

January Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Happy New Year, everyone!!! We start a new year at Sacred Heart School full of energy and enthusiasm. I hope that all our families had a great Christmas break. Once again, here is your monthly update on what is going on at our beloved school.

Technology update: Thanks to an anonymous donation, we have acquired three laptop computers for our elementary school students. These computers will be stored in a common use area so that the teachers can share them by signing them out for their student's use in their classroom. This will continue to strengthen our emphasis on the use of technology in the classroom by providing additional resources for our students. We hope to increase the number of these laptop computers in the not so distant future so that more students may benefit from their use.

Facilities Update: The boys and girls room at the north end of the cafeteria now have motion sensors installed in them that will turn the lights and exhaust fan on and off automatically. In addition, a manual timer switch for the exhaust fan that draws hot air out of the 3rd and 4th grade classrooms on warm days was installed. During the warmer months, the teachers will be able to turn the knob on the switch in the hall outside their classrooms to turn on the fan and keep it running up to six hours, at which time it will automatically shut off. Since the vents are installed near the ceilings in each classroom, it should help in making the rooms a little cooler when it's warm outside.

Catholic Schools Week: The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is A+ for America. We will be having activities for our students starting on Sunday, January 30th with our traditional Character Breakfast to benefit our RISEN Learning Resource Center, from 9:00-12:30 in the cafeteria (make sure to see the advertisement included with this newsletter). This will be followed by individual classroom door decorations with a patriotic theme and a school-wide assembly to view the "Pledge to the Flag" video on Monday, January 31st. On Tuesday, February 1st there will be another school-wide assembly in the morning for the "One Man Band" presentation by Dr. Harvey Snitkin, who will also provide background music during our lunch, and in the afternoon we will have our traditional school-wide bingo game, featuring special bingo cards with the faces of SHS faculty and staff. Wednesday, February 2nd we will celebrate Student Appreciation Day with a red, white and blue free dress down, a movie and no homework. On Thursday, February 3rd we will celebrate Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day with a free dress down and breakfast treats as well as a variety of games for students. We will finish the week on Friday February 4th with a special musical activity following school Mass in the church. A big thank you to Mrs. Maureen Kamercia, and Mrs. Diane Maleno for organizing the activities taking place during weekdays and to Mr. Steve Sheridan, our Development Officer, and Mrs. Kelli Hammond, President of the RISEN Advisory Board for organizing the Character Breakfast. In addition, our students will be participating in all three Sacred Heart Church Masses the weekend of January 29th and 30th. I would like to thank Mrs. Ann Griffin, Mrs. Marissa Mills, and Mrs. Pat Snyder for helping me coordinate our students' participation in these Masses.

Open House: During Catholic Schools Week, on the evening of Wednesday, February 2nd, we will be having an Open House for prospective families, with the intention of recruiting new students. We will be highlighting our improved facilities as well as current strong points such as a superior academic program in a value-centered, faith-based environment, safety, emphasis on differentiated instruction and the use of technology in the classroom, all day

Pre-K program, academic support both for remedial and enrichment at the RISEN Learning Resource Center, an active extracurricular program, before and after school daycare, sacramental preparation, and much more. However, there is no better publicity for our school than your personal recommendation. If you know any families in search of a school, please send them to us!

Middle School News: We are delighted to announce the birth of Caleb Henry Ward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Amy Ward. Caleb was born on Friday, January 7th at 8:48 AM weighing 8lbs 5oz and measuring 21 inches long. Mrs. Ward is our 7th grade teacher. Mother and child are doing great. Blessings and congratulations!

We would like to welcome Mrs. Yvette Lehn to our school. Mrs. Lehn will be substituting for Mrs. Ward as our Middle School math and science teacher while Mrs. Ward is out on maternity leave. Mrs. Lehn has a Master degree in science and has just finished all the requirements for certification in the State of CT. We are very happy to have Mrs. Lehn with us.

The “No Room At the Inn” project to collect money to build a home in Haiti, which was led by our Service Club students, was a great success. Together with Sacred Heart Parish, our community raised over \$12,000, which is enough to build two and a half houses in Haiti!!! Great job, Sacred Heart Stewards! Thank you, Sacred Heart, for once again showing your great compassion and generosity!

The 6th grade students have done it again! They won the December Homework Challenge. In fact, 36 Middle School students, the highest number this year, received a Principal's Dress Down Pass for a perfect homework record. They are Daniel Clark, Benjamin Godley, Jarod Kosman, Jennifer Lussier, Cameron McCarthy, Jacob O'Neill, Luis Ortega, Alex Perry, Shenandoah Terry, Edyta Wolk, David Abraham, Fatima Barlan, Alannah Bunkley, Timothy Foster, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Troy Helme, Christina Lawton, Beatrice Mills, Summer Mills, Matthew Murphy, Isabella Niece, Courtney Rose, Kimberly Thomson, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Sophie Clark, Shannon Forrester, Patrick Griffin, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Audrey Jones, Briana Kleiner, Kathleen Kuchembrod, Lauren Lomasney, Francesca Matira, Joey Warmus, and Martin Wolk. Congratulations!

Elementary School News: On Wednesday, January 19th our 5th grade students celebrated their DARE Graduation for completing this wonderful Drugs and Alcohol Abuse program led by Officer Scott LeSage and assisted by our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Diane Maleno. Mayor Dennis Popp and Chief of Police Bruno Giuliani attended and addressed our students. Winners of Best DARE Essay Award were Regina Casimiro-Nuñez, Danielle Millerick, Alyssa Morelli and Anna Wolk. Our students sure know how to make connections with important leaders!

Other School News: The third Sacred Heart School and Parish Family Night, which took place on Saturday, January 15th, after the 4:30 P.M. Mass in the cafeteria, was fantastic. This event was sponsored by our Parents Guild and it featured the First Annual Soup & Chili Cook Off. We would like to thank all the great chefs for their delicious entries. Congratulations to the winners: Best Soup Overall: Mrs. Ann Griffin; Best Traditional Soup: Mrs. Dena Grant; Best Ethnic Soup: Mrs. Deb Murphy; Best Soup with the most unusual ingredients: Miss Olivia Wong (3rd grade student); Best Chili Overall: Mr. Paul Snyder (7th grade student), and Spiciest Chili: Mr. Jim Hanson: and Best Chili with most unusual ingredients: Mr. Mike Murphy. We also want to express our gratitude to the SHC Social

Committee, the SHS Parents Guild and especially to Mr. Greg Wong for their tremendous efforts in planning this fun social event, which we are sure it will be a new tradition for our community. Our next Family Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th, 2011 after the 4:30 Mass in the cafeteria and will be sponsored by our Boy Scout Troop 17G. Save the date!

I am also very excited to inform you about a new extracurricular activity for our Middle School students. We have received a Certificate of Affiliation to establish a Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. This is a great accomplishment for our school! We would like to thank Dr. Karen Walters, Vice-president of our School Advisory Board, for facilitating the application process for our school, and to Atty. Jeff Godley, President of our School Advisory Board, for providing his expertise as we are defining the procedures that will guide our local chapter. I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the members of our faculty that have agreed to sponsor this chapter as members of our NJHS Advisory Council. They are Dr. Barbara Hamanaka, Mrs. Maureen Kamercia, Mrs. Diane Maleno, Mrs. Jane Murphy, Mrs. Cindy Powden and, especially, Mr. Steve Sheridan who has agreed to be our Chapter Adviser. Middle School students will be receiving additional information in the near future so stay tuned.

On behalf of Sacred Heart School faculty and staff, I would like to wish you all a new year filled with peace, happiness and success. May we continue to grow in love and fellowship!

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle