

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

This academic year is in full swing and we are right on track. We have just finished standardized testing and academic progress reports went out on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Many activities continue to complement our academic environment.

Middle School News: We continue our Middle School Homework Challenge program, which is designed to motivate students to keep up with their homework. Every month, the Middle School teachers identify the grade with the best homework record in terms of timeliness and completeness. The winning class gets a special reward and individual students with perfect homework record get a Principal's Dress Down Pass. This month the winning class was the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Twenty-five students won a Principal's Dress Down Pass. They are Jarod Kosman, Jen Lussier, Shenandoah Terry, Edyta Wolk, David Abraham, Fatima Barlan, Alannah Bunkley, Kiana Foster-Mauro, Christina Lawton, Beatrice Mills, Matthew Murphy, Isabella Niece, Courtney Rose, Kim Thomson, Megan Bosetti, Michelle Chapman, Sofie Clark, Shannon Forrester, Elizabeth Jennerwein, Briana Kleiner, Kathleen Kuchenbrod, Lauren Lomasney, Francesca Matira, Joey Warmus, and Martin Wolk. Congratulations to all the winners! Also, on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, members of our school band participated in the Future Musicians of CT Eastern Regional Band Concert held at St. James School in Manchester. They are Courtney Rose and James Rose, both from 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Thank you for representing our school so well!

Elementary School News: On October 14<sup>th</sup> our Kindergarten students helped make applesauce, which they shared with the rest of the faculty and staff. It was delicious! On that same day our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students went on a field trip to the Garde Theater to see the musical "We The People". They had a great time.

Other News: On September 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the dedication of the RISEN Learning Resource Center to Mrs. Jane O'Friel. As you may know, Mrs. O'Friel was one of the founding members of the RISEN program here at SHS and was the president of the RISEN Advisory Board for almost 10 years. During that time, she helped raise over \$700,000 to support this program. Members of RISEN, past and present, as well as members of the RISEN Board and of our School Board joined Mrs. O'Friel, her family and our students, faculty and staff in this celebration, which included a Mass, the blessing of the RISEN LRC and a reception. It was wonderful to acknowledge Mrs. O'Friel's contributions and to say thank you for a job well done.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, our school hosted the Teachers Institute, a professional development day for all Catholic schools of the Diocese of Norwich. Our faculty and staff welcomed Dr. John Shine, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Norwich, Sister Barbara Gould, Assistant Superintendent, and the principals and faculty members of all the schools in our diocese. We started the day with Mass led by the Most Reverend Bishop Michael Cote. It was an honor to be asked to host this activity in our school and for the opportunity to share our facilities with other members of the Catholic schools community. A few days after the event, I received a letter from Dr. Shine in which he thanks our faculty and staff by stating "the day worked extremely well due in large part by your welcome and flexibility".

Our Athletics program continues to grow strong. We want to thank our soccer coach Mr. Ron Foular for doing a fantastic job. Thank you also to his lovely assistant, his wife Chris. Not only they are very dedicated but they have also led our team to the first victory of the season. On Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, our team defeated St. Joseph 4-2. Congratulations, Crusaders!!! We are so proud of you!

Also, I am pleased to announce that the Sacred Heart Children's Chorus was invited to provide the music at the Medal of Honor Mass at Enders Island on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This truly was a distinct honor and recognition of our Chorus' talent and dedication. We are grateful to Mrs. Barbara Billings, our music teacher, for leading our students in this wonderful extracurricular activity.

Our traditional Marathon took place on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and was a great success. As always, it put the fun in fundraiser. Our students raised over \$34,000, surpassing the school goal of \$31,000! Thank you!!! Once again, many persons are responsible for the success of this activity. Our special thanks go to all the room parents (Mrs. Jennifer Feldman, Mrs. Marlynn O'Donnell, Mrs. Laura Lowry, Mrs. Kim Yost, Mrs. Sue Fountain, Mrs. Kathleen Doyle, Mrs. Denise James, Mrs. Allison Perry, Mrs. Anna Lawton and Mrs. Melissa Forrester), the Guild Officers, and all the members of the Marathon Committee. We are especially grateful to the committee's co-chairs, Mrs. Amy McKenna and Mrs. Beth Timmerman for doing an amazing job organizing this event. I would also like to say thank you to our PE teacher, Mr. Steve Sheridan, for a great job as the MC for the day and to our Art teacher/assistant principal, Mrs. Ann Griffin, for leading our students in the making of their classroom banners for the wonderful Opening Ceremony Parade of Grades. We are also grateful to our Faculty and Staff Members who attended and supported the marathon, assisting in many ways throughout the six weeks. Even though the senior team of Fr. Dariusz, Dr. Calle and Mrs. Griffin tried their best at running with crutches, they recognize that the students are much better. However, we did not do a bad job raising money. Including some last minute donations, we raised \$2,742.25. We would like to express our gratitude to all that sponsored our team to support our school. While we did not win the pizza party, we will be very happy to fulfill our promise of a popcorn party to those classes that raised more money than we did.

The Book Fair was also a great success. It grossed \$5,914.19 of which \$1,478.55 is profit for our school and \$395.71 goes directly to our library in books. Thank you to Mrs. Sue Fountain for all her work organizing and running this event, as well as to all the parents that so generously helped her: Mrs. Maryann Clausen, Mrs. Cathleen Clifford, Mrs. Mary Drena, Mr. & Mrs. Mike and Lisa Foster, Mrs. Elaine Grandolfi, Mrs. Melissa Kearney, Mrs. Patricia Noe, Mrs. Kelly Powell, Mrs. Vicky Towpasz, and Mrs. Sonya Terra. We are also grateful to all the parents that donated books to different classrooms.

The Halloween Party on October 24<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by all. Students dressed up, participated in a number of games and brought in candy and non-perishable food for admission. The latter will be donated to the local food bank. Once again, we have fun with a purpose. We would like to thank the Guild and the many parents and Middle School students that volunteered to provide this much fun to our kids, especially Mrs. Jen Armstrong, Mrs. Mary Ann Bossetti, and Mrs. Barbara Millerick for coordinating its organization.

We just finish the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month at SHS. We carried out a number of activities, which included the Spanish-Speaking Countries of the Day during morning announcements, highlighting their ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as important facts that make each of these countries so interesting. Also, our Middle School Spanish students worked on a project entitled The World of Spanish Celebrations and shared it with our entire school community on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. On that same date, Sra. Nick and I once again prepared lunch for our faculty and staff featuring dishes from Colombia and Puerto Rico. Delicioso!

I would like to finish with a quick but very important reminded. Please remember that during morning arrival our students should be dropped off in front of the school by the curbside only and should come out of the car from the passenger's side. It is important to make sure that we keep this process safe and smooth. For your convenience, we have placed two signs in front of the school to remind you of this process. There is space for three cars between these two signs. Please stop on the first available one, drop-off and go. If you need to come into the school, please do not park in front of the school or in the side parking lot, but in the big parking lot. We continue to work hard to make our school the safest and best it can be. Our students are our number one priority.

In Christ's love,

Dr. Calle