,

Dr. Calle