

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We are fully celebrating the season of Lent at our school. Lent is a season of turning to God in simplicity and sincerity as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter. Our hearts feel heavy as we remember our sins, but we are also confident in God's mercy and forgiveness. The three great Lenten practices, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, will help us to keep Lent as a holy season. What a joy that our students have the opportunity to study in a school where we can prepare to celebrate the Mysteries of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection! Our school continues to grow and to provide plenty of opportunities for intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual growth.

Enrollment and Registration: Registration for next year is looking very good. If you are planning to return to Sacred Heart School next year, please make sure that we have received your registration form and fee. We have new students on waiting lists and we want to make sure that we have reserved the spots of our returning students before we make them available to new students. Thank you! Also, please remember that the deadline to send in the complete application for tuition assistance from the Catholic Foundation from the Diocese of Norwich is April 30th. **As it happened last year, this application replaces our old financial aid application from the school, so there will be no other opportunity to apply for financial aid later.**

Raffle: We are getting ready to start our raffle for this year. The money raised will go towards the renovation projects of classrooms shared by the school and the parish. We would like to thank Mrs. Denise James for once again coordinating the school raffle program. Raffle ticket-books will go home soon and sales will continue until the end of May. Let us all work together to make this year's raffle a great success!

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

The Sacred Heart Stewards Club's Lenten Food Drive to benefit the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen continues to bring in much needed food donations. Please, make sure that you read the article from the Service Club included in this edition of the Newsletter. Also, on Monday, February 28th, they volunteered at the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen in Norwich. The guests and staff of the soup kitchen were extremely grateful to our students and had wonderful comments about them. Special thanks to Mrs. Marissa Mills, SHC DRE, Mrs. Nancy Pescatello, SHS Director of Campus Ministry, Nurse Cathi McMickle and Mr. George Ellery, SHS Food Manager, for helping coordinate this wonderful activity. We would like to give special thanks to our pastor, Fr. Dariusz Dudzik, for accompanying them on this special event.

Correction and Update: In our last Newsletter, when reporting on our Advanced Math students' participation on the Math Counts Competition at the Coast Guard Academy, I accidentally missed including one of our 8th grade participants. I would like to acknowledge Ellie McCarthy's participation and excellent performance in this competition alongside her peers from Sacred Heart School. I would also like to apologize for this oversight and extend to Ellie my heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.

Elementary School News: Our third grade students, led by Ms. Santangelo entered the Child Abuse Prevention Initiative Poster Contest sponsored by Groton Youth and Family Services and they all did a fantastic job. I am pleased to announce that there were two winning posters from our school. The winning posters belong to Melissa Mancuso and Olivia Wong and will be featured in the Groton Youth and Family

Services calendar for the year 2012. Congratulations to our winners and to the entire 3rd grade for their efforts and achievements!

Other News: To close our school's celebration of Black History Month, we had a very special guest speaker come to address our students. On Monday, February 28th, State Representative Ernest Hewett visited our school and spoke to us about his heritage and his family history. We thank our 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Cathy Santangelo, for arranging this special opportunity for us.

On Saturday, March 5th the SHS Parents Guild hosted their annual Mardi Gras Dinner, Dance, Basket Gala and Auction. It was phenomenal! It was very well attended and we all had a fantastic time. The silent auction as well as the basket raffle and live auction led by celebrity host Kevin Hogan, Channel 3 Bureau Chief and Reporter, was a huge success. Overall, it raised \$9,946.72! Our deepest gratitude goes to Mrs. Staci Riley and Dr. Kristen Grub for coordinating this event with the assistance of Mrs. Rinta Abraham, Mrs. Saju Abraham, Mr. Danny Aranha, Mrs. Jen Armstrong, Mrs. Mary Ann Claussen, Mrs. Tisha Duggan, Mrs. Sue Fountain, Mrs. Dena Grant, Mr. Ron Hanson, Mr. Kevin Lebovitz, Mrs. Deb McCarthy, Mr. Frank Riley, Mr. & Mrs. Eamon and Suki Reilly, and Mr. Greg Wong. Thank you so very much to all. Your contributions helped make this fundraiser a great experience for all.

Speaking of fundraisers, I would like to thank all the Sacred Heart school parents and all the Sacred Heart Church parishioners that faithfully contribute to our Box Tops for Education Program. I have received a communication from Mrs. Pat Snyder, our school's coordinator for this fundraising program, informing that, with your help, we have raised \$690 this year! Thank you to all our supporters and especially to Mrs. Snyder for coordinating this program for our school.

On Sunday, March 13th, students from our 4th, 5th and 6th grade represented our school at the Knights of Columbus Catholic Schools Regional Spelling Bee. They were Timothy Foster (4th grade), Anna Wolk (5th grade) and Edyta Wolk (6th grade). They all did a fantastic job! Timothy and Anna finished in 3rd place in their respective categories, while Edyta finished in second place. Way to go, Sacred Heart students!!!

On March 17th, our school celebrated St. Patrick's Day enjoying a fantastic performance from the talented dancers from Spirited Soles Irish Dance School. Our students looked great in green!

On Saturday, March 19th, Courtney Rose, a 7th grade student and a member of our school band participated in the Future Musicians of CT All State Band Concert. This concert took place at Central Connecticut State University. Courtney will now have the opportunity to perform at the Lincoln Center in NYC on May 2nd, and at the Old State House in Hartford at a date that has not been set yet.

On Monday, March 21st, members of our faculty and staff attended a retreat at the Edmundite's Retreat on Enders Island. It was a great day in which we all had the opportunity to reflect and grow spiritually.

Catholic Schools Day was celebrated at the State Capitol this past Wednesday, March 23rd. It was the largest one to date with 130 parents, students and staff members from Connecticut's Catholic schools. SHS paraprofessional and Connecticut Federation of Catholic Schools Parents Liaison for SHS, Mrs. Laura Lowry and her children Ryan (2nd grade) and Nathan (1st grade), together with our Middle School teacher, Mrs. Nancy Pescatello, represented our school. Thank you! Also, our students 4th grade and up wrote letters to Governor Dannel Malloy, State Senator Andrew Maynard and State Representative Ted Moukawsher relating why they love their Catholic School experience. What a great opportunity to raise awareness about the contributions of Catholic Schools.

On Friday March 25th, volunteers from Junior Achievement visited our school and provided our students with their hands-on program that teaches key concepts of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Our students had a great day!

And last, but not least, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Denise James, Mrs. Patricia Snyder and Mr. George Lang, who are our school nominees for Volunteers of the Year. Mrs. James' many hours of volunteer work with the Guild and the Parish and School Raffle, Mrs. Snyder's many years of service coordinating the Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels fundraising programs, and Mr. Lang's generous donation of time and expertise assisting in the installation of interactive white boards, projectors, computers and software, led to these nominations. They were recognized at the Connecticut Association of Schools' Volunteers Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, March 15th at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Even though we can only nominate three persons per year, I would like to acknowledge that many, many other volunteers make very significant contributions to our school's success. It is always very hard to select only three. So many of you offer your time and efforts with such love and expecting no recognition. On behalf of our entire school community, I would like to say THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, no matter how big or small your contributions. They are ALL very important and are what makes our school the special place that it is. I would especially like to acknowledge the contributions of the members of our School Advisory Board: Mrs. Angela Arnold, Mrs. Adriana Nuñez de Casimiro, Mr. Kenneth DiRico, Mr. Kevin DiFilippo, Mr. Jeff Godley, Mr. Scott Lau, Mr. Jonathan Luther, Mr. Robert Szegda and Dr. Karen Walters, as well as those of the Guild Executive Officers: Mr. David Singleton, Mrs. Dena Grant, Mrs. Jennifer Armstrong and Mrs. Suki Reilly. In addition, we are grateful to the members of our Athletics Board: Mr. Bob Davies, Mrs. Nan Gibeault, Mrs. Sue Jennerwein, Mrs. Ann Lawton, Mrs. Marlynn O'Donnell, Mrs. Nancy Pescatello and Mr. Greg Sluggett, and Mrs. Amy Ward. And last, but not least, the members of the RISEN Advisory Board: Mrs. Janice Daneault, Dr. Barbara Hamanaka, Mrs. Kelli Hammond, Brother J. Robert Houlihan, Mrs. Judy Keenan, Mrs. Kate O'Boyle, Mrs. Jane O'Friel and Mrs. Pat Snyder.

May you all have a spiritually enriching Lenten Season and a blessed Holy Week and may the risen Lord bless you and your families this Easter and always!

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle