

May, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My! How times flies when you're having fun! It doesn't seem possible that this is the last newsletter for this school year! Our students have worked hard, progressed nicely, and grown spiritually. We've enjoyed nice successes, and conquered challenges! We've been blessed by many volunteers who have kept us safe on the playground, helped with our lunch needs in the cafeteria, and assisted in the learning process as teacher aides. Soon summer vacation will be here, and classes in 'readin, 'riting, and 'rithmetic will seem like ages ago! Students eagerly anticipate the coming hiatus from their educational routine. Summer has traditionally been viewed as a time to take a break from school for three months of fun in the sun. But, the long summer vacation has a dramatic impact on student learning. Research has shown that some students lose one to five months of learning during the summer, especially when little or no reading is done. Teachers probably spend the first several weeks of school re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer. That means students not only lose at least a month's learning from the previous year, but also an additional four to eight weeks re-learning what they forgot over the summer.

This learning-loss can be avoided, especially during the months of July and August, as the children begin to get restless and search for "something to do". We are blessed in this community with a local library that is not only a beautiful structure, but well-stocked with books and reading activities to keep your youngster's reading skills sharp. Have your child spend some time each week writing about a special activity they recently enjoyed such as a day at Soak City, their favorite ride at Cedar Point, the homerun they hit, or the fly ball they caught. A deck of cards can be used to help them remember the math facts, age-appropriate puzzle books can be used to search for familiar reading vocabulary and spelling words. A little imagination and creativity can go a long way to help your child maintain all he/she learned this past year, and the possibilities are endless!

IMPORTANT EVENTS and ACTIVITIES:

- May 13, 14 - Kindergarten screening, Holy Angels Campus
- May 16 - Volunteer Appreciation Day
Wellness Walk to the Water (Battery Park)
- May 22 - May Crowning prayer service, Grades K-3
- May 23 - Spring Fling, Grades K-3 at SPP
- May 26 - Memorial Day - No School
- May 29 - School musical - Grades K-6, "School Daze", 1:00 in the St. Mary Multi-purpose room
- June 2 - End of Year picnic - Grades 1-3 at Osborne Park
- June 3 - End of Year picnic - Grades 4-6 at Osborne Park
- June 4 - Kindergarten prayer service, 9:30, SPP Church
- June 5 - Last day of classes, End of year prayer service - 9:00, SPP Church
- June 13 - Report cards mailed

(continued on page 2)

Page 2

Stamps needed for report cards - As in past years, the final report card will be mailed to families, provided all financial obligations are met. **Two** stamps per card will be needed for the mailing. Since the cost of 1st class postage is increasing to \$.42 on May 12, I suggest waiting to send in the stamps until the increase goes

into effect.

Scantron Test Results - Students in grades 2-8 participated in the Scantron testing during the month of April in the subjects of reading and math. Results of this testing will be mailed home in the report cards, along with a small booklet that explains the testing process.

Spring Fling, May 23 - Plans are well underway for our Spring Fling, to be held on Friday, May 23 on the SPP Playground from Noon-2 p.m. for grades K-3. (Rain date-May 30) Information will be sent home soon to parents containing information about the details of the day. Stay tuned!

Arbor Day Poem Contest winners - Our 2nd and 4th graders took part in the annual Arbor Day poetry contest, sponsored by the Sandusky Dept of Parks, Recreational, and Horticultural Service. 4th grade winners were Mary Terese Faulkner, Callie Langston, Kylie Finneran. 2nd grade winners were Cassie Cebull and Rachel Dorski. The students were invited to read their poem at the annual Arbor Day celebration on April 26 at the Sandusky Greenhouse at a tree planting ceremony. The theme of the contest was "Going Green".

Cut It Out Contest Winners - The monthly winners for this label fundraiser include Mrs. Kessler's class for February, and Mrs. Kelly's class for March. Thanks to all who continue to support this activity, and to Mary Henning for her perseverance with the tallying, etc. of the labels!

Eye glasses found - A pair of eye glasses were found on the Sts. Peter and Paul playground last month. The glasses appear to be those of an adult female, and the brand name on the frame is Vogue. They are in the SPP office if the owner wishes to claim them.

GRADE LEVEL HAPPENINGS

Kindergarten - During the month of May our youngest students are learning about the significance of Mary in our Catholic faith. The children are learning to pray the "Hail Mary", and how many of these prayers make up the Rosary. In math the children are learning the process of addition and subtraction as they learn to "join and take away" numbers, and solve story problems. As part of their study of the local community in social studies, the children have enjoyed many "guest speakers" in the form of parents who shared what they do, and how they do their jobs. Field trips to local businesses were also a result of this study.

Grade One - In religion first graders are studying how the Holy Spirit helped the first apostles spread the Good News of Jesus, and helped the church to grow. They have learned that the feast of Pentecost is considered the beginning of the Church. Math classes have focused on repeating and growing patterns of different kinds and how this helps them understand better number sequences. Language arts classes the students are busy writing creatively, as they learn that beginning, middle, and ending sentences that include details and descriptive words are needed to complete a written story. In science the children used their imagination to create a "new product" from recycled trash!

(continued on page 3)

Page 3

Grade Two - As the children complete their preparation for First Eucharist they are learning of the presence of Jesus in each of us as we share His peace with others. They are also studying how the Pope and Bishops serve the Church and us, and direct us in living better lives. These young mathematicians are investigating fractions - halves, thirds, and fourths. They are learning to recognize, compare, and name them in "real life" situations. Part of their language arts classes are spent learning to read multi-syllable words by recognizing vowel patterns as a means of decoding new words. The Food Pyramid is the topic of discussion in health as

the students learn to recognize healthy foods and snacks, and how our bodies need these, along with exercise and sleep, to be in good health.

Grade Three - Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) have been the topic of study in religion. The children are learning how Jesus cared for and healed the sick, and how the Church continues the process of healing in Jesus' name. In math the students are learning to work with numbers in the hundreds - their composition, and how to read them. Strategies for solving 3-digit addition and subtraction problems has also kept them thinking in math. A visit to our Sandusky City Building helped the children understand better how local government operates. The children saw the police dept., the courtrooms, and city commission chambers. Learning how local businesses help our local economy is also part of their social studies classes.

Grade Four - The Ten Commandments continue to be the focus of the religion course of study in fourth grade. As the children studied the 3rd Commandment (keeping holy the Lord's Day) they have also reviewed the celebration of the Mass and the purpose and meaning of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Math class has been spent identifying, reading, and ordering fractions from greatest to least. Students are also learning to read, compare, and add decimals. In language arts the children are writing original poems to correspond with their science study of the environment. In addition they are memorizing poems, and reciting them orally to their classmates.

Ohio's part in the Great Depression and World Wars I and II has been a topic of study in social studies.

Grade Five - In religion the children are studying the sacraments of service - Matrimony and Holy Orders. They are beginning to understand the meaning of covenant and commitment as means to serve one another and our families and communities. In math the concept of probability is being studied. Students are organizing and interpreting results of data collections on graphs to be able to make accurate predictions. A family tree project is the result of reading classes. Science classes are focusing on thermal energy, what it is, and how it can transfer energy from one object to another object by conduction. A field trip to the Cleveland NASA Center will help them understand better the science concepts they have studied this year.

Grade Six - The Old Testament prophets are being studied in religion. The students are learning how these wise and faith-filled people called God's people to faithfulness, shared the message of God, and gave them hope and comfort in difficult times. Real-life problems dealing with money and measurement have been the topic of study in math. In language arts each student gave an oral presentation based on research on a foreign country of their interest. On April 23, all of the students spent the morning getting an introduction to junior high as they visited the jr. high classrooms, met the teachers, and listened to the expectations of the subject areas they will have next year. The morning was organized with the help of the jr. high teaches and Miss Barb Ott, Dean of Discipline for grades 6-12.

(more news on next page)

Page 4

Music - Our students are busy preparing for our school musical, "School Daze", to be held on Thursday, May 29 at 1:00 in the St. Mary Multi-purpose room. Our sixth grade choir members recently joined the adult choir from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish for a trip to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo. The children were part of a taping of the televised "Mass for Shut-ins". The Masses are scheduled to be shown on June 29 and July 6 at 11:00a.m. on Channel 11. Mrs. Nave's young guitar students have been accompanying her at our primary Masses on Fridays.

As this letter comes to a close I include a comment from a family new to our school for the 2007-08 school year. The parent recently shared with one of our teachers how pleased she was with the progress of her children, and the amount of knowledge the children gained this year through a curriculum she felt was

challenging and enriching. As our school year comes to a close, our faculty is pleased with the growth of our students. We thank you for your support, assistance, and prayers that helped to make these successes happen. We look forward to continuing these successes in the 2008-09 school year.

Sincerely,

Principal