

**A Prayer for Our Holy Spirit
School Community**

Dear Holy Spirit Families,

Happy February, the month of Presidents and Valentines! Thank you for all your support as we went through a month of assessments in January. The children did very well at first glance. Results of all assessments will be available in June, if the calendar holds. Take a look at the school website for the school accountability report for 2007-8 to see how Holy Spirit students have done in the past three years, especially how they compare to public and other private/parochial schools in the Capital District.

Catholic Schools Week gave us time to pause and reflect on all we have to be thankful for here at school. We are grateful for your children and for you. You make this school such a fine place for children to grow in all aspects – mind, body and spirit. We are grateful for our teachers and staff, who give their all to their students and program. I am grateful to them for their support every day. Our PSA and Board members deserve a special thanks for their tireless efforts to make the school alive and viable with activities, programming and financial support.

The School Board will meet on February 23rd at 6:45 PM in the rectory. It is an open meeting. We are working on revising our school board by laws and on beginning an effort to promote and develop Holy Spirit School for the future. It was encouraging to see the support offered by Bishop Hubbard to Catholic School education in his “Called To Be Church” planning recently.

Regarding our area, he urged us to continue to work together to assure “excellence in Catholic education” in our area. Please be assured that we are committed to that mission here at Holy Spirit School.

Enjoy this month and God bless,

Roger Rooney
Principal

**SECOND PLACE WINNER OF
THE FUTURE CITY COMPETITION
AT HUDSON VALLEY COLLEGE**

Holy Spirit School took home second place in the 2009 **Future City Competition**. Under the guidance of Mrs. Ritz and Mr. Neubert our team created the future city of Incheon. The team was also assisted by mentor Mr. Dausch and parent volunteer Mr. Murphy. Congratulations to our team:

Phyliss R.
Carrianna V.
Sydney W.
Kaitlyn M.
Samantha B.
Emily L.
Cullen U.
Tammy C.
August B.
Mitchell C.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

The Tools for Schools Program sponsored by Price Chopper ended in December. The teachers were able to order some wonderful educational items for their classroom. Thank you for your help and support to make this program beneficial for all of us at Holy Spirit!

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.

ART SHOW AT THE NYS PLAZA

Congratulations to the following students who had their artwork shown at the NYS Plaza during Catholic Schools Week on January 26th:

Kindergarten:

Michael F.
Annie P.
Joseph P.
Eli T.

Grade One:

Julia B.
Ryan D.
Braden F.
Sarah I.
Emily V.

Grade Two:

Reilly C.
Mikayla L.
Sarah L.
Katarina S.

Grade Three:

McKenzie E.
Paloma L.
Connor M.
Kayleigh M.

Adam W.
Emily Z.

Grade Four:

Jacob E.
Jillian F.
Bradon M.
Mary Rose P.
Michaela P.

Grade Five:

Danielle A.
Christian E.
Ryan G.
Stryker R.

Grade Six:

Sarah D.
Stephen J.
Althea M.
Logan R.

Grade Seven:

Samantha B.
Shayne B.
Kevin B.
Christine B.
John E.
Kyla K.
Andrea K.
Isabella K.
Emily L.
Elizabeth M.
Mihee P.
Cassidy P.
Matthew R.
Samantha T.
Cullen U.

Grade Eight:

Tammy C.
Lucas C.
Julie L.
Rebecca L.
Evan P.

Heidi P.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Teddy Bear Three Year Olds

The Three's spent the chilly month of January learning all about winter! We studied and experienced first-hand the snowy winter weather. We talked about the special clothes we need to wear to keep warm in the winter and about the many fun activities that we do only in the winter, such as ice skating, sledding, and building snowmen! We also learned about penguins! We learned that baby penguins are called chicks. They love to slide on their bellies and swim in the ocean to catch fish. We learned about all the people in our community and the jobs they do. We thought about what we would like to be when we grow up! The three's continued their study of the alphabet with the letters K, L and M. We learned about the number 6, the shape oval, and the color blue.

The Three's will spend the beginning of February getting ready for Valentine's Day. We will learn about the shape heart, the color pink, and all about love. We will end our lesson with a special Valentine's Day ice cream party on Friday, February 13th! We will talk about ways to keep our bodies healthy including exercising, brushing our teeth, and eating healthy food. We will also learn about the letters N, O, P, and the number 7.

Teddy Bear Four Year Olds

January was a frosty cold month for outdoor play. We met our reading buddies. Buddy the bear began his home

visits this month. The children are so excited!

In February we will celebrate Valentine's Day with a yummy brunch! We will learn about Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. (We learned a lot about our new president last month, too!) We will talk about Ground Hog Day and keep our eyes open for the first signs of spring.

Our letters of the month will be S,T,U, and we will write the numbers 1-10. We will learn to recognize numbers 12-20. We will play games to help to understand the meaning of rhyme and pairs.

Happy Birthday to:

Alena H. – January 18th

Lauren P. – January 26th

Nursery News

We celebrated the Three Kings visit with crowns decorated with jewels. We finger painted a jumbo snowman that is even bigger than we are. We added a hat, mittens, a face, and great big arms to hug us. Our snowman also has a big heart just for our moms. The Nursery class painted a frosty, winter wind sock with special paint and a snowman made of rice. We have also been working on our Alphabet fish pond.

We are looking forward to Valentine's Day and an early spring.

Happy Birthday to:

Harinisri C.– February 21st

Hariharan C. – February 21st

Jenna S. – February 25th

Pre-K News

The Three Billy Goats Gruff and the mean and ugly Troll taught us about the letter G with the help of the

Gingerbread Man. We read The Little Red Hen and learned a lot about helping. We read the book I Want Ice Cream and discussed inch worms and insects for the letter I. We started J off with a Jack in the Box, and we made Jumbo Jungle maps with tons of jungle animals. We did a great job.

We made a frosty winter alphabet snow, and a very sparkly epiphany picture. We talked about Martin Luther King and his message of “It’s not fair”, “be nice”, and “Don’t fight”. We have been practicing Kindergarten quality bony finger work. We are all working at our very best.

Happy Birthday to

Nathan H. – January 2nd

Zachary Z. – January 15th

Sinead C. – February 3rd

Qian R. – February 19th

Bridget B. – February 23rd

Kindergarten News

In January we celebrated the beginning of a New Year and sang a song about the seasons and why we have four different seasons. The class has been sharing some wonderful winter stories. Some of our favorites have been The Snow Child, Thomas’ Snowsuit and The Mitten. The class will end its Winter Theme by learning about life in the Arctic and how the Inuit people protect their children from the dangerous ice floats. Playing in the snow banks has been lots of fun.

The class is counting down to the Hundredth Day of School. They are counting to 100 by 1’s, 5’s and 10’s. The children have completed a unit on measuring, and they are very accurate at measuring.

Happy Birthday to:

Seamus F. – February 14th

Timothy B. – February 17th

Michael F. – February 21st

Jack U. – February 28th

Grade 1 News

Grade One is doing a fantastic job in all subject areas! In math we are working on mastering our addition and subtraction facts and we are learning new strategies that will help us solve word problems. We have started a new math chapter on graphing and are looking forward to learning how to make and use tally charts, picture graphs, and bar graphs.

In reading we are focusing on how things grow and change. We are looking forward to creating timelines of our own lives to see how we have grown and changed over the years.

In Social Studies we are learning about maps, how they can help us, and how we can use them. We are also studying neighborhoods and communities. We cannot believe that our very own school is considered a community.

In grammar we are studying the parts of speech including nouns and verbs. This month we will be covering action verbs, verbs that add –s, and verbs for now and the past.

Happy Birthday to:

Julia B. – January 13th

Samantha S. – January 28th

Haley E. – January 31st

Molly M. – February 6th

Michael Y. – February 9th

Emily V. – February 28th

Grade 2 News

We are completing our final preparations for Reconciliation. The children will be celebrating the sacrament in the upcoming weeks. We have also learned the parts of the Liturgy of the Word and will be beginning to learn about the Liturgy of the Eucharist very soon.

We have been working hard in second grade. We have learned about the different types of nouns and about past, present, and future verb tenses. In math we are studying geometry and continuing to practice two and three digit subtraction. We are getting better at solving word problems too. We are continuing our study of animals in science by learning about their habitats. We have also started on of the biggest challenges for second graders, cursive handwriting. They are all practicing and trying to learn the correct techniques. Keep up the good work second grade!

Happy Birthday to:

Grace H. – January 7th

Kimmy J. – January 9th

Emma G.– January 17th

Reilly C. – January 24th

Karissa K. – February 8th

Grade 3 News

Over the past month Grade 3 has been practicing multiplication and division facts and applying those skills in word problems. They also had a fun Fruit Loop Graphing math lab. Upcoming Science lessons include Matter and the study of planets culminating with our Planet Museum in March.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and 100th Day in our classroom, and, of course, our Mid-winter break! Thanks to our

Homeroom Helpers who make our special days so much fun!

Happy Birthday to:

Casey B. - February 2nd

Allison G. –February 17th

Grade 4 News

The Fourth Graders are enjoying 2009 so far. We finished the NYS ELA test and have begun to prepare for the NYS Math test. The students have learned test-taking strategies that will apply for the rest of their academic career. The students have mastered long division (which is quite impressive)!

In Science students are learning about rocks and minerals and how to classify them. In Social Studies the students are learning about the geography of New York State and the natural resources found in our wonderful state. We look forward to a great rest of the year when many experiments, research, and learning will take place.

Happy Birthday to:

Becca L. – January 24th

Milan P.– February 4th

Grade 5 News

Happy New Year from Grade 5! We have been very busy since our return from the holidays. The students did a great job on their ELA test. We will also take a math inventory from the Diocese to help us prepare for the State Math test in March.

We are reading Mystery Books during January. Come up and see our final projects displayed the last week of January. Our focus the month of February in Reading will be adapting to our environment. We will link this with Science as we begin our unit on animals.

In Math, we will start fractions and review for the State test. Our focus in Social Studies will be the causes of the Civil War. In Religion our new unit is The Church: Sacrament of Christ's Presence.

The Valentine's party will be February 13th at 1:00pm.

Thank you to **Mrs. Williams** who did such a great job organizing our Christmas Party. Thanks to all who brought items in and/or stayed for the party.

Happy Birthday to:

Taylor P. – February 6th

Stryker R. – February 20th

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School will have a Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 13th from 7-9. This is a fun way to celebrate our midterms and ELA's ending.

From Mrs. Voellm

All of Mrs. Voellm's Math classes will be preparing for the state test in March. They will be finishing up their math curriculum and beginning to practice the State Tests. We will be testing March 6th – 12th.

Advanced Math 5 and Math 6 will be working on solving percent problems using percent rate and base. They will then move on to all formulas for area, perimeter and volume.

Math 7 will review the sum of the angles of a quadrilateral, determine the missing angle of a quadrilateral and determine volume and surface area of prisms and cylinders.

Advanced Math 7 and Math 8 will finish up their math unit on graphing and review map scales and unit

prices. They will begin review for the Math 8 test. All 8th graders are welcome to stay on Friday afternoons until 3:30 for extra review.

Happy Birthday to:

Cole B. – February 18th

Sarah D. – February 28th

Middle School Math

From Mrs. Girvin

Math Course A

Advanced 6th students spent time learning how to use proportions to solve various problems. Calculating unit rates, similar figures, maps and scale drawings were some of the topics. They have reviewed hard for their mid-term and Diocese Benchmark test.

I. Algebra students spent December and January doing factoring, radicals, some trig, graphing 3 types of functions, and learning how to graph on a graphing calculator.

From Mrs. Kennedy

Middle School Literature

Literature 8 - The students will be exploring the theme of injustice this quarter through the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the play *The Diary of Anne Frank* and/or the novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*. These pieces of literature explore the dangers of prejudice, as well as the battle between good and evil.

Literature 7 - The students will begin new novels this month, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and/or *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Both novels explore conflicts, such as finding your true identity, and overcoming obstacles.

Literature 6 - The students will begin the novel *The Cay* by Theodore

Taylor. Exploring the themes of racial equality and overcoming obstacles, this novel is set on a deserted island where the protagonist must learn to survive.

Happy Birthday to:
Paige B.- February 22nd

From Ms. Colangione
Middle School Spanish

On Thursday, April 2nd we will celebrate **Spanish Night**. The grade 7 and 8 students have been working on projects which will be shared with parents, staff, and guests that evening. Please mark you calendars. The festivity will begin at 6:30 with the opportunity to view all the projects while enjoying homemade Spanish and Mexican foods. Presentation will be given along with awards, special guests, and of course the Pinata celebration.

The evening will be a wonderful experience for all, so please plan to attend. The 7th and 8th grade students are excited about their projects and the celebration. The grade 6 students will be a part of the event as well. They will be assisting, through “adoption”, the 7th and 8th graders with their projects, as well as assisting with other portions of the program. It should be a fun and exciting learning event for everyone. **See you on April 2nd at 6:30.**

The **Grade Eight** students have been working daily on their use of the language by creating dialogues with peer partners and writing letters and dialogues. They are helping prepare themselves for the speaking and writing portions of the Proficiency Exam. Most recently each of the students took a “dress rehearsal” speaking test so that each would know what needs to be worked on between now and then. With

daily practice all students will gain more knowledge and confidence about speaking and writing expectations. A few weeks ago the students finished studying a unit on Earning a Living which focused on a variety of occupations and vocabulary specific to certain professions. Most recently they finished studying a unit on Travel. This unit had a wealth of vocabulary and common everyday information about travel which is quite similar to ours. The students continue to learn and use more advanced grammatical sentence structure both in their speaking and writing activities. Their next unit of study will be on Public and Private Service.

The **Grade Seven** students continue to have fun with Spanish. A few weeks ago they finished studying the unit of study on “House and Home”. They learned how to describe their own home in Spanish and to identify the various items in rooms such as the kitchen, bathroom, their bedroom etc. There were many laughs and lots of fun with all the possibilities which could include all or some of the new vocabulary. Their bedrooms and family rooms were very well furnished. The students have most recently finished studying the unit of study on education. Once again everyone had an opportunity to identify a favorite class and support why by using the new vocabulary which included a wide variety of classes that they presently take or could in the future. Their ability to use the language continues to grow and their learning and understanding of more advanced grammatical concepts and structures has grown as well. Their next unit of study will be “Community-Neighborhood”.

The **Grade Six** students have been increasing their vocabulary and

their use of Spanish on a daily basis. A few weeks ago they finished studying the family which included both the immediate and extended members of the family. They created family trees and used as many of the new vocabulary words for family members as they could. They also learned more grammatical structure which included how to express “possessions” and how to use new verbs correctly. Most recently the students have been focusing on a variety of professions. They professions that they have been learning are everyday occupations that they see daily through mom’s, Dad’s, neighbors, and friends. It is neat to be able to express them in Spanish. The next unit of study will be “Food”, encompassing a multitude of vocabulary and information about table settings and restaurants. It should be a very real and fun unit. In addition, as the students increase their vocabulary base and use Spanish, they continue to learn grammatical concepts and more involved sentence structure.

From Mrs. Bullock
Religious Education

We are on to new topics in religion in this month!

The sixth graders will be studying Moses and the Exodus and the relationship between the Old Testament Passover and our Eucharist.

The seventh graders will be studying the parables that Jesus told to teach us about the Kingdom of God and our responsibilities as members of His Kingdom and also the commitments required by the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders.

In eighth grade we will be studying the rift in the Church that led to the Council of Nicaea and the

delineation of our beliefs that came out of that council. Then we will move on to an examination of the differences between the Eastern and Western churches.

We also will be beginning a weekly scripture workshop to help students make the gospel come alive in their own lives.

As we try to live the gospel we will be looking for opportunities to provide service beyond our Holy Sprit community. The number of snow days has caused scheduling conflicts that have made it difficult to take time away from school. However, as the snow begins to melt we hope to find ways to serve in our community. Please let us know if you have any suggestions as to how we may be of service.

Final Note: The Christmas Bow Sale raised \$250.00 that will be divided among St. Jude’s Hospital, Make-A-Wish and Christian Children’s Fund. The seventh graders deserve congratulations for all their hard work.

From Mr. Neubert
Middle School Science
Science 6 (Earth Science):

In earth science we recently finished a Unit on plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. Throughout the course of this Unit we learned about how the earth bends, moves, shakes, rattles, and twists and the hazards that it can present. We also learned ways how people can protect themselves and their property when the dynamic earth presents a hazard.

After mid-terms we will begin a Unit on rocks and minerals. To begin the Unit we already started to grow crystals. As our crystals continue to grow so will our knowledge about how

minerals and rocks are formed and also how they are used to make our lives easier!

Science 7 (Life Science)

Before mid-terms in life science we started to study the basic unit of life – the cell. We have already learned how the cell was discovered, got it's name, and all of the parts that make up the cell. To study animal cells each student prepared a microscope slide to view one of their very own cheek cells. After that, we compared our cheek cells to the cell of an onion. It is amazing how different the two are!

After mid-terms we will continue our study of the cell learning about cell division and genetics. Eventually we will extend our knowledge of the cell to learn about tissues, organs, and organ systems in human biology.

Science 8 (Physical Science)

In physical science class we recently finished our chemistry Unit. We learned all of the basics about the periodic table and how to use it to understand basic chemistry. Currently, we are in the process of studying the physics of motion and force. We will be doing a variety of experiments to learn and experience Newton's Laws of Motion. After our study of motion, we will move into a Unit to learn about simple machines. Here is a bit of trivia for you: Do you remember who Rube Goldberg was? After our Unit on simple machines, your 8th grader will know!

Future Cities Team

I would like to personally acknowledge and congratulate the Holy Spirit Future Cities team for placing 2nd in the Capital District Region competition. Working with the kids throughout this project was an amazing experience for me. I

watched our team grow from day one and I am so impressed with how each and every one of them contributed to the project and performed on the day of the competition. I have never been so proud of a group of students! Way to go guys, you did an outstanding job!

From Mrs. Valley

Grade 8 Advanced Science:

In our **Earth Science** and **Physical Science** classes we spent January studying heat energy and how the Earth interacts with energy from the sun. Mother Nature has cooperated to provide us with very cold January temperatures. This assisted our understanding of the Earth as an absorber and a radiator of heat. By the end of January the excess heat stored by the Earth is at a minimum, and so are average temperatures on the surface of Earth. B-r-r-r! Learning the basic concepts of heat transfer by radiation, conduction, and convection was our starting point. We have become experts at using thermometers and stopwatches! We then continued to study the interaction of gases in our atmosphere with the energy radiated by the sun and the Earth to result in the Greenhouse Effect. Our students could also now explain how it is possible to warm our homes by applying this greenhouse effect in a solar collector. They've learned a lot – ask them about these issues.

From Mrs. Giabanis

Middle School Social Studies,

Writing 8, Advanced Lit 6:

Writing Workshop 8- We have just completed the English-Language Arts Exam. Our students worked hard in

their Literature and Writing Workshop classes to prepare. Good Job 8th graders!

Advanced Literature 6 - We have just completed the English-Language Arts Exam. This was the first year that the 6th grade class took the New York State exam. They worked hard and stayed focused over the last few weeks. Good Job 6th graders! We have also just completed our first novel, The View from Saturday.

Social Studies 6 - Ancient China has been our most recent focus. We are learning about The Great Wall, various dynasties, and Confucius. The 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 "Road to Revolution". We have been discussing various historical events such as the French and Indian War, the Proclamation of 1763, and various taxes imposed on the colonies by Great Britain. Students are enjoying studying about how our relatively "young" country started to question British authority, resulting in the American Revolution. We are also learning about how our area of upstate New York played a significant role!!!

Social Studies 8 - We are currently studying about World War I. The students are understanding the causes of the war including: Militarism, Imperialism, Alliances, and Nationalism. Students are understanding that the United States role as a "World Power" is developing at this point in history and its involvement in WWI shapes our future foreign policies.

Happy Birthday to:
Roan F. – February 20th

Library News

Let it snow!
Oh the temperature outside is frightful,
But the library is delightful,
And since there's still more winter and snow
To the library, to the library we will go!

The library has got some new books,
cooking, fiction and true books,
It is a cozy retreat you know
To the library, the library we will go!

The 4th and 5th grade are finishing,
The fiction books that in September we did begin,
3rd and 2nd graders are doing the Dewey thing,
Soon the online catalog they will searching,
In their library classes they grow!

Kindergarten and 1st grade are reading stories about winter and snow,
My Teddy Bear friends visit weekly,
and through the alphabet with books we do go,
Book talks in 6th, Fairy tales in 7th,
and the 8th graders are beginning research papers to add to their portfolio,
In the library we all grow!

Art News

The **Pre-K** children finger painted a jar of jellybeans with a pointer finger and some colorful tempera paints.

In **Kindergarten** we are painting red squirrels on a pine tree branch using tempera paints. Letters of the alphabet will help us fashion the branch and squirrel.

Grade One has water colored some cute little singing angels. The bodies are made from coffee filters. We've added music notes in oil pastels.

Grade Two has just finished our mouse houses. Actually, we still have to draw on the ears and tails. The house is a boot with furniture and ladder to go from floor to floor. Our interior decorating is done in crayon, and the mice are made from a fingertip dipped in black paint.

Grade Three has completed our versions of Van Gogh's Starry Night using stick on stars, oil pastels, and tempera paints. These landscapes are very lovely.

Grade Four is working on an alien project. Our colorful creations from another galaxy are made in crayon and marker. They will inhabit planets of our design in oil pastels on black paper.

Grade Five has finally finished their AAA traffic safety posters! Please wish us luck with the judging. We are now creating mythical beasts. Our own creatures fashioned from many real animal parts like a duck's head, turtle shell, giraffe's legs, and a frog's feet. Interesting!

Grade Six is finishing up some abstract art creations in crayon on construction paper. These shapes have been cut free and mounted on another color paper.

Grade Seven is putting final touches on the large crayon based faces of Jesus and the Blessed Mother. The heavily crayoned surface is crushed tightly by hand and then painted over in purple tempera. The paint adheres in the cracks of the artwork – beautiful results!

Grade Eight is working on a circle collage about themselves. Students are illustrating things they like (music, phones, pizza, pets etc.) and

their initials in crayon, marker, and pastels on circular form.

Music News

The **Kindergarten and First grade** classes are using percussion instruments in their lessons a great deal. All students will have multiple chances to play and experiment with these instruments. We are adding them into songs, learning to play them to a steady beat, and are having a lot of fun! We also completed a very fun and informative lesson based on the Carnival of the Animals. We used our imagination and heard the many different animals the composer Saint-Saens wrote about.

The Second Grade class just finished a unit of strong and steady beats and musical phrases. We played the xylophones and various Orff instruments to these different beats. Now we are exploring how to play the xylophones in more depth, as well as continuing to sing.

The Third Graders just learned two more notes on the recorder--the low E and D. They are now playing with both hands. We recently played a song called Juba Jive that involves both body percussion and the recorder. They did an amazing job!

The Fourth Grade class is about to begin a study of one of our greatest composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This is in preparation to play a variation on one of his most famous works on the recorder.

The Fifth Grade class is completing a unit on the Orchestra and musical instruments. I have had students bring in their own instruments and give the class demonstrations, which were great! We have learned all the

instrument families, the specific instruments in each family, and can identify how they sound.

We are approaching the end of the quarter for my **Middle School** classes. All students have done extremely well with their study of complex rhythms, unit on Middle Ages music, and singing in two part harmony.

Handbell rehearsals continue to go well. Please be sure your child attends all scheduled practices. Thank you!

Physical and Wellness Education

Dear Holy Spirit Community,

The primary grades are beginning a unit on cooperative and personal challenge skills. The focus will be working together for the common good of other players. Both the intermediate and middle school grades are beginning a floor hockey unit.

The Annual February Holy Spirit Middle School Basketball Tournament will take place from Monday, February, 2nd through Friday, February 6th. We encourage all K-8 students and their families to watch and cheer on our five middle school basketball teams. This is a terrific opportunity for our school community to come together and show school spirit. As in years past, there will be a student section (known as the “dog pound”) accompanied by our school mascot, St. Bernard, leading everyone in cheers. There will be concession stands, 50/50 raffle, trophy ceremonies, and much more. Students who attend a game wearing red and white will be granted a “dress out of uniform day”. This dress out of uniform day will be specially designated for Friday, February 13th. Please see the attached tournament schedule. The time of the games each

day are 4:30, 5:45, 7:00 and 8:15. Hope to see at the games!

Live well, Joel Beste

Monday Feb 2

- Girls 5-6: Bethlehem vs. **Holy Spirit**
- Girls 7: St. Ambrose vs. **Holy Spirit**
- Girls 8: St. Pius vs. Menands
- Boys 5-6: East Greenbush vs. **Holy Spirit**

Tuesday, Feb 3

- Girls 5-6: East Greenbush vs. St. John's
- Girls 7: TBA vs. St. Lucy's
- Girls 8: St. Brigid's vs. **Holy Spirit**
- Boys 7-8: St. Lucy's vs. Albany Shaker

Wednesday, Feb 4

- Girls 5-6: 3rd Place Championship Game
- Girls 7: 3rd Place Championship Game
- Boys 5-6: Our Lady of Victory vs. St. Catherine's
- Boys 7-8: St. Pius vs. **Holy Spirit**

Thursday, Feb 5

- Girls 5-6: 1st Place Championship Game
- Boys 7-8: 3rd Place Championship Game
- Boys 5-6: 3rd Place Championship Game
- Girls 8: 3rd Place Championship Game

Friday, Feb 6

- Boys 5-6: 1st Place Championship Game
- Girls 7: 1st Place Championship Game
- Girls 8: 1st Place Championship Game
- Boys 7-8: 1st Place Championship Game

Spanish News

Kindergarten has been working with shapes and colors, and we just started the ABC book in Spanish. Keep up the good work.

Grade 1 students have been working on a food unit, practicing works, and making flash cards.

Grades 2 and 3 have been working on a food unit. They are practicing the words, making a menu, and working with paper sheet exercises, puzzles, and word searches.

Grades 4 and 5 students finished the Unit on Occupations #8 and are working on a unit on Food #9. We have been working with exercises from the book, practicing vocabulary works, and working on projects from the unit.

PARENT/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Holiday Shop and Mother/Son Game Night

Holy Spirit's first annual Holiday Shop was held in December and it was a great success! All of the students who participated bought some great gifts for friends and family, and **\$346.00 was raised for Toys for Tots!**

On Friday, January 9th over 50 mothers and sons gathered for Mother/Son Game Night. Everyone enjoyed playing musical chairs, charades, and relay races, and we ended the evening with some delicious ice cream sundaes.

Many thanks to Ruth P., Tracy D., Alexia R., and all who volunteered their time to make these events so successful!

Father/Daughter Dance

Our third annual Father/Daughter Dance is scheduled for Friday, February 27th. Look for your invitation in the mail, and please return your response card to the school office as soon as possible. Information regarding flowers and photos will be sent home soon. It is sure to be a wonderful evening!

Kart/5 K Race Fundraiser Results

Many thanks to all of the students who participated in the KART Program. The students who raised the most money were the following

Grades K through 2: Evan W., who raised \$250.00

Grades 3 through 5: Lydia and Reilly W. tied, each raising \$212.50.

Grades 6 through 8: Robbie M., who raised \$404.00.

The Kindergarten class raised a total of \$586.00 and they were the winners of a pizza party. Congratulations to everyone!

In total, the KART/5K Committee raised \$3,942.78. The Committee will make a \$200 donation to the Foundation for Healthy Living, to aid in the Foundation's development of programs to fight childhood obesity.

Thank you very much to the Committee members: Robin M., Cheri W., Annemarie G., Alan B. and all those who volunteered to help with the KART Program and the 5K "Rally to Run". All of your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Spring Fundraiser

As a reminder, information regarding the required Spring Fundraiser will be going out the week of February 2nd. This year we are going to be offering a combination cash raffle and candy sale. We have chosen

Krause's Homemade Candy in Albany. Krause's will offer a selection of Easter candy in addition to some other popular chocolate treats. The sale will take place in February. Deliveries will be made between March 16th and 27th. This will be well in time for Easter, which falls on April 12th this year.

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.

Next Meeting – February 9

The next PSA meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9th at 6:45 PM in the School Library. Please note that this is a change from our originally scheduled meeting date. All parents are invited to attend. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call Patti P. at 479-3016



Valentines Day

Happy



Valentines Day