

### **Thoughts from the Principal**

Welcome to May, one of the most beautiful times of the year, and a month filled with meaningful events of the school months. We begin with the school musical, Aladdin. The cast has been hitting the floorboards of our little stage (now expanded) for months on Monday's and are nearly ready to raise the curtain. Thanks to our teacher directors, **Mrs. Hayden, Mrs. Ferrara, Ms. Opanowski, Mrs. Raven, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Bordeau, Mrs. Mulcahy, Mrs. McConnell and Ms. Glokler.** These dedicated members of our staff (and some wonderful parents too) have given hours to making May 1 and 2 musical magic here in Holy Spirit Theater – Auditorium – Gymnasium. We hope you can join the audience. You won't be disappointed, and the tradition of great musicals at Holy Spirit will go on.

State testing has one more session this month for fourth and eighth graders, who will complete the New York State Science Assessment over the course of the next few weeks. Teachers will send home the exact dates. There is a written and hands-on (performance) section of the exam. We will hear about results in the fall. Holy Spirit students generally excel in science.

First Eucharist will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup>. This is one of the most treasured moments of faith development for families and for our school. We wish our second graders all the best and God's blessings as they join us at the Table of the Lord. May Crowning, another beautiful May faith formation tradition will follow on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mary, during her month of May, is honored by this lovely ceremony and the children and the adults never forget this cherished ceremony.

School trips launch in May. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders journey to Boston to see the sights. Grade 8 will have a three day experience at Camp Chingachcook at Lake George while 5<sup>th</sup> graders have three days in the incomparable Nature's Classroom in the Lake George region, learning about the wonders of the natural world.

More? – Middle School Honors Night is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>, Grade 5 has a State Fair event (since they study the states in that grade) on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The K-3 spring concert will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> joined with the schoolwide art show. There may be a book sale, graduation pictures will be taken, uniforms will be ordered for next year, fundraising committees will meet to monitor our progress in those areas, and PSA will meet to begin assessing this year and to look a little to next year with plans. The Holy Spirit School Board will meet to finalize a discipline policy for the school, elect officers for 2009-10 and consider new members for the group.

The last holiday of the month of May is Memorial Day when we remember and honor those who gave so much to assure our freedom and way of life. We will honor the sacrifices of our servicemen and women with the prayer and studies of our children here at school.

Last, please remember as all the world comes to bloom, to teach your child a little lesson sometime this month, about the beauty of nature and our responsibility to take care of our environment. Our stewardship of nature is a central teaching of the Church and one that is essential for every child's education and sense of responsibility in

growing to be an adult citizen of our country and a member of our faith. Have a wonderful May and we will see you around school.

### **HOLY SPIRIT ANNUAL ADVANCEMENT FUND**

A committee of ten volunteers is meeting to begin the development of an Advancement Fund to be promoted annually for Holy Spirit School. The goals of this fund will be to support public relations efforts for the school, to develop an ongoing stream of financial support for the operating budget of the school that will allow tuition to remain affordable for many and to support some families who may find the need for assistance in attending the school. The annual fund will also allow us to grow the programs of the school adding enhancements for our students in technology and science, for example, that might not otherwise be possible. You will hear more about the Holy Spirit Advancement Fund in the future.

### **LET'S APPRAISE**

Thank you to the committee who made this "Antiques Roadshow" style of event possible on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Approximately \$1600 was raised to supplement the fundraising efforts of PSA for the school. The committee was made up of chairperson, **Heidi F., Lisa G., Ann P., Tina and David C., Chris L., and Deb Y., Patti P., Alexia R. and Mary Lou C.** The event was fun and very well organized. Students helped too. **Nick F., Bridget, Kevin and Tim P., Annie P.** Appraisers for the items were pleased with the overall event and some appraisees went home pleasantly surprised about the value of their items.

### **SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS**

For the 2009-10 school year, there are four three year terms on the Holy Spirit School Board available. The school board is made up of both family members from our own students as well as members of our general parish/school community. The School Board provides the principal advice, guidance and decision making support in matters of school policy. If you might be interested in nominating yourself for one of these School Board seats, please call Mr. Rooney or Father O'Brien for an appointment by May 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the possibility and expectations. Phone number – 477-5739.

### **OPERATION RICE BOWL**

Thank you for your generous donations for Operation Rice Bowl! The second graders counted **\$636.00!** On April 29<sup>th</sup>, **Brianna H., Sarah L. and Michael R.** will join Bishop Hubbard for lunch to present him with Holy Spirit School's Rice Bowl donation. Thank you for your generosity!

### **UNIFORMS**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** is the first day spring warm weather uniforms may be worn. Please review the warm weather uniform policy as found in the handbook.

A representative from our uniform company will be at our school on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** from **1-2:30 PM** to measure for next year's uniform.

### **OUT OF UNIFORM**

A reminder regarding appropriate dress – when students are granted an out of uniform day, clothing that is worn instead of the school uniform should be modest and appropriate for school. The length of skirts or shorts should be

modest (to the knee – not short-shorts, for example). Clothing should contain no insignia, wording or graphics that could be considered in poor taste or offensive. Thank you for your cooperation.

**UNIFORM COMPANY COMING**  
**MAY 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Student Styles**, our uniform company will be here from 1-2:30 on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Orders taken and paid for on this day will receive free school delivery. There will be a 10% discount for everyone measured, and a 10% discount for store purchases in the month of June.

**OIL PAINTING DISPLAY AT EAST GREENBUSH LIBRARY**

You are cordially invited to view the work of Holy Spirit's Young Oil Painters on display at the East Greenbush Library from May 5<sup>th</sup> to the end of May.

**Mrs. Cahill's Fairy Collection** is also being exhibited, featuring some of our children as the models.

There are still several openings in all 3 of **Mrs. Cahill's Summer Art Workshops**. Please check a backpack near you for the orange flyer with the smiling sun face!

**YEARBOOK ANNOUNCEMENT**

Look for our 2008-2009 Yearbook "Crank up the Memories" due for delivery mid June. Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures and Ads! Lifetouch is now processing our book. Thank you to our Yearbook Committee for their dedication and hard work. A few more copies are available, but not guaranteed if you don't order ahead of time. Yearbooks are \$25

payable to Holy Spirit School in the main office. We look forward to sharing the memories!

**FRONT ROW SEATS**

The Student Council has taken on a project to provide red and white special chairs with our school logo and school name on the cushion and back for the basketball games. The chairs will also be used for those individuals who bid and win front row seats for all of our school events. These sturdy chairs come with an 8-10 year warranty. On the back side of the chairs, visible to all, is an area for dedication notes if so desired by the donator. The details are as follows:

1. There will be a total of 32 chairs available to be donated. 4 chairs have already been bought for donation. So, there are only 28 left!! 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve. Don't lose out!
2. The cost for one chair is \$140.00
3. There are 1 of 2 choices for the donator acknowledgment. An additional charge will be incurred by the donator if she/he wants to acknowledge his/her donation. Those two choices are:
  - a) a small sticky tag for the back- \$5.00
  - b) a "double back" area for company produced visible lettering \$23.00.

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

Please contact Ms. Colangione and/or Coach Beste if you want to support our

Student Council and our entire school program by buying or contributing money towards the purchase of a chair(s). If you have any questions or want more details please feel free to call as well.

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

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

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - K-3 Spring Concert and K-8 Arts Festival

**Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** - 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 20<sup>th</sup>** - **Grade 6 & 7 Class Trip** to Boston

**May 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>** – **Grade 8** at Camp Chingachgook

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Nature's Classroom for grade 5.

**May 28th** – Middle School Honors Night at 7 pm

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** - Golf Outing at Winding Brook Country Club

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** - **Grade 8 Graduation** Banquet at Michael's – 6:00 p.m.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – **Nursery School Graduation** – morning class at 9:30; afternoon class at 1:30.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** – **Pre-Kindergarten Graduation** – morning class at 9:30; afternoon class at 1:30.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 8 Earth Science Regents at 1:15.

**June 18<sup>h</sup>** - **Last day for Middle School students** (grades 6 & 7)

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** - **Kindergarten Graduation** at 9 a.m. Early dismissal at 10:35.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** - 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** – **Grade 8 Graduation**

**Liturgy** at 5:30 pm

**June 25<sup>th</sup>** - Last day of classes. "OU" Day Dismissal at 10:35

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Daycare Graduation at 10 am.

**CLASSROOM NEWS**

**DAYCARE 3 YEAR OLDS**

April was a month of growing in the Three's classroom! We began the month learning about plants growing. We watched lima beans sprout roots and talked about what plants need to grow. We planted our own sunflowers, and we can't wait to see how big they will get! We had a lot of fun at our Easter egg hunt and dyeing eggs. We ended the month learning about all the different types of transportation. We also learned about the letters U, V and W, the number 9, and the color purple. In addition to all of our learning fun, we have begun to get ready for graduation and our transition to the four year old room!

The Three's will have a great time getting ready for graduation and summer in the month of May! We will begin the month with a unit on different types of animals focusing on where they live. We will also learn about our five senses. We will spend time talking about and getting ready for Mother's day. The Three's will finish their alphabet with the letters X, Y, and Z, and will also learn about the number 10. We will continue to get ready for graduation. We can't wait for the big day!

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Brooke H. – May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Logan E. – May 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **DAYCARE 4 YEAR OLDS**

The children enjoyed Earth Day activities with their reading buddies, the Easter Egg Hunt, and warm sunny days in April!

We will be busy making presents for Mom in May! Our review of the alphabet (letters M-W) and numbers (1-20) will continue. We will begin to practice songs for graduation and to write our stories (with our buddies) for our graduation books. We will learn about summer safety, frogs, opposites, and water with Weekly Reader Activities. We will continue to watch the grass grow...our “Hairy” projects with Reading Buddies.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Shaylyn R. – May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Riley C. – May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tim N. – May 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **NURSERY NEWS**

Nursery school created a beautiful spring tree. We “painted” coffee filters, cut them into eggs, and crossed as signs of new life...The new life we see each Easter. We hung our signs on a flower tree to reminds us of our new beginning. We decorated Easter baskets to fill at our Easter egg hunt and dressed up in bunny ears and did the bunny hop. The class also made stain glass crosses.

We all cut the pages of our earth book with tall mountains, beautiful blue water, and spacious sky. We talked about how we could help take care of the earth. We are now working on some very secret surprises to the very special moms we love.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Leigha T. – May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Brian T. – May 24<sup>th</sup>**

### **PRE-K NEWS**

Pre-K has made and assembled a double class size quilt. Together we finger painted a rainbow to hang in the hall. We decorated and assembled our version of an Amazon rain stick, and we had a rain stick parade. Finally, we filled our rocket packs with fuel, strapped them on, and “flew”.

Did you say spaghetti? We enjoyed a delicious “snack” of spaghetti and meatballs, and boy did we eat! Thank you Vincenza’s mom. We colored sunflowers, and we each planted some and are waiting to see how big they will grow. We also made the solar system with the planets.

Hosanna. We enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, and we painted a beautiful puppet show of the Easter story.

*Congratulations to **Nathan H.**  
He has a new baby sister, **Brooke Elizabeth** born on April 16, 2009.*

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Anna W. – May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Kyle M. – May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Vincenza S. – May 18<sup>th</sup>**

### **KINDERGARTEN**

We reluctantly ended our unit on ocean environment, fish and other ocean animals. The class is finishing a unit on subtraction. As the children listen to stories they can identify whether the characters are adding or subtracting. The class will begin a thematic unit on Seeds and Plants. The children will estimate the number of seeds in a jar and sort the seeds in various ways. Like Jack in the Beanstalk the children will plant

seeds and watch them grow. The children are growing and learning in so many ways. We cannot believe it is less than two months until graduation!

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Aiden C. – May 9<sup>th</sup>**

### **GRADE 1 NEWS**

First grade is so excited this month as we will begin our science unit on plants! For this unit we will be looking at the insides of seeds, planting and comparing grass and bean plants, and measuring the growth of our grass and bean plants. For this unit we will also become scientists as we keep a plant journal documenting our findings during our unit.

**WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF TADPOLES FOR OUR LIFE CYCLES UNIT!** If you or anyone you know has tadpoles please let me know! We are so excited for this unit and really want to have tadpoles in our room so we can watch the change and grow.

This month the Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum will be coming into our classroom to present the program At Home in the Pond. During this program we will learn about a pond habitat, what types of animals live there, and how those animals have adapted to their habitat in order to survive. We are excited for this program as it will help tie together all of the wonderful things we have been learning in science over the past month.

In math we will be working on money and measurement. We already know a lot about money as we trade pennies for nickels and nickels for dimes to use on trade day! For our measurement chapter we will be learning how to use standard and non-standard

units of measurement as we measure our fingers, feet, and toes! We will also be going on a nature walk to measure plants, leaves, sticks, and more!

Keep up the excellent work first grade!

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Nicholas G. – May 18th**

### **GRADE 2 NEWS**

May is a busy month in second grade! We have been working very hard on our final preparations for First Eucharist. Most of the children will celebrate their First Eucharist on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm. They are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to share in this wonderful part of their Catholic faith.

In addition to preparing for the First Eucharist, the children have started practicing for the May Crowning Mass. Please join us on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for this special celebration.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Sam L. – May 7th**

### **GRADE 3 NEWS**

**Grade 3** returned from their break well rested and ready to tackle the final quarter of the school year. Besides continuing to work on Reading and Math, we will finish our Space Unit and begin learning about the states (U.S.A.) and the Human Body.

We are looking forward to showcasing our talents with the Spring Concert and Art Show.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Lilia P. – May 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**McKenzie E. – May 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **GRADE 4 NEWS**

This month the students will be taking the New York State Science Test. This is a twoday test. The first day, the students will take the written portion. This consists of multiple choice and open ended questions. The second day, students will take the performance test which consists of three experiments. The students worked extremely hard preparing for the test!

In Social Studies, we will be learning about the geography and resources of New York.

In Math, we will complete the statistics and probability chapter and begin fractions. Happy Spring!

### **Happy Birthday to:**

**Kirstyn S, – May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Anastasia B. – May 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **GRADE 5 NEWS**

Grade 5 had a great time at Nature's Classroom. Thank you again to our chaperones Mr. Beste, Mrs. Millington, Mr. Englund, and Mr. Farrar and Mrs. Pulver for bringing our gear.

The State Fair was a huge success. I am very proud of the student efforts. Next we will be learning about our neighbors in Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

In Science we will finish our year off with the study of different biomes. We will be doing group projects and sharing with the class.

We will also be doing group projects in Religion. The groups will study one sacrament in detail and present to the class.

In math we will finish the year up with algebra and geometry review.

Good luck to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. God bless you as you enter high school.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Phillip P. – May 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **CONGRATULATION TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS**

#### **Grade 8 High Honors**

**Paige B.**  
**Tammy C.**  
**Caitlin C.**  
**Lyndsey F.**  
**Samantha H.**  
**Kathleen K.**  
**Megan M.**  
**Heidi P,**  
**Siobhan S,**

#### **Grade 8 Honors**

**Morgan A.**  
**Maria B.**  
**Gus B.**  
**Marisa C.**  
**Lucas C.**  
**Nyla G.**  
**Julie L.**  
**Rebecca L.**  
**Karen L.**  
**Antonio M.**  
**Jimmy M.**  
**Shannon R.**  
**Michael R.**  
**Devin W.**  
**Robyn Y.**

#### **Grade 7 High Honors**

**Samantha B.**  
**Kevin B.**  
**Roan F.**  
**Zoe F.**  
**Emily L.**  
**Matthew R.**

Carrianna V.  
Isabella K.  
Kaitlyn M.

**Grade 7 Honors**

Shayne B.  
Regan M.  
Cassidy P.  
Sydney W.  
Zachary D.  
John E.  
Kyla K.  
Elizabeth M.  
Samantha T.  
Mihee P.  
Phyllis R.  
Cullen U.

**Grade 6 High Honors**

Christina B.  
Ethan D.  
Stephen J.  
Jacob L.  
Althea M.  
Dominique S.

**Grade 6 Honors**

Jean B.  
Christian L.  
Robert M.  
Logan R.  
Lucy R.  
Kathryn S.  
Cole B.  
Sara D.  
Amelia S.

**From Mrs. Voellm**

**Middle School News**

The **sixth and seventh graders** are looking forward to their Boston trip on **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be at Camp Chingachgook from **May 19<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>**. We are also

looking forward to **Honors Night** on **May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**Middle School Math**

**Advanced Math 5 and Math 6** have finished their integer unit. They are working on circle graphs, statistics and probability.

**Math 7** has finished their unit on polynomials and Pythagorean theorem. They are now working on their unit on angles, parallel lines, transversals, and solving for supplementary and complementary angles.

**Advanced 7** is reviewing all of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math after finishing the 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. They will be working on slope and graphing.

**Math 8** has finished their unit on GCF, factoring, slope and y-intercept. They are continuing on with pre-algebra skills for the next year.

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Alyssa A.– May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dominique S.– May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Kathryn S. – May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**From Mrs. Girvin**

**Math Course A**

**Advanced Math 6** students finished up a unit on probability. They learned about sample space, tree diagrams, counting principle and compound events. Currently the students are working on graphing.

**Integrated Algebra** students have learned about Venn Diagrams, permutations, combinations and other areas of probability. The past week has been spent on reviewing radicals, word problems, and various ways to display data. The children are getting ready to take the Integrated Algebra Regents on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**From Mrs. Kennedy**  
**Middle School Literature**

**Literature 8-** Students will be exploring the works of William Shakespeare, specifically his sonnets and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Once they adjust to the differences in language, they will find that there are more connections to human nature today than they might have previously thought.

**Literature 7-** Students will be exploring Greek Mythology, as well as poetry. They will also independently read novels for their literature circle group, which meets to discuss and analyze the book once a week in the library.

**Literature 6-** Students will begin a unit on poetry, while also participating in literature circles once a week in the library. Students are sure to find the many different types of poems, as well as the language used in poems, fun and interesting.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Robyn Y.- May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Shannon R.- May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**From Mrs. Giabanis**  
**Middle School Social Studies**  
**Literature & Grammar**

**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!!!

**Literature 6** - We have just begun our Avi unit. With Mrs. Parmenter's help, we are looking at two

historical fiction books by the author, Avi. The books are Don't You Know There's A War On?, and The Secret School. Students are enjoying learning about the different characters and showing their understanding through class discussion, various assignments, and literature circles.

**Social Studies 6** - Ancient Rome has been our most recent focus. We are learning about geography, location, and natural resources of Ancient Rome. Students are embracing these interesting concepts and new ideas. The students are continuing to bring their insightful questions, wonderful energy, and love of history to class each day!

**Social Studies 7** - We are learning about the The Age of Jackson and the period of time following the War of 1812. Students are learning about many interesting court decisions that dealt with the struggle between State and Federal rights.

**Social Studies 8** - We are currently reviewing learning about the Civil Rights Era in American History. We are looking at how racial differences impacted our nation and sparked a generational movement toward equality of the races and gender. In the coming weeks we will begin reviewing for the New York State 8th grade Assessment given in June.

**Happy Birthday to:**  
**Zoe F. - May 7th**  
**Zachary D. -May 29th**

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

Grade 8 students continue to learn new material while preparing for the proficiency exam. Each day they practice their speaking skills, working in

conversational situations by asking and responding to questions. Also, the students have been writing letters and conversations almost every day. Congratulations to all the students for their outstanding projects for Spanish Night.

Grade 7 students continue to improve their speaking and listening skills as they further develop their vocabulary as well as their writing ability. They presently studying a unit of study on meal taking, learning a wealth of new everyday vocabulary phrases and more advanced grammar skills. Their next topic for study will be travel. Congratulations to all the students for their superb projects they did for Spanish Night. Their hard work, perseverance and creativity were all enjoyed during the entire evening.

The grade 6 students continue to make notable progress in speaking and writing Spanish. They learn new vocabulary and grammar concepts daily. The students have also been reading aloud paragraphs for meaning and comprehension. They are all doing quite well. Also, questions are answered based on the understanding of their reading. Keep up the good work. The students are presently working on the weather unit, but primarily the unit on days of the week and months of the year.

### **From Mrs. Bullock** **Religious Education**

In May, the middle school religion classes will be answering the question, "what would you do?"

Our emphasis will be on how people have changed things for the better by making moral choices and asking ourselves if we could have made those same difficult choices. As we consider

these questions we will be discuss what characteristics are needed to act heroically and how we can work toward developing these characteristics in ourselves.

We will also be finishing up our unit in the religion book and start to prepare for finals.

And last but not least, we will be celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. This year it falls on the last day of the month, May 31<sup>ST</sup>. Happy Pentecost to all.

### **From Mrs. Valley** **Grade 8 Advanced Science**

In Earth Science this month we completed a study of rocks and minerals. We are able to view many samples of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, as well as the pure minerals that the rocks are composed of. We studied the features of rocks that helped us categorize different rock samples. Presently, we are studying what causes the rocks of our lithosphere to be weathered (broken or chemically changed), eroded (transported), and deposited as sediments. We have studied how physical features of sediments affect the rate at which sediments will be deposited. We are also learning how water, ice and wind can transport sediments over globe.

In physical science we are preparing for our Grade 8 New York State Science Exams. We are reviewing many laboratory skills and concepts that we have learned throughout our middle school science careers. Most recently, we have had hands on experience with sound, light, electricity and magnetism. We are also completing a unit on work and simple machines.

## ART NEWS

**Pre-K** For the letter “W” we crayoned a half paper plate to look like a yummy slice of watermelon. How many seeds should we draw?

**Kindergarten** Painting a lucky lady bug will be our next project for Kindergarten. We will be using tempera paints and printing her spots with a bottle cap.

**Grade One** has begun a drawing project featuring an aquarium complete with a castle, green plants, and of course some cool fish. We are working with crayons, oil pastels, and a little glitter.

**Grade Two** is making a scene in watercolors and crayon of a lily pond. We will be adding an origami turtle and some paper flowers.

**Grade Three** is finishing up an underwater scene with a fish cut out. The cut out shows waves of tempera paint that we painted last week. Above our fish are deep sea plants and animals.

**Grade Four** has started a spider in her web project n markers and crayon. Children choose between 2 different styles of web.

**Grade Five** is working on a tempera painting featuring a zebra’s head on a striped background. Our work is being painted with 2 sets of complementary colors.

**Grade Six** is making Pointillism post cards which feature just about any subject from ice cream to dragons. Using markers we will try some optical blending. Yellow and blue dots viewed from a distance will create a green hue. Red and yellow dots will blend for form orange.

**Grade Seven** is in the middle of a Surrealism project. These dreamlike watercolor paintings feature animals raining down from the sky. We are

mimicking Renee Magritte’s painting Golconde where several men in bowler hats rain down on a city.

**Grade Eight** is painting a black backdrop behind sketches of large blossoms as seen in the works of Georgia O’Keefe. Our flowers are accented with pastel chalks for a lovely soft effect.

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**Special Announcement**  
**During the first week of June the artwork of the children of Holy Spirit will be on display in the gym. Every child K-8 is represented.**

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## LIBRARY

April showered the library with Easter and spring themed poetry.

**Kindergartners** started the month with poetry and are finishing with Earth Day themed books and art. In first through fifth grade we listened to poetry, read poetry and then wrote our own.

The **first graders** wrote poetry shaped like bunnies. Students used Easter and springtime: words, emotions and colors to outline the shape.

**Second graders** traced their hands to create the stems of flowers in our poetry garden. They then wrote poems waving goodbye to winter and hello to spring.

**Third graders** interviewed one another to write acrostic poems about their friends.

**Fourth and Fifth graders** created concrete poetry and diamantes about spring time activities.

**Sixth and Seventh graders** have begun literature circles, and are off to a great start. Working in small groups they discuss and analyze a book together.

**Eighth graders** are in the home stretch of their research papers.

My **Teddy Bear** friends have completed the alphabet! Now we are reading a selection of my favorite books with activities and book marks.

### MUSIC NEWS

By now, you all know the theme of this year's spring concert. Holy Spirit is going "green!" If your child (in grades K-3) has something green to wear to the concert, that would be wonderful. Also, please remember that Kindergarteners and First Graders will require a pair of sunglasses for the performance.

**Children in K-3** are hard at work, learning lyrics, solos, and speaking parts. If your child has a special part in the performance, please help them at home. Our concert is Thursday, May 14th. The concert begins at 6:30. Please have your child meet their teacher in the gym at 6:15. I look forward to seeing you there!

The **Fourth Grade** class is now singing big band jazz music in two part harmony. We are really enjoying it. We are about to begin playing recorders again as well, after a brief hiatus.

The **Fifth Grade** class is beginning an unit on playing xylophones. It requires them to read treble clef notes (which they remember from the recorder) and then to play the instruments at the correct time.

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 new middle school classes are about to begin, and I'm looking forward to working with the students I haven't seen since January!

The **Seventh Grade** will begin a unit on Classical composers, beginning with Mozart. This is always a topic of interest to the students. We will explore his music and his life. All Middle School classes will also have a chance to sing in class.

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 K – 8th are beginning a unit on volleyball. Each class will work on developmentally appropriate volleyball skills. Thank you to the KART program for supporting both the PE program and Athletic program with new volleyball equipment and sweatshirts for our two CYO championship teams.

Thank you also for all those who attended and helped make our 2009 Sports Banquet an enjoyable evening.

### SPANISH NEWS

**Kindergarten** students are continuing to work with Spanish alphabet book one letter every class. We have been reading Spanish books, sing-a-song and coloring activities. Keep up the good work!

**Grade One** students finished the Unit of Seasons of the year. They have been practicing months and working with color paper sheet activities. We also started the Unit of Family. Keep up the good work!

**Grades Two and Three** students have been working with the unit of Family, working with simple sentences using the Spanish vocabulary and work

paper sheets to reinforce the lesson.  
Keep up the good work!

**Grades Four and Five** students finished the unit of Time and Color. They learned how to tell time in Spanish working with vocabulary words and exercises of the book. They did a great job with the unit. We also started the unit of Music. Keep up the good work!

### TECHNOLOGY NEWS

#### **Kindergarten – Grade Two**

accessed Easter websites to learn about the significance of Easter and to create Easter Cards.

**Grade Three** is doing a Planet Electronic Worksheet to research information about the different planets of the Solar System.

**Grade Four and Grade Five** did a Poetry Scavenger Hunt. They read silly poems online and answered questions about them.

**Grade Six** is using Easy Tech to learn how to write and send E-Mail.

**Grade Seven** is learning about spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel. They are learning how to create formulas to figure the percentage of sales tax on various items and also how to figure the average cost of articles.

**Grade Eight** is creating a website that will publicize their business of the future. They are using Microsoft Publisher. Their assignment is to advertise the business that they own. This will give them the opportunity to create a basic website; however the website will **not** be uploaded to the Internet.

### PARENT/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Appraisal Event

Holy Spirit's version of the "Antiques Road Show" was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> and it was a great success! People came from many communities around the capital district to find out if they had trash or treasure. In total, 344 items were appraised, and we wish to thank the appraisers **Mark Lawson, Nancy Toomer, Dennis Holzman, Lynn Phelps, and William Panitch** for donating their time and talent to this event.

Many thanks to the wonderful committee who worked extremely hard to make this event so successful: **Heidi and Vince F., Nick F., Dave and Tina C., Deb and Chris L., Mary Lou C., Amy U., Alexia R., Lisa G., the Anne P., and Diane W.** Thank you!!!!

### Save the Dates!!!!

- **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>: Family Get Moving Night!** Let's get our families moving to eat right, stay fit and have fun! Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>:
- **Holy Spirit Golf Classic at Winding Brook Country Club**  
Join us for a fun day of golf and terrific prizes! ! Bring some friends, family members or coworkers and support our school while having a great day on the golf course!

### 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, Kleenex tissues, Ziploc Bags, Juicy Juice, and Pillsbury rolls. Holy Spirit will receive 10 cents for each Box Top. For each soup label the school receives points that can be redeemed for school supplies and equipment. Please clip Box Tops and Campbell's soup labels to make a difference for our school!

### **Lunch Program**

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

### **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**.

### **Next PSA Meeting – Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>**

The next PSA meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 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.