

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

I am so excited to share with you the many wonderful things that are happening at Sacred Heart School. Our academic calendar is on track. We have just finished standardized testing and academic progress reports went out on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. We have initiated the installation of our Smart Boards. Currently there are three sets (board, computer and projector) mounted and in use. They are in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade, in Mrs. Doyle's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science lab, and more will soon be ready. Also, we have received a donation of Adobe software including Adobe Photoshop Extended, which can do 3D images and motion, Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium for video and audio editing, and Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium for creating, among other things, rich interactive experiences. I also hope that you are enjoying the beautiful new look in the front of the building. The fence and the new pavers provide a welcoming and inviting look to our church and school building. In addition to all these improvements, many activities continue to complement our academic environment.

Middle School News: Our Advance Math students are training for the Math Counts competition. Under the direction of Mrs. Hamanaka, this great extracurricular activity is taking place on Wednesdays after school. Also, on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, members of our school band participated in the Future Musicians of CT Eastern Regional Band Concert held at St. James School in Manchester. They are Courtney Rose and James Rose, both from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and Charlie Rose from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Thank you for representing our school so well! And last but not least, our Middle School students are enjoying their Homework Challenge. This program is designed to motivate students to keep up with their homework and to recognize them for a job well done. Every month, the Middle School teachers identify the grade with the best academic record in terms of timeliness and completeness. The winning class gets a special reward and individual students with perfect homework record get a Principal's Dress Down Pass. This month there was a tie for the top class between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Twenty-eight students won a Principal's Dress Down Pass, compared to 11 at this time last year! They are Alannah Bunkley, Mia Farnsworth, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Christina Lawton, Olivia Lyon, Beatrice Mills, Isabella Niece, Darby Nisbett, Kim Thomson, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Sofie Clark, Shannon Forrester, Celine Harris, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Audrey Jones, Briana Kleiner, Kathleen Kuchembrod, Francesca Matira, Ellie McCarthy, Joey Warmus, Martin Wolk, Bea Asuncion, Justin Bell, Alyssa Daneault, Kelsey Ellery, Brigid Horan and Andrew Luo. Congratulations to all the winners!

Elementary School News: On October 19<sup>th</sup>, members of the City of Groton Fire Department visited our Pre-K students. We want to thank firefighters Jeremiah and Alan for coming to SHS and for making this a memorable visit. Also, on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, our Kindergarten students went on a field trip to Alice Acres Farm. They had a great time! A few days later, they helped make applesauce, which they shared with the rest of the faculty and staff. It was delicious! In other news, our Special Education Coordinator, Ms. Stacy Mares, has been visiting some of our classrooms to provide activities that enhance the classroom experience. She has visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with a presentation about reptiles and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade for an enriched Math lesson. In addition, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade has started the DARE program that teaches them about how to stay away from drugs and alcohol. It emphasizes good choices and a positive self-image. We welcome Officer LaSage, from the City of Groton Police Department, who is in charge of this fantastic program in our school.

Other News: We have started a Pilgrim Mary program in which a statue of Our Lady will be visiting the different classrooms to spend some time there. This program is a collaboration between our school's Campus Ministry and the SHC Legion of Mary. Our Athletics program continues to grow strong. We want to thank our soccer coach Mr. Ron Foular for doing a fantastic job. Thank you also to his lovely assistant, his wife Chris. Twenty-four students are participating. They are doing a great job representing our school. On Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we held a pep rally in honor of our great soccer team. It was a lot of fun!

We just finish the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month at SHS. We carried out a number of activities, which included the Hispanic Heritage Month Fact of the Day during morning announcements, highlighting, among other things, famous Hispanics in the U.S. in the areas of business, fashion, film & television, government,

journalism, law, music, sciences and sports. Also, our Middle School Spanish students prepared posters about different Spanish-speaking countries and presented them to the entire school community on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. On that same date, Sra. Nick and I prepared lunch for our faculty and staff featuring dishes from Colombia and Puerto Rico. Delicioso!

The Halloween Party on October 25<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by all. Students dressed up, participated in a number of games and brought in candy and one can of food, which will be donated to the local food bank. Once again, we have fun with a purpose. We would like to thank the Guild and the many parents and Middle School students that volunteered to provide this much fun to our kids. And speaking of the Guild, we would like to welcome our new Guild Vice President, Mrs. Dena Grant. Thank you for your generosity in stepping up to serve in this important school organization!

Fundraising continues strong at Sacred Heart School. The Marathon took place on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and was a great success. It sure put the fun in fundraiser. Our students raised over \$32,000! Once again, many persons are responsible for the success of this activity. Our special thanks go to all the room parents, the Guild officers, and all the members of the Marathon Committee, especially to its co-chairs, Mrs. Denise James and Mrs. Lauren Lyon for a wonderful job organizing this event. I would also like to say thank you to our PE teacher, Mr. Sheridan, for a great job as the MC for the day. The Book Fair was also a great success. It grossed \$4,825 of which about \$1,200 is profit for our school. Thank you to Mrs. Sue Fountain for all her work organizing and running this event, as well as to all the parents that so generously helped her. And on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Sacred Heart Church Knights of Columbus sponsored Oktoberfest, a dinner-dance to benefit our science lab. All in attendance had a great time. On behalf of our school, I would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their continued support to SHS. We are very lucky to be part of a parish community that embraces and supports our mission. Finally, we have registered our school in the Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks program allowing our school to earn money from purchases made by customers that choose our school. Please, check the information found in this newsletter so that you may start participating in this program.

Our School Advisory Board continues to be very prolific. Our Five Year Strategic Plan went out last September 19<sup>th</sup>, and was received by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. They are currently working on setting up task forces to help implement the plans proposed on this important document. You will hear more about this in the near future. In addition, our Board is now a registered member of the Department of Boards and Councils of the National Catholic Education Association. I would like to acknowledge the members of our School Advisory Board, Mrs. Angela Arnold, Mr. Ken Dirico, Mr. Kevin DiFilippo, Mr. Jeff Godley (President), Mrs. Kathy Hemenway (Secretary), Mrs. Laura Manfre (Vice-president), Mr. Robert Szegda and Dr. Karen Walters, for their extraordinary contributions.

On some personal news, I have been appointed to the Diocesan Board of Education as an ex-officio member. I have also been appointed to serve in a diocesan committee to develop a uniform evaluation system for our teachers. Finally, on October 25 -28, I will be participating as member of the Visiting Accreditation Committee for a Catholic school in Rhode Island. I hope that all these opportunities help enrich my professional perspective for the greater benefit of our school.

To finish, I would like to mention a couple of quick reminders. Please remember our school policy that any communication that will go home with our students needs to be forwarded to me for approval before it is copied and distributed. Also, during morning drop-off, please do not drop off your kids away from the curb. It is important to make sure that we keep this process safe and smooth. Just imagine that there are three drop-off spaces right before the church crosswalk and stop on the first available one. Just stop, drop-off and go. If you need to come into the school, please do not park in front of the school or in the side parking lot, but in the big parking lot. We continue to work hard to make our school the safest and best it can be. Our students are our number one priority.

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle