

ST PAUL NEWS

SCIENCE FAIR

Inquiring minds want to know.....and they found out.

To conclude Catholic Schools Week, St. Paul School held a Science Fair for grades 4, 7 and 8. Under the direction of Mrs. Susan Gordon, the 7th and 8th graders presented their science inquiry projects at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week and the fourth graders displayed their projects on February 15th. What unexpected directions the "Inquiry Process" took for our students. It was particularly exciting to the teachers to observe the thinking and connections that came from the student's original question!

Learning science skills is an active process that allows children to focus on their own questions as they develop the ability to plan and execute a scientific investigation. Students who are practiced in Inquiry Science are empowered to engage in problem solving in all areas of their lives. They are empowered to think, to do science, to raise good questions and to find accurate answers. Science in Action at St. Paul School...it does not get any better!



Morgan Wagner, 7A



Anthony Gallerani, 4A



Patrick Daly, 8A & Kevin Corrigan, 8B



Erin Maloney, 4B

SPS ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR A WALK FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

There will a long jean day on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 with proceeds to benefit Great Strides: A Walk for Cystic Fibrosis (CF). For a \$3 donation, the children will be allowed to wear long jeans or pants other than their school pants, as well as wear a non-uniform shirt. Mrs. Britschge will be participating in the Great Strides Walk on Sunday, April 22, 2007 at Mercer County Park. Mrs. Britschge's godson, who will turn 18 this April, was diagnosed with CF at birth. Mrs. Britschge has been participating in the walk for the past 10 years. Each year, St. Paul School's generosity has helped her to raise over \$1,000 for Cystic Fibrosis research. If you are interested in sponsoring Mrs. Britschge or participating in the walk yourself, please contact Mrs. Britschge in 5A or at abritschge@spsprinceton.org.



Spelling Bee Winners

Runner up, Inez Asante, 7A, and first place winner Stephanie Keuch, show off their certificates at the annual Spelling Bee.

MISSION NEWS

Sister Jane Higgins R.S.M., Mission Coordinator

The students of St. Paul School are very generous in giving to the Poor of the World and also praying for them. As of March 16th, the students have donated \$4638.50 to the Poor of the World, and hope to double that by June 2007. I know Jesus will bless them for their generosity.

Special thanks to Mrs. Annie Britschge and Mrs. Kathy Maley – co-editors and coordinators of the St. Paul Newsletter.

Spring 2007

St. Paul School – A Part of a Vibrant Parish Community

By Monsignor Walter E. Nolan & St. Paul Parish Finance Committee

Over the last decade, Saint Paul school has grown in enrollment, becoming the second largest Catholic school in Mercer county, and it has grown in its ability to offer the highest quality of Catholic education. Throughout this time, the parish has funded over \$3million of capital improvements including a new, air conditioned kindergarten wing, a new library and computer center, a new, state-of-the-art science lab, the repointing of the entire building and more functional administration offices. In addition to the physical improvements through the generous support of our parents and the parish, we have been able to implement several initiatives to improve and enrich the education of our children. These actions included adding subject specific resource teachers to the faculty, improving technology and providing a substantial increase in faculty compensation. As we move forward, the main capital improvement project will be a new school roof, which should be in place for the next school year.

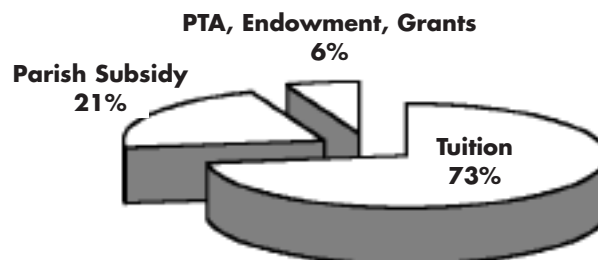
For the upcoming school year Saint Paul Parish will have an operating budget of nearly \$2million or \$5400 for each student. These costs are funded primarily through tuition and fees from our parents (72.8%) and subsidy funding from the parish (21.4%). The remaining 6% comes from PTA fund raising, endowment income and government grants. With newly focused development efforts and increasing enrollment, it is our expectation that we will be able to continue to move forward, while easing the burden on the parish subsidy. The parish subsidy has grown from approximately 10% of

parish regular income a few years ago to over 25% this year. Based on our preliminary enrollment numbers and first draft of the 07-08 budget it appears that we are moving in this direction.

A school is the most important ministry in a Catholic parish. However, the school cannot function without parish support and the parish cannot function without the support of parents who act as stewards of the parish. We ask you to stay involved in St. Paul Parish by attending Mass as a family, by attending events offered through the other parish ministries, and by becoming part of the vibrant parish community through a commitment to our Catholic faith.

St. Paul Parish has a plan to continue to keep St. Paul School fiscally healthy, academically competitive and financially affordable for those who choose Catholic education. St. Paul Parish is Princeton's first Catholic parish and takes great pride in its rich history as a parish providing Catholic education, and we hope you do too.

Sources of Funding



SAVE THE DATE: St. Paul Parish presents "The Music of the Night" featuring Broadway star Ciaran Sheehan, on Saturday, May 12, 2007 at 8:00 pm. Gold tickets (1st five pews) \$40, regular tickets \$30, seniors and children \$25. For more information, call the rectory at 609-924-1743, ext. 111.

CURRICULUM CORNER

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we entered the last few weeks of Lent, our children continued to prepare for the joy of Easter and the Risen Christ. We



enjoyed the Mime Stations, performed by our sixth graders under the direction of Vicki Coonan, Linda Daly and Dana Lentini. While Lent is a solemn time, we also begin to see the cheerfulness of the beauty of the world in spring as we look forward to a beautiful Easter morning and to celebrating the Easter Eucharist.

I would like to offer a special thank you to Jeaninne Desilets and her wonderful team for making the legendary Shamrock Auction a huge success, raising net funds in excess of \$85,000 due to your generosity and support. May I say that your tribute to me was one of the most treasured memories of my stay at Saint Paul School. Please accept my heartfelt thanks.

The students in grades two through eight took the Terra Nova standardized tests and the results of the tests will be sent to our school in early May. At that time we will send you the Home Report, which will provide norm-referenced information in a clear, easy to understand bar chart. During the summer months, the administrators and the teachers will analyze the summary reports and will examine the programs of study at Saint Paul School in an effort to strengthen the curriculum based on the reports. Please keep in mind that standardized tests are only one measure of success.

May God bless you and your families during the remainder of this Holy Season. Happy Easter.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Barrella,
Principal



Classnotes Kindergarten



The Kindergarten children enjoyed going to see "Clifford Live" in February at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. We are getting ready to go on another field trip in March where we will learn all about what a hospital visit will be like when we visit Princeton Medical Center! The Kindergarten children prepared for Easter and remembered how Jesus celebrated his last meal with his friends when we had our own Last Supper in class.

First Grade

1A has been doing a lot of fun and exciting things this year. This week we completed our own mini science fair! We explored electricity, dolphins, sunflowers, communication, kindness, earthworms, and muscles. Students worked with a partner and were given one of these topics. They needed to research this topic, write a summary of the topic, and create a visual aid. Each group then presented their work to the class and asked the students what they learned. The students were very enthusiastic and energetic. The work they created was amazing!

Second Grade

The students in second grade have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are now looking forward to their Communion Retreat and their First Communion. The students have also been very busy with writing projects for both their Collins Folder and their Language Arts Portfolio. In addition, we have enjoyed celebrating Presidents Day, Valentine's Day, 100th Day, Dr. Seuss' Birthday, St. Patrick's Day, Pi Day, and our Cursive Celebration Day with a variety of special activities. As our community of St. Paul welcomes our second graders at Eucharist please keep the children, their families and teachers in your prayers.

Grade 3 & 6 St. Valentine's Day Fun

In a true sharing of the heart, third and sixth graders joined together to celebrate the true meaning of friendship. Students exchanged homemade cards and special treats while learning how to potato print, a process that uses carved designs out of potatoes and paint. Each student left with a homemade card and a new friend!

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students recently became history teachers for a day! Students worked in groups to plan and deliver a lesson based on various aspects of life in colonial New Jersey. These "student teachers" were provided with objectives for their lesson and their "students" were quizzed to assess the effectiveness of the lesson. The lessons were interactive and creative and the students have much to be proud of. Great work, fourth graders!

Eighth Grade

During the last week of February, the 8th grade students of St. Paul took some time out of Terra Nova testing to listen to a presentation by Father Holung, founder of Missionaries of the Poor. Missionaries of the Poor is a young and vibrant ministry of missionaries living a monastic life in as active apostolate with the poor, whom they help in caring for the crippled, sick and elderly, and for children living in the streets.

Fr. Holung spoke gracefully and frankly about his missions and shared with the students his on going project to buy cribs for the babies they care for, which cost \$30 per crib. The 8th grade class, being so moved by Father Holung's ministry that they decided to raise money to help buy cribs. We happy to report that the students contributed over \$230 of their own money towards this endeavor! Way to go 8th grade!

AROUND ST. PAUL

PI Day at St. Paul School

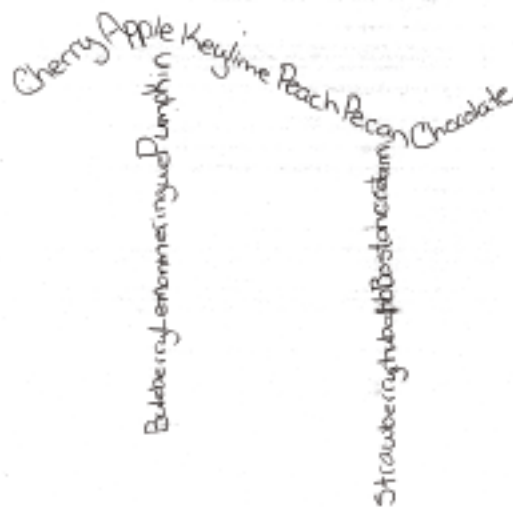
SPS celebrated Pi Day on March 14 with all students participating in activities involving circles and using the number π . The students who have classes on the third floor were greeted by a large π that was set up on the stairs going up to the third floor. Activities for the day ranged from coloring π , to creating and finding circles, to making a paper chain based on the numbers in π , to looking for their birthdays in π , to making π mobiles, to using play-doh to show a circle, diameter, and radius, and making π plates. Some classes watched a video on circles and how the number π was developed. The 8th grade had a "Pi Bee" with the students allocated 20 minutes to memorize as many digits of π , in order, from the beginning. The winning student, Jen Rota, memorized 50 digits during that time! π even got into Language Arts class as the 7th and 8th graders wrote π poems. The day culminated at 1:59 when the whole school ate pies sent in by the parents to celebrate 3.14159... Thank you to all who helped to make this celebration possible.

Where has the pie gone?
Was it eaten by the fawn?
When I woke up this morning, the one was gone.
I had baked it all last night,
it was a beautiful pie, oh what a sight.

Throughout the night, you could smell apples
And the fire was going. You could hear the crackles:
The yellow and red apples enclosed by the crust
Speckles golden, like the tips of an artists brush

Where oh where has the pie gone?
Did it get taken by the fawn?
And if so, was it taken before dawn?

by Mary Torpey 7A



Catholic Schools the Good News in Education

As one of 7,800 Catholic Schools in the United States, St. Paul School observed Catholic Schools Week 2007 from January 27 to February 3. St. Paul School celebrated in style with events scheduled throughout the week. The week started with a collection for the soup kitchen, then a special prayer service to honor our nation's heroes, and parent and grandparent day. Of course, the annual pep rally was held – and heard – throughout the school. We also held a spelling bee contest for grades (x-x) and the winner Stephanie Keuch in 6A and runner up was..... The finale was a science fair sponsored by students in grades 7 & 8, who displayed their experiments for family, friends and classmates.

We are proud of the Saint Paul School Scholastic Olympic team and applaud their first place win!

Rosalie Machado Takes Home Mercer County Science & Engineering Fair Top Awards



St. Paul School eighth-grader, Rosalie Machado, had a banner day on Tuesday, March 13th, at the Mercer County Science and Engineering Fair at Rider University. The fair presented the work of more than 500 future scientists and engineers, in three different age categories: elementary (grades 3-5), junior (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12). Rosalie's project, Simple Energy Conservation Measures Can Reduce a Household's Carbon Footprint: Fact or Fiction, won four separate awards in the junior category: Outstanding Achievement in Physical Science; Achievement Award from the Naval Science Research center; Certification to Enter the Discovery Challenge, from the Discovery Channel; and Outstanding Achievement from the United States Public Health and Service Department.

Rosalie's project evaluated the possible energy saving results of simple, cost-free, and easy-to-do changes people can make in their homes, including lowering their thermostats, turning off unnecessary lights, cutting down on the use of appliances, and reducing hot water consumption. These measures alone demonstrated a 12% decrease in energy usage and resulted in a reduction of the carbon footprint. Rosalie concluded that we can preserve our planet for ourselves and for future generations if we take personal responsibility to do so.

This intrepid scientist and environmentalist will attend The Lawrenceville School in the fall. Besides maintaining excellent grades at St. Paul's, Rosalie swims competitively, plays the saxophone, and pursues her interest in photography. She is co-editor, along with Clare Larson, of the St. Paul Yearbook, and is also active in several community service projects.