

January Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We start a new year at Sacred Heart School full of energy and enthusiasm. I hope that all our families had a great Christmas break. Once again, I have much good news to share with you. Our school continues to grow and develop in many areas as we continue our journey on the path towards distinction.

Facilities Update: The replacement of the awning behind the Pre-K, Kindergarten and 2nd grades rooms has been completed, and the church and school sign at the corner of Mitchell Street and Sacred Heart Drive has been replaced with a new one.

Technology update: All Smart Boards for grades 1-8 have been mounted and are working. Many also have speakers to enhance sound quality. We are in the process of making these boards Cable accessible as well. Next in line is the installation of a projector and smaller Smart Board in the Kindergarten room.

A representative from Sylvan Learning Centers spoke to our teachers about how Sacred Heart School teachers can access their free online resources for Reading (grades K-8) and Math (Middle School). In addition, we have acquired 2 Multi User Odyssey Subscriptions from the Compass Learning Company. This online service provides both remedial and enrichment resources for reading, writing and math skills, which will be accessible to the RISEN Learning Resource Center and all of our classrooms. We are in the process of scheduling a training session for our teachers. It is our goal to combine equipment and online resources to enhance the learning experience of our students.

Catholic Schools Week: The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is Dividends for Life. We will be having activities for our students starting on Sunday, January 31st (Character Breakfast to benefit our RISEN Learning Resource Center), followed by Sharing God's Love and Sneetches Day on Monday, February 1st (Hand to Hand-Heart to Heart activity as well as Sneetches story and activity), Backwards Beach Blanket Bingo Day on Tuesday, February 2nd, Student Appreciation Day – Beach Party Bubble Bonanza on Wednesday, February 3rd (movie, beach attire dress down and no homework), Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day on Thursday, February 4th (staff dress down and surprise treat; a variety of games for students), Valuable Lesson Day on Friday February 5th (special musical activity following school Mass in the church), and finishing with the Mardi Gras Dinner Dance and Basket Gala on Saturday, February 6th from 6:00-10:00 in the cafeteria. This is a fun adults-only dinner-dance and silent auction which raises much needed funds for the Guild to continue their support to the school. Thank you to Mrs. Maureen Kamercia, Mrs. Diane Maleno and Ms. Cathy Santangelo for organizing the activities taking place during weekdays and to the RISEN staff and Guild volunteers for organizing the Character Breakfast and Mardi Gras Dinner Dance and Basket Gala respectively. In addition, our students will be participating in all three Sacred Heart Church Masses the weekend of January 30th and 31st. I would like to thank Mrs. Ann Griffin, Mrs. Jeaninne Lamothe, Mrs. Marissa Mills, and Mrs. Pat Snyder for helping me coordinate our students' participation in these Masses.

Open House: During Catholic Schools Week, on the evening of Wednesday, February 3rd, we will be having an Open House for prospective families, with the intention of recruiting new students. We will be highlighting our improved facilities and new plans for next year, as well as current strong points such as a superior academic program in a value-centered, faith-based environment, emphasis of technology in the classroom, all day Pre-K program, academic support both for remedial and enrichment at the RISEN Learning Resource Center, an active extracurricular program, before and after school daycare, sacramental preparation, and much more. However, there is no better publicity for our school than your personal recommendation. If you know any families in search of a school, please send them to us!

Middle School News: Our Advent Change for Change charity, led by our Service Club raised \$703.00 for the needy children in Selma, Alabama. Great job, Sacred Heart Stewards! The 6th grade students have done it again! They won the December Homework Challenge and this time the entire classroom had a perfect homework record!!! In fact, 40 Middle School students, the highest number thus far, received a Principal's

Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record. They are David Abraham, Fatima Barlan, Alannah Bunkley, Mia Farnworth, Fimbar Foley, Timothy Foster, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Christina Lawton, Olivia Lyon, Beatrice Mills, Matthew Murphy, Isabella Niece, Darby Nisbett, Courtney Rose, James Rose, Paul Snyder, Kimberly Thomson, Corrine Wagner, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Shannon Forrester, Celine Harris, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Audrey Jones, Gavin Jones, Briana Kleiner, Francesca Matira, Joey Warmus, Martin Wolk, Bea Asuncion, Justin Bell, Alyssa Daneault, Kelsey Ellery, Morgan Gagne, Brigid Horan, Molly Lang, Andrew Luo, Bianca Matira, Vernon Powe and Andrew Thomasco. Congratulations!

Elementary School News: We have received a thank you letter from the Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor of Connecticut, thanking our Kindergarten students for helping decorate the “The Children’s Tree” at The Governor’s Residence this past Christmas. Our Art teacher, Mrs. Ann Griffin, facilitated this contribution by having our Kindergartners create beautiful ornaments, which she later sent to this wonderful project. Thank you, Mrs. Griffin! Also, on Wednesday, January 6th our 5th graders celebrated their DARE Graduation for completing this wonderful Drugs and Alcohol Abuse program led by Officer Scott Lesage. Mayor Dennis Popp and Chief of Police Bruno Giuliani attended and addressed our students. Shenandoah Terry won the Best DARE Essay Award. Our students sure know how to make connections with important leaders!

Other School News: Our publicity efforts continue to produce results. The Middle School Honor Roll for the 1st marking period was published in the Groton Times and an article entitled “Diversity Celebrated at Sacred Heart School” is in this month’s Four County Catholic. In addition, announcements for our upcoming Open House on February 3rd will be published on three different dates in The Day. In other news, last Thursday, January 7th, Nurse Cathi McMickle and Mr. Ron Foular offered CPR/AED training to our faculty and staff. Fifteen members of our school community were certified. Together with the other SHS that had been previously certified totals 19 faculty and staff members certified. Our school is now even safer for all the members of our school community! And speaking of safety, we have adopted the ALERTNOW Notification Service, which provides rapid communication that will allow us to send a telephone message to up to 5 phone numbers per family, providing important information about school events or emergencies. We anticipate using ALERTNOW to notify you of unexpected emergency situations, school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather, and to remind you about various events, including first Friday’s early dismissals, important deadlines, and more, at no extra cost. You should be receiving more information about this wonderful communication tool with your child. Please, read it carefully, fill out the return slip and send it back to us so that we may know the families who wish to sign up.

Our school has developed a very productive collaboration with the Knights of Columbus. As I mentioned in the December Newsletter, there are more activities involving the Knights of Columbus in partnership with us. Our school will be participating in the Catholic Schools Spelling Bee for grades 4-6, also sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. We have already conducted our local competition. First place winners are Regina Casimiro-Nuñez (4th grade), Luis Ortega (5th grade) and Darby Nisbett (6th grade). Runners-up are Alexis Tudisco (4th grade), Edyta Wolk (5th grade) and Beatrice Mills (6th grade). I am also very excited to inform about a new extracurricular activity for students 4th grade and up. The Photography Club, led by our Pre-K teacher Mrs. Julie Sparks, will be starting very soon. It will be offered in 4-week sessions on Wednesdays, from 3:00-4:00 PM. Please, stay tuned for more information coming to you from Mrs. Sparks.

The Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP) initiative is going very well. So far we have received \$225.00 in donations. Currently, there is a very active public relations and marketing campaign, which includes television and print advertisements featuring Regis Philbin, as well as an interactive media strategy. This CAP website has been marketed as www.clickYES.com. A link to this website is on the home page of our school website.

On behalf of Sacred Heart School faculty and staff, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year. May we continue to grow in love and fellowship!

In Christ’s love,

Dr. Calle