

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Once again, I am thrilled to write a newsletter conveying wonderful news about our school. We have received the reports on standardized testing. On the overall composite score our students averaged at the 73rd percentile (did better than 73 percent of the students that took this test). In addition, every single grade scored at least six months beyond their grade level. In fact, all three of our Middle School grades scored two years beyond their grade level! It is evident that our students are receiving a solid academic education while in a caring, value-centered environment. Individual test reports will be going home with the report cards at the end of November. This way, you will be able to discuss them with your teachers during parent-teacher conferences, which are scheduled to take place on December 2nd and 3rd, 2009. Please, check the calendar for the month of December and notice that December 2nd and 3rd are half days for grades K through 5, with dismissal at 1:00 PM, followed by teacher conferences. However, the Middle School has no class on Wednesday, December 2nd and a half-day (1:00 PM dismissal) on Thursday, December 3rd. This is to provide our Middle School parents the opportunity to meet with all Middle School teachers at their conference. Therefore, **please do not send your Middle School student on Wednesday, December 2nd since the teachers will be at conferences all day.**

Technology update: I am pleased to inform that there are eight Smart Board sets (board, computer and projector) mounted (1st grade, both 2nd grades, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade). Mrs. Facas' 5th grade is next in line. Thank you to Mr. Mike Comeau, Mr. Bob Szegda, Mr. Ron Hanson, Mr. George Lang and Mr. Richard Chapman for assisting us with this project.

Facilities Improvements: We have new vertical blinds that have been installed in the 3rd and 4th grades. It is incredible how one change can have a dramatic effect on how a room looks!

Middle School News: The 8th grade won first place for the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of October. Twenty-four students won dress down passes for a perfect homework record. They are David Abraham, Alannah Bunkley, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Christina Lawton, Olivia Lyon, Beatrice Mills, Darby Nisbett, Courtney Rose, Kim Thomson, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Briana Kleiner, Kathleen Kuchembrod, Francesca Matira, Joey Warmus, Martin Wolk, Justin Bell, Taylor Bender, Alyssa Daneault, Morgan Gagne, Brigid Horan, Andrew Luo and Bianca Matira. Congratulations to all the winners! In addition, during the past few Mondays, our SHS Service Club has been busy in a community service project to clean Colonel Ledyard Cemetery. On Monday November 9th, they also raked the leaves of our school grounds. Thank you, Sacred Heart Stewards!

Elementary School News: On Tuesday, October 27th, our 4th and 5th grade students went on a field trip to the State Capitol in Hartford. They had a great time and even got to see the Governor! Our 3rd and 5th grade students are busy working on charitable projects. Our 3rd graders are decorating Thanksgiving placemats for Apple Rehab in Mystic. Our 5th grade students are making Christmas ornaments, which they will be selling in December. Even our Art teacher, Mrs. Griffin is helping Mrs. Facas and her elves! Profits from this sale will be donated to Groton Human Services. It is wonderful to see how our students' involvement, no matter their age, has a positive impact in our community.

School Publicity: The October issue of the Four County Catholic featured an article highlighting our new Science Lab and Pre-K playground equipment, submitted by Mrs. Griffin. Thank you, Mrs. Griffin! Also, the Norwich Bulletin published a Halloween themed essay submitted by one of our 8th grade students, Brigid Horan. The title of the essay is "The Deadly Kiss". Congratulations, Brigid, for becoming a published author, and thank you for representing our school so well!

Other News: On Monday, November 9th, 2009, two active duty officers from the Groton Sub-base, Petty Officer Rowley and Petty Officer Morales, came to our school for a meaningful flag-side ceremony. We wish to convey our gratitude to Mrs. Kobe Powers and her husband Master of Arms Chief Eric M. Powers, for facilitating this visit. It was an honor to have them in our school! Also, members of our school community

contributed pictures and other memorabilia to put together a tribute to our community's veterans. We thank Mrs. Cindy Powden, Mrs. Nancy Pescatello and Mrs. Jane Murphy for helping set up this wonderful exhibit. It was a beautiful and moving experience! That same week, we celebrated that our Spanish teacher, Sra. Luz Nick, became an American citizen. What a fabulous way to complement our very patriotic celebrations! Congratulations, Sra. Nick! And to complete the week, on Friday, November 13th, the top three marathon collection students, Charlie Rose (8th grade), Tori Foular (4th grade) and Alannah Bunkley (6th grade) were honored as Principal, Assistant Principal and Administrative Assistant for the day. Principal Dr. Calle and Assistant Principal Mrs. Griffin had a great time as Middle School students for the day, complete with uniforms and a tour of the school.

Congratulations to Mrs. Gail Facas and Ms. Cathy Santangelo! Last Tuesday, November 10th, they received Certificates of Merit acknowledging their 20 and 30 year anniversary respectively as teachers in the Diocese of Norwich. Our students have been blessed by their dedication to Catholic Education. Also, our School Advisory Board continues to work very hard for our school. Currently, they are putting together taskforces to help implement the goals defined in our Five Year Strategic Plan. Please, make sure to read their message. And speaking of wonderful volunteers, it is my pleasure to announce that one of our 6th grade parents, Mrs. Melissa Nisbett, has volunteered to serve as our school's liaison to the CT Federation of Catholic Schools. Thank you, Mrs. Nisbett, for assisting our school in this important position!

I would like to remind our students, 3rd grade and up, that the deadline for submitting a poster for the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is December 1st, 2009. Winners will be announced on December, 19th, 2009. For more information, please contact Mr. Scott Bertrand at 860-326-5619. In a separate competition, and upon the suggestion of Mrs. Doyle's 2nd grade students communicated on a very official letter to me, our entire school will be having a Reading Challenge program from November 17th until December 17th. Each teacher has set a goal for the number of books their students should read during this month. If the students meet or exceed this goal, I will dress up as an undisclosed character. Stay tuned for more fun news about our Reading Challenge! Also, our school is currently carrying out our traditional Holiday Food Drive benefiting Groton Human Services. Thank you to Mrs. Tina Shine for once again serving as our food drive coordinator. Our families have been asked to donate food items of their choice from the list sent home, which includes canned fruits and vegetable, cranberry sauce, box of mashed potatoes, stuffing, can of gravy, muffin mix and cake mix. Our food drive will end on December 16th, 2009. Thank you for considering contributing to this important charitable activity. Your generosity will allow many families to enjoy a full Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinner.

And speaking of Christmas, it is almost upon us! This is a busy time of the year with many fun activities. Let us not forget the real reason for the season. As a Catholic school, our activities revolve around the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There will be more opportunities for charitable work as well as joyful celebrations. Our Band and Chorus Christmas Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th, 2009 in the cafeteria. And to wrap it all up, once again we will have the opportunity to enjoy one of our finest celebrations: our traditional Lessons and Carols, a combination of Biblical readings and Christmas hymns performed by all our students. It will take place on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009. I would like to remind you that this is a formal school activity and that, as such, **attendance is mandatory**. I can assure you that you will very much enjoy seeing your child(ren) participate. It is truly a feast for the spirit and the senses.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving. May all of us, as we gather around the table with our loved ones, thank God for sending us His Son and for loving us as His own sons and daughters. May His love continue to grow in our hearts.

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle