

GOD BLESS OUR NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

August 17, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The one constant theme I keep hearing about Holy Spirit School from all of you is the “family” atmosphere that surrounds the school. Everyone cares about each other, despite any differences or disagreements. I hope to foster that feeling as the new Principal of Holy Spirit School. I have to admit that I found it difficult to be welcoming to the chipmunk that dashed in the open front door and then scurried into the secretaries’ office the other day. It was only with the help of Fr. O’Brien and the UPS man that we directed him out the door after several attempts. I guess you could say it was Holy Spirit family members in action.

Wednesday, September 8 is the first day of school for students. We are running a special schedule, so all students will come in dress uniform that day. Students should not wear gym uniforms. I must tell you that I am anticipating that day filled with many emotions. Educators are always excited about the first day and the return of the school year. Having been away from it for four years while caring for my father, it is extra special to me to begin this school year.

There are many people to thank. The efficiency of Mary McCormack, Alicia Fleisher, and Mary Brady in the office has made this summer move along

smoothly. Paul Weidman and David Dame are responsible for the outstanding condition of the school. Thanks to the faculty and the parents for their cooperation and hard work in preparing for 2010-2011. Thanks also to the School Board, Parish staff, and Fr O’Brien for their welcome and support. I particularly want to acknowledge the eighth graders with whom I shared lunch one day this summer. Their love of the school and their insight about its operation gave me food for thought! I look forward to sharing a meal with those students who weren’t able to come on that day. **Our Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm.** It will cover grades K-8. More about our summer and the upcoming school year will be presented then. I look forward to meeting with all of you that evening.

The PSA will have sign-up sheets and talk about their efforts to help meet the financial and operational demands of our school at the Open House. I encourage everyone to support your group – the parents’ group – by participating in the events as a helper or player. I hope we can also bring educational moments to the meetings this year.

I have some announcements for you.

- Amy Utter has been hired as an aide in first grade.
- I have asked Mary Lou Chestera to investigate operating a breakfast program for the students. You will receive the results of that once we review her findings.

- I have met with the East Greenbush district about the remedial teachers who will be servicing our school. More information will follow as I meet with those teachers.
- The newsletter has further announcements for you including the menu, music lessons, and extracurricular activities.

The School calendar with the Parent-Student Handbook is enclosed. Please note the dates on the calendar and read the handbook carefully. There are some changes already included and further changes will be sent separately.

The 50th anniversary of Holy Spirit School is next year. I look forward to working with the Development committee and its various sub-committees as we work toward growing Holy Spirit School. Please remember the school in your prayers, for it is only with God's help that we flourish. He has showered this school with many blessings in the past. Let us ask for His continued mercy.

Once again I thank all of you – faculty, staff, parents, students, parish, and community members for your warm welcome. It's my turn now to welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year at Holy Spirit!

Sincerely,

Anne Cowling

Off-Broadway Saints Drama Club News

The Holy Spirit School Off-Broadway Saints will present "Annie, Jr." on May 20 and 21, 2011. Auditions will be held on Monday, January 3 and will be open to all students in grades 4 through 8. If you would like to start practicing lines or singing a few of those memorable songs, please see Mrs. Ferrara in grade 3 for a script and a music CD!

Holy Spirit School Junior Drama Club will be back for students in Grades 1-4 this fall!

Grades 1 and 2 will begin practice on Monday, September 20 from 2:30-4:00. This year's production will be a hilarious version of "Jack and the Beanstalk". Additional practices will be held from 2:30-4:00 on Mondays 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, and 11/8. The performances will be held on Tuesday, October 9th at 1:30 and 6:30.

Grades 3 and 4 will again be presenting "A Christmas Carol" on Tuesday December 7th at 1:00 and 6:30. Their rehearsals are scheduled for 2:30-4:00 on Monday 11/15, Thursday 11/18, Mondays 11/22, 11/29, Thursday 12/2, and Monday 12/6.

Registration and information flyers will be sent home with all students in grades 1-4 on the first day of school. Registration is on a first come first served basis for the first 25 students in grades 1&2 and 3&4.



**HOLY SPIRIT TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE REGIONAL FUTURE CITY
COMPETITION**

Holy Spirit School will participate in the Future Cities Competition in January 2011 under the direction of Mrs. Mary Lou Ritz. The Future City Competition is a national program sponsored by the National Engineer's Week. The competition promotes the exploration of math, science and engineering as middle school students design a city of the future using Sim City software, create a 3-D model using recycled materials, write an essay and abstract and perform oral presentations before a team of engineer judges at the regional competition at Hudson Valley Community College in early January 2011.

Holy Spirit School came in **first place** last year! The team of students and mentors went on to the Nationals in Washington, D.C. For the previous five years Holy Spirit team members have placed in the top three in the regional competition with a combined cash total of \$ 5,000.00 given to the school.

PAUL EFFMAN MUSIC SERVICE

Paul Effman Music Service is looking forward to providing the band program at Holy Spirit School. We encourage all students who have prior experience in the band to come back to play this year, as well as any students who would wish to start a musical instrument. Grades taught will include 3-8. Instruments offered include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and drums.

There will be an in school assembly on Friday, **September 10th** at

8:10 am (parents are welcome). Students will bring home a band registration from the day of the assembly. The first day of lessons is scheduled for Monday, September 27th.

Returning as our Band Instructor this year will be Dr. Bellino. Being part of the school band will bring your child a wide range of experience. Learning to play an instrument involves many areas of education all brought together. Through musical performance, your child will gain a high level of self-esteem as well as knowledge and appreciation of all styles of music.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Mary Lou Chestara will be providing our lunch program again this year! Please find the September Lunch Calendar at the end of this newsletter!

SCHOOL BANKING

The School Banking Club is a savings approach designed to help students establish and maintain their own savings account. It makes it easy for students to save since they can make deposits at the most convenient location for them – SCHOOL! Because the account **belongs to the student**, they can see for themselves how saving even a small amount of money each week can really add up. School Banking accounts are opened with no money, have no fees or minimum balance requirements, and earn an attractive interest rate. Weekly incentives and an end of year contest are provided by First Niagara.

For many years Holy Spirit School and First Niagara have partnered to offer our students the opportunity to participate in this program. We encourage all families to participate so

we can continue to offer this worthwhile program.

For more information about School Banking accounts please call 518-233-6543 or email to schoolbanking@fnfg.com.

PARENT/SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE WELCOMES PARENTS

The Parent School Association welcomes all families to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. The new school year is fast approaching and we look forward to another successful year at Holy Spirit.

Parents are encouraged to participate as much as possible in our school community. We welcome all parents to share their time and talents to help make the school year a success.

During September you will receive information regarding school events and fundraising in addition to the Holy Spirit rules, regulations, traditions and activities. The PSA members welcome any questions and concerns that you may have. If something is not clear or if you are seeking another parent's perspective on a matter, the PSA is here to help.

The PSA strives to maintain a close working relationship between home and school in assisting you with concerns outside of the classroom. There are monthly meetings that are open for all to attend. We will send information to your home to keep you apprised of events and activities at our school.

We look forward to meeting, socializing and working closely with all of our Holy Spirit families. **Our next meeting of will take place on Monday September 13th at 6:45 PM** in the

library. Please come and support our children and our school.

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM.

OIL PAINTING LESSONS

Beginning Wednesday, September 15^h, Mrs. Cahill will be offering oil painting lessons to former oil painting students in Grades 4 through 8 in the Art/Music room from dismissal until 4:00 p.m. Students who are new to oil painting, please join us Thursday, September 16th. Students must purchase their own materials. A list will be available at the office. Set up cost is approximately \$40 (items are available at Wal-Mart or AC Moore, Latham.) The cost of each lesson is \$10. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Cahill at 477-2518.

Halloween Art Workshop Kindergarten – Grade 4

Mrs. Cahill is planning an After-School Halloween Art Workshop for children in grades Kindergarten through Grade 4 for three Tuesdays (October 5, 12 & 19) from dismissal until 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 per child. Seating will be limited.

Please check a backpack near you for the sign up flyer this September. Snack is included.

