

May Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It seems surreal to me that I am writing the last newsletter of the year. I remember so vividly the mixture of apprehension and excitement that I felt while writing my first newsletter. I wanted it to include everything happening in our school. In looking back, throughout all my newsletters I see a vibrant school, full of life and with an incredible variety of activities and accomplishments. Every single season celebrated, our values promoted, our community involved, our students recognized, every opportunity embraced. Back in September, I remember thinking "I hope I have enough to write about in these newsletters." Little did I know that I would be finding myself writing and re-writing each time trying to say things as concisely as possible so that it would not be that long. I always had so much to share with you! And this time, I will not disappoint you either.

Enrollment and Registration Since April 20, we have welcomed three new students to our school. We are now at 220 students! It is hard to believe that in these economic times, when so many other Catholic schools are facing challenges, our school is actually growing.

Raffle: So far our school has brought in \$18,380 in raffle tickets sales. Our teams from the different churches have sold an additional \$7,093 for a grand total of \$25,473. The results of our last collection date, on Tuesday, 5/26, will be announced by Mrs. James. Check her exciting news. We are planning an Awards Ceremony of our school students to announce the top selling students, class, etc. and for the drawing of the free tuition for next year among the families that sold two or more raffle ticket books. Remember that raffle drawing will be on Saturday, May 30st, after the 4:30 Mass. The Guild has asked for volunteers to help prepare a reception to celebrate this wonderful event. Please, contact Dave Singleton if you wish to volunteer. All our families are invited to attend.

Middle School News: The 6th graders have won the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of April but followed so very closely by the 8th grade. Both grades were granted a celebration. A record 34 Middle School students received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record.

The Sacred Heart Stewards Club will be sending the rosaries that they have been making throughout the year to St. Margaret Catholic Church in Apapa Lagos State, Nigeria. They have gone trans-continental! Congratulations to our Stewards for their amazing journey of growth and service this year. They are a fine example of Christian awareness, charity and compassion.

Middle School went on a fieldtrip to Boston Museum of Science and to Bunker Hill Monument on Thursday, April 20th. It was a fabulous day! And if we don't go on a field trip, the field trip comes to us. Specialists from the Mystic Aquarium visited our Middle School on Tuesday April 28th and May 5th. The following exercises were offered to our students (two per grade): Long Island Sound and Discovering Freshwater for grade 6, Animal Classification and Squid Dissection (demonstration) for grade 7, and Squid Dissection (demonstration) and Environmental Extremes for grade 8. And some field trips are quite the treat for the senses. Sra. Nick took her 8th grade Spanish class to Milagro Mexican Restaurant in Stonington Borough. They ordered their delicious meals in Spanish! We found out that "mmm, mmm!" is a bilingual expression.

On Friday, May 8th, our grade 8 students went on an all day retreat to St. Agnes Church. This retreat was a joint collaboration between SHS Campus Ministry, SHC DRE, and Saint Bernard School Campus Ministry, and conducted mostly by SBS Seniors. This new initiative was designed to spiritually prepare our students for their next step in life: high school! When we asked our students how was the retreat their response was: "MAD AWESOME!" I take that as a good sign. ☺

Elementary School News: Our third grade students, led by Ms. Santangelo submitted poems to Creative Communications, for their Spring Poetry Contest. Recently they received a letter that all of their poems qualified and will be published in their anthology A Celebration of Poets. In addition, our school will be recognized in this anthology with a Poetic Achievement Award, an honor given to the top 10% school that enter the contest. Congratulations to our third grade students on this great achievement!

Our 5th grade Science Fair on April 20th was a great success. All of our students visited them and listened as the 5th graders proudly presented their projects. I know of a certain principal who happens to love science that spent almost the entire afternoon immersed in this scientific extravaganza.

Last April 22nd, in honor of Earth Day Celebration, Courtney Rose, a 5th grade student donated a tree to be planted. She asked our students to pick a name for the tree. Last Friday, May 22nd, we had a ceremony to plant the tree and announce the winning name. Our students named the tree Oatmeal.

Second grade students did their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 9th and crowned Mary in a beautiful ceremony during our school Mass last Friday, May 15th. Congratulations to our students on such a momentous occasion! May you always be as excited to receive Jesus in the Eucharist and as full of grace as you were on that glorious day.

I will suggest to the U.S. Congress to proclaim May as National Field Trip Month. On May 14th, the third grade went on a field trip to the Mashantucket Museum and Research Center. Archeologist Dr. Jason Mancini took them behind the scenes to show them how artifacts are found, collected and prepared. This activity is not open to the public. On May 20th, the 4th and 5th grades went to Sturbridge Village to have first hand experience of life in a New England town in the 1700's. And last, but not least, on May 21st, the 1st and 2nd grades went to the Garde Theater for an exciting performance of Junie B. Jones. They had great fun and the best seats in the house, front and center.

Athletics: Our Track and Field program is going very well. They had their first meet against Cutler Middle School and Fitch Middle School last Monday, May 11th. Many of our students set new personal records. The next meet will be on Monday June 1st. Coach Sheridan would like to thank Mrs. Sheryl McCarthy who is doing a great job as Assistant Coach, Mrs. Carol Rose, who has come in a few times to help with long distance runners and cool-down stretches, Mrs. Amy Ward, who has also been giving great tips to the athletes so that they improve and to Mrs. Nan Gibeault, for taking great pictures at the meet.

Donations: It is with great joy that we announce that we have been selected to receive some very generous donations. Our school has been selected to be the recipient of the Richard J. MacKenzie Trust Fund. The Trust Board awarded SHS \$9,801.23 to our school to be used as needed. In addition, Mr. Fulton, owner of Fulton-Theroux Funeral Home in New London has announced that donations given in memory of his great aunt, Mrs. Margaret "Peggy" Ragona, will be awarded to SHS Science Lab project.

Changes for Next Year: To maintain current financial stability and better use of our resources the following changes will be implemented for next academic year: All Day Pre-K 4 – Mrs. Sparks, One Kindergarten – Mrs. Fleury, One First Grade – Mrs. Powden, Two Second Grades – Mrs. Maleno and Mrs. Doyle, Art/Assistant Principal – Mrs. Griffin. Classes will be capped at 25 students except for Pre-K 4, which will be capped at 20.

Other News: Congratulations to Francesca Matira (6-P) for her creation of the winning design for next year's marathon's T-shirt. The other marathon design class representatives were Halley Woodard (K-F), Avanthi Kurukulasuriya (K-G), Michael Reilly (1-D), Jordana Doshna (1-P), Grace Doyle (2-M), Anna Wolk (3-S), Edyta Wolk (4-K), Kiana Foster-Mauro (5-F), and Andy Thomasco (7-W). What an impressive display of talent and creativity! Our students sure had a hard time deciding which design they wanted to vote for.

Pfizer Science Day is coming back! It will be on Monday, June 1st. I would like to thank Mrs. Ketti Terry for organizing this activity this year. She joins me in thanking the following Pfizer colleagues and/or SHS parents for volunteering their time and effort in this great activity: Agustin Casimiro-Garcia, Colleen Doshna, Ron Foular, Lise & Chris Hoth, Chris O'Donnell, Rusty Poe, Karen Walters, Peter Rose, George Horan and Mary Rose Matira.

Reminders: Please check the June Calendar in this newsletter for all the activities and changes.

Parish Festival will take place on June 4th – 7th. Information has been sent home. Please, sign in for volunteering. It counts toward school volunteer hours.

Library books need to be returned before the end of the year. Please, check your child's book bag, room, and anywhere else where they may have forgotten one. Thank you!

As you can see, wonderful things are happening in our school. It is a true testament to what our school has to offer to our students, their families and our community. If you wish more people to know about this, I invite you to submit a brief review of our school at the following suggested web sites: www.greatschools.net and www.trulia.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as principal of SHS. I have been overwhelmed with work but also by your willingness to help and your wonderful demonstrations of support. Thank you!!! But most of all, I have been blessed with the company of your beautiful children and a dedicated and talented faculty and staff. May you all have a safe and fun summer. See you back in the fall for another great year at SHS. Our journey in the path towards distinction continues!

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle