

**BREAKFAST SERVED AT HOLY
SPIRIT SCHOOL FOR
K-8**

On Tuesday, October 5, 2010, Mrs. Chestara will begin serving breakfast for those children who wish to have breakfast at school. You are welcome to pre-order it or buy it day to day.

Below are the choices so far. I will change it according to the seasons and the preferences of the children as we go through the year.

<u>Menu</u>	
Cereal with milk*	\$1.50
Juice	\$.50
Fresh Fruit	\$.75
Toast (2 slices)	\$1.00
Toast (2 slices with peanut butter)	\$1.50

*Cereal choices are Cheerios, Rice Krispies and Frosted Mini Wheat.

Place child's name, grade, and menu choice in an envelope and return it to the school kitchen.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Students will be electing representatives and alternates to represent grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the council. The Student Council is the student leadership group which will be involved in a variety of activities and programs throughout the school year. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th. At this meeting the council members will be discussing the functions of the group, goals for the year, and a meeting schedule. The Student Council will continue to play an important role in a supportive, leadership manner.

VIRTUS TRAINING

Any one who wishes to volunteer at Holy Spirit School in any capacity is required to attend Virtus Training. Virtus training will be held at Holy Spirit School on **Thursday, October 14th at 6:30pm.**

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

We are participating in the Tools for Schools Program sponsored by Price Chopper again this year. Please help us by sending in your ten-digit **AdvantEdge Card number**, **“Attention: Mrs. Raven.”** The program runs through February 12th. We earn tape value points from each card registered and can redeem them to purchase educational equipment for our classrooms.

Price Chopper is also offering a special “Meal Deal” to help schools earn more tape value points this year. We earn an additional 250 points for each Meal Deal purchased on Wednesdays until February 12th.

We currently have 477 shoppers signed up to support Holy Spirit School! The more shoppers we sign up, the better our chances are of winning additional prizes. Thank you for your continued support!

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The yearbook committee is now accepting your photos for inclusion in our 2010-2011 yearbook. We will accept photos until February 2011. 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.

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!

The Junior Off Broadway Saints are proud to present an original play, *"The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk"* on November 9, 2010 at 1:30 and 6:30pm in the school gym! This amusing new twist on an old tale is sure to bring a smile to your face as you watch the talented first and second graders bring this story to life!

CAST MEMBERS:

Narrator: Tommy Y.
Jack: Jack U.
Jack's Mother: Annie P.
Papa Bear: Gabe L.
Mama Bear: Renee P.
Baby Bear: Emma D.

Goldilocks: Emma H.
Big Bad Wolf: Makayla M.
Little Bo Peep: Lily S.
Little Red Riding Hood: Carissa Rose P.
Fairy Godmother: Lauren P.
Tooth Fairy: Maeve N.
Easter Bunny: Renee P.
Santa Claus: Nicholas F.
Elf #1: Jordan G.
Elf #2: Timothy B.
Townsperson #1: Natalie G.
Townsperson #2: Kyle M.
Townsperson #3: Emma C.
Townsperson #4: Sinead C.
Mr. Mayor: Evan W.
Mrs. Mayor: Carissa Rose P.
Mayor's Daughter: Amelia K.
Mayor's Son: Gabe L.

****Special Assistants to the Directors****
Lucy R., Abby U., Sam L., Sarah L.,
Amy U.

SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM

Holy Spirit School banking program will take place every **Friday** this year. If your child has an account with **Holy Spirit First Niagara Bank** please send deposits on that day. If your child does not have an account and you wish to open one please see Mrs. Ritz for a form.

MANDATORY BASKETBALL COACHES MEETING on **October 19th** 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 21st 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:

Lauren G. – October 11th
Vincent G. – October 27th

DAY CARE FOUR YEAR OLDS

We've had a wonderful start to the new school year! We would like to welcome Ms. Julie, Ms. Stephanie, and our new students!

The monthly themes for September were Apples, School Tools and Rules, Manners, and Friendship. The children learned the letters A,B,C,D and the numbers 1,2,3. They painted apples and created fun projects to decorate the classroom. They enjoyed an interesting visit to the school library and were very excited to take home their first library book! The children are very proud to be a part of the "BIG KID" classroom!

Happy Birthday to:

Brenna M. – October 16th

NURSERY

Nursery school is great! We still get to play with toys, but now we have new friends too! We love gym and the "park" (playground). We have been working hard on school work too! We painted an apple tree, but we didn't use a paint brush. We used Q-Tips. We also made apple hand puppets and read a poem about them way up high in a tree. We made apple pies and peeled apples with a special peeler. We glued together an apple dancing puppet. We love glue. We can't wait for more to come.

Happy Birthday to:

Tommy D. – October 1st
Daniel R. – October 17th

PRE-K NEWS

It only took a short time for Pre-K to get accustomed to school. We



are learning classroom routines and making friends. We have been writing the letter A. We read a story about an Alligator baby that was very silly, and we learned about Johnny Appleseed and how he planted lots of apple trees. We cut and glued our own ants and sang about Marching Ants with Mrs. Leverone. We made our own apple pies and found out there is a stem inside every apple! We love gym with Mr. G and the playground. We look forward to more fun!

Happy Birthday to:

Alex S. – September 9th

Alexander S. – September 11th

Calan S. – October 1st

Genevieve S. – October 4th

Andrew G. – October 27th

**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 men’s, women’s, and children’s
prescription glasses and non-
prescription sunglasses. They will be
recycled and given to people – young
and old - who need them*

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 with Columbus and celebrating that most exciting holiday – HALLOWEEN.

Belated Birthday to:

Nathan J. – September 27th

Caroline S. – October 28th

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.

In math we are reviewing number writing and learning how to compare numbers using the signs $<$, $=$, $>$. We are also learning ordinal numbers from 1st to 10th. 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 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:

Brandon S. – September 14th

Mary J. – September 27th

Maeve N. – October 24th

GRADE 2 NEWS

The second graders are off to a terrific start! They are adapting well to the daily routines in second grade. It's hard to believe a month has gone by already! We would like to extend a special welcome to Simran Sahota and her family who have joined our Holy Spirit School family this year.

We are currently reviewing the basic addition and subtraction facts in math. We have been racing against the clock doing mad minutes and using a couple of websites to become better with our math facts.

We have written short autobiographies, autumn tales, and are looking forward to writing Halloween stories. We have also been reading various types of literature and learning about the different kinds of sentences soon.

The second graders are eager to learn. We are looking forward to a great year in second grade!

A Happy Birthday to:

Carissa P.- September 22nd

Simran S. – October 16th

GRADE 3 NEWS

During the summer, Mrs. Ferrara attended an all day seminar/workshop entitled “Differentiated Instruction in the Elementary Classroom” sponsored by the Albany Diocese and Research Works.

Grade 3 has gotten off to a great start! They are practicing their addition and subtraction facts in preparation for the introduction of multiplication. They are expanding their vocabularies and reading skills, been introduced to the way scientists classify all living and non-living things in our world, and a more in-depth study of animals with and without backbones.

Mrs. Ferrara would like to thank so many Grade 3 families for attending the Open House, especially Mrs. Gabriel, Mrs. Silvernail, and Mrs. Alexander who volunteered to be room mothers. We are looking forward to an exciting school year.

A Happy Birthday to:

Ryan D. – October 1st

Braden F. – October 12th

GRADE 4 NEWS

Mrs. Antalek continues to work towards her MBA this semester.

This month we'll begin reading My Side of the Mountain, by Jean Craighead – George. In Science, we'll be learning about Ecosystems. In Social Studies, we'll be studying Native Americans of NYS and doing many hands-on activities to enhance our learning. In math, we'll learn about input/output charts, open number

sentences, and begin our study of multiplication. In Religion, we'll continue to talk about God's gifts to us and begin to think about a 4th grade holiday service project. If you have ideas or can volunteer to help our, please contact Mrs. A.

Happy Birthday to:
Paul H. – October 25th

GRADE 5 NEWS

Fifth grade is off to a great start. We have settled nicely into our routines and things are going smoothly.

Our focus in Reading is challenges. All our stories will have characters that overcome special problems in their lives.

We have started a plant unit in science. We are learning about plant parts and processes.

In Social Studies we are reviewing Map Skills and geography. Even though there is no New York State Test this year, we will review and practice test taking skills.

Our focus in Math will be on decimals. We will review the four operations but with decimals. Problem solving will also be reviewed and practiced each week.

Our unit in Religion revolves around God's gifts to us. We will be talking about special people, places, and things that are important to us.

Remember to study for Reading and Spelling tests each week. Reading logs are due each Monday.

Have a great October. We will be leading Prayer Service on October 29th and Mass on November 1st.

Happy Birthday to:

Billy R. – October 11th

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Middle School is off to a great start. 6th grade has adjusted nicely. Thank you to all the parents that attended the open house. Please continue to read the Middle School packet and contact us if you have any questions.

From Mrs. Voellm

Math 6 did a great job reviewing decimals. They also reviewed the different properties such as commutative, distributive, identity, associative and zero. We also completed algebraic expressions and will continue on with equations.

Advanced Math 6 has done a great job with integers. They have added, subtracted/multiplied, and divided integers. We have also worked on properties. We will be moving on with equations, exponents, and order of operations.

Math 7 has done a wonderful job with integers. They have also worked on scientific notation, LCM, GCF and rational numbers. We will continue on with laws of exponents.

Advanced Math 7 has reviewed all integer rules. They have also mastered scientific notation with negative exponents. They will continue on with the rules for multiplying and dividing exponents.

Math 8 has worked hard on rules for multiplying and dividing exponents. They are also evaluating expressions using order of operations including positive and negative exponents.

Algebra has worked on exponents, order of operations, set notation, and function rules. They will

also work on graphing function rules and scatter plots.

Happy Birthday to:

Cameron S. – September 9th

Jaclene R.- September 16th

Bryan E. – September 21st

Laura R. – September 25th

Sarah S. – October 26th

From Mrs. Stone

Eighth Grade Writing/Grammar

The students and I have begun the year with discussions of word choice as the primary path to raising the level of diction in their written work. They have been asked to try to identify the difference in their writing now from what it was in fourth and fifth grade. We soon determined “dictional choice” is the primary difference. We are also working very seriously on verb choices; since verbs are the strongest class of words, their selection and specificity drive writing.

One on-going assignment will be an analysis of a newspaper/magazine article every week. The assignment requires the selection of an article which interests them. They are asked to summarize the article and then offer observations and opinions on what they have read. I will send these home for you to review but I would ask that they be returned so that our growth as writers from week to week may be specific in its review.

The National Council of Teachers of English has recently suggested that teachers encourage students to receive magazines on a regular basis. Whatever their interest often serves as a springboard for reading and thinking; reading newspapers is also a valuable habit to encourage in your

students. We will receive the Evangelist every week in class and use it for several assignments.

From Mrs. Kennedy

Middle School English

Eighth Grade Homeroom- The future Class of 2011 is looking forward to a year filled with memorable experiences and opportunities for leadership. On Friday, September 24, the students traveled to Pyramid Lake in Paradox, NY, where they engaged in a number of teambuilding and leadership training exercises. We also discussed various ways in which the class can share their newfound leadership skills with the rest of the school. On Friday, October 1, the eighth graders will be pinned as leaders of the school at their special induction liturgy and ceremony at 9 am in the church. We look forward to a great year!

Literature 6- Students have been exploring their first unit of study, “Friendship,” through reading stories and writing about what it means to be a true friend. Students have so far learned that an animal can be just as loyal of a friend as a human being can. Students will continue reading literature, writing pieces, and engaging in discussions based on this theme.

Literature 7- In one class, students have been exploring the theme “Moments of Insight” through reading literature about individuals who have had sudden, crucial epiphanies about their lives or the lives of their loved ones. This theme provides for much reflective and thought provoking writing and discussion. In the other class, students have been delving into the theme “Finding Oneself.” Thus far, students have enjoyed a story about boys

who try to impress girls by scowling and lying about their true talents, which has entertained us thoroughly. Students can relate to this theme very easily as we discuss and write in class.

Literature 8- Both classes are exploring the theme “Quest for Justice.” Students have read about Charlie in “Flowers for Algernon” and his exciting, but sad journey to achieve equality. Students will continue to read and write about characters who strive to attain justice under challenging circumstances. This theme provides for a number of inspiring writing assignments, as well as insightful discussions.

Happy Birthday to:
Amelia S.- October 21st

From Mr. Mahoney
Middle School Science

Earth Science

We are beginning the year with an introduction to atoms and chemistry, the building blocks of everything around us! Rocks and minerals will be our focus during October. Students will engage in their first team project relating to rocks and minerals of their interest.

Life Science

Our year has begun with a study of ecology, the interaction of the living and nonliving components of the world around us! Students will have a team project in which they will design an imaginary ecosystem (conforming to real science) and analyze the impact of an insult (water pollution, atomic fallout, parasitic invasion) upon their ecosystem.

Physical Science

We've started the year with an exploration of atoms and states of matter, the foundations of chemistry and

the universe itself. The month of October will continue with chemical reactions! Students are beginning work on a team project, to design and sell a novel product based on the intelligent use of certain chemical elements.

From Mrs. Valley
Earth Science

Our school year got off to a great start! We have already completed our first unit, Introductory Materials. This unit had us: 1) review the proper use of measurement tools, 2) practice the important tasks of observation, inference, and classification and 3) review the measurements and calculations required to identify a material's density. We are presently finishing a unit on graphing random and cyclical changes in our environment. During October we will begin our third unit, Measuring the Earth. Our students are becoming pros at completing formal lab reports! Great work!

Mrs. Valley is completing a course through the SUNY Learning Network, “Introduction to Classroom Literacy”. She intends to apply course content in her own class by practicing literacy skills with the reading and analysis of scientific current event articles.

From Mrs. Leverone
Middle School Religion

Grade 6 I am very excited to work with our newest members of our Middle School. Our Sixth Graders are happy and energetic, just what I like to see in Religion class. We begin the year with stories of faith, the first being of Moses and Miriam. We studied the song and dance that Miriam led after the

Israelites crossed the Red Sea. You can find this in Exodus 15.

Grade 7 begins the year with the study of *Church and Sacraments*. Thank you to Fr. O'Brien for visiting our class and answering many questions about the ordained ministry. We pray for all vocations to the ordained ministry, consecrated life, married life, and single life.

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 1 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 are beginning the study of *Church History* and the Twelve Apostles.

October is the Month of the Rosary. All Students will need a rosary in Religion class for the month of October.

Do you know your patron saint?

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)

4th- St. Francis of Assisi

7th-Our Lady of the Rosary

15th- St. Teresa of Avila

17th-St. Ignatius of Antioch

28th- St Simon and Jude, Apostles

"What matters in life are not great deeds, but great love."
~St. Therese, *The Little Flower*

From Mrs. Giabanis

Social Studies 6- Currently we are exploring the Stone Age and learning about the Beginnings 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.

From Mrs. Colangione
Middle School Spanish and Grammar

Grammar 6&7

How fortunate our students are to really learn how our language works, and how to communicate well, both verbally and written, with English. Also, through grammar, the students supplement their reading for comprehension opportunities and develop more advanced skills to speak well and to write with more skill and accuracy. Excellent grammar is not

developed or learned in isolation. It is a part of “communication” in our daily learning, daily life, and daily school experience.

In both classes we will be focusing on the correct usage of our language, the acquisition, understanding and use of new vocabulary, our reading and speaking of English, and specific grammatical concepts through practice exercises and usage.

Vocabulary is assigned on a regular basis along with grammatical activities at the appropriate level, be it grade 6 or grade 7. The long range plan for the students’ learning will be to use and to transfer what’s learned in order to advance their skill level with various means of communication – listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course will be delivered in a collaborative manner with other aspects of English Language Arts.

Spanish

The **Grade 6** students are working on numerous expressions for greetings. In addition, they are taking lots of notes from the board and focusing on listening to each other for correct pronunciation. They have also been reviewing and learning the usage of question verbs, questions using those words and the answers for each question. Grammatical concepts are being incorporated during the lesson as well. The students are working on using subjects and learning the parts of “er” verbs, as well as other subject/verb combinations. The daily usage of their notebooks and assignment notebooks is very important for the students’ success. The grade 6 students are working well at meeting the “Spanish” challenges.

This year the **Grade Seven** students will be doing activities promoting more speaking and conversing which will lend to another level of proficiency with verbal communication. They will be asking and answering questions, reading written selections in Spanish and answering questions in Spanish based on the readings, and developing conversations with peer partners. We are presently studying the unit on Personal Identification which has a wealth of vocabulary that can be used daily and for a variety of activities as well as everyday conversations. In addition to this unit of study, the students are learning how to form the past tense and its usage in written and verbal activities. The class has also been reviewing, by using, question words, questions and answers daily. We’re all having a lot of fun with our “partner conversations”.

The **Grade Eight** have been working daily on their listening and speaking. They have been developing more advanced dialogues which require vocabulary knowledge, question word usage, listening and pronunciation skills. As they progress with these skills and activities they will be developing their proficiency with the target language. In addition, the students have been studying a new unit on Physical Environment and have been reviewing the unit on Personal Identification. The vocabulary in both units is very practical and can be used on a daily basis. The students are also studying grammatical aspects about Spanish. They are learning some of the different tenses, including present which they know, past which they are learning, and future which they will be learning.

ART NEWS

Pre-K has created a peacock from our handprints. We dipped a hand in red, yellow, and orange tempera paint and circled a bird body cut from colored paper. Eyes, beak, and bird feet were the finishing touches!

Kindergarten has just finished a beautiful ice cream cone in crayon, marker, and colored paper. Each child chose favorite flavors and topped the treat with chocolate syrup, sprinkles, and a cherry. A print of each child's hand reaching for the ice cream was our final step done in red tempera paint.

A baby owl sitting on a branch and surrounded by white stars is the subject **Grade One** is working on now. The owl each child has drawn is pencil has marker and crayon colored feathers with "God's colors" (as they appear in real life). Little leaves cut from green construction paper complete this project.

A yellow leopard with glowing eyes and tiny black spots is the focal point of our project in **Grade Two**. The collage features stick on stars with a halo of oil pastels that peak through a background of torn paper "grass".

The children in **Grade Three** are making fold over prints mixing the primary colors and white tempera paints to create flower blossoms. We cut out the blooms and glued stems and leaves onto a black background. The results are striking.

Many different types of whales are the focal point of **Grade Four's** under water scenes. A sunken ship, octopus, starfish, and treasure chest make up the remainder of our crayon resist project. The final step will be painting over the heavy crayon with blue watercolors. The crayon colors "pop" through!

Grade Five has been working on a marker and crayon piece featuring a fall colored leaf against a background of each child's creation. These brightly colored pieces are very beautiful. Like the falling leaves no two are alike!

A patterned hand is the subject **Grade Six** has been working on. Each child has traced their hand looking at our "life lines" added folds in marker to the fingers and palms. Each section created is treated to a different pattern in marker, crayon, or colored pencil. We cut out the hands and will glue them to construction papers that create the best contrast for each hand.

Grade Seven is working on cat clown drawings. Beginning with a circle tracer we have worked up a kitty face with individual clown makeup in marker and/or crayon.

A fold over tempera paint print of an insect or flower is the beginning of this project for **Grade Eight**. The dried prints are colored with oil pastels. The results are soft and beautiful.

COMPUTER LAB NEWS

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 use the user name **grade1** for a student in first grade. **Password is the**

same as user name. District is: holy spirit – greenbush.

They are also learning how to be safe online using the website

Grade Six is learning how to use the drawing tools that are offered in Microsoft Programs. First they will learn basic drawing skills. Then they will learn more advanced features such as flipping and rotating. They are having fun learning these skills which can later be incorporated in their book reports, research papers etc.

Grade Seven is doing a research project about “Great Explorers.” They are choosing two explorers that they are studying in Social Studies class and creating a Power Point Slide Show about them. This is an integrated Social Studies and Technology assignment.

Grade Eight is creating a Power Point Slide Show entitled “**What I Did on My Summer Vacation.**” They are learning to use the scanner to include pictures of their trip. Students will also include a map with directions to their vacation and explain various historical points of interest.

MUSIC NEWS

It was so nice to see the students return this fall! Our music room is already back in full swing with singing, motion, and playing instruments! Our Kindergarten class has learned several songs welcoming them to our new school, and we have enjoyed "partner songs" with lots of fun movements.

We are going to begin playing Orff instruments shortly. The children look at them longingly every time they walk in the room!

The **First Grade** class is also

singing songs that involve back to school, and fall. We will be singing fun Halloween songs before we know it!

In **Second Grade**, we are about to begin a unit on rhythms. The students will learn various beats, such as quarter notes and eighth notes, and will learn how to play them. A unit on the rainforest accompanies this, where creatures of the rainforest are assigned beats. This is a fun way for students to remember what rhythms they are looking at, and how they sound.

The **Third Grade and Fourth Grade** classes are playing their recorders already. Almost all students are prepared, but I am still waiting for one or two recorders to come to school. Third Graders have already learned how to read notes on the Treble Clef, and they are now beginning to play those notes on the recorder. The Fourth Grade is reviewing technique and note-reading from last year, and will soon be given new and more challenging music.

The **Fifth Grade** class started the year with a Latin song called We Are Making Music, where they did just that--played percussive beats with various instruments. We are also going to sing songs as solos or small groups. I am already enjoying their beautiful voices.

The **Sixth Grade** class is working on a unit of rhythm called Stomp Boom Blast. We are taking various household items and playing them in groups. A CD will accompany us when we get a rhythm down.

The **Seventh Grade** class is currently learning about music in the Middle Ages. This begins our unit on music history. We will quickly move to the Baroque and Classical time periods, and cover composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven.

The **Eighth Grade** class is composing their own music, and we will play the compositions on our Orff instruments. We are also going to be singing, especially in small groups.

If your child has signed up for Handbells, a practice schedule will be sent home at their first rehearsal. I look forward to working with the Beginning and Advanced groups!

PHYSICAL AND WELLNESS EDUCATION

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 testing 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 every day. These movement 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 welcoming to your community. I appreciate it. Hope to see you soon.

K-5 SPANISH NEWS

Welcome all to a great year 2010-2011. Bienvenidos!

Kindergarten is off to a great start. They are adjusting very well to our routine. We are practicing "Bueno dias", good morning and learning colors.

Grade One students did a nice job learning the greeting in Spanish, recalling "What is your name?", and working with worksheets.

Grades Two and Three have had a great start with greetings, practicing questions, and answering them. They are working with worksheets from the unit and word searches. They are doing a fantastic job!

Grades Four and Five have started the book, "Exploring Spanish". They are working on Unit 1 vocabulary words, practicing pronunciation, and exercises from the book.

PARENT/SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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 16th during our Family Dinner.** If you have any questions about the fundraiser, please call Jennifer Y., Patty E., or Christine I.

Please mark your calendar for the following events:

- **Monday, October 4th**: PSA meeting at 6:45 in the Rectory.
- **Thursday, October 14th** : Running club begins.
- **Saturday, October 16th** : 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 Ms. Cowling'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 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 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.

PICTURES NEEDED FOR FAMILY LITURGY

Once again as the entertainment portion of the Family Liturgy Night, PSA is planning on producing a video of the past year at Holy Spirit. Any pictures (electronic digital media) of events at the school last year that would like included, please burn to a CD and drop off at the School Front Desk or email to Wendy Pulver (jpiddock@nycap.rr.com) by October 6th.

BINGO/BELL JAR NEWS

The new Bingo year started July 1st, so we are about a quarter through the year. We are off to a good start, as evident by our averaging 130 players a night. Given the economy and the importance that Bingo/Bell Jars has in assisting the PSA raise funds, this is great to see.

A special thanks to all the families assigned to bingo. Your turn out has been fantastic with very few absences and when issues have arisen (i.e. a bad mike) you have all been very courteous and professional. The players notice; one of the reasons attendance has not fallen as it has at other bingo sites.

Fact of the Month:

Approximately \$200,000 in prize money between Bingo and Bell Jars.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Currently, the Committee is focused on three areas; Marketing, Endowment, and Alumni Database. To reflect this, the committee has formed three subcommittees, one for each area.

We have also created a committee to assist new families in the

school; particularly in the Kindergarten and First Grades.

Anyone is welcome to attend the Committee meetings. They are scheduled for 6:45 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month; the next being October 21st.

If you have any questions please contact one of the co-chairs; John P., Heidi F., and Mary Lou C.