

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Holy Spirit Families,

Welcome to October, the month of true fall, great beauty and the full beginning of the school year with all schedules and programs hitting in full effect. I would like to thank all of our families who attended Open House in September. It is always good to gather to reflect on the requirements and elements of the new school year and set our course for the months ahead. As always, your children are a delight in all ways – nothing is more wonderful than the sound of their coming through the door in the morning, ready for the new day.

ACADEMICS – This month I will send home a summary of the academic performance of our students on state tests in the last school year. While this is not the only measure of the students' success, it is a constant look at how the Holy Spirit boys and girls meet NYS standards in all areas. Also, I will share the results of a drug and alcohol survey conducted last year revealing attitudes of our students, their values and their awareness of various substances. You will be pleased with the stance our students take on their relationships, coping strategies and attitudes towards drugs and alcohol use. This survey was completed with the middle school students.

FAITH FORMATION - Many families attended our prayer service last Friday. This made the second grade prayer presentation very special. Mrs. Leverone is settling into her role as religion teacher in middle school. I know she likes to incorporate music into many of her classes. The leadership pinning ceremony and Mass for the

eight graders is on the horizon. This is a beautiful event and worth witnessing as it reflects the best we can hope for from our eighth graders as they live the values of care, concern and reverence that are at the heart of our faith formation program. We plan to conduct more service projects this year to express our faith in all grades. Our parish faith formation program may partner in this effort.

The month of October is especially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We honor her and the rosary throughout the month. Please include prayers to Mary in those you share at home.

SOCIAL – The PSA Spaghetti Supper is always a great fall event and this year is no exception. The beautiful slide show about our students and school prepared by the Piddock family will really add to the overall activities of the evening. This show will also be a fine public relations tool for the school in other venues.

Finally, the big question – what will we wear for Halloween. That is a secret, but be assured plans are in the works – and I know you have your plans at home as well. Take care, and we will see you around school.

UNIFORM UPDATE

The weather in the fall and spring months can be quite unpredictable so I have decided to leave it the parent's discretion as to whether their child(ren) wear their summer or winter uniform in the months of September, October, May, and June.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council representatives and alternates for the

2009-2010 school year are, in alphabetical order:

Grade 5

Andrea B.
Donald S.
Kirsten S.

Grade 6

Christian E.
Brevin F.
Riley W.

Grade 7

Christina B.
Sarah D.
Ethan D.
Robbie M.
Lucy R.
Dominique S.

Grade 8

Emily L.
Tim P.
Carrianna V.

Congratulations to our leaders. We wish you well with each of your projects this year.

VIRTUS TRAINING

Any one who wishes to volunteer at Holy Spirit School in any capacity is required to attend Virtus Training. For training dates, please go the rcd.org website.

DISMISSAL REMINDER

Parents, if you need to park in the lot across from school at dismissal time, please do so to the far left so that we do not interfere with after school play time use of the parking lot.

SOUP NEWS

Campbell Soup Labels and Big G Cereal Labels are being collected at school. For the labels, Campbell Soup supplies the school with gym equipment. General Mills Cereal gives the school materials, supplies and equipment for labels collected. *We would appreciate any labels you save for the school!*

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

The program runs through February 13th. It is not too late to help Holy Spirit School! We have already accumulated over 9000 tape value points. We currently have 433 shoppers signed up to support our school. Please ask your friends, family members, and neighbors to assist us in earning points for educational equipment.

You can register your AdvantEdge card online and use 15752 as your school code, or you can send the ten digit AdvantEdge card number to school. Please send it "Attention Mrs. Raven."

Thank you for your help and support.

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The yearbook committee is now accepting your photos for inclusion in our 2009-2010 yearbook. We will accept photos until February 2010. Send digital photos to HSSYearbook@nycap.rr.com. We are looking for a variety of activities from back to school, holidays, field trips, prayer services, classroom events, drama club and sports. Digital photos must be at least 500kb to be included in the printed yearbook.

SENIOR CITIZENS

At Holy Spirit School, we appreciate the knowledge and experience of the senior citizens in our community. There are great educational and social benefits to be gained from seniors and your children working together. We are looking for grandparents or retired persons in your neighborhood who would like to participate in the learning process by helping students. Please have them contact us at 477-5739 if they would like to become involved in our school community. We could use assistance in the Library, in our remedial and/or accelerated programs, or in the lunchroom. If you know of anyone we can contact, please call us.

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

For the safety of our children it is very important that no children enter the school building before **7:30 AM.**

ABSENTEES

If your child will not be attending school any day due to illness, etc., please notify the school before 9 a.m. If you wish to have work sent home to a sick child the office must be notified by 9:00 a.m.

Junior Drama Club News!

We are off and “waddling” with the grade 1 and 2 students. “Mr. Popper’s Penguins” has been cast and the real work begins with learning lines and stage directions.

Please mark your calendars for our performances on **Monday, November 9th at 1:30 and 6:30 pm.**

Grades 3 and 4 Drama Club will begin rehearsals for “A Christmas Carol” on Monday, November 16th and perform

the play on **Thursday, December 10th at 1:00 and 6:30pm.** There are still just a few openings left for those of you in grades 3 and 4 who not registered.

MANDATORY BASKETBALL COACHES MEETING on **October 20th at 6:30 PM** in the Gym. We will go over the gym schedule at that time.

BASKETBALL PARENT MEETING

Coach Groff, our Athletic Director, and our coaches would like to meet with at least one parent of each child that will be on a Basketball team this year. They will have registration for all interested students. Coach Groff and the coaches will review some guidelines and ask for assistance at all home games. The meeting is **Thursday, October 22nd at 6:30.**



CLASSROOM NEWS

DAY CARE THREE-YEAR OLDS

The Three's have had a fantastic first month of school! We have learned all about the letters A and B, the numbers 1 and 2, and the shape circle. We are experts on apples, bugs, and the color red. We got to know a lot of new friends. We have been watching the leaves turn colors and fall from the trees, and the air is so chilly, we have to wear coats in the morning! We are so excited that autumn and the month of October are finally here.

The Three's will spend the month of October learning about the letters C and D, the number 3, the shape triangle, the color orange, and fire safety

at school and at home. Of course, we will also be learning all about Halloween! We will read lots of Halloween books, and make plenty of decorations for our Halloween party at the end of the month. We will also learn about the fall weather. We can't wait for all of the fun stuff that October has in store for us!

A Happy Birthday to:
Brenna M. – October 16th
Tyler B. – October 25th

DAY CARE FOUR YEAR OLDS

We had a wonderful start to the school year! Our new four year old children are very excited about being in the “big kid” classroom! In September we learned the letters A,B,C. Our themes were apples, school rules, the five senses, and animals. We even began our weekly library visits and took home a library book!

In October we will enjoy a Halloween parade and party. We will learn about the autumn season and fire safety. Our letters will be D,E,F,G and the numbers 1,2,3.

Happy Birthday to:
Ms. Sarah – September 14th
Ms. Dawn – September 18th

NURSERY

Nursery school is off to a great start! We painted a big red apple and a large letter A. We are working on an alphabet fishing game that will come back later in the year. We learned an apple tree poem about two big apples. We colored an apple tree and glued “apples” on it. We traced our hands and arms and glued them on to big paper and sponge-painted leaves on our trees. We

read about falling leaves and all the changing colors. We colored our own leaves and hung colorful streamers from them and we “flew” through the air.

We already know that we love gym with Mr. G. and music with Mrs. Leverone and snack!

Happy Birthday to:
Alex S. – September 9th

PRE-K NEWS

Pre-K has settled very nicely into a school routine. We have already begun writing the capital and lower case letter Aa. We read about the Awful Aardvarks that were not very nice at school. We decorated our own Aardvark. We read about hungry ants. We cut, glued and drew our own ant. We have been talking about Johnny Appleseed (he was a real guy). We colored and cut the life cycle of an apple tree. They were jumbled up, but we were too smart for that, we just unscrambled them and put them in the correct order. We enjoyed the exploration of apples in the process of making applesauce and talking about many apple properties.

Kid Quote: “Could you hold my name up a little higher --- I’m taller in person...”

Happy Birthday to:
Daniel C. – September 12th
Candice E. – October 14th

PRE-K COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

*Little kids can help in big ways.
Our first service project is called,
“Jeepers Creepers, We Need Your Old Peepers!”*





We will be collecting used glasses. They will be recycled and given to people – young and old - who need them. You can visit www.sightnight.org for more information.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

September is such an exciting month. It's a month of new beginnings – a new school year, new friends, new experiences and new challenges. The children in Kindergarten are nicely adjusting to the new school year. They are making friends and becoming comfortable with the teachers and the routines of school.

The children have been sharing lots of books. The Meanies and Where the Wild Things Are are great favorites. Even though the children are delighted by the antics of the Meanies as well as Max and the wild things, no one wants to act like these characters. Instead, the children like to be caught being “good”.

Everyone is enjoying the Sensational Me unit. The children enjoyed the sights just like Brown Bear, and made joyful noises to the Lord with instruments. The children will use their sense of touch to identify “mystery” objects, have a tasting party and let their noses know. We will end the unit with Awesome Apple Day. The children will use all their senses to explore and describe apples, share apple stories, sort apples, estimate the number of apples in a bag, make Apple Annie and finally, make and eat an apple treat.

The class is looking forward to sailing the ocean blue with Columbus and celebrating that most exciting holiday – HALLOWEEN.

Belated Birthday to:

Brandon S. – September 14th

Mary J. – September 27th

Maeve N. – October 24th

GRADE 1 NEWS

First grade is off to a fantastic start! We are adjusting nicely to new daily routines and we are working very hard on becoming independent readers and writers. We would like to extend a special welcome to **Peter B.** and his family as they have joined our school community this year.

In math we are reviewing number writing and learning how to compare numbers using the signs $<, =, >$. We cannot wait to start addition and subtraction!

In social studies we have started our first unit titled “Time for School”. This unit focuses on school routines, school rules, and how schools all around the world are different.

In grammar we are learning about sentences! We now know that sentences have two parts, the naming part and the action part. This month we will continue to learn about sentences. We will also be learning about nouns.

We are so excited about all of the new things that we will learn this year. We are looking forward to a fantastic year in first grade!

A Happy Birthday to:

Carissa P. – September 22nd

GRADE 2 NEWS

The second graders are off to a terrific start! They have been working hard and are adapting very well to the daily routines. We would like to extend a special welcome to Aidan M. who has joined our school community this year.

We have been reviewing some material from first grade. All of the second graders are getting better at their math facts, and their printing is neater every day! We have had the opportunity to write and share a few writing assignments. We have also been learning about subjects, predicates, and how to write a complete sentence in grammar.

We are learning about the continents and how to read maps in social studies. We have also started our study of plants in science. The second graders are very excited to learn new things in social studies and science!

We are looking forward to a great year in second grade!

A Happy Birthday to:

Olivia S. – September 14th

Anthony D. – September 29th

Ryan D. – October 1st

Braden F. – October 12th

GRADE 3 NEWS

Mrs. Ferrara enjoyed attending a Summer Institute seminar entitled “Smart Board Integration”. She also returned to the College of St. Rose and attended the “Effective Cooperating Teacher” workshop in preparation for the grade 3 student teacher, Ms Kelly. She will work with grade 3 for seven weeks beginning October 26th

Third graders have returned from their summer vacation well rested and anxious to learn. We have warmly welcomed **Allison B.** to our class.

Grade 3 has begun working on our Animal Unit, and discussed how things in our world are classified. In other academics, we are expanding our vocabularies and reading, practicing

math concepts and facts, and learning more deeply about our Catholic faith.

Mrs. Ferrara was very happy to meet so many 3rd grade families at Open House. We are looking forward to sharing many memorable experiences on our journey through third grade!

A Happy Birthday to:

Tommy C. – September 18th

Paul H. – October 25th

GRADE 4 NEWS

Last month, Ms. Antalek attended a Diocesan workshop relating to preparing the students for the New York State Math Test.

Grade 4 will be going to Brookside Museum on October 9th. Please remember to send you child with a bagged lunch that day. In Math, we’ll be working on addition and subtraction concepts. In Science, we’ll be working on Ecosystems. In Social Studies, our focus will be on Native Americans. We’re also continuing our author study of Roald Dahl.

The students have been a pleasure so far. I look forward to a fantastic October!

Happy Birthday to:

Billy R. – October 11th

GRADE 5 NEWS

Mrs. Bourdeau attended a 6 hour Smart Board Course over the summer.

Grade 5 is off to a great start. We welcome Tucker B. into our family. Everyone is staying organized and doing their assignments.

In Religion, we are talking about Blessings from God. Please come up and see our Autumn Blessings.

Our unit in Reading is Meeting Challenges. All our stories are about characters who have faced great challenges. Our book reports for October will be biographies.

In Math we will focus on completing numeration and addition and subtraction of decimals. Please practice facts at home.

Our Science unit is on plants. The students are doing a great job with their Science notebooks.

We will begin to prepare for the State Social Studies test very soon. If you haven't sent in \$5.00 for the review book please do so ASAP.

Nature's Classroom deposits are due on November 15th. Look for BINGO information soon.

Have a blessed autumn season.

Happy Birthday to:
Sara S. – October 26th

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School had a great time at the Yankee/Red Sox game on September 25th. Special thanks to all of our chaperones and fans!!

From Mrs. Voellm

Math 6 finished their units on decimals and properties. They will continue on with exponents and expressions.

Advanced Math 6 and Math 7 finished their units on integers, order of operations, exponents and scientific notation. They will continue on with rational numbers, prime factorization, LCM and GCF.

Advanced Math 7 finished their units on integers, absolute value, order of operations, exponents and

substitution. They will continue on with expressions and monomials.

Math 8 finished their units on integers, exponents, order of operations, and monomials. They will move on with polynomials.

Happy Birthday to:
Ryan G. – September 3rd
Brevin F. - September 25th

From Mrs. Stone **Writing/Grammar Grade 8**

I am doing graduate work in theology at St. Bernard's School of Theology. This is my third semester of study.

The eighth grade writing students have begun their grammar and vocabulary work. Most importantly they have finished their first major composition and set writing goals for the year. Additionally, we have been indentifying and discussing the necessity for writing skills in various professions and occupations.

Laura U., Megan S., Sam A., and Alexandra A. graduates of Holy Spirit School are in Mrs. Stone's Advanced Placement Literature class at the Academy of the Holy Names; see how time flies...they're working on their college applications.

From Mrs. Kennedy **Middle School English**

The **eighth grade** class enjoyed their retreat at Pyramid Lake Life Center. They participated in many activities, like teambuilding games, boating, and a trust walk. In addition, the students will be hosting a pancake breakfast at Applebee's on October 17 from 8 am-10 am. The money they raise will go

toward expenses for their trip to Washington and all graduation expenses.

Advanced Literature 6 - This month the students will be continuing their unit on short stories. In addition, they will be starting their first novel *The View from Saturday*, a tale of friendship and journeys.

Literature 7 - This month the students will continue reading short stories and then begin reading *Tuck Everlasting*, a novel about the possibility and consequences of eternal life.

Advanced Literature 7 - This month the students will continue reading short stories and then begin reading *The Outsiders*, a novel about two rival gangs.

Literature 8 - The students will finish reading the short story "Flowers for Algernon" and will continue reading more short stories. Then they will begin reading the novel *Nothing but the Truth*, a documentary novel that explores the reality behind the "truth."

Advanced Literature 8 - The students will finish reading the short story "Flowers for Algernon" and will continue reading more short stories. Then they will begin reading the novel *Animal Farm*, a novel about farm animals that overthrow the farmers.

Happy Birthday to:
Elizabeth M.- October 31st
Kaitlyn M.- October 31st

From Mrs. Wilt
Middle School Science

6th Grade Earth Science- In 6th grade, the students have very quickly become familiar with the science class routines. We began our year by discussing the scientific method and learning how to develop valid experiments. We then learned about the

metric system, why it is utilized in science experiments, and how to convert between the various units of the metric system. We have now begun a unit about the features of the earth's surface. These include mountains of various origins, plateaus, and plains, of which the students seem particularly interested in learning about mountains formed by volcanoes!

6th Adv./7th Grade Life Science- Life science is off to a wonderful start. We first learned about and reviewed the scientific method and the important aspects of designing valid scientific experiments. Next, we reviewed the metric system and why it is utilized in science, and then we learned about conversions within the metric system. We have started a unit about what defines a living thing, and will shortly begin studying both plant and animal cells.

7th Adv./8th Grade Physical Science- In physical science, we began our year with a review of the scientific method and the metric system, and have now divulged into a study of matter and atoms. We have discussed which things can and cannot be classified as matter, and completed an exciting lab about the matter contained inside un-popped and popped kernels of popcorn. We will continue our study of matter by looking into atoms and the historical development of the currently accepted atomic structure.

From Mrs. Valley
Advanced Science and Earth Science

September was very productive month in Grade 8 Regents Earth Science. We started right in on our first unit, "Introductory Material". This unit included lessons in scientific

observation, inference, and classification, as well as measurement, estimation and density. We then began our second unit on “Graphing the Environment”. Our students have been successful in learning how to complete more formal laboratory reports and in effectively preparing for unit exams. Looking ahead into October, we will begin a study of the shape of the earth, and how ancient measurements of our lovely globe were made.

Our Grade 8 Regents Integrated Algebra class also started out running. Much of September involved reviewing/refreshing several concepts in math that will be put right to use in algebra. Chapter 1 covered lessons on writing expressions and equations, defining real numbers, drawing graphs, and understanding dependent and independent variables. We will continue this chapter into October, and then move on to Chapter 2 “Rational Numbers”. We’re off to a great start.

From Mrs. Leverone **Middle School Religion**

Mrs. Leverone is very excited to join the faculty this year. Check out the Holy Spirit School website and the link to her Religion page. Or visit www.teacherpage.com/mrsleverone. Grades 6-8 got off to a great start this year in Religion as they participated in some fun “Getting to Know you Better” activities. The students are kind, good-hearted and work well together.

Grade 6 wrote prayers for their family, Met Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament, and learned about the process of becoming a Saint. Did you know that the Catholic Church has canonized over 10, 000 saints over the course of church history? On October

11, Pope Benedict XVI will canonize two new saints, Saint Damien of Molokai and Saint Jeanne Jugan., who worked hard to relieve the sufferings of the poor, homeless, and sick.

Grade 7 used the Bible to learn about the life of Jesus, they wrote in their prayer journals, and also learned about saints and feasts that occurred in our September church calendar. Together they make up God’s vineyard and have promised to work together and help each other.

Grade 8 is excited to begin the school year. They have many great ideas and are eager to get started helping others. They work well together and are a great little community themselves. On **October 2 at 9am** they will be commissioned as the leaders in our school with a special liturgy and pinning ceremony. In addition to preparing for their liturgy and leadership roles they also studied the 12 Apostles.

All Students will need a rosary for the month of October. We will also be conducting a food drive for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

A few October Saints to remember:
1st- St. Therese of the Child Jesus (aka ‘The Little Flower’)
2nd- The Holy Guardian Angels (St. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael)
7th-Our Lady of the Rosary
15th- St. Teresa of Avila
17th-St. Ignatius of Antioch
28th- St Simon and Jude, Apostles

From Mrs. Giabanis

Middle School Social Studies/Writing

Social Studies 6 - Currently we are exploring the Stone Age and learning about of Human Civilizations. Students have excitedly been contributing to class by bringing in artifacts and oral traditions to share!

Social Studies 7 - We are studying the Roots of American People. We have been learning about Native American groups and how they interact with natural world around them. Additionally, we have begun looking at the significance of the trade routes of Africa and Asia.

Social Studies 8 - The Civil War is our current area of study. Most recently we have been looking at Lincoln's, Emancipation Proclamation and its impact on the war. Various student/ teacher discussions have shown how interested students are to learn about our Nation's history!

Literature 6 - We have begun the first of three novels we will be reading this year. The Cay is an exciting story of a friendship, courage, and strength. Students are enjoying our literature circles and are actively reading and sharing their Reader's Journal entries, which reflect on the book.

Happy Birthday to:
Amelia S. – October 21st

From Mrs. Colangione
Middle School Spanish

We had a great start to the new school year in **grade six**. The grade six students are enthusiastically participating every day as they learn everyday expressions and new vocabulary. They have completed a unit of study on greetings and expressions of counting and are presently studying classroom

objects. While learning how to use the new vocabulary the students are also learning grammatical concepts.

The **grade seven** students have been reviewing basic vocabulary, question words, grammatical concepts and phrases from last year while learning new material. They have been focusing on the topic of socializing. There is a great deal of practical vocabulary in this unit along with grammar structures. The students will be reviewing this verbal and written use of the language on a daily basis throughout the year. They are presently writing brief notes/letters describing themselves and family members and use the same material in creating mini dialogues with a classmate.

The **grade eight** students are making good progress with the goals we have established for this year. They are presently finishing a unit of study on travel, which has provided them with very practical vocabulary for everyday usage. We dedicate time each day to developing strategies for student partner conversations and for writing letters and conversations using more advanced vocabulary and grammatical concepts. We will be using our textbook to supplement what we are learning using a more culturally focused resource as well as the Spanish magazine *Ahora*. The year will be filled with lots of fun and learning.

ART NEWS

Pre-K 4's – “A” is for Alien. We made a dot to dot picture of a baby alien in crayon. It has antenna and as many eyes as we want!

Kindergarten is learning to sing the primary color song. We are creating a little yellow mouse with red ears and a

blue tail from construction paper, crayon and glue.

Grade One has drawn an owl and colored it with markers. The blue sky behind him has white painted stars stamped on it.

Grade Two students have been working on a fold over tempera paint print featuring the ocean, palm trees and a sailboat.

Grade Three made blobs of paint into beautiful flowers with stems and leaves of green construction paper. We added a little ladybug just for fun.

Grade Four has drawn an underwater ocean scene in marker. Crayon was added and watercolor painted over all. The crayon pops through the watercolors.

Grade Five has finished a fall leaf in bright marker colors. The background is up to each artist to create.

Grade Six students have been working on tracing of a hand. Each student has filled the hand with patterns in marker. The work has been mounted on contrasting colored paper.

Grade Seven drew some cute little cat clowns. These marker and crayon drawings feature realistic cats with some way out clown makeup and hats.

Grade Eight is working on a scene in oil pastels involving a tortured soul. Our Halloween style art has been based on Edward Munch's "The Scream".

COMPUTER LAB NEWS

Thank you for **Mr. Mark L. and Mr. Steve V.** for upgrading our lab computers. This has enabled us to increase the productivity and efficiency of our computers. Also, due to a grant from the State of New York, we were

able to purchase the license for Microsoft Office 2007 Suite. The 2007 version has more exciting features and even includes new movies, sounds and clip art. Middle School students are learning how to use the new software to create even more exciting slide shows and word documents.

Kindergarten – Grade Five have started the new school year by learning about the parts of a computer. They have learned what hardware devices input data and what output data. They have learned about the storage and processing of data. We have used the Internet interactive website www.learning.com. Since New York State software funds have enabled me to purchase a license for this, students will be able to access this website at home. Go to www.learning.com. For the user name, use the child's grade, for example - grade1 for a student in first grade. Password is the same as user name. District is: holy spirit – greenbush.

In order to practice typing skills, I will be using the website www.learn2type.com Each student in the middle school will have a user name and password to enable them to use this site. **Learn2Type** is a FREE service for teachers and educators to monitor their students' performance. Individual student accounts will be created. These accounts will be then linked to my account, allowing me to monitor each student's performance.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library in September has brought lots of fun, A library card assignment for each student here at Holy Spirit-everyone!

Kindergarten Kids visit the library each week—

With the other Mrs. P (Piperata) they read and activities they complete.

In each class 1-5

We are reviewing to help our library skills thrive

We are reviewing the library layout with maps,

We are reviewing which books are *fiction* and which ones are *fact*.

We are refreshing our memories about how this thing, library, works,

We borrow, renew and return all the books,

So that other students might read them and enjoy them too.

We promised to be responsible and respectful too!

My Teddy Bear Friends are just a delight!

The process down the hall quietly and come

right to carpet,

sitting criss-cross applesauce with ears secure and on,

we have started our books with letters of the alphabet:

A B C there isn't a letter-book we haven't loved yet!

Middle School students are taking off fast

Grade 6, 7 & 8 are reviewing library resources and research

In creative ways and having a blast!

We have acrostic informational books, fairytales and book talks ahead

We will learn to complete research with curiosity, not dread.

We will learn to cite sources and summarize

We will develop our information skills and not compromise.

Keep reading!

MUSIC NEWS

It's been a great start to the new school year in our music room. I've enjoyed seeing all the children after summer vacation, and meeting our new students.

Our **Kindergarten** music class has been full of movement and song. We started the year singing welcoming songs about school, and we enjoy motion songs such as the Freeze dance and Wiggle Like a Wiggle Worm. The students have been so enthusiastic and seem to really enjoy singing.

The **first grade** students just began a unit on dynamics. We have learned about forte and piano, crescendos and decrescendos. We incorporated this into music from Peer Gynt Suite, and also played a game using dynamics in our singing.

The **second grade** students started a unit of rhythm, and reading beats of music. We are using animals of the rainforest to reinforce beat patterns. This is a fun way to learn quarter notes, eighth notes, and so on.

The **third grade** students are beginning to learn the recorder. Almost all students have brought a recorder in to class. If your child does not yet have a recorder please have them bring one in as soon as possible. We have learned how to read notes in treble clef and are beginning to play these notes on the recorder.

The **fourth graders** are also playing the recorder. Please make sure your child has their recorder in school as soon as possible. We are doing a quick review of our techniques and will begin new and more challenging music right away.

The **fifth graders** have been singing spirituals, and they have been so enthusiastic with solos. I've had many children volunteer to come up and sing, and I'm hearing beautiful voices.

The **sixth and eighth** grade classes are both enjoying units on rhythmic percussion. We are enjoying playing instruments along to the beats we learn.

The **seventh grade** class began a unit on music in the Middle Ages, which is our introduction to music history. We will also begin singing soon.

Handbells has just begun. I'm looking forward to another great year with our ringers!

Physical and Wellness Education

Hello to the Holy Spirit Families and Community.

As this school year begins I would like to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Curtis Groff, and I am the new physical education teacher at Holy Spirit School. I would like to thank you all for greeting me with such a warm welcome to your school. Your children are excellent and I truly enjoy educating them everyday.

This month we have been covering a fitness unit to prepare the students for the Presidential Physical

Fitness Testing. The Presidential Fitness Training is a national physical fitness assessment used to determine the students fitness level in comparison to the guidelines set for the entire country, The scores will play a factor in the grade of the students' first quarter grade in physical education. The test will be completed again at the end of the school year also to show that improvement has been made since the beginning of the school year.

I am also teaching the students about movement concepts, and how they use these movement concepts everyday. These concepts are fitness concepts, eye hand coordination, foot eye coordination, locomotor concepts, spatial awareness, reaction time and strategy-based concepts. I am also educating the students about health related fitness components. These include the following muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

The students are enjoying learning about physical education, and I am honored to be teaching them. Thank you again for the warm welcome to your community. I appreciate it. Hope to see you soon.

K-5 SPANISH NEWS

Kindergarten has been adjusting very well to our routine practicing "Good Morning" in Spanish and learning the colors and practicing numbers.

Grade One students did a great job with greetings in Spanish recalling "what is your name?" and answering the question. Also we have been practicing the colors and working with paper sheets.

Grades Two and Three have had a great start with greetings,

practicing the questions and answering them. Students did a great job with worksheets and word searches. We are working with days of the week and practicing pronunciation.

Grades Four and Five students started to book “Exploring Spanish”. We have been working with Unit 1 vocabulary words, practicing pronunciation and exercises in the book.

Parent/School Association News

The Holy Spirit School PSA is seeking your assistance to raise funds for the Christmas luncheon and gifts that are provided to our wonderful faculty and staff. Again this year, we have selected the Genevieve’s product line for our sale. You may solicit orders by sharing the catalogs with co-workers, friends, and family, or you can use Genevieve’s online system and solicit orders via email (www.genevieves.com - school code 10205). The online system has an enhanced product line from which to choose and the products are shipped directly to the customer. Please note that this year **we have added a selection of frozen pies to our catalog sale** option. Orders must be returned to the school office by October 15, 2009. Thank you for your support!

Parent School Association News

Fall Fundraiser

Just a reminder – please return your fall fundraiser money and raffle tickets to the school office as soon as possible. **The drawing will be held on Saturday October 17th during our annual Family Dinner.** If you have questions about this fundraiser, please call Jennifer Y. or Patty E.

Save the Dates

Please mark your calendar for the following events:

Monday October 5th : PSA meeting at 6:45 PM in the school library

Friday October 9th: KART Program Kickoff at 8:15 AM in the gym

Friday October 9th: Family Movie Night at 6 PM in the gym

Wednesday October 14th: After School Running Program begins at 2:35PM

Saturday October 17th: Family Liturgy and Dinner (Liturgy begins at 5:30 PM, dinner immediately follows).

Box Tops and Labels for Education

The PSA would like to encourage all families to clip Box Tops and Campbell’s soup labels and submit them to school. Box Tops can be found on many products including General Mills Cereals, Ziploc Bags, Juicy Juice, and Pillsbury rolls. Holy Spirit will receive 10 cents for each Box Top. For each soup label the school receives points that can be redeemed for school supplies and equipment. **We are currently raffling off a family out-of-uniform pass. Simply place 5 Box Tops in a small plastic bag or envelope, label it with your family name and grade(s), and put it to the collection jar outside Mr. Rooney’s office. Enter as many times as you like !!!**

Lunch Program

Please remember to utilize our school lunch program which is provided through Mary Lou Chestera. 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 all 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 school banking is every Thursday. 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 please contact Heidi F. or Mrs. Ritz.**