

February Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is already the end of February and spring is near. Thank goodness!!! We are all ready to leave winter behind and look forward to warmer weather. 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.

Catholic Schools Week: All the activities planned for Catholic Schools Week, beginning with the Character Breakfast to benefit our RISEN Program, which raised \$1,186.70, and ending with the Open House, were a great success. We want to thank all of the people that worked so hard to make this Catholic Schools Week so wonderful: Mr. Steve Sheridan, Mrs. Kelli Hammond, the RISEN staff and a pool of dedicated volunteers, which included other SHS staff members as well as parents and other community members, for the Character Breakfast, Mrs. Maureen Kamercia and Mrs. Diane Maleno for the school activities during the week, Mrs. Nan Gibeault for the wonderful school wide bingo, and school faculty and staff, participating 8th grade student ambassadors, and members of the different parish and school organizations for the Open House on Wednesday, February 9th. We had 40 families attending! 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 8 tours of the school that night. They played a key role in recruiting new students and we are grateful and proud for their contributions.

I also want to thank all of our 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. Special thanks to Mrs. Marissa Mills, Mrs. Pat Snyder and Mrs. Ann Griffin for helping in the coordination of our students' participation in these Masses.

Middle School News: The 7th graders are the winners of the Middle School Homework Challenge for the month of January. The following students received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record: Daniel Clark, Ben Godley, Cameron McCarthy, Shenandoah Terry, Edyta Wolk, Fatima Barlan, Alannah Bunkley, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Christina Lawton, Beatrice Mills, Matthew Murphy, Isabella Niece, Courtney Rose, Kimberly Thomson, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Sofie Clark, Shannon Forrester, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Audrey Jones, Briana Kleiner, Lauren Lomasney, Francesca Matira, Ellie McCarthy, Joey Warmus, and Martin Wolk. Congratulations!

Our whole Middle School participated in the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Norwich Adoption Program Poster Contest. Our students worked on their poster during Art class, under the direction of Mrs. Ann Griffin. Mrs. Griffin and I are proud to announce that one of our 8th grade students, Megan Bosetti, obtained an Honorable Mention. Congratulations, Megan! Finally, the 7th and 8th grade Advanced Math students participating in Mathcounts Club Program under the direction of our Advanced Math teacher, Dr. Barbara Hamanaka, did a great job at the Mathcounts Eastern Chapter Competition, which took place last Saturday, February 5th at the Coast Guard Academy. They were David Abraham, Briana Kleiner, Ellie McCarthy and Courtney Rose.

Elementary School News: On Saturday, January 29th, our 2nd grade students made their 1st reconciliation at Sacred Heart Church. Our pastor, Fr. Dariusz Dudzik presided over this beautiful

ceremony. Three other priests participated as well. May the light of God's grace shine in their hearts forever!

Other School News: We continue to be very active in our efforts to generate school publicity. The February issue of the Four County Catholic published a wonderful article highlighting all of our Advent Season charity activities. What a wonderful example of what a community can do together to serve those in need!

Our school has also been active in the celebration of Black History Month. All our grades had special activities and projects related to this important celebration. You will enjoy what many of our teachers have shared the special way in which they have celebrated this important part of American history in this newsletter. In addition, during morning announcements, I have included facts about extraordinary contributions of lesser known, but equally impressive African American firsts in the series "Do You Know These African American Pioneers?"

Our school will once again participate in the Catholic Schools Spelling Bee for grades 4-6, also sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. We have already conducted our local competition. First place winners are Jonathan Foster (4th grade), Anna Wolk (5th grade) and Edyta Wolk (6th grade). Runners-up are Grace Murphy (4th grade), Sarah Forrester (5th grade) and Luis Ortega (6th grade). Also, some of our 5th and 6th grade students submitted their entries to the Americanism Essay Contest, sponsored by the Groton Lodge of Elks. We are proud to announce that Jameson Teague (5th grade) was a first place winner and Shenandoah Terry (6th grade) was a second place winner. They were honored at a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, February 9th, when they had the opportunity to read their "Why I am Proud to be an American" essays. They will now proceed to participate in the district competition. Good luck!

On Monday, February 14th we had a very special guest speaker. Weatherman Mr. Art Horn came to our school and gave a presentation entitled "How The Weather Works" to our 4th and 6th grade students. The Science curriculum of these two grades covers the weather and Mr. Horn's presentation was the perfect complement. On that very same date, we held our Basketball Pep Rally to celebrate the accomplishments of our two basketball teams. They have played extremely well and always represented our school in the best possible way. On that same event we included the Hoops for Heart fundraiser closing ceremony. I would like to thank Mr. Steve Sheridan for coordinating this event to raise funds for the American Heart Association. Our school raised \$1900.50! Thank you, Sacred Heart!!! Our top fundraisers were Courtney Rose (7th grade) in first place with a total of \$440, and in second place was Payton Noe (K) who helped raise \$165. Congratulations!

And speaking of February 14th, I would like finish by thanking our 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 upcoming 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