

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! January arrives so quickly. September's beginning seems not so long ago. However, the months have been filled with activities galore with the crowning achievement of the Christmas concert that filled the night of December 18<sup>th</sup> with song and sound. The children performed perfectly and brought memories to us all. Hopefully, you had a blessed and bright Christmas in the days that followed. Now, we return to studies and the steady routines of the winter weeks.

As the new year begins, we thank everyone who has volunteered his or her time and talent in our school for the benefit of staff, students and programs. I am amazed at the variety of educational experiences and individual care afforded to our students. Their performance in class reflects the support they receive from the entire school community from families to staff to volunteers. Your efforts make the future bright for all of us here.

Catholic Schools Week filled with activities and information about Holy Spirit School will come at the end of the month. The week will reflect the excellence in learning and faith formation that is the fabric of our programs. Thank you for the efforts you afford to make a Catholic School education a possibility for your child. It is a blessing to children to excel in their studies in an atmosphere of the conscious presence and expression of God and his Holy Spirit among us. A full calendar of Catholic Schools Week activities will be sent home soon.

State Testing in English Language Arts in grades three through eight will take place in the weeks ahead. The usual reminder holds – make sure

children are well rested and well fed the day for the days of testing. Our students have performed very well on these examinations in past years. Grades 3, 5 and 7 are new to the process. Please assure them that if they do their best, all will be well.

Kindergarten information night will be on January 15 at 6:30 PM. Please let people know of this gathering since it an important part of our recruitment of students for Holy Spirit School. Word of mouth from our own families is probably one of our most effective recruitment tools. Thank you in advance for any good word you can share that would bring some additional students into our care.

We wish our Future Cities Team all the best this month. Basketball season will intensify this month. Holy Spirit teams have been having their best games ever this year. We look forward to the "tournament". The musical for this year is Aladdin and tryouts and rehearsals for that fabulous performance strand of the program will begin this month as well.

So how could the winter months be confining for our students with so much and more underway? Please take care in these weeks and stay in touch. If you have any questions about any of our school programs, please call 477-5739. See you around school.

God bless you and your family,

Roger Rooney, Principal

**FUTURE CITY 2009**  
**COMPETITION**

The Capital District Region Future City Competition will be held on January 17, 2009 at the **McDonough Field House at Hudson Valley Community College**. The competition

starts at 8:00AM and ends when the finalists are announced about 3:00PM.

This year our team consists of: **Phyllis R., Carrianna V., Sydney W., Kaitlyn M., Samantha B., Emily L., Cullen U., Tammy C., August B. and Mitchell C.** Special thanks to our mentor, **Dr. Mark Dausch Holmes** and our parent volunteer, **Mr. Bob Murphy and our teachers Mrs. Ritz and Mr. Neubert.**

### **BOOK FAIR POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

**Congratulations!** We are very proud of you!

**Nicholas G. – grade 1**

**Christian E. – grade 5**

**Allison G. – grade 3**

**Kayleigh M. – grade 3**

**MaryRose P. – grade 4**

**Grace H. – grade 2**

**Mikayla L. – grade 2**

### **SKI CLUB**

Ski Club begins on **Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** at Bousquet Mountain. They will meet for 6 weeks (not to include President's Week). Please contact **Annie G. at 477-1151** if you have any questions or are interested.

### **SPECIAL THANK YOU**

A very special thank you to the teachers for taking the time to decorate our school for the Christmas season. The school looked so beautiful!

### **NURSERY/PRE-K THANK YOU**

Thank you to all the Nursery and Pre-K families and to all Holy Spirit School families for their donations to our toy drive and hat and mitten tree. We collected over 82 toys and hats and mittens to send to Concerns-U. What a very special Christmas – you have given

to so many! Love – Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Farnan

### **SPECIAL PARKING LOT SAFETY NOTICE**

When dropping off your child in the morning, please pull into a regular parking spot (in the parking lot next to the building) before allowing your child to vacate your car. If you do not have enough time to walk your child into school, please alert them to be careful of the other cars.

Please do not drop them off in the “No Parking” area in the road in front of school. If you do not find a parking spot next to the building, please park your car in the parking lot across the street and walk your child to the school entrance.

We have been having some near accidents lately in the parking lot. If we all follow the above rules, hopefully, we can avoid an accident.

### **ALUMNI NEWS**

**Kateri E.** is on the Principal's Honor Roll at Columbia High School. Congratulations Kateri!



### **LOOK WHAT WE ARE DOING WHEN WE ARE NOT AT SCHOOL.....**

## KINDERGARTEN

**Kayla E.** is in her second year of ballet and tap. She also participates in gymnastics and the KART program.

**Gabe L.** plays soccer for the Mighty Blue of the East Greenbush Soccer Club, basketball at the YMCA, and running club.

**Makayla M.** is in her second year of dance class and in her first year of Daisies.

**Annie P.** played soccer for Mrs. Futia's U6 Royal Blue Mighty Mites this past fall. She is looking forward to playing softball in the Spring.

**Joseph P.** enjoys playing soccer and is part of the Running Club at Holy Spirit School.

**Jack U.** plays FunBall and also participates in gymnastics.

## GRADE ONE

**Julia B.** is in her third year of dance at Robin's Dance Academy and she is also a budding artist.

**Mackenzie B.** just received her blue belt in Tae-Kwon-Do. She also plays Fun Ball in the Spring.

**Ryan D.** is a Tiger Scout and also plays Fun Ball.

**Haley E.** takes dance lessons.

**Colby F.** received his High Green Belt in Tae Kwon Do in December.

**Nicholas G.** plays East Greenbush soccer and basketball. He also earned his Tiger Scout badge.

**Sarah I.** enjoys taking gymnastics and is getting good at many "moves"! She is working hard and having fun with cartwheels, trampoline work, high beam, bars, and balance routines.

**Olivia S.** has been dancing at Roz's Dance Works since she was 3 years old. She also plays T-Ball.

**Thomas S.** plays baseball and flag football.

**Russell S.** also plays baseball and flag football.

**Emily V.** started playing guitar and taking lessons at Rocky's this September. She loves it and is doing a great job. Emily is a member of a first grade Daisy troop. She is really enjoying it and making new friends. Recently Emily became a big sister – she loves her sister Lauren and helping to take care of her.

## GRADE TWO

**Thomas C.** plays Little League Baseball, soccer and enjoys karate.

**Sebastian G.** is the starting quarterback for his football team and plays hockey on the Mites. He also plays baseball, lacrosse, basketball, and takes piano lessons.

**Emma G.** takes horseback riding lessons, participates in the NYS Theater Arts program that teaches singing, dancing, and acting, and is a Brownie.

**Paul H.** is a member of the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys at All Saints Cathedral. Paul also plays baseball in Northern Columbia Little League and All Stars Academy.

**Mikayla L.** enjoys taking voice lessons at The Vocal Studio of Lisa Franklin. She performed her first singing solo and was part of a quartet at the Best of Broadway recital. Mikayla also loves participating in the school handbell choir, taking gymnastic lessons and being a girl scout. She also takes good care of her black and white cockapoo, Emily, and Fuzzy the guinea pig.

**Sarah L.** participates in handbells and plays East Greenbush soccer and Holy Spirit basketball.

**Sam L.** enjoys participating the New York State Theatre Institute drama class, as well as, garden club, running club, handbells, and Mighty Saints basketball.

**Katarina S.** just completed her first session taking gymnastics at KJ's. She can't wait to start her second session in the spring.

**Abby U.** is a member of the handbell choir with Mrs. Mulcahy and participates in Brownie and gymnastics.

### **GRADE THREE**

**Casey B.** is in her 5<sup>th</sup> year of dance at Robin's Dance Academy. She is in her third year of Brownie-Girl Scouts and a member of the Third grade basketball team at Holy Spirit School. She is also an altar server at Holy Spirit School parish.

**Zachary D.** plays grade 4 & 4 CYO basketball.

**Allison G.** takes tap and jazz class at Isabelle's School of Dance. She also plays for the Holy Spirit Grade 3 Basketball team. Allison received third place in the Book Fair Poster Contest – 2008 at Holy Spirit School.

**Alexandra M.** is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of dance class and her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a Brownie. She plays on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade basketball team and also is a member of the Handbell Choir at Holy Spirit School.

**Connor M.'s** extra-curricular activities include skiing, soccer, Little League baseball, swimming, gymnastics, Boy Scouts, and performing with Upstage Productions and the Hudson Opera House. Connor also performed in the nutcracker with the Albany Berkshire Ballet.

**Kayleigh M.'s** extra-curricular activities include ballet, dance (tap, jazz, hip-hop), gymnastics, swimming, skiing

and soccer. She is also enjoying acting with Upstage Productions and performing with the Albany Berkshire Ballet.

**Lilia P.** is an altar server. She is also a Girl Scout. Lilia enjoys being part of the Handbell Choir, Garden Club and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade basketball team at Holy Spirit School. She also participated in Mrs. Chestara's baking class. Lilia was a cast member in the Annie play.

**Ruth P.** is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of dance and in her 1<sup>st</sup> year of Handbells and Holy Spirit basketball. She enjoys horseback riding.

**Jenn P.** is in her second year of Handbells at Holy Spirit School and a member of the school choir. Jenna is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Girl Scouts. She was also very generous this year and donated 17 inches of her hair to "Locks of Love."

**Cora Lynn R.** has been dancing for 4 years, gymnastics for 1 year, Little League for 2 years and soccer for 2 years. She is just starting basketball.

**Billy R.** is a bear in Cub Scouts. He also plays the saxophone.

**Michael S.** has earned a green belt in Tae Kwon Do. He is working diligently to become a black belt someday. Michael also participates in Boy Scouts and is currently a Webelo. He has earned badges and awards in Whittling, Uniforms and Pinewood Derby. He participated in Scouting in collecting canned goods for our local food pantry.

**Adam W.** plays Holy Spirit School basketball on the grade 3 & 4 team. He enjoys running and participated in the KART program and Running Club at school. He likes to skateboard and swim.

**Mary H.** enjoys gymnastics. She placed first in the vault with a score of 9.35.

#### **GRADE FOUR**

**Becca L.** plays the flute and is on the Holy Spirit School Soccer team.

**Jack P.** is currently a blue belt in Tae Kwon Do and he is playing on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. He played on the Holy Spirit School 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade soccer team this past fall and is looking forward to playing baseball in the spring.

**Mary Rose P.** played soccer for the Holy Spirit 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade team this past fall and she is currently playing for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She is looking forward to playing her 4<sup>th</sup> season of softball this spring.

**Laura R.** is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of taking piano lessons. She also enjoys playing basketball and baseball.

**Sarah S.** sings in the Peace Choir through our community. She is helping to raise money for the orphans in Iraq.

**Cameron S.** has earned a high recommended black belt. He is an Honor student (A average). He plays on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team at Holy Spirit School and is also a member of the band. He belongs to Tri-Village Bow Hunters Club. Cameron received two perseverance awards through Tae Kwon Do.

**Kristy Y.** is in her second year of dance at Isabelle's and has begun voice lessons at the Vocal Studio of Lisa Franklin. She also played soccer for Holy Spirit this past fall. She is an avid theater performer having been in 5 plays in three years.

#### **GRADE FIVE**

**Christian E.** participated in fall soccer for the first time this year at Holy Spirit School and enjoyed it. He is currently playing basketball on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team. He played baseball over the

last spring/summer major league on the Nassau team and came in First place and received a trophy. Christian continues to play trumpet in band and has been invited to participate as part of the Honor Band. He also won first prize in the Poster/Book Mark contest for the Book Fair this year.

**Reid L.** has had a busy year. Reid attended a soccer camp over the summer and played baseball. In the fall, he participated in KART and played Pee Wee football. Reid is currently playing 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball. He is also doing odd jobs around the house to earn money. He is going to donate the money to the Smile Train. This organization provides surgery to correct cleft palates to children in third world countries. We are very proud of Reid and his hardwork!

**Tommy M.** played football in the fall for East Greenbush Pop Warner and really enjoyed it, He also enjoys playing basketball for Holy Spirit School.

**Judith N.** plays basketball for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade team at Holy Spirit School and is a member of the choir.

**Jacob P.** plays for the East Greenbush U12 Travel Soccer and also played for East Greenbush Pop Warner football this past fall. He is currently playing for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. Jacob also plays East Greenbush Youth Lacrosse and runs in the KART program at Holy Spirit School.

#### **GRADE SIX**

**Ethan D.** participates in Kokorokan Karate and Twin Town Little League. He also enjoys basketball, lacrosse and track. Ethan shot his first buck while hunting this year.

**Jacob L.** participates in East Greenbush soccer, Little League

Baseball and Holy Spirit School basketball.

**Robbie M.** is a member of the Grade 5-6 Boys Basketball team and soccer team at Holy Spirit School. He also plays Lacrosse and is on the East Greenbush Wrestling team. He is a member of the choir and band too.

**Lucy R.** sings in our parish choir and is helping her Girl Scout troop put food baskets together at the Nassau Resource Center on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### GRADE SEVEN

**Shayne B.** is a member of the grade 7 & 8 basketball team at Holy Spirit School. He is also an altar server at Holy Spirit Church.

### GRADE EIGHT

**Megan M.** is playing basketball for Holy Spirit and enjoys it. She is looking forward to tennis with Mrs. Colangione in the Spring.

**Robyn Y.** participated in the New York State Theatre Institute, plays soccer for Greenbush Soccer, basketball for Holy Spirit School and takes Modern Dance.

