

Dear Holy Spirit Families,

February brings hearts and history with Valentine's Day and the Presidents' Celebration. It also offers our winter break. During the first week of February, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Open Houses fill the week with a special Tuesday night event focused on middle school, explaining the program. Our elementary teachers will also be on hand that night to give tours, answer questions and share the spirit of the week. PSA will give us volunteer parents to share a parent's perspective. The basketball tournament will fill the Sr. Maureen Moffitt Gymnasium. Also, on Friday, we will have a Catholic Schools Week liturgy with Father Lafort from St. Mary's Clinton Heights joining us for the celebration at 9 AM. What a week! Plus, it extends to Saturday morning from 9-11:30 AM – a final general k-8 open house opportunity.

This is the month when the School Board, Father and I deliberate over the next year's school budget and the tuition rate. We have made every effort to keep tuition manageable for our families bearing in mind the economic times we are experiencing. We will have a tuition increase that will begin to address the increase in our costs for the school. We want to make the school and its excellent education grounded in faith possible for all of our present families and open to many new entrants as well. Speaking of new entrants, our kindergarten registration yielded 25 students and more are calling. We are delighted to see this positive indicator of our school's ability to attract families interested in all we can offer here. Preschool also had an excellent response on registration night with 21 students enrolling in morning sessions for three's and four's. We are

planning on expanding the Teddy Bear full time daycare program for three year olds next year. We will be seeking additional students (12-15) at that age to fill an additional classroom. Generally, this program has had a waiting list and this year we would like to gather these families into our school community.

We have received the school accountability report from the diocese. This describes how our school performs on state assessments and compares us to state and diocesan levels. You will be very pleased when you see this document. Holy Spirit students shine. We will send this home soon.

Once more, we congratulate our Future Cities team that will travel to Washington DC to compete as the winner of our regional competition. Only the three presenters have their costs paid for this trip. There were eight team members, all of whom made the win possible. We are trying to raise some money to defray the costs of the rest of the team members attending this special competition. If you would like to contribute to the trip for the remaining team members, send in an envelope with a donation marked Future Cities. Thank you.

Finally, thank you for your generous donations to the people of Haiti. We will keep them in our prayers in the weeks ahead.

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

Our Future City Presenters will be traveling to Washington DC to compete at the 2010 Future City Competition National Finals from February 13 – 17, 2010. I am very proud

of our team. Thank you for your support!!!!

### **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 Farrar at 283-6163.

### **TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS**

The Tools for Schools Program runs through February 13<sup>th</sup>. We have currently accumulated 49,595 tape value points that we can redeem for educational materials. We are currently one of the top 100 schools involved in the program and are eligible to win a GBC Shred Master Departmental Shredder. Thank you very much for your continued support of this wonderful program!

### **ART SHOW AT THE NYS PLAZA**

*Congratulations to the following students who had their artwork shown at the NYS Plaza during Catholic Schools Week from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>:*

#### **Kindergarten**

Mary J.  
Alena H.  
Jordan G.  
Gabriella P.  
Emma H.  
Natalie G.

#### **Grade One**

Nikita G.  
Renee P.  
Hannah K.  
Joseph P.  
Makayla M.

#### **Grade Two**

Julia B.  
Aidan M.  
Samantha S.  
Molly M.  
Mackenzie B.  
Braden F.

#### **Grade Three**

Katarina S.  
Michael R.  
Ronan C.  
Mikayla L.  
Sarah L.

#### **Grade Four**

Grace S.  
Connor M.  
Michael K.  
Michael S.  
Katie S.  
Casey B.  
Kay V.  
Ruth P.  
Kayleigh M.  
Lydia W.  
Erin P.  
Allison G.

#### **Grade Five**

Michaela P.  
Jack P.  
Sarah S.  
Bryn F.  
Julia M.  
Andrea B.  
Allie R.  
Kirstyn S.

**Laura R.  
Kristy Y.**

**Grade Six  
Dermot C.  
Brevin F.  
Jeremy L.  
Thomas M.  
Judith N.  
Jacob P.  
Kevin P.  
Guiliana V.**

**Grade Seven  
Christina B.  
Cole B.  
Jean B.  
Sarah D.  
Ethan D.  
Stephen J.  
Christian L.  
Jacob L.  
Althea M.  
Robert M.  
Logan R.  
Amelia S.**

**Grade Eight  
Samantha B.  
Kevin B.  
Isabella K.  
Emily L.  
Mihee P.  
Phyllis R.**

## **ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

**Essay Winners:  
Grade 1 Carissa P.  
Grade 2 Colby F.  
Grade 3 Mikayla L.  
Grade 4 Lydia W.  
Grade 5 Allie R.**

**Poster Winners:  
Grade 1 Renee P.  
Grade 2 Molly M.  
Grade 3 Karissa K.  
Grade 4 Jenna P.  
Grade 5 Jillian F.**

## **SUMMER CAMP**

Ms. Patti and Ms. Dawn are pleased to announce that the Holy Spirit Summer Program will be offered again this year (our 3<sup>rd</sup> year)! Brochures will be available February 8, 2010. Full/part time days are offered. The hours are 8-4 with Before and After care. Swim days, drama, dance, woodworking, recreation/games, and photography are some of the exciting programs!

## **CLASSROOM NEWS**

### **Teddy Bear Three Year Olds**

The Three's spent the chilly month of January learning all about winter weather. We talked about what 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 winter animals! We learned that some animals sleep all winter and some have special homes in the winter. We learned about all the people in our community and the jobs they do. We thought about what we would like to do 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 February 12<sup>th</sup>! We will spend the end of the month learning about our bodies and our health. 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, and P, and the number 7.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Charlotte L. – January 9th**

**Teddy Bear Four Year Olds**

In January we learned about Dr. Martin Luther King. Our themes were friendship, peace, cooperation, and responsibility. We began our Bucky the Bear program along with his journal. The letters of the month were N, O, P, Q and numbers 7, 8, 9, 10. The class received a thank you note from Gabrielle C. in the U.S. Army. She and her fellow soldiers enjoyed our Christmas pictures!

In February we will enjoy celebrating Valentine's Day with a party and an exchange of cards. We will begin our Reading Buddy program. The letters of the month will be R, S, T and we will review numbers 1-10 using math games. The themes will be our Presidents, Groundhog Day, Winter Olympics, dental health, and jungle animals. We will even hold our own Olympic games!

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Brianna L.– January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Ms. Brandi – January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Nursery and Pre-K Families**

Mrs. Farnan and I would like to thank EVERYONE from the bottom of our hearts for your very generous Christmas gifts. Not only did you give

the gift of a cow but the Humane Society also received a lovely donation as well. Thank you so much – we are truly blessed by all of you!

**Nursery News**

We have formed a great play group we look for our friends to play games together and are working very hard. We colored an ice cream cone our favorite flavor and a letter I. We painted a HUGE snowman. We added a hat, eyes, nose, mouth and arms to hug and an *I love you heart!*

J is for Jet – we all colored and glued a jet plane. We worked very hard on Jack and the Beanstalk – a great story!

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Stevie A. – February 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Julian W.– February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thomas B. – February 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Pre-K News**

We have decided that we are in a big hurry to go to Kindergarten – so we are working extra hard on our boney finger work to be Kindergarten quality!

We celebrated Epiphany with the *Three Wise Men*. That was a very detailed project.

We continue to read together, I Want Ice Cream, told us we can read by using pictures. Insects is always a welcome part of the letter I.

Jack in the Box began J (“pop goes the weasel”). We worked on a jungle map with God's creatures. Our maps included food, water and palm trees. Very nice job!

Kohla Lou – we do love you – I love you blue kangaroo and kaleidoscopes were all fun and imaginative ways to learn the letter K.

Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us it is not fair! Be nice and do not fight! We all want friends who are nice and kind and fun – we do not care what they look like!

**Happy Birthday to**

**Harinisri C.– February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Hariharan C.– February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Jenna S. – February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Kindergarten**

In January we celebrated the beginning of a New Year and sang a song about the twelve months in a year. Winter has been our first theme this year. We learned 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:**

**Sinead C. – February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Grade One**

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 Venn Diagrams.

In reading we are focusing on how things grow and change. For our project at the end of unit three, 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 can’t 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:**

**Seamus F. – February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Timothy B.– February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Michael F. – February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Jack U. – February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Grade Two**

Many of the second graders are looking forward to having the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in the next few 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 read several great stories recently. We have learned about the different types of nouns and about past, present, and future verb tenses. In math we are working on graphing and two and three digit

subtraction. We are getting better at solving word problems too!

We have also started on one of the biggest challenges for second graders, cursive handwriting. We practice everyday and are trying to learn the correct techniques. It's not as easy as it looks! Keep up the great work second grade!

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Julia B. – January 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Samantha S. – January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Haley E. – January 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Molly M. – February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Michael Y. – February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Emily V. – February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Grade Three:**

During January and February grade 3 students have been working hard learning multiplication and division facts, and applying those skills. In science their lessons include Matter and the study of our solar system. Their space museum will be on display in March for students and parents to visit.

Grade 3 is looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School with classroom activities, a party, and another swap! Thanks to our classroom helpers who make our "special days" so much fun!

Grade 3 would like to welcome **Mary Clare VanDerbeck** to our class!

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Grace H. – January 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Kimmy J. – January 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Karissa K. – February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Grade Four:**

Mrs. Antalek is continuing graduate course work at the College of Saint Rose. Also, she will be visiting a

veteran teacher in the diocese to discuss test preparation techniques.

During the month of February, we will continue to learn about the Human Body in science. We will then be moving from Life Science to Earth Science. In Social Studies we will be moving into "The Revolution in New York". Math will bring more division. We will also be finishing up My Side of the Mountain.

Report cards will be sent home on February 12<sup>th</sup>, so keep working hard!

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Casey B. – February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Allison G. – February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Grade Five:**

**Welcome Sebastian V.** to our classroom! We would all like to extend a warm greeting to the entire **VanDerbeck family!**

We have been working very hard! This is the time of year when the work load increases in grade 5. We are very involved in our classification unit in Science, settling to the west in Social Studies, and fractions in Math.

In Reading we will begin a new unit on Adapting. Come up and see our mystery book projects.

Jesus – a sacrament of God's presence is our focus in Religion.

Enjoy the basketball games and the rest of this beautiful winter season! Keep warm – spring is coming!

**Happy Belated Birthday to:**

**Tucker B. – January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Rebecca L. – January 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Milan P. – February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

Middle School is looking forward to their Activity Night on February 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be playing various games throughout the building. What a great way to celebrate the end of midterms.

### **From Mrs. Voellm**

**Math 6** is moving on with identifying customary units of capacity. They will then move on with area, circumference of circles and area perimeter of triangles and quadrilaterals.

**Advanced Math 6** will review all of 6<sup>th</sup> grade concepts and then move onto surface area and volume.

**Math 7** will finish unit on volume and surface area. They will then move onto circle graphs.

**Advanced Math 7 and Math 8** will be working on rotation, reflection, translation and dilations. They will also review Pythagorean Theorem.

### **Happy Birthday to:**

**Taylor P. – February 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Stryker R.– February 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **From Mrs. Kennedy**

#### **Middle School Literature**

**Literature and Advanced Literature 8-** In both classes, the students will begin the research paper writing process. This will certainly prepare them for the many research assignments asked of them in high school. The students also will be exploring the theme of injustice this quarter through the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *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 and Advanced**

**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.

**Advanced 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:**

**Roan F.- February 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **From Mrs. Valley**

#### **NYS Regents Earth Science and NYS Regents Integrated Algebra**

During January we completed two units on Energy, *Insolation*, and the Environment. This was an excellent opportunity to relate the laboratories from class to the annual warming and cooling patterns of the earth. To begin, we reviewed the three methods of heat transfer: radiation, conduction and convection. We studied the effects of surface color and texture on energy absorption and reflection, and were then introduced to the Greenhouse Effect. Our students are familiar with the benefits of solar panels as a method of home heating. We finished the month with midterm exams, and are beginning a unit on weather that will continue until February break. This is a great time to watch the pressure systems track across the country, and of course hope for a snow day or two.

We have completed a study of polynomials during January. This involved a review of adding and

subtracting, multiplying and dividing terms. In addition, we became more experienced with factoring second and third order polynomials. We also completed a few days of midterm review and are ready to move ahead full speed. We will begin studying graphs, functions, and slope. This chapter will then lead us to the study of several other types of equations. Most important, is the focus on the use of our favorite math toy, the graphing calculator!

**From Mrs. Leverone**  
**Middle School Religion**

A very special thank you to Bill Jordan for sharing his time and talent with our Middle School students. We learned a great deal about Haiti and the many ways that they need our help. Thank you for contributing to our Fundraiser to support the ongoing relief efforts in Haiti. Our donation will go directly to Catholic Relief Services in Haiti.

All of the Middle School Classes worked hard on creating a mid term projects. I was very impressed with the Power Point presentations that our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students prepared. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students shared reports on the lives of various saints, prayer, and the 7 sacraments. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students discovered and retold the stories of many great heroes and heroines of the Old Testament.

This Lent...we look forward to collaborating on a service project with the youth ministry of Holy Spirit Church. Stay tuned for more information.

**Friday, Feb. 5-**Grade 6 hosts Catholic Schools Week Mass

**Wednesday, Feb. 17-** Ash Wednesday

**Random thought:** Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."  
-- Martin Luther King Jr.

**From Mrs. Colangione**  
**Middle School Spanish**

The **Grade 6** students have begun writing individual sentences and creating a mini paragraph in Spanish. An example would be writing about themselves, their house and/or their family. They have just completed a unit of study on time and colors. They have also been preparing for the midterm by reviewing vocabulary, question words and questions, grammar concepts, new verbs and much more. Every day the students use new and previously learned material in their daily speaking opportunities. Their next unit of study will focus on professions.

The **Grade 7** students are writing in Spanish with more frequency. They are learning how to use the language with more skill and to incorporate grammar concepts with new vocabulary in a more advanced manner. The students have been reviewing for the midterm and have also completed their units of study on education. This unit was full of relevant vocabulary which can be used on a daily basis. The students' use of the language continues to become stronger. The next unit of study will be on the community and neighborhood.

The **Grade 8** Spanish students have been working on their speaking and writing skills diligently every day. With peer partners they develop situational conversations which are very similar to every day communication. In addition, they are developing their writing skills to

a more advanced level by writing short answers to questions and by developing more advanced letters and conversation mainly targeting every day topics. The students have also just recently experienced a “dress rehearsal” of the speaking portion of the proficiency exam.

**From Mrs. Wilt**  
**Middle School Science**

In Earth Science, the students have just completed studying a unit on minerals. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about where minerals are found, how they are formed, and their practical uses in our everyday lives. The students completed wonderful acrostic poems about their favorite minerals to end the unit.

In Life Science, we have finished off a unit about genetics and heredity. The students were able to design dogs based on a given set of genes, and also participated in a fun lab involving the genetics of jelly bean colors. The students have worked very hard to understand this complex topic and have greatly enjoyed learning about the genetics that have made them who they are.

In Physical Science, the students have studied mixtures, compounds, and solubility in depth recently. They performed experiments that measured the amount of carbon dioxide gas dissolved in Sprite soda, and examined the influence of heat, surface area, and stirring on the solubility of solids in aqueous solutions. The students look forward to delving into some hands-on physics based lessons after mid-terms are completed.

Special congratulations to the Holy Spirit School Future Cities Team

for their victory at the regional competition at Hudson Valley Community College on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The students on the team all worked extremely hard and their diligence paid off in volumes. Best wishes to the team as they represent our school at the national competition in Washington, D.C. during February break.

**From Mrs. Giabanis**  
**Middle School Social Studies,**  
**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 Constitution. We are learning about how our "new nation" learned to govern itself following the American Revolution. Students will be doing various writing assignments during this section to show their understanding of the material.

**Social Studies 8-** We are currently studying about World War I. The students are understanding the causes of the war including: Militarism, Imperialism, and Alliances. 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.

**Literature 6-** We have also just completed our second novel, The View from Saturday. We have begun preparing for our mid term examinations. They

worked hard and stayed focused over the last few weeks. Good Job 6th graders!

### **Mrs. Stone**

#### **Grade 8 Writing**

Eighth graders spent considerable time and energy to produce moving and memorable Christmas letters of gratitude for the parents. From the tears and reactions of Moms and Dads these young people are beginning to understand how much power their words can have. They are now working on letters to people and institutions from which they are seeking a particular response. They are further understanding that carefully crafted written word is a powerful tools. We will eagerly await responses to our letters. Also, this class is also beginning its preparation for the New York State exams in the spring.

#### **Happy Birthday to:**

**Cole B. – February 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Sarah D. – February 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **TECHNOLOGY – Mrs. Ritz**

K-1 Students have been using KidPix CD to create a Color Demonstration in Spanish. They are naming colors in Spanish and inserting graphics to illustrate each color.

Grade 2 is learning how to use the Internet to do research. They choose an animal and learned about the color, size, predators etc. of that animal.

Grade 3 Students are learning about The Solar System. They have accessed various websites and answered questions on Electronic Sheets about the planets.

Grade 4 is beginning to learn how to create and animate slides using the Microsoft program Power Point. They will create slides about themselves and insert their pictures on the slides.

Grade 5 is doing a Grammar Power Point Slide Show. On each slide they give the definition of a part of speech and insert a picture and then write a sentence illustrating it.

Grade 6 is learning what to look for when evaluating various websites. We are discussing various websites, some of which are completely bogus. They are answering questions to help them decide which ones are good websites and which ones are inaccurate.

Grade 7 is learning how to create mathematical formulas using Microsoft Excel. They are also learning how the program helps them to add numbers, average their grades and to create spreadsheets and graphs to illustrate these problems

Grade 8 is working on a Religion Power Point Slide Show.

They are also sharing the Holy Spirit websites that they created using Microsoft Publisher.

In our Sixth Grade Class we have a student, Jackson Murphy, who has created his own website. The address is : <http://www.lights-camera-jackson.com>. On this website Jackson shares his movie reviews, (which can also be seen on Chanel New 9 on his program called, “Lights-Camera-Jackson”), latest Podcasts, a weekly poll, videos, and box office info. His movie reviews also appear every Sunday in The Record newspaper.

#### **Library News**

February is *I love my library* month

So we decided to celebrate!  
With research papers staring in Grade 8,  
In Grade 5 we're using Publisher to  
create  
Posters to advertise books that we think  
are great!  
Grades 4 & 3 has been learning about  
the Dewey Decimal System  
We'll be making collages for each  
category,  
As we learn about Melvil Dewey's life  
story  
Next we'll be using the online catalog!  
Grade 6 is working on fairy tales,  
Analyzing and reading  
These traditional tales are planting the  
seed in  
The new fractured tales they are writing  
Creating new versions of these tales will  
be exciting  
Grade 6 & 7 student all presented book  
talks  
They tried to sell their classmates on  
reading the book that they had brought!  
Next they did some research using the  
internet, to learn about an author  
Their knowledge was put into a  
bookmark and they did present.  
Grade 2 has been a *Jigsaw Jones  
Mystery* and trying to solve the crime  
As well as, working on call numbers all  
the time!  
Grade 1 has just returned from the  
travels all around the world,  
They journeyed places through the  
stories that we heard!  
Kindergarten is learning about the  
Caldecott.  
We will read and share books that have  
won this award for illustrations.  
Then we will make a book award of our  
own creation!  
Teddy Bear are moving forward  
Reading through the alphabet and  
seasons

Keep up the great work!  
Keep Reading!

\*\*\*

The Book Fair was a great success  
Thanks to the time volunteers spent  
Off the shelves the books went  
To our classrooms, library and homes  
Books to bring us to new places  
Books to teach us the unknown  
The book fair is important to us and  
here's why  
It is our library budget supply  
So thank you to all those who supported  
the fair!  
Thank you teachers and parents for  
bringing us there!

Thank you to the volunteers who gave so  
generously of their time:

Mrs. Coughlin  
Mrs. Colgan  
Mrs. Fleischer  
Mr. & Mrs. Lahr  
Mrs. Delmerico  
Mrs. Gabriel  
Mrs. McCormack  
Mrs. Silvernail  
Mrs. Utter  
Ms. Yaghy  
Mrs. DiMura  
Mrs. DeThomasis  
Mrs. Zimmerman  
Mrs. Remington  
Mrs. Maxian  
Mrs. DiGiorgio

Thank you also to the students who  
helped set up and clean up each day. I  
truly appreciated your help!

### Art News

**Pre-K** has painted with sponge  
pogo sticks some neat white clouds  
behind our high flying kites.

**Kindergarten** has just folded and colored our wonderful origami puppies. These puppies visited the library for the Kindergarten Information Night.

Snowmen and colorful water colored snowflakes are featured in **Grade 1's** latest artwork.

**Grade 2** is creating a mouse house. It's a boot shape into a home for mice done in crayon. We will print black mice with fingertip dipped in paint!

**Grade 3** has just completed our career teddy bears. These cute bears feature many professions including basketball players, baseball and hockey stars too!

**Grade 4** is beginning a paper sculpture project featuring the space shuttle. We are decorating the 3D shuttle with patterns found only in nature. Sunsets, raindrops, tiger stripes and ladybug spots are a just a few of our creative ideas.

**Grade 5** is getting closer to the finish line with our AAA poster contest. Many of these posters are wonderful illustrations of how children should interact safely with motorists.

**Grade 6** has just finished up some very flashy tooling foil Egyptian bracelets. The results are very colorful.

**Grade 7** is working on a Surrealism project that features a scene from one of our personal dreams. Our work is based on the work of Rene Magritte.

**Grade 8** is crafting a circular "Me Collage". Our clever artwork in crayon, marker and pastels will show others just what we're made of!

### Music News

#### Our **Kindergarten and First**

**Grade** classes are completing a fun unit on playing various Orff instruments. We even had a "parade" around the room while we played. We also learned about Saint-Saen's "Carnival of the Animals." The students greatly enjoyed this.

The **Second Grade** class recently completed a unit on musical phrases, and strong and steady beats. We incorporated this into a game where we sing, pass a football around to the beat, and play instruments. They did a great job with this. We also learned a movement song in Spanish, called Que Llueva.

The **Third Grade** class has begun new recorder music. We are enjoying learning Fright of the Blunder B (a take-off on the ever popular Flight of the Bumblebee.) We are also playing something called B A Rockstar.

The Fourth Grade class is learning about Mozart. We enjoyed learning about his life, and we are now going to play one of his most famous melodies on the recorder.

The Fifth Grade is working on a unit of instrument families. We have listened to Benjamin Britten's "A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra." I am so glad that so many students brought their own instruments in to show the class and play for us!

The Sixth Grade class is enjoying playing percussive rhythms. We will even use classroom objects such as staplers to play our music. We have had a lot of fun with this.

The Seventh Grade class is completing a unit on music in Classical period. We are learning in depth about the famous composers of this time. We also enjoy playing instruments.

The Eighth Grade class has been working on percussive rhythms, and we

are also singing several songs in two parts.

Handbell rehearsals have resumed. Please be sure your child attends each rehearsal. Thank you!

### **Physical and Wellness Education**

This month in physical education the students will continue to improve their fitness capabilities by having success in creative fun warm up exercises designed to improve their health and overall general fitness levels. The students when they enter the gymnasium perform a ten minute warm up which includes moderate to intense running, calisthenics, plyometrics and methods to improve balance and coordination. After this warm up we perform stretches from head to toe to increase flexibility.

The kindergarten and first grade classes will be studying movements performed in various areas of physical education. The classes will be divided into small groups and will go through stations and perform skills for a three to five minute intervals. The stations are designed to increase the students skills and work with partners in a small group setting. The skills performed will be dribbling, throwing and catching, jump roping, shooting into a basketball hoop with various size balls, floor scooters, hula hooping, tumbling and many more.

The second through eighth grade will be learning the many skills in floor hockey and strategies while playing the game. These skills include dribbling, passing, shooting, defense and live game play. Safety during this unit is the most important component during every class. The students really enjoy floor hockey so this should be a great chance for team building skills to improve and success will be felt by all.

Also this month in the **Holy Spirit basketball tournament** our middle school boys and girls teams will be hosting teams from around the area to fun and competitive games. All families are encouraged to come and support our teams. Please wear red or white clothing to show our school spirit and unity. The times for the games are as following:

### **Schedule of Game Times Each Day of Tournament**

Game 1- 4:30pm  
Game 2- 5:45pm  
Game 3-7:00pm  
Game 4-8:15pm

#### **Monday**

7<sup>th</sup> grade boys- visitor vs Holy Spirit  
6/7th grade girls- visitor vs Holy Spirit  
6<sup>th</sup> grade boys- visitor vs Holy Spirit  
8<sup>th</sup> grade girls- visitor vs visitor

#### **Tuesday**

6<sup>th</sup> boys- visitor vs visitor  
6/7th grade girls- visitor vs visitor  
8<sup>th</sup> grade boys- visitor vs visitor  
8<sup>th</sup> grade girls- visitor vs Holy Spirit

#### **Wednesday**

7<sup>th</sup> grade boys- visitor vs visitor  
6/7th grade girls- 3<sup>rd</sup> place championship  
6<sup>th</sup> grade boys 3<sup>rd</sup> place championship  
8<sup>th</sup> grade boys- visitor vs Holy Spirit

#### **Thursday**

6<sup>th</sup> grade boys 1<sup>st</sup> place championship  
8<sup>th</sup> grade boys 3<sup>rd</sup> place championship  
7<sup>th</sup> grade boys 3<sup>rd</sup> place championship  
8<sup>th</sup> grade girls 3<sup>rd</sup> place championship

#### **Friday**

7<sup>th</sup> grade boys 1<sup>st</sup> place championship  
6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade girls 1<sup>st</sup> place championship

8<sup>th</sup> grade girls 1<sup>st</sup> place championship  
8<sup>th</sup> grade boys 1<sup>st</sup> place championship

### Spanish News

**Kindergarten** started working with the Spanish alphabet book working with letter every class. We continue warm up activities – reading, counting etc. Keep up the good work.

**Grade 1** has been working with the Spanish fruit book. They practice the pronunciation of the words and write a simple sentence about the fruit. Keep up the good work!

**Grades 2 & 3** just finished a unit on food, and we started a unit on animals. We are learning vocabulary words, practice pronunciation and work with work paper sheets and color activities. Keep up the good work!

**Grades 4&5** completed unit #9 on food and worked on exercises in the text book, practiced vocabulary words, and finished the menu. We also finished unit #10 Art and completed the exercises and learned facts about different artists in Spain. Keep up the good work!

*Happy*

*Valentines Day*