

Principal's Corner

As we approach the blessed season of Easter and complete Lent, we wish you and your family a happy month of rebirth of spirit and the natural world. The children have learned so much during this past month about their faith and the gift of Jesus' great love for us in the Passion and Resurrection. They had a chance in grades 3-8 to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The visiting priests who helped us with the ceremony and administration of the sacrament were so good with the children, and the students were so sincere in their prayers and confessions. These are moments when you realize the depth of faith that is fostered in Catholic school.

In April, Alice In Wonderland will be performed by the students. (see the dates below) State testing will begin this month as well with English Language Arts in grades 3-8. The school budget has been approved by the school board and will be submitted. We have been able to keep the program intact for the children. Thanks is due to all members of the school board and our parish trustees and finance committee members.

Once again, we wish you a Happy Easter!

- Roger Rooney, Principal

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Holy Spirit School Families,

For your information, Mrs. Susan Voellm will be assisting me in the areas of recruitment of new families for our school and communicating with those families who are now part of our Holy Spirit School community. She will also assist with scheduling and planning the

calendar, duties she presently undertakes as coordinator of the middle school program. I am grateful for Mrs. Voellm's help as we transition from my time as principal to the selection of a new leader for the school. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Roger Rooney

Student Council

“Smart Car” Fundraiser

Student Council is asking for support of this fundraising activity. If anyone has tennis balls (old) to donate we would greatly appreciate help with this. The goal is to fill a Smart Car with tennis balls and have a raffle drawing for the individual(s) who guess the correct or closest number of tennis balls it takes to fill the Smart Car.

There will two major prizes for the winners. This event will take place in a few weeks. Please help support the Student Council to represent the student body with charity donations and projects.

Staff/Student Basketball Game

A special thank you to everyone who helped make this evening such a huge success. A great time was had by all.

DRAMA NEWS

Tickets are now on sale for the Drama Club's production of Alice in Wonderland. Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased for Friday, April 16th or Saturday, April 17th shows. Both shows begin at 7:00 pm. See Mrs. Ferrara or Mrs. Williams for order forms or more information. **BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**



Tri-City ValleyCats
Joe Bruno Stadium

**Please join us at the “Joe” for
Holy Spirit School’s
ValleyCats Fundraiser**

(There will be fireworks too!)

**Saturday
June 19, 2010**

Premium Box & Concession Voucher
\$14.00

Reserved Box & Concession Voucher
\$12.00

Tickets sales will begin in May
Save The Date!

St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital

Recently the Holy Spirit School faculty and staff raised funds for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. All who participated had an Out-of-Uniform Day on March 12! The total raised was \$75.00.

Silent Auction Update

The ninth annual Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 24th at Crossgates Restaurant. The Auction begins at 6:00pm. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Florida Resort Raffle

The Silent Auction is offering a raffle for a vacation at a Florida Resort. The tickets are \$10.00 for 1 ticket and \$50.00 for 6 tickets. Look for tickets to come home with your child soon.

Garden Club Clean Up Day –
Saturday April 17th 9:00 a.m. – 12:00
Noon

Come celebrate Spring and the beauty of nature! Volunteers are needed to help out with a garden cleanup day organized by Father Joe, Mr. Rooney and the Holy Spirit School Garden Club on Saturday, April 17. Come between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to enjoy the outdoors and help tidy up the gardens around the church and school in anticipation of a lovely spring show of tulips and other flowers. Children are welcome and no experience is necessary, but please bring tools you might have like garden gloves, hand trowels, and most important of all: shovels! Wheelbarrows for moving clippings and mulch are also very much needed. If you have questions call Beth Meer, Garden Club organizer: 766-9265.

Garden Club News

The Club had a banner year in 2009, helping the 8th Grade Class of 2009 install the new 'Long Border' and 'Butterfly Garden' in the grassy island near the parking lot. These gardens will be coming into their own this year, creating a sheltered, beautiful space for kids to play on the grass and eat at the picnic tables under the trees. The whole community pitched in with money, plants and time to make these gardens a reality, and we are all very grateful. Don't forget to check on the progress of "your" plant - all the plant descriptions and dedications are in the garden book by Mr. Rooney's office.

In the fall, Garden Club members planted over 1000 bulbs that will soon be gracing the school with their beautiful blooms.

Due to the hard work of parent Diane DiGiorgio, we were also fortunate to receive a grant of \$200 from the East Schodack Garden Club, which covered the purchase of a wheelbarrow, mulch, hand tools and gloves for the kids.

This year, the Club will kick off the gardening season with a Clean Up Day on April 17, and a Spring Garden party in early May. Club meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 2:30 - 4:30 starting April 27 and ending June 1. New members in 2nd grade or older are warmly encouraged to join.

Come dig in the dirt, learn about growing plants, and enjoy nature with us! We have a new program where kids in Middle School help supervise the younger kids. We are also very much in need of adult volunteers - even if you can only help out with one session, that would be great! Call Beth Meer, 766-9265 to volunteer. See you in the garden!

Spring Hike

The Holy Spirit Church Spring Hike will be on Sunday, May 2nd at Peebles Island, Waterford, followed by dinner at Holy Spirit School Gym at 5:30 pm, Mass at 7 pm.. Please mark your calendar and join us.

Internet Safety

Holy Spirit will be hosting an Internet Safety Night for Middle School students on Monday, May 24th.

Spirit Chairs

The Student Council is continuing on a project to provide red and white special spirit chairs with our school logo and school name on the cushion and back. These chairs will be used for basketball games. The chairs

will also be used for those individuals who bid and win front row seats for all of our school events. These sturdy chairs come with an 8-10 year warranty. On the back side of the chairs, visible to all, is an area for dedication notes if so desired by the donator. The details are as follows:

1. There will be a total of 32 chairs available to be donated. We just received our first shipment of 10 chairs!! So, there are only 22 left!! Don't lose out!
2. The cost for one chair is \$140.00
3. There are 1 of 2 choices for the donator acknowledgment. An additional charge will be incurred by the donator if she/he wants to acknowledge his/her donation. Those two choices are:
 - a) a small sticky tag for the back- \$5.00
 - b) a "double back" area for company produced visible lettering \$23.00.

Our gym will certainly have a new attractive look and some very comfortable seats!!

Please contact Ms. Colangione, student council advisor if you want to support our Student Council and our entire school program by buying or contributing money towards the purchase of a chair(s). If you have any questions or want more details, please feel free to call, as well.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Day Care Three Year Old Class

The three's had a very busy month of March! We learned all about St. Patrick's Day, leprechauns and shamrocks. We had a special visit from our friend Lucky the Leprechaun. He left us a special St. Patrick's Day treat! We discussed the spring weather, such as wind, rain, and sun. The three's spent the end of the month exploring the jungle! In addition, we learned about the letters Q, R, S, and T, the number 8, the color yellow, and the shape diamond.

The three's are hoping that the month of April will bring with it some nice warm weather! We will learn about our environment, nature, and plants and we will plant some seeds of our own. We will also spend time preparing for Easter. We will dye Easter eggs, and have an exciting egg hunt in our classroom! We will talk about traffic signs and transportation in April. We will also study the letters U, V, and W, the number 9, and the color purple. Finally, we will begin getting ready for graduation in June! We can't wait for all the fun that April will bring!

Happy Birthday to:
Jace M. – April 6th

Day Care 4 Year Old Class

Spring is here! The children are excited about spending more time outdoors to enjoy the sunshine and the first signs of spring. In April we will enjoy an egg hunt. We will celebrate Earth day with our reading buddies and plant seeds. Our journal stories will continue with Buddy the Bear.

The children will begin to review the alphabet. The themes of the month

are plants, recycling, frogs and how they grow, baby animals, weather observations, and the meaning of Easter. Our learning stations will provide new challenges with smaller groups and individual attention. We are gearing up for the big step to Kindergarten!

Happy Birthday to:
Cassidy Z. – April 12th
Connor R. – April 23rd

Nursery School News

Nursery school is working on our shape book which we will bring home very soon. We continue to work on name writing, letter and sound recognition, and crayon grip by coloring and gluing the letter of the week. We have become great dancers thanks to Mr. "G". Step in and take a peek. We enjoyed St. Patrick's Day with a rainbow treat left to us by the leprechauns. We created our own leprechaun puppet show complete with a rainbow and pot of gold. We created a beautiful spring tree to help us remember the meaning of Easter.

Happy Birthday to:
Isabella S. – April 4th
Austin D. – April 15th

Pre-K News

The letter M gave us a moose puppet to go along with the stories "If You Give a Moose a Muffin" and "If You Give a Moose a Cookie". We also enjoyed "Mortimer...Clang, Clang, Rattle, Bing, Bang..."

We had the best time using all kinds of "stuff" to create our own monsters. We read lots of monster books too. M is also for math. We are

working on counting and writing numbers.

The “Napping House” was a great story. We painted all the characters and created our own story board to retell this great story. “N-O Spells” was a fun rhyming story. Oceans, otters, and owls are obviously great ways to explore the letter O.

The leprechauns left us a rainbow treat. All we had to do to find it was to follow the messy feet (Mr. Dave made the leprechauns scrub the floor). We enjoy many Easter projects and are working on earning good behavior crosses displayed in the hall when we go above and beyond.

SOS. Can you please help? We are missing a girls’ jean jacket. The jacket was lost during the St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Congratulations to Jack Marra on becoming a big brother to Madelyn who was born on March 15th. She weighed 7lbs 1oz. Congratulations to the Marra family.

**Happy Birthday to:
Jack M. – April 3rd
Danny H. – April 6th
Shane H.– April 12th
John T. – April 20th**

Kindergarten News

The children have been learning about ocean environments and singing about the oceans. They are amazed at the variety of ocean life forms that have adapted to the coral reef, the open ocean, and the deep dark zone of the seas. They are learning that healthy and clean oceans are important to our planet. We are enjoying some wonderful books, The Mighty Ocean, Under the Sea, Swimmy, and The Rainbow Fish.

The children successfully completed a math unit on tables and graphs. They have recently started adding numbers to 10.

The “wee folk” made a surprise visit and left behind a trail of gold dust that led to a pile of golden chocolate coins. There were several leprechaun sightings that week.

Easter is quickly approaching. The children are making a special effort to grow and change this Lenten season. We are “catching them being good” when they are kind and thoughtful to each other and act like true friends of Jesus.

**Happy Birthday to:
Christopher K. – April 16th
Amelia K. – April 19th**

Grade One News

First grade is moving right along and we are very proud of all of our accomplishments this year! This month our Social Studies unit will focus on community wants, community needs, and community services. We will explore all of these things as we learn about different community jobs and how they provide goods and services to a community.

This month we are also excited to start our science unit on life cycles. During this unit we will learn about the life cycle of several different animals including frogs! During this unit we will keep a journal as we watch tadpoles turn into young frogs. **(We are on the lookout for tadpoles! If you or anyone you know has a pond that usually has tadpoles, please let me know!)**

In reading, our next unit will focus on great ideas. During this unit we will learn about simple machines,

Alexander Graham Bell, Benjamin Franklin, and much more!

In math we will be working on reviewing our addition and subtraction facts, and we will be working on adding and subtracting numbers up to twenty! This month we will also be working on our geometry unit. First grade will learn about geometric shapes and line of symmetry.

Keep up the excellent work first grade!

Happy Birthday to:

Joseph P. – April 11th

Baltazar D. – April 28th

Grade Two News

A very special welcome to **Mackenzie Alexander** and her family! Mackenzie joined our class last month. We are happy to have the Alexander family as part of our school community!

Thank you for your generous donations for Operation Rice Bowl! Please look for a final total next month. Although the rice bowls were due in March 29th, we will still accept them until Wednesday, April 14th. On April 20th, three of the second graders will attend a luncheon with Bishop Hubbard to present him with our school's contribution.

The second graders have many special events to look forward to in the upcoming months. We have been busy continuing our preparations for First Eucharist. The children have worked very hard and are anxious to become more active members of their parish communities. We will also begin preparing for our May Crowning Mass very soon. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss this wonderful

celebration! The mass is on Friday, May 21st at 9:00 a.m.

Coinciding with the celebration of Earth Day, Mrs. DiGiorgio, a fourth grade parent, is coming into second grade to share her gardening expertise and to assist with the planting of seedling trees for each of the second graders. They will be able to take the trees home to plant and do their part in helping the Earth. Thank you, Mrs. DiGiorgio!

We are continuing to work on our reading and writing skills every day. We are also slowly making our way through the cursive alphabet. We can't wait to be able to write everything in cursive! Keep up the great work second graders!

Happy Birthday to:

Jacob C. – April 3rd

Grade Three News

Mrs. Ferrara enjoyed a day with her colleagues at St. Mary's in Amsterdam as part of a Diocese – wide Faith Formation program.

Grade 3 continues to make great strides! We are wrapping up our Space Unit, and really enjoyed placing our projects on display for grades 1-5. We are preparing for the NYS tests: ELA on April 26-28 and Math on May 5-7. In Math we are studying fractions and will begin a chapter on geometry following that. In Language Arts we continue to be practicing fluency and comprehension skills. Thanks to our classroom helpers who made our ***Eggsploration*** Stations so much fun! We couldn't have done it without your help!

Grade 3 spent some time this past Lenten season working on and putting together their very own "Stations of the

Cross” book. The students did an exceptional job with typing and drawing their specific stations. Stop by and take a look at a copy. The children are very proud of their hard work.

Happy Birthday to:

Abby U. – April 7th
Mikayla L. – April 15th
Allison B. – April 22nd
Brianna H. – April 30th

Grade Four News

I can’t wait for our performances of “Alice in Wonderland” on Friday, April 16th and Saturday, April 17th at 7:00pm! I know it’s going to be fabulous! Don’t forget that report cards will be sent home on Friday, April 23rd!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our review sessions for NYS Test prep! Happy Spring!

Happy Birthday to:

Grade Five News

Grade 5 wishes you a blessed Easter Season. Have a wonderful, restful vacation.

In April we will be busy preparing for the New York State ELA and Math exams. Look for review packets to be coming home soon.

In Social Studies we will be finishing the Civil War on to the Industrial Revolution. We will have our State Fair in the end of May.

In Science we will start an Earth Science unit, focusing on rocks and minerals.

Our religion unit is on the Easter Season and a new unit on The Church as a sacrament of Christ’s presence.

Look for Nature’s Classroom information soon as we finalize our plans for this great time.

Happy Birthday to:

Jacob E. – April 1st
Mary H. – April 15th
Julia M. – April 22nd
Christian L. – April 27th
Kristy Y.– April 28th
Donald S. – April 29th
Aidan C. – April 30th

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Eighth grade had a great trip to Washington, DC. On Saturday, May 1st the 8th graders will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast here at Holy Spirit from 8:00-11:00. Tickets will be \$5.50. More information will follow soon. Our next middle school event will be the trip to the Bronx Zoo. More details will follow.

From Mrs. Voellm

Mrs. Voellm’s math classes are wrapping up their curriculum and getting ready for review of the NYS Math Exam. The exam for grades 6, 7, and 8th takes place on May 5th-7th. We will spend the last two weeks of April preparing for the test.

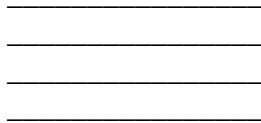
Happy Birthday to:

Nick F. – April 17th
Jeremy L. – April 28th

Mrs. Stone Grade 8 Writing

The eighth graders are focused on not learning vocabulary words but learning how to expand their vocabulary. We are building word columns based on

the “associative word processing theory” of word acquisition. A column begins with one word, and is built vertically; we begin with a structure that looks like this



and we fill the ladder with words with similar definitions, (i.e. dislike, disdain, abominate, abhor). The order of words from bottom to top indicates the intensity of meaning. Some of our columns have had ten to twelve rungs. Additionally each word may have “branches” on the sides of our word ladder (dislikable, abomination). Learning groups of words with the same intention proves much more efficient than other types of vocabulary acquisition.

The Learning Lab at MIT is doing extensive research on effective learning. Head of the lab is a Nobel Prize winning neurobiologist so the focus of the study is biological in nature. They have determined that the rhythmic chewing of gum helps hearing!!! Check their website...MIT.

Mrs. Giabanis
Middle School Social Studies and Literature

Literature 6- We are building on our vocabulary knowledge through sentence writing and creative writing activities. We are continuing to prepare for the ELA exams in April by writing daily and taking practice examinations.

Social Studies 6- Ancient Rome has been our most recent focus. We are learning about geography, location, and natural resources of Ancient Rome. Students are embracing these interesting concepts and new ideas. The students

are continuing to bring their insightful questions, wonderful energy, and love of history to class each day!

Social Studies 7- We are learning about the Launching of the New Nation following the American Revolution. After studying about the Constitution we learned about the birth of political parties, George Washington and his influence as the first president of our nation, and how our system of checks and balances came into being. Students will be doing various assignments during this section to show their understanding of the material.

Social Studies 8- We are currently studying about the Great Depression and World War II. The students are understanding how World War II helped the nation recover from The Great Depression. We are looking at the impact that political figures as FDR, Winston Churchill, Adolph Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Joseph Stalin had on foreign policy and the history of our world. We are also linking historical events to our Nation's present day views on foreign policy.

Happy Birthday to:
Jean B. – April 4th
Robbie M. – April 21st

From Mrs. Kennedy
Middle School English

Our trip to Washington DC was a success! We visited a number of museums, George Washington’s estate, all of the prominent monuments and memorials, and we even toured the White House! The students learned much about our country and its

foundation, and also made lasting memories from their time together.

Literature 6-8

Each class will be taking the English Language Arts exam the week of April 26th. This test measures the students' reading comprehension and writing abilities. Over the course of the year, students have practiced test taking strategies in order to prepare them for this exam or any other for that matter. During the first few weeks of April, we will review and strengthen these test taking skills to ensure that the students are confident on the day of the exam.

Happy Birthday to:

Regan M.: April 9th

Andrea K.: April 10th

From Mrs. Colangione **Middle School Spanish**

Spanish 6 – Over the past few weeks the grade 6 students have been learning more advanced grammatical concepts. They have also recently finished a unit of study on clothing and are presently studying about three major Spanish artists and their impact on Spanish culture. Additionally, students will be working on developing mini dialogues with peer partners to emphasize verbal communication using the target language.

Spanish 7- The grade 7 students have been focusing on each aspect of learning a language – listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They have been developing Spanish dialogues with their peers and presenting them to the class. They have also incorporated the new vocabulary and new grammatical concepts into their writing assignments. The students have been writing letters in Spanish reflecting this

medium of communication. They will continue to emphasize verbal and written tasks to constantly improve their usage of Spanish.

Grade 8 – The grade 8 students continue to progress nicely with every aspect of learning a language. They focus on listening, speaking, writing, and reading every day. The students, in addition to developing verbal mini dialogues, are now verbally describing pictures through the questions and answers that they have developed. They also continue to be challenged to learn more advanced grammatical concepts as well as a wealth of new vocabulary. In addition, they write letters and conversations incorporating the newly learned material.

From Mrs. Leverone **Religious Education**

In 8th Grade we journeyed through the forty days of Lent with prayers, reflections, Stations of the Cross, and Holy Week activities. We focused on the lives of Saint Patrick and Saint Maximilian Kolbe. We also studied the early days of the eastern and western church, how liturgy began and what remains the same even today. God is unchanging in many ways!

In 7th Grade we spent the forty days of Lent praying, reading the daily gospel, writing reflections, and praying the Stations of the Cross. We focused on Saint Patrick and St. Joan of Arc.

6th Grade continues to focus on the Old Testament with Moses, the Exodus, and of course, the 10 Commandments. We also focused on the forty days of Lent, Stations of the Cross, and Holy Week activities.

Thank you for donating Easter items for Joseph's House. We gathered with the Holy Spirit Church Community on Palm Sunday and created dozens of baskets that were delivered to many families. Thank you to our Holy Spirit Church Youth Minister, Tracey Penk-Masucci for organizing and inviting us to participate.

In early June the 6th and 7th Grade will be visiting the Auriesville Shrine of the Martyrs in Amsterdam. Chaperones will be needed for this day trip. Look for more information this spring. Our tentative date is Thursday, June 3.

Random Thought: "You see things and say 'Why?' but I dream things that never were and I say 'Why not?'"
-- George Bernard Shaw

All of our Religion classes offer heartfelt prayers to Zack Duncan and his family. We truly hope and pray for the best! We will not stop believing and praying.

From Mr. Mahoney **Middle School Science**

8th Grade/Adv. 7th: We have finished fluid dynamics and we're beginning our unit on energy, work, and simple machines. The 8th grade class is concurrently reviewing biology in preparation for the NYS Science Exam. While the 8th grade class was in Washington D.C., the 7th grade physical sciences class spent the week studying space exploration, based around an engineering project and competition. In teams they designed and built mock Mars Landers that could safely land a human on the Martian surface.

7th Grade/Adv. 6th: We're studying human body systems. We've just finished nutrition and digestion and we're moving on to the circulatory system. The dissections are definitely the highlight of this fascinating unit! We've examined the various tissues in a chicken wing and future dissections may include a pig heart, sheep brain, snake, and shark.

6th Grade: We've just begun our unit on astronomy. Currently we're studying space exploration: past, present, and future. Recent projects include a rocket design and launch competition, egg drop competition (Mars Lander engineering project, coordinated with 7th grade physical sciences), and creating team mission patches/insignia.

From Mrs. Valley **Grade 8 Earth Science Regents and** **Integrated Algebra Regents**



Regents Earth Science

March did not come in like a lion, but we certainly had a wonderful 'lamb'-like week this month! We completed a unit on weather, and a unit on movement of water in the ground. During this season, our natural environment reinforces some concepts of water movement, especially with flooding due to melting snow and pooling of water on top of the frozen ground. We are now completing a unit on rock and mineral identification, and then we will spend half of April learning about weathering, erosion and deposition of the earth's surface.

Regents Integrated Algebra
During March we gained many skills graphing linear functions and recognizing different forms of linear

equations. We have also completed a chapter on solving systems of linear equations. Students have become familiar with the graphical and algebraic methods for solving systems of equations, and are finishing lessons on solving systems of linear inequalities as well. After learning the ‘hands-on’ methods for solving systems of equations, the entire class has voted on the use of graphing calculators as the best way to solve many problems!! Good job everyone!

Art News

Pre-K made shamrock trees growing up under a beautiful crayoned rainbow. The shamrocks are painted with the tip of a pinkie finger dipped into green tempera paint.

Kindergarten has just created gorgeous butterflies decorated with tempera paints. Folding the form of the butterfly in half we discovered fold over printing in red, yellow, blue, and pink.

The **Grade One** children painted caterpillar cut outs in the colors of the rainbow with watercolor paints. Tiny painted shamrocks decorate the caterpillar’s body.

Grade Two has just finished a creation based on our tempera painted initials. Decorative patterns fill the spaces between the letters with markers and crayons.

Grade Three has made some flashy fish collage creations from colored and metallic papers. Our fish are swimming on a background of blue and turquoise ocean waters.

The **Grade Four** children have just completed a collage of an alien and his planet. Our creations feature a background fashioned from craypas and

colored paper. Our alien creations are all very unique.

Grade Five is working on a mythical creature made from the parts of several animals. We are also making a habitat for our clever creations.

Grade Six is working on an Egyptian sarcophagus that opens up and features a drawing of a wrapped mummy inside.

Grade Seven is creating a crayon batik of the face of Jesus or his mother in heavy crayon. We’ll be painting the faces in purple paint and wiping the paint off the crayon. The purple color sticks in the cracks created when we crumpled the faces.

Grade Eight is working on a circular “me collage” featuring favorite places, hobbies, pets, and foods of the artist. These creations feature crayon, marker, and pastels.

Library News

April has brought Poetry to the library. We have begun reading poetry and writing poetry of our own.

In grades 1, 2 and 3 we are reading a selection of poems from authors such as Jack Prelutsky, Cynthia Rylant, Margaret Wise Brown & Langston Hughes.

We created lists of words we associate with winter and spring.

Then students used these words to say “Goodbye Winter and Hello Spring.” We will continue to read and explore poetry throughout April.

Grade 3 has been using the online catalog and their knowledge of call numbers to navigate the library independently!

Grade 4 is reading Love that Dog by Sharon Creech and writing their own acrostic name poems.

Grades 5 & 6 are exploring different types of poetry and will be reading and writing their own poems later this month.

Look for these poems around the library this month!

Grade 7 students will be presenting their Dewey slideshows.

Grade 8 students have completed the rough draft of their research paper.

Kindergarteners are continuing literature appreciation and story expansion through arts in the library.

My Teddy Bear Library friends are almost to the end of the alphabet!

Don't forget to keep logging your minutes for the Reading Olympics!

Music News

It's hard to believe...but it's that time of year again to prepare for the Spring Concert! Our concert this year is on June 4th, so I'm thinking of it as more of a Summer Concert. Our theme will be Summer Fun. This concert is for students in K-3, and both Beginner and Advanced Handbells. A letter will be sent home regarding any costumes or props that you child might need.

Students in K-3 have already begun singing some of these concert songs, and they are really enjoying them. Ask your Kindergartener or first grader what the state fish of Hawaii is. They will love to tell you the answer! We are also enjoying St. Patrick's Day songs and activities, and will begin Easter ones as well.

Third and fourth grade students are still hard at work with their recorders. Please be sure the instruments continue to come to school.

I greatly enjoyed hearing our fifth grade rhythmic percussion compositions

using household instruments. The students were so creative in the "instruments" they chose to bring in, and they worked very well with the other students in their small group to create an interesting composition that they performed for the class.

Our Middle School students have been playing Orff instruments and singing. We recently enjoyed several Irish songs for St. Patrick's Day. I am looking forward to seeing Grade 8's Salzburg, Austria travel brochures. This will help them to see the many sites in Mozart's hometown that are still devoted to him today.

Physical Education News

This month in physical education we will be studying the game called Ultimate (Frisbee). We will be studying team concepts and strategies that will incorporate team building skills, eye hand coordination, running, throwing and catching. We will also be playing whiffle ball some days in the lot across the street as well. As always we will be improving the students fitness levels at the beginning of every class.

The basketball season has come to an end for all teams at Holy Spirit School. Thank you to all the players for all of their hard work. Thank you to the parents and coaches for spending so much of your time to help our program. Your help is greatly appreciated. We had a very successful season and we will build upon this next year.

Also tennis and track will begin this month. Special thanks to Ms. Colangione and Mr. McFerran for helping out with our sports programs. Also thank you to all the families who came to the sports banquet. It was a great

time and fun was had by all who attended.

Spring Sports News Update

- Tennis clinic will be on Thursdays and Fridays from 2:45 to 4:15 beginning April 22nd. Students generally carpool to Genet school tennis courts immediately after school. Students will need to arrange a ride home. The cost is \$20 for 1 child and \$31 for 2 children.
- Track will be on Mondays from 2:45 to 4:00 beginning April 26th. The cost is \$20 for 1 child or \$30 for a family. Track is open for grades K-8.

Spanish News

Kindergarten students are continuing to work with the Spanish alphabet book adding one letter every class. We continue to sing songs and work on coloring activities. Keep up the good work.

Grade One students are working with places (luganes) learning how they are said in Spanish. They are using coloring sheets to help reinforce the lessons. They are also working on transportation (transporte). Keep up the good work.

Grades Two and Three are working on the Unit of Places learning vocabulary words and using word searches and crossword puzzles to reinforce the lessons. They are also working with Transportation (transporte). Keep up the good work.

Grade Four and Five students just finished Unit 12-Clothes and Unit 13-Time. They are working with vocabulary words and doing exercises from the book describing the clothes.

They are also learning to tell time in Spanish. Keep up the good work.

A Look Ahead: Upcoming Events - "Mark Your Calendar"

May 3rd – Student Styles – our uniform company will be here from 1-2:30.

May 17th – May 20st - Nature's Classroom for grade 5.

May 20th - **Grade 6 & 7** Class Trip to the Bronx Zoo

Friday, May 21st - Grade K-8, **May Crowning Liturgy** led by Grade 2 in Holy Spirit Church at 9:00. **Grade 8 Graduation Picture** and **Grade 2 First Communion Picture** at 10:00.

May 25th – Middle School Honors Night at 7 pm

June 4th - K-3 Spring Concert and K-8 Art Show at 6:30

June 10th - **Grade 8** Graduation Banquet at Michael's – 5:30 p.m.

June 11th - Golf Outing at Winding Brook Country Club

June 15th – **Nursery School**

Graduation – morning class at 9:30; afternoon class at 1:30.

June 16th – **Pre-Kindergarten**

Graduation – morning class at 9:30; afternoon class at 1:30.

June 17th - **Last day for Middle School students** (grades 6 & 7)

June 18th - **Kindergarten Graduation** at 9 a.m. Early dismissal at 10:35.

June 18th - Integrated Algebra Regents at 1:15.

June 21st – **Grade 8** Spanish Proficiency Exam at 9:15.

June 22nd - Earth Science Regents Exam at 9:15

**June 22nd – Grade 8 Graduation
Liturgy at 5:30. Reception in Gym at 6:30.**

June 23rd – Family School picnic at the East Greenbush Town Park at 10:00.

June 24th - Last day of classes. “OU” Day Dismissal at 10:35

June 25th – Daycare Graduation at 10 a.m.

Parent School Association News

Father-Daughter Dance

The Father Daughter Dance was another great success! We had over 150 people attend the event. We would like to thank the following people who volunteered their time to make this even so special: Tracy D., Kelly B., Crystal M., Gordon R., Marie P., Jaime S., Taylor P., Tanya L., and Tina S.. We would also like to thank Sarah Martino from Sarah’s Studio for the beautiful photos, Jack Bogarski from Jack’s DJ Service for the music, Dominick Scali from Scali’s Florist for the gorgeous flowers and Curtis Groff for teaching the girls several different dances.

Many thanks to all of the Holy Spirit families who donated baked goods and drinks.

Finally, the PSA would like to thank Ruth P., the chairperson of the Social Committee, for organizing this wonderful event!

Spring Fundraiser

There’s still time to sell raffle tickets for our Spring fundraiser. The drawing will be held at the Off - Broadway Saints production of “Alice in Wonderland” on Friday, April 16th. If you have any questions, please

contact Colleen Yankowski or Cathy Scott.

9th Annual Silent Auction –Saturday April 24th 6:00 PM

Please join us on April 24th for Holy Spirit’s 9th Annual Silent Auction at Crossgates Banquet House. **This year we are honoring our beloved Kindergarten teacher Maryann McConnell. There will be dinner, raffles, a silent auction and a live auction.** If you haven’t received your invitation in the mail or via e-vite, please contact Tina S. **It will be a great evening – we hope to see you there!**

Box Tops and Labels for Education

The PSA would like to encourage all families to clip Box Tops and Campbell’s soup labels and submit them to school. Box Tops can be found on many products including General Mills Cereals, Ziploc Bags, Juicy Juice, and Pillsbury rolls. Holy Spirit will receive 10 cents for each Box Top. For each soup label the school receives points that can be redeemed for school supplies and equipment. Please clip Box Tops and Campbell’s soup labels to make a difference for our school!

Lunch Program

Please remember to utilize our school lunch program which is provided through Mary Lou Chestara. The program needs your support in order to be successful. The lunches are nutritious and a variety of sandwiches and meals are offered at a great price. Please consider ordering lunch for your children through this program. **On behalf of the Parent School Association we would like to thank Mary Lou for her hard**

work dedication and support of our school and our children.

Next PSA Meeting – Monday May 3rd

The next PSA meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 3rd at 6:45 PM in the School Library. All parents are invited to attend. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call Patti Patwell at 479-3016