

February Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It always amazes me how fast the academic year goes by. We can hardly keep up with the speed of time! It is already the end of February and spring is near. Our school and our students continue to grow and develop in marvelous ways. God continues to bless us with his loving guidance and care as we try to live according to His plan. Prayer and action is the order of the day so please enjoy this wonderful news from our school.

Facilities Update: The renovation of the conference room has been completed and Nurse Cathi's new office and school clinic are also ready. She says that it is like moving into a "mansion on the hill with a view". Indeed our students feel much better when they go to see her in this new location. We have ordered new furniture for our classrooms grades 1st through 7th. It will be delivered in time for the next school year. The faculty and staff lounge and copy room are on schedule to be renovated during winter break. By the time you receive this letter, our faculty and staff should be enjoying their new rooms. They deserve it! And last but not least, we continue planning the renovation of our Middle School Science Laboratory. As you may know from the letter that I sent earlier this month, Fr. Dariusz has suggested that this year's proceeds from the Parish/School Raffle go towards the cost of this project. You will be receiving information after winter break.

Catholic Schools Week: All the activities planned for Catholic Schools Week, beginning with the Character Breakfast to benefit our RISEN Program, and ending with the Basketball Jamboree, were a great success. Parents, students, teachers and staff had great fun! We want to thank all of the people that worked so hard to make this Catholic Schools Week so wonderful: the RISEN staff and pool of dedicated volunteers for the Character Breakfast, Mrs. Doyle and Mrs. Powden for the school activities during the week, and the members of our Athletic Board for the great Basketball Jamboree. I also want to thank Mrs. Maleno, for being the MC at the fabulous Variety Show, and to Mrs. Pescatello and Mrs. Shine for their assistance in this activity. We had many talented students participating. I also want to thank all of the students that represented our school in all of the Sacred Heart Church Masses the weekend before Catholic Schools Week. Our students, proudly wearing their uniform, participated in the many ministries of the Mass with confidence. Their presence enriched our liturgical celebration.

Open House: The Open House for new families scheduled for Wednesday, January 28th, was rescheduled due to inclement weather. It took place on Wednesday, February 4th. We had 30 families in attendance and some have already registered for next year! I would like to thank our school faculty and staff, participating 8th grade student ambassadors, and members of the different parish and school organizations for helping make it a great success. We heard many good comments, especially about our student ambassadors. They were in charge of greeting and guiding our guests, signing them in, and conducted 13 tours of the school that night. They played a key role in recruiting new students and we are grateful and proud for their contributions.

Middle School News: The 6th graders are once again the winners of the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of January. In addition, 26 Middle School students received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record. They are Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Sofie Clark, Shannon Forrester, Patrick Griffin, Briana Kleiner, Kathleen Kuchembrod, Francesca Matira, Ellie McCarthy, Joey Warmus, Justin Bell, Alyssa Daneault, Kelsey Ellery, Brigid Horan, Xavier Mills, Andy Thomasco, Katie Bosetti, Claire Bowdy, Justin Cavitt, Rachel Frazzo, Joe Granatosky, Meredith Haluga, Katie McCarthy, Pattie Poitras, Iesha Preston and Julia Scott. Congratulations!

The 8th Advanced Math students participating in Mathcounts Club Program did a great job at the Mathcounts Eastern Chapter Competition, which took place last Saturday, February 7th at the Coast Guard Academy. They were Victor Calle, Justin Cavitt, Joseph Granatosky, Dominic Jengo, Katie McCarthy and Julia Scott.

Elementary School News: We would like to recognize Ben Godley and Luis Ortega, 4th grade students who will be starting a school Newspaper Club for grades 3 to 5. I would like to thank Mrs. Hamanaka and Mrs. Doyle and Mrs. Fleury for agreeing to be the sponsors of this new extracurricular activity.

Other News: Congratulations to Mrs. Julie Sparks, our Pre-K 4 and Art teacher. She was awarded a grant from the Groton Education Foundation in the amount of \$480.00 to support her proposal of a Digital Camera Program for our school.

We would like to welcome Mr. Steve Sheridan, our new PE teacher. Mr. Sheridan's credentials include a Bachelor in Physical Education and a Master in Education. In addition to his teaching certification, he is also certified to coach and CPR trained. And the kids already love him!

We have been informed that the ARC of New London County, the organization renting the Margaret Mary Center, has already moved in. They will be dropping off their students in the circle behind the Margaret Mary Center. For this reason, we are kindly asking our families not to park around or behind this building. As always you are welcome to park in our huge parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation as we welcome our new neighbors.

Due to the fact that our volunteer webmaster will not be available for a few weeks, we have not been able to announce inclement weather school delays and closings on our website. However, weather information can be obtained by calling the school and pressing **15** (no, your not confused, we had to change it) for the important announcements voicemail. This information will be placed on our voicemail immediately after we hear from Groton Public Schools (usually around 5:30 AM), as we follow their schedule. As always we announce delays and closings on TV channels 3, 30 and 61 as well as in many local radio stations (please check our website for the complete list of radio stations). We are currently trying to make the arrangements to announce on TV channel 8 as well. We will keep you informed.

I want to thank all of the students for their numerous loving gestures and tokens related to the celebration of Valentines Day. My heart warmed up and my mind could not believe how much love was demonstrated towards all of the members of our school community. Please know that we love each and everyone of you back. Your presence enriches our lives, giving us joy and purpose. As we enter into the Lenten Season, may we grow in our desire to follow the One who loved us the most. And may nothing stop us from loving Him back with all of our heart.

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle