

## May Newsletter

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

I cannot believe how fast this year went by! This is the last newsletter of this academic year!!! In looking back, once again 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. And here we have more good news:

Raffle: Our second collection date Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. So far our school has sold \$11,070 in tickets. Together with what the parish has collected we have already reached breaking point and anything else, from now on, will be profit! Remember that raffle drawing will be on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, after the 4:30 Mass. All our families are invited to attend, although you do not need to be present to win.

Facilities Improvements: We have submitted a grant proposal to the Catholic Foundation requesting funds to purchase new lockers for our Middle School students. Also, we have renovated the community bathroom in the lobby and started the renovation of one of the girls' bathrooms (the one around the corner from the community bathroom).

Middle School News: The 6<sup>th</sup> graders were the winners of the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of April. The following students received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record: David Abraham, Fatima Barlan, Alannah Bunkley, Timothy Foster, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Christina Lawton, Beatrice Mills, Matthew Murphy, Isabella Niece, Darby Nisbett, Courtney Rose, Paul Snyder, Kimberly Thomson, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Shannon Forrester, Patrick Griffin, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Gavin Jones, Briana Kleiner, Lauren Lomasney, Francesca Matira, Joey Warmus, Martin Wolk, Bea Asuncion, Justin Bell, Alyssa Daneault, Kelsey Ellery, Brigid Horan, Molly Lang, Andrew Luo, Bianca Matira and Andy Thomasco. Congratulations!

Also, on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade 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 activity is designed to spiritually prepare our students for their next step in life: high school. They all loved their retreat experience. A blurb of this activity was featured in the latest Saint Bernard School e-Newsletter. Regarding field trips, on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> our Middle School students attended Project Oceanography at UConn Avery Point. In addition, on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, they also went on a field trip to Club Getaway in Kent, CT. And finally, On Friday, May 21 the Knights of Columbus announced the winner of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade Essay Contest on the topic of "The Responsibility of the Catholic Citizen in a Free Society". All the participants received a certificate. We would like to congratulate the winner of this contest, Brigid Horan, who also received a \$100.00 SCRIP gift certificate.

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. On Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> our first and second grade students went on a field trip to see the Disney movie "Oceans". On Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, our second grade students received their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful ceremony on a beautiful day. Later, on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, these students were featured in the Crowning of Mary during our school Mass.

Also, on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, our fourth and fifth grades students went on a field trip to Sturbridge Village to have first hand experience of life in a New England town in the 1700's. They had a great time! And last, but not least, we would like to congratulate SHS fifth grader Luis Ortega, whose participation in the International Mathematics and Verbal Talent Search sponsored by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth earned our school a Certificate of Recognition. Way to go, Luis!

School News: I am thrilled to announce our newest extracurricular activity: The Drama Club. Mrs. Ann Griffin is coordinating the production of the play "The Golden Goose". Students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade were

invited to participate. A record 56 students showed up for the first meeting! They will continue rehearsals on Wednesdays (actors) and Fridays (behind the scene crew) right after school until 4:30 PM. You will have a chance to see this wonderful play on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria. And in another great extracurricular activity, our Track and Field team continues to do a great job. Many of our athletes have placed in the top three positions at many of the events! Way to go Crusaders! Congratulations!

The spring Book Fair took place from Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. All of our students had the opportunity to buy the books of their choice and a “buy one, get one free” sale. We would like to thank school parent, Mrs. Sue Fountain, for coordinating this activity. She was helped by the following volunteers: Colleen Doshna, Lisa Foster, Krisin Grubb, Melissa Kearney, Ann Marie Lamasey, Anna Lawton, Deb McCarthy, Amy McKenna, Deb Murphy, Teresa O’Sullivan, Brian Perry, Amy Rembish, Alexandra Rosenthal, Sonya Terra, Lisa Virtue and Kim Yost. Thank you all for your generosity!

In yet another celebration of diversity, this month we featured all the French Speaking countries of the world. Our Middle School French Students, under the direction of our French teacher, Mme. Janet Devaux, prepared posters focusing on each of these countries and hosted a French Fair on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria. It was fantastic and the ethnic food was delicious! Also, during the few weeks prior to this event, in Morning Announcements we learned about inventions of global impact that have been contributed by the French.

Additional activities planned for the remainder of the year include, but not limited to the following (some of them may have already happened by the time you read this newsletter): Field Day (5/26), Band and Chorus Spring Concert and Art Exhibit (5/27), Science Day (5/28), third grade field trip to Potersville Academy (6/3), performance of the “Golden Goose” play (6/4), 8<sup>th</sup> grade reception (6/7) and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation (6/8). There is no doubt that our students have plenty of opportunities to develop their talents in so many areas and this is thanks to the dedication of our entire school community, faculty, staff, parents and parishioners.

Changes for Next Year: After 20 years at SHS, our fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Gail Facas, will be retiring at the end this academic year. We would like to thank Mrs. Facas for her dedication to our students. We wish her the very best always! We would also like to announce that Mrs. Diane Maleno will be our fifth grade teacher next year. Thank you, Mrs. Maleno, for so generously accepting this new role! All the other teachers will be returning to their current teaching position.

Reminders: Please check the June Calendar in this newsletter for all the activities and changes. Our last day of classes is Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and we will have a 1:00 PM dismissal. **However, Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> is now a full day of classes with dismissal at 2:50 PM.** Also, 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](http://www.greatschools.net) and [www.trulia.com](http://www.trulia.com).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as principal of SHS and for your continued support. But most of all, I give thanks to our Lord for blessing me 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 on the path towards distinction continues!

In Christ’s love,

Dr. Calle