

Principal's Corner

At last! Spring seems to have arrived and with it the promise of brightening days and the blossoming of all good things. Perhaps this is why Easter is well placed (as is Lent) in the Church calendar – to link the rebirth of our world from the chill of winter to the Resurrection of Our Lord from the darkness of Good Friday. These past weeks the children have experienced Lent in many forms of prayer, sacrifice and service here at school. At home and in your parishes you have probably done the same. Please remember that these faith traditions are the core of our teaching purpose with our children. The children learn from our example, our guidance and the experiences we share together. Please enjoy Easter this month and know that your children raise our spirits each day that we share with them.

The activities of the past month have led me to an understanding of the depth of community here at Holy Spirit. The athletic banquet was a wonderful evening celebrating the achievements of our students and the support of so many families for the teams the children so love. Congratulations to the girls and the boys teams who were named CYO champions. Their banner will hang in our gym for years to come. We congratulate all students who participated in the sports programs so far. Their team spirit is amazing.

Academically, state tests in math are complete. First glance indicates that the students achieved very well. We will have results for grades 3-8 in June. Report cards will be issued this month, and teachers have commented on how quickly the marking periods fly by. Spanish night projects were readied for the April 2 event, and what an evening it

will be for middle school students and families!

Reregistration is under way for the 2009-10 school year, and we hope to see all of our boys and girls back with us next year. To the extent possible, please support all fundraisers (Silent Auction, Golf Outing, and Antiques Roadshow) in the coming months. There are other spring efforts as well. Thank you in advance for all you do to support these fundraising events and requests. Thanks to all the volunteers who work so hard to make this component of our school finance budget work so well each year.

Have you seen the crocuses in front of the building? When they popped up, that was a good sign. May your April weeks be filled with the signs of hope and the blessings of Easter.

God Bless,

Roger Rooney

DRAMA NEWS

We have tried on our Arabian-style costumes and learned the words and choreography!

A cast and crew of over 50 students and teachers have been working hard since January to bring Disney's *Alladin, Jr.* to life on the HSS stage.

Tickets are ON SALE NOW! If you need an additional order form, please see Mrs. Ferrara in grade 3.

Performance dates are Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd at 7pm.

Please keep I mind...the school students will only see a short preview on Thursday, April 30th, NOT the entire production.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

ELKS Poster and Essay Contest

Winners

Congratulations to Michaela P. in grade 4 for winning the Poster Contest and to **Ryan F.** in grade 5 for winning the Essay Contest for the Elks. They will be awarded at a special dinner. We are very proud of you!

CLASSROOM NEWS

After School News

Summer Program at Holy Spirit School

Drama/Dance, Recreation, Photography, Swim Days, Woodworking and More! Grades K-5! Camp hours 8-4 with before and after care (7:30-8:00/4:00-5:30) too! Information Contact: Ms. Dawn or Ms. Patti at 477-5529. Spots are filling quickly! Last year was a big success! Deposit and Registration forms are due by April 17, 2009. Need ideas for a middle school student? See Ms. Patti.

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 sneaky 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, W, the number 9, and the color purple. Finally, we will begin getting ready for graduation in June! We can't wait for all of the fun that April will bring!

Happy Birthday to:

Cassidy Z. – April 12th

Connor R. – April 23rd

Day Care 4 Year Old Class

Happy Spring! St. Patrick's Day was full of surprises! Lucky the Leprechaun left us treats message and green footprints! Many big thank you's to Mrs. Nancy Jordan! She taught us Irish songs, stories, and dance! We also enjoyed her homemade Irish soda bread! Yummy!

In April we will celebrate Earth Day and Easter. We will color eggs and enjoy an egg hunt! We will use recyclable materials for projects.

We will review the alphabet – A,B,C,D – four letters each week. We will create books with our reading buddies using the letters. We will continue number recognition in learning stations. We will look for the early signs of spring and plant grass seed for our project called "Hairy"! As we plan for graduation, we will begin to learn our songs in music class.

Happy Birthday to:

Morgan C. – April 7th

Nursery School News

Nursery school enjoyed the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We painted a castle in the clouds and glued on the

giant and his harp and golden goose. We added Jack and a beanstalk and some “magic beans”. Nursery was hard at work making their own shape book. We painted every shape in a rainbow of colors we cut ourselves and glued each shape onto a page in our book with a great surprise ending.

The Leprechauns visited our class too with a great rainbow treat for us to eat. We very carefully colored a leprechaun puppet so he could lead us to his pot of gold. We made shamrock shakers and hats for our own St. Patrick’s day parade. To get ready for Easter we have been “painting” with water rainbows for our Easter tree.

Congratulations to Billy B. He has a new baby sister, Madison, born on March 17, 2009.

Happy Birthday to:

Danny H. – April 16th

John T. –April 20th

Pre-K News

Magical letter M...makes mice on ice. He skates to the rhyming words using a magnet. We made a mouse puppet and read If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. We made a moose puppet to use when we read If You Give a Moose a Muffin. We made muffins too! We made marvelous monsters. We colored all the characters in The Mitten and retold the story.

In A Napping House where everyone is sleeping we learned about N and sequencing. We had beautiful rainbows in our story of Noah’s Ark. Owls with feathers and big wide eyes began O week. Oceans...oceans...oceans of beautiful blue were made each in their own way.

Pigs of plenty were made from a big letter P. We followed directions and cut and glued all our pieces just like Kindergarten kids. We made piggy banks with pennies and friendly penguins.

The leprechauns visited our room and surprised us with a rainbow to eat. We surprised our parents by dressing up like leprechauns.

Each Pre-K child has a cross in the class. As we do kind or good deeds, we add a flower to our cross. We are doing very well.

Happy Birthday to:

Michael Z. – April 3rd

Jadyn G. – April 15th

Christopher K. – April 16th

Travis T. – April 18th

Liam R.– April 24th

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 Might Ocean, Under the Sea, Swimmy, and The Rainbow Fish. We are looking forward to some “fishy friends” joining the class this month.

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 the being good” when they are kind and thoughtful to each other and act like true friends of Jesus.

Congratulations to Baltazar and his family. They have a new baby boy, Lucas.

**Happy Birthday to:
Joseph P. – April 7th
Baltazar D. – April 28th**

Grade One News

First Grade is moving right along, and we are 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 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 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:
Jacob C. – April 3rd**

Grade Two News

The second grade is collecting rice bowls from Holy Spirit School families. Please send them to the second grade classroom before April 7th. The second grade students are responsible for counting all of the contributions from the school and then we present a check to Bishop Hubbard from our school community. We appreciate your generosity!

We are continuing our preparations for First Eucharist. We have finished learning the parts of the Mass, and are doing very well with responses that are used throughout Mass. We are working on many activities as part of our preparations for First Eucharist.

We are still working on learning the cursive letters. We will even start doing some of our assignments in cursive soon. We practice our cursive everyday.

On April 2nd we will have a presenter from Scotia Glenville Museum visit our classroom. We will be learning some interesting things about the weather.

**Happy Birthday to:
Abby U. – April 7th
Mikayla L. – April 15th
Brianna H. – April 30th**

Grade Three News

Grade three continues to make great strides! We are wrapping up our Space Unit, and enjoyed putting our projects on display for grades 1, 2, 4, and 5.

We have completed the NYS ELA and Math exams but continue to learn new concepts in both of these areas of curriculum. In math we are studying geometry, fractions and measurement, and in Language Arts we continue to read more fluently and understand rules of spelling and grammar.

Grade 3 would like to wish our school family a very happy and healthy Easter season. We look forward to our spring break and upcoming concert.

Grade Four News

Miss Glokler scored the NYS Math test at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Cardonlet Center on March 16th. This was a great experience. Miss Glokler learned how to better prepared the students for next year's test. Friday, March 20th was a workshop day for all teachers to grow in their professions and share with colleagues.

In April the fourth graders will begin preparing for the NYS Science test. This will be our last test of the year and will take place in the beginning of May. To prepare for the test, we will be using *Blast Off* test books, studying science related vocabulary terms, and participating in a variety of hands-on science experiments!

Happy Birthday to:

Jacob E. – April 1st

Mary H. – April 15th

Julie M. – April 22nd

Christian L. – April 27th

Kristy Y. – April 28th

Donald S. – April 29th

Aidan C. – April 30th

Grade Five News

Happy Spring...May you all have a joyous Easter and Spring Season. Blessing to all our families.

Grade 5 has been very busy. Our snails have arrived, and we are enjoying studying these live mollusks. In Social Studies, we will finish our discussion of the formation of the States after the Civil War. Look for more information about State projects to follow. Our focus in Reading will be adventures. As we complete this unit we will also be reading adventure novels.

In religion, we will discuss the Easter season and begin group work on the sacraments.

Nature's Classroom is coming quickly (May 18-21). More information will follow shortly. Be looking for water boots if you are out shopping. Keep their old sneakers so they won't ruin their new ones while they are away.

Happy Birthday to:

Nicholas F. – April 17th

Jeremy L. – April 28th

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

The 6th and 7th graders are looking forward to their trip to Boston on Wednesday, May 20th. They will be visiting the New England Aquarium, Imax theatre and a cruise on a whale watch tour.

From Mrs. Voellm

Advanced Math 5 and Math 6 finished their state test and have been working on their math game projects.

Math 7 finished their state tests and are working on their math power point projects, and they are also working on Pythagorean theorem and then onto monomials and polynomials.

Advanced Math 7 and Math 8 have finished their state tests and working on their math power point presentations. They will continue on with 8th grade curriculum starting on the unit with slope, y intercept and determining the equation of a line using a table and end slope.

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

From Mrs. Girvin
Math Course A

In Sixth Grade we spent time reviewing for the NYS Exam. We have learned about sales tax, tip and commission. We have begun a unit on Geometry.

Integrated Algebra students are learning about systems of linear equations and word problems using 2 variables. We will also be working on graphing linear inequalities.

Mrs. Giabanis
Middle School Social Studies and Literature

Writing Workshop 8- We are currently working on Document Based Questions, focusing most of our attention on the constructed response questions. We are looking closely at historical documents, pictures, and excerpts from primary and secondary resources. The students are asking many wonderful questions and doing a great job analyzing!!!

Advanced Literature 6-

We just finished reading Tuck Everlasting. Students enjoyed learning about the different characters and showed their understanding through class discussion, assignments, and readers journal entries.

Social Studies 6 -

Ancient Greece has been our most recent focus. We are learning about geography, location, and natural resources of Ancient Greece. Students are embracing these interesting concepts and new ideas. Greek mythology has been particularly interesting area!!! 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:
Andrea K.- April 10th
Regan M. - April 9th

From Mrs. Kennedy
Middle School English

Don't forget to join us at Applebee's in Rensselaer, NY for a pancake breakfast that will benefit the eighth graders and their class trip. Tickets are \$5.00. Call the school for more information!

Congratulations to Megan M. who received a scholarship awarding her \$1000.00 toward tuition each year at Catholic Central High School!

****Special Note- Shannon R.** in eighth grade received Honors quarter one, but was accidentally left off the list. Congratulations, Shannon!**

Literature 8

In April, both classes will begin exploring William Shakespeare and his works. Although at first students often feel intimidated by the language, they always quickly overcome that barrier and thoroughly enjoy the unit.

Literature 7

In April, students will begin another unit of study. One class will read *Tunes for Bears to Dance To* by Robert Cormier and the other class will read *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson. In both of these novels, the protagonist is faced with conflict and challenges that he or she must overcome.

Literature 6

In April, students will begin reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Students will enjoy this novel about an adolescent boy and his mysterious adventures at camp.

Happy Birthday to:
Rebecca L.- April 19th

From Mrs. Colangione
Middle School Spanish
Spanish Night

Everyone is invited to a wonderful night of fun, entertainment, music, food "tasting" and knowledge.

When: April 2, 2009

Where: Holy Spirit Auditorium

Time: 6:30

Why: Presentations of Grade 7& 8 Spanish Projects and more...

The **Grade 6** students have been developing their speaking skills. They work with peer partners to create mini conversations using the vocabulary they have learned. Keep up the good work. The students have completed their most recent unit of study focusing on clothing. They can now describe their own particular attire and wardrobe. Presently, they are studying a fun topic focusing on leisure and recreational activities.

The **Grade 7** students have been working on the health packet. They also continue to develop their speaking skills as they work with new vocabulary, new sentence structure concepts, and new verbs. The students have been working diligently on their projects for Spanish Night as well.

The **Grade 8** students have been working on written and verbal communication activities every day. In addition, they are finetuning their ability to use the target language structurally correctly and with more advanced vocabulary and phrases. Oftentimes the students work with peer partners to create realistic and effective conversations. Students frequently share their written letters and conversations

with the entire class by writing them on the board.

Review of the many topics we have studied has begun. The students are presently reviewing personal identification and family. Over the next few weeks they will be working on the home, health, shopping, food, the community and others. Preparation for the proficiency exam is mixed in as well, with the students doing practice exams. Also, they grade students have been working hard on their projects for Spanish Night.

From Mrs. Bullock **Religious Education**

We are entering the holiest time of our liturgical year. The sixth, seventh and eighth grade religion classes will all be preparing for Holy Week and Easter by visiting Holy Spirit Church and making the Stations of the Cross.

They will also be watching video selections from the film "Jesus of Nazareth". I have chosen video clips that portray events of Holy Week and the Resurrection. Prior to watching the videos there will be discussion of what the class expects to in the film and then we will follow-up afterwards with discussion of what we have seen and readings from the Gospel.

Starting in April and continuing through May and June, we are looking for volunteers in all middle school grades to drive students during class time to perform service at facilities in the area. During the fourth quarter we will be placing a heavy emphasis on service in school, at home and in the community.

I wish a blessed and meaningful Holy Week and a glorious Easter to all of you.

From Mr. Neubert **Middle School Science**

Science 8 - The New York State Science Test will take place during the first week of May. The test consists of two parts: a two-hour written test and a practical exam that tests basic laboratory skills. To help students prepare Mr. Neubert started an after school review class. The review class is held every Wednesday from 2:30 until 3:15 p.m. The class is not mandatory, but students are encouraged to participate. It is important for students to perform well on the NYS Science Test because it will count as the student's final exam for the year and will be factored into 4th quarter grades. Also, the NYS Science Test could help with placement into high school science classes.

Science 7 - Life Science classes have finished our Unit on genetics and are now applying their knowledge to learn about evolution and natural selection. After evolution, we will learn how organisms are classified and then move in to human biology. Our unit on human biology will consist of a basic understanding of major systems in the human body. Additionally, the human biology unit will include health topics related to each major human body system.

Science 6 - In Earth Science we are finishing up our Rocks and Minerals Unit. Recently, the Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum visited and provided an awesome presentation to prove that rocks rock! After rocks and minerals we will move into earth history and then onto weather and astronomy to finish the year.

Reminder: Earth Day is April 22 abut we

can all do things everyday to help celebrate and protect our Earth. If you're looking for a simple and effective way to help try simply switching off your lights for one hour and join the world for Earth Hour on Saturday, March 28, 8:30-9:30pm. By simply turning your lights off for one hour you are casting a vote to help protect the Earth. Leaving your lights on is a vote in favor of global warming and climate change. For more information, please visit this web site: <http://www.earthhour.org/home/>

From Mrs. Valley
Grade 8 Earth Science Regents and
Advanced Physical Science

In **Earth Science**, during early March we studied many details about how water moves through the ground. We represented soil as various sized spheres. We then studied how the size and sorting of those spheres affects the speed at which water will travel through the 'soil'. We became familiar with many new vocabulary terms, such as porosity, sorting, permeability, infiltration, capillarity, and runoff. It will be interesting to watch the science that we've studied take places as we experience spring rains. We followed up our study of water with a brief study of climate. This short unit brought together many concepts we've studied recently, including planetary winds, pressure systems, cloud formation and the orographic effect. We've just completed a lab on mineral identification and will continue with a study of rocks through early April.

In **Physical Science**, during March we studied motion. We learned the technical meanings of terms that we use in every day life, such as speed, velocity, acceleration, and reference

point. Now we are combining what we learned about motion with the concept of force by studying Newton's three Laws of Motion. If we could only conduct this study at an amusement park!

Art News

Pre-K students are making a drawing in crayon of a baby owl perched on a branch for the letter o.

Kindergarten is making some pussy willows in grey paint on some brown paper branches. We will also design a cut paper vase.

In **Grade 1** a crayoned snowman will be added to our water colored snowflakes. Tiny dots of white tempera paint placed with a Q-tip will look like snow falling.

Grade 2 is working on some baby dinosaurs hatching from a colorful egg. The children chose which dinosaur they'd like to draw and finished work with crayons.

Grade 3 is finishing up their teddy bears with a profession project. This art started with a pencil sketch and is completed in crayon.

Grade 4 is building a giant "Dagwood" sandwich from colored paper. Our sandwiches are built tall with any type of food inside from apples to watermelon slices.

Grade 5 is working on their version of Monet's Japanese footbridge. This is a lily pond in crayon and watercolor resist. A 3D footbridge crafted from a 1/2 paper plate completes the project.

Grade 6 is working on a Egyptian mummy case in marker or in crayon. When assembled the case will have a mummy hidden inside.

Grade 7 is adding finishing touches to the crayon batik renderings of

Jesus and Mary. After crushing the crayoned portraits we will add purple paint which will adhere to the cracks. The results are very beautiful.

Grade 8 is adding craypas to a fold over printing project done in tempera paint. We have looked at some American Indian masks to help add details to our creations. The fold over print will create a symmetrical face to color.

Library News

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

In **grades 1, 2 and 3** we read *Spring Rain* by Marchette Chute. 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.

Grades 2 and 3 have also begun learning about and researching Arbor Day.

Grades 4 & 5 are reading Love that Dog by Sharon Creech.

Grade 5 students are writing their own diamante poems. Look for these poems around the library this month!

Grade 6 students are doing Acrostic Research; This project combines poetry and research to create a children's book about a historical figure.

Grade 7 students are writing their own fairy tales.

Grade 8 students have begun 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!
Keep Reading!

Music News

It's hard to believe we are getting close to our Spring Concert. I feel like we were just singing Christmas songs! A notice will be going home soon with detailed information about our concert, featuring the Kindergarten through Third Grade, and both Handbell groups. The theme of this year's concert is My Planet, Your Planet. Holy Spirit is "going green!" If your child has green attire, it would be more than appropriate to wear to the concert. However, any color is fine. Please remember to wear "Sunday best."

The **Kindergarten and First Grade** classes are enjoying learning their Earth-friendly songs. They will be needing a pair of sunglasses as a prop for the concert. You will get reminders about this later on, but I wanted to give you advance notice.

The **Second and Third Grade** classes are singing some rather difficult music for this concert. They are working so hard on it, and doing a great job. There are also several solo parts, and try-outs will be held soon. I have heard so many of them singing these solo parts, and I know my job is going to be difficult as I narrow it down to several singers!

The **Fourth Grade** class has just completed a unit on Celtic music, and they performed many songs in two and even three parts. We sang in two-part harmony, and then added recorder playing as well. I'm excited to begin a new unit of singing with them, beginning with another song featuring two-part harmony, called Sarasponda. We will be

playing Orff instruments as well.

The **Fifth Grade** class recently split into groups and wrote their own rhythmic compositions using ordinary household items. I was so impressed with their final creations. They wrote three different rhythms and then performed them together as a group. The final results were great. We are going to begin singing again, since we have been focusing on instruments.

The **Sixth and Eighth Grade** classes have also been working on rhythms and playing instruments, both Orff and instruments we found in the classroom. The sounds the staplers make are a big hit.

The **Seventh Grade** class completed a unit on Bach, Mozart and Beethoven. They wrote essays comparing and contrasting the three great composers. They have also become familiar with several works from each composer. This class has continued to impress me with their insightful analysis of Classical music, and their thoughtful questions.

Our **Handbell Choirs** are doing a great job preparing for the Spring Concert. Rehearsals are very important-- please be sure your child attends each one. Thank you!

Physical Education News

Grades 4th – 8th are beginning a unit on a game in which they themselves invented. The game originated after students expressed interest in designing a sport of their own. After a couple weeks of collaborating with one another, we have come to know the game as Spirit-ball. Spirit-ball is a fast paced game that combines the elements of soccer, flag football, basketball and handball.

Speedball has two facets which can be explained by the "air ball" and the "ground ball". Ask your children about it... it may be an Olympic sport someday.

Grade K-3 are beginning a unit on rope skipping. Each day we work on a new skill before ending the class with a "rope skipper of the day".

Basketball News Update

Congratulations to both the 5th and 6th grade boys' team and the 7th grade girls' team for becoming the **2009 CYO basketball champions in their league**. The seventh grade girls' team (Junior Girls C-/D+ league) defeated St. John's 34-27 in the championship game. They finished with a 9-3 record in conference and 13-3 overall. The fifth and sixth grade boys' team (bidly boys C-league) defeated St. Gregory's 41-23 in the championship game. They capped off their season with an impressive 9-3 conference record and went 16-5 overall.

The 7th and 8th boys' team finished 4-6 in a very competitive junior boys' C league. Their overall record was 9-9 and won 4 out the last 6 games. Some highlights include a buzzer beater victory over a top-ranked St. Gregory's, a hard fought loss against St. Henry's A team in the final seconds of the game, and earning the first place trophy in the Annual Holy Spirit Basketball Tournament.

The 8th grade girls junior C team finished with an impressive 8-4 conference record and went 13-5 overall. Highlights include winning the championship game in both the Annual Holy Spirit Basketball Tournament and the St. Augustine Basketball

Tournament. Congratulations to girls for also making the CYO Troy playoffs!

The **5th grade team** finished 3-7 in the CYO Bidy D league. Though their overall record was 3-9, this team grew tremendously over the season. This is evident in their winning the last 2 out of 3 games. Some highlights include a well-played victory over St. Catherine's of Siena at their gym, a sweep against Averill Park, and two close hard fought losses to Sacred Heart (Schodack).

The **5th and 6th grade bidy girls D** team won 8 of their 10 league games and were 10-5 overall. Some highlights include earning the number one seed in the Troy CYO playoffs and winning the 2nd place trophy in the Annual Holy Spirit Basketball Tournament.

The **3rd & 4th grade boys** made amazing progress through this past season. Defense, passing and hustle were the keys to the season and as the season wore on, the boys played better defensively, made better passes and hustled on both ends of the floor. The boys played well against some high quality opponents and never stopped playing hard.

3rd Grade Girls: This year the 3rd grade girls finished their season with a 9-4 record. We had a team of 8 girls who really put their hearts into every game and a couple of eager 4th grade helpers when we were short on players. We worked on the fundamentals of the game to build a strong foundation for next year. Watch out for this team as they have a good understanding of this game and will only improve with time. A special thank you to 7th graders Tyler S. and Zack D. for being assistant coaches!

The Holy Spirit **Fourth Grade Girls** Basketball Team had a very successful season amassing a 10 win and 5 loss record. The girls played with extraordinary enthusiasm and teamwork. Each player provided significant contributions throughout the season, with every girl scoring more than one basket. One of the highlights of the season occurred when the team defeated Sacred Heart of Castleton in the first round of the St. Catherine's Tournament. Playing a team it had lost to earlier in the season, the girls played tremendous defense and displayed excellent passing and teamwork to defeat Sacred Heart by a score of 15 to 2.

Spring Sports News Update

- **Tennis clinic** will be on Thursdays and Fridays from 2:45 to 4:15 beginning April 23rd. 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.
- **Lacrosse clinic** will be on Monday's and Tuesday's from 2:45 to 4:15 beginning Tuesday, April 21st. Students generally carpool to St. Mary's church (field behind the school) immediately after school. Students will need to arrange a ride home.
 - This year, the lacrosse club is designed to give students a chance to play lacrosse in a fun and instructive atmosphere.
 - In addition to skill development, the boys would also take part in team **scrimmages**. Hence the following equipment is

required and will need to be provided by the player: stick, helmet, gloves, shoulder pads, arm pads, mouth guard, and protective cup.

Additional information regarding equipment has been sent home for those students interested.

- There is no cost to join the club
- Track will be on Mondays from 2:45 to 4:00 beginning May 11th – June 15th. The cost is \$15 for 1 child or \$25 for a family.

Spanish News

The **Kindergarten** children continuing with warm up activities, sing songs, and color paper sheets. We are still working with the ABC book in Spanish. We are learning one word per class.

During this month, the children in **Grade 1** have been working with places, learning new words, and working with work paper sheets. Keep up the good work!

Grade 2 and 3 students have been working on the unit Around the Town. They are learning about different places, practicing the works, working on worksheets and puzzles. We also have been working with definite and indefinite articles. Keep up the good work!

Grade 4 and 5 students have been working with conjugation of regular verbs with ar, er, and ir endings. They are understanding and practicing the verbs. We have also been working with a unit on clothes – La Ropa. We have practicing vocabulary words and working on the exercises in the book.

Technology News

Volunteers needed to maintain our Holy Spirit Website. If you have experience using Dream weaver software and are a Webmaster we would appreciate your help!!! Please contact Mrs. Ritz at comlabhs@nycap.rr.com or Mrs. Libby Rentz.

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE ONE is using the interactive website <http://www.learning.com> to learn about addition and subtraction. They are adding three numbers together which are located on train cars. When they get the correct answer they receive points. If you would like to review these lessons with your child go to <http://www.learning.com> and click Aha Math. Enter user name as Grade1 or Kindergarten and Password as the same. Enter the district as “Holy Spirit – Greenbush.”

GRADE Two—is learning how to create a spreadsheet using Microsoft Excel. They used the shapes from Lucky Charms cereal to measure how many stars, clovers, moons etc. they received from Mrs. Ritz. They then created a graph that represented their results.

GRADE THREE is using the Smart Board to discuss proper nouns that are associated with St. Patrick’s Day. They are now doing a Planet Electronic Worksheet to research information about the different planets of the Solar System.

GRADE FOUR & GRADE FIVE finished their Library Posters using Microsoft Publisher. They are also learning about Cyber Safety. They watched a video that taught them the dangers that might be present on the Internet. They accessed this website: <http://www.ikeepsafe.org>.

GRADE SIX is finishing their Acrostic Poems about a historical figure.

They are learning about Cyber safety and cyber bullying. They accessed the website:

<http://www.vts.intute.ac.uk/detective/questionablecontent.html> they learned how to determine if a website is authentic and reputable

GRADES SEVEN is writing fractured fairytale comic strips. This is an integrated Grade 7 Language Arts, Library and Technology Project.

GRADE EIGHT is having a wonderful time learning how to use Windows Movie Maker. They are making movies about their life at Holy Spirit School. They are including captions, music and credits.

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

May 7th – Student Styles – our uniform company will be here from 1-2:30.

May 14th - K-3 Spring Concert and K-8 Arts Festival

Friday, May 15th - 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 20th - Grade 6 & 7 Class Trip to Boston

May 19th -21st – Grade 8 at Camp Chingachgook

May 18th – May 21st - Nature's Classroom for grade 5.

May 28th – Middle School Honors Night at 7 pm

June 12th - Golf Outing at Winding Brook Country Club

June 16th - Grade 8 Graduation Banquet at Michael's – 6:00 p.m.

June 16th – Nursery School Graduation – morning class at 9:30; afternoon class at 1:30.

June 17th – Pre-Kindergarten

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

June 17th – Grade 8 Earth Science Regents at 1:15.

June 18th - Last day for Middle School students (grades 6 & 7)

June 19th - Kindergarten Graduation at 9 a.m. Early dismissal at 10:35.

June 19th - Grade 8 Algebra Regents at 1:15 pm

June 22nd – Grade 8 Spanish Proficiency Exam at 9:15.

"Family School Picnic"

at the East Greenbush Town Park at 10 a.m.

June 23rd – Grade 8 Graduation Liturgy at 5:30 pm

June 25th - Last day of classes. "OU" Day Dismissal at 10:35

June 26th – Daycare Graduation at 10 a.m.

SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful parents who have sent in donations to fill up our children's treasure box.

RETHINK INK REMINDER

Holy Spirit School continues to participate in the Rethink Ink empty cartridges/used cell phones recycling program. By recycling these products, we will be raising additional monies for our school. Please drop your used toner and inkjet cartridges and cell phones in the Rethink Ink bin located in the lobby of the school. Thank you for your continued support of this program. If you have any questions, please contact **Stacey F.** at 283-6163.

Parent School Association News

Father-Daughter Dance

The 2009 Father Daughter Dance was a great success. We had over 140 people attend this yearly event. It was a beautiful scene seeing all the sweet princesses dancing with their King or doing the electric slide. It is sad to see the event come to an end for the 2008-2009 school year, but make sure you have your dancing feet ready for next year! Ruth Piperata, the chairperson of the Social Committee, would love to thank the following people for making this event such a success: **Tracy D., Tina S., Kelly B., Christine I., Tanya L., Michael R., Gus B., Jack's DJ Service, and Sarah's Studio.** Also, many thanks to all of the Holy Spirit families who brought in baked goods and drinks.

Spring Fundraiser

This year's Spring Fundraiser was a great success. The winners of the raffle were:
\$100 – The Leville Family
\$250 – Dominick S.
\$500- Ryan P.
\$1,000 – Mary Beth M.
Congratulations to all of the winners!!! Please note that the candy from Krause's will be delivered during the week of March 30th. Special thanks to the members of the Spring Fundraiser Committee – **Colleen Y., Eleanor R., and Cathy S.**

Let's Appraise- April 18th 9 AM – 2:30PM

Come join us for Holy Spirit's version of the "Antiques Road Show". On April 18th you will have the opportunity to bring items to the school

to have them appraised by professional appraisers. For \$5 per item or 5 items for \$20 you can find out what those items are worth. You may have some hidden treasures at home! Please tell your friends and family about this unique event, and if you have any questions, please email letsappraise@gmail.com.

8th Annual Silent Auction –Friday April 24th 6:30 PM

Please join us on April 24th for Holy Spirit's 8th Annual Silent Auction at Michaels' Banquet House in Latham. This year we are honoring **Sister Maureen Moffitt** for her outstanding commitment and years of service to our school. There will be dinner, dancing, raffles, and many wonderful items to bid on. If you haven't received your invitation in the mail or via e-vite, please contact **Alicia F.** 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. In February we invited families to participate in a raffle using their Box Tops and labels as raffle entries. **The winner of that raffle was the Farrar Family – CONGRATULATIONS! The next drawing will be April 9th** – for that raffle the family that wins First Place will receive 2 movie passes and the

Second Place winner will receive an out-of-uniform pass. 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.**

School Banking

Please remember **Thursday is School Banking Day**. The drop box is located in the school lobby. The banking program is a good way to teach our children the value of money and how to properly handle it. If you wish to open a new account for your child or have any questions please contact **Heidi F.**, or **Mrs. Ritz**.

The next PSA meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6th 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 P. at 479-3016