

## SPIRITS WANTED

We are looking to make the Wine & Spirits game another hit this year by collecting 125 bottles of fine wine and spirits (suggested value per bottle is \$15 - ???). Higher-valued donations make for a more exciting game!) Please contact Sue Maloney at (732) 438-1260 or suemalo@aol.com to arrange for a special pick up. Wine Connoisseurs: We need YOU to donate a very special bottle... to be raffled off during the evening! Thank you for supporting the Shamrock auction.

## EVENTS

**3RD ANNUAL FATHER/DAUGHTER DINNER DANCE**  
Sunday, February 13, 2005  
Linda Daly, 609-371-9359

**MOTORCYCLES ON ICE MOTHER/SON EVENT**  
Friday, February 25, 2005  
Linda Daly, 609-371-9359

**BOOK FAIR**  
Sunday, March 6 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and on Monday-Wednesday, March 7-9 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**16TH ANNUAL SHAMROCK AUCTION**  
Saturday, March 12, 2005  
Maureen Scheckel  
609-921-6755

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**  
Debbie Rosetty, 609-448-4637

**MCCAFFREY'S RECEIPTS**  
Kelly Clark, 609-924-5184

## Maureen Scheckel, Chair, Shamrock Auction

Since 2001, Maureen Scheckel has chaired the Shamrock Auction, the school's largest fund raising event, raising \$55,000 annually for the PTA. This year, the auction will be held on Saturday, March 12 at the Doral Forrestal in Plainsboro.

The Shamrock Auction is a special evening where the St. Paul Parish community gathers to celebrate and contribute to the legacy of St. Paul School now celebrating its 125th anniversary year. The evening begins with the ever-popular Silent Auction, which include wonderful items donated by individuals and local businesses. Past items noteworthy to mention have included diamond necklaces, artwork, days of pampering at local spas, and tickets to sporting events. This year's auction promise to hold items anyone could wish for under one roof.

While dinner is being served, the excitement of the Live Auction begins. At this time, the bidding becomes fast and furious as each St. Paul class displays their priceless class project that they toil over throughout the year. Other special items are also auctioned at this time, such as vacation home rentals, home furnishings and time spent with a favorite teacher. If you're lucky (and willing to pay up) one can land front row seats to the Christmas Eve Mass or dinner with Monsignor!

Maureen is quick to note that it take months of planning and preparation – and the time of the many wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to make the Shamrock Auction the special event that it is has become. It starts in September working with the Auction Chairs who are: Bridget Brennan, Irene Goldoni, Shellie Lynch, Freda Howard, Suzanne Eberhard, Katie Larson, Donna Murray, Jennine DeSilets and Ray and Gina Merendino. Crunch time is in January when specifics of the donated items and last minute details need to be ironed out for the big night in March! All of this is accomplished through the hard work, commitment and much leg work for this group of high motivated and dedicated Shamrock Auction volunteers.

As evident in the many long hours it takes to pull this evening together, Maureen is clearly dedicated to her position of chairing the Shamrock Auction and to those who work with her, she makes it seem all too easy. Maureen and her husband, David, are the parents of two SPS children, David in second grade and Kristina in sixth grade. In addition, Maureen is an avid runner who has completed several marathons, and coaches the St. Paul cross-country team. So, if you see Maureen, please feel free to thank her for all she has done for St. Paul School and the Shamrock Auction.



## Shamrock Auction Update

Each SPS family will soon receive an invitation to our 16th Annual SPS Shamrock Auction via your youngest child's communications folder. We encourage you to RSVP early to ensure the best table arrangements for you and your friends. Pull together a group of 10 to fill a table by connecting with friends and parents in your children's class. The more parent/guardian participation from each class, the more exciting the live auction Class Project bidding can be! We hope you can join us for a great night out at The Doral Forrestal on March 12th at 6 p.m. Ticket price is \$55.00 per person.

## Secret Santa Shop

The Secret Santa Shop chairpersons Bridget Brennan and Jennine DeSilets had a very merry time with each other and the students during the PTA fundraiser. Both Jennine and Bridget have been involved with many aspects of school activities for sometime now, but as first timers on the Secret Santa Shop they both agreed that this fundraiser was unique because of the festivity of the event and that they were able to insert their own creative ideas. When asked what they liked the best about this fundraiser, both agreed that seeing the students so excited to shop for their families was quite a thrill, but, the biggest thrill (for them as well as the students) was having Santa Clause visit the workshop!



February 2005



Dear Parents:

In this column I usually write about something timely, such as back to school. However, I am writing to you to ask you for something very simple with an end result that is very powerful.

I am asking you to commit to daily prayer. I am asking you to take a few minutes from your day to pray to God. Worldwide there are natural catastrophic events and man made battles that have taken hundreds of thousands of lives, brought pain and suffering to millions, and have too left many children without hope for a simple, happy life.

Prayer is lifting our hearts and minds to God. Prayer is the most powerful tool God has given us, yet the simplicity of prayer slips past us. A prayer can be said anywhere, anytime. It is taking a few moments to think about God and all His wonders in reverence and respect. It is taking time to think about the world in which we live and asking God to help us live as He wants us to live – in peace and love.

So, I ask you to commit to taking time out of your day to pray. Pray for the children of the world, pray for the mothers and fathers who cannot offer their children hope due to war, poverty, illness and catastrophe. Pray to God to hear our prayers – and He will.

Please join in a renewed commitment to daily pray. I promise you, our prayers do make a difference in the world.

With God's Love,  
Monsignor Walter Nolan

## PRINCIPAL'S POST

### Dear Parents/Guardians



With a blend of prayerful, educational and exciting activities, St. Paul School just celebrated another Catholic Schools week. Our first Open House proved to be very successful with parents, teachers, and students participating in the events of the day. Tours were conducted and new parents and children thoroughly enjoyed the day as they learned more about our school. Our Liturgy was beautiful, as usual, and our students represented our school well with their respectful and reverent manner. The Teacher Appreciation luncheon was wonderful! We are so grateful to the PTA for their generosity with that luncheon and the Pizza party following Mass as well.

Now we find ourselves in the Holy Season of Lent. We hope this season will bring your family to prayer, sacrifice and good works. During Lent, we are reminded to turn away from sin and toward God. We will be teaching the children about the significance of Christ's journey to Calvary. Our goal is to teach our children that Lent is a time when we draw nearer to Jesus and a time to share His spirit with others. In every way, February will be a holy and reflective month at St. Paul School.

We are making plans for next year's enrollment and you will soon be receiving re-registration materials. It is my fervent hope that you will continue to choose St. Paul School for your child (ren). Our school is a thriving, vital community where your children grow spiritually and are challenged academically. We believe that all children can succeed and our dedicated teachers teach to that end. We are preparing our students to be faith filled leaders of the future.

During the cold weeks of winter, we plan to allow the children to go outdoors for recess as often as possible. Please be certain that they are dressed for outdoor play with coats, hats and gloves. Special thanks to the parents who volunteer to be with the children and endure the cold.

I wish you all a Happy Valentine's Day and it is my hope that you will experience a holy Lenten Season. We'll pray for each other.

Thank you for all your wonderful acts of generosity and support.

Elizabeth A. Barrella  
Principal

## WHAT IS S.A.C.?

Are you aware that St. Paul School has a Student Assistance Committee? The Committee was developed to assist children who might have a problem that interferes with the learning process. The committee is comprised of school personnel including the principal, vice principal, school nurse, resource teacher and the school counselor.

When teachers have any concerns about children's performance or behavior that may affect learning, (i.e. death in family, separation or divorce, illness, etc.) they notify the committee who gather for confidential discussion and to seek possible solutions. The solutions range from simple discussions with the children involved to crisis intervention when necessary.

The Committee is an integral part of the functioning of the school community where the welfare of each child is of paramount importance.

You can help! We are only aware of situations that occur in school. If you have any issues that you think should be brought to the attention of the committee for consideration, please contact Mrs. Chnelich at (609) 921-3377 Ext. 102 or Mrs. Barrella at (609) 921-7587 Ext. 101



Dinner is served! Monsignor Nolan, Mrs. McMullen, Mrs. DeRosa, Francine King, Sister Jane, Sister Terena and Father Dunn.

## CURRICULUM CORNER

### The Equity Principle

The principle of equity is very much a part of the St. Paul's mathematics curriculum. It is balanced with content and process for all students. Both male and female students need mathematics for daily life, vocations, and to be informed voters. All students need the opportunity to develop an understanding of technical, vocational, and practical mathematics and to develop reasoning skills. Mathematics has sometimes served as a gate or filter through which only a few have been able to pass. Here at St. Paul's math is a door that is left open to students from the first day of their education and throughout their lives.

### Algebra from Kindergarten on Up

The idea of algebra in all grades in elementary school is a new one for many people. In all grades at St. Paul's algebra is introduced, with a total concentration of pre-algebra and algebra in seventh and eighth grades. Finding patterns and relationships in numbers and shapes and expressing them in a number of pictorial, tabular, and symbolic forms is fundamental to algebraic thinking. Almost every lesson a teacher plans has elements of algebra.

### Assessment in Mathematics

The old view of assessment consisted of giving a test at the end of each six-week period. While this type of formal assessment has its place, assessment is also formed in an ongoing dialogue between the teacher and student. In this dialogue, the progress towards understanding and skills is monitored. Each lesson is a move towards greater knowledge and proficiency. When a mistake is made the learner questions whether it comes from a misconception or misapplication. When a difficulty is encountered, the teacher adjusts instruction. Assessment is not limited to tests. It can occur during a lesson, on exercises, in projects and in journals. Some assessments are snapshots of present knowledge, and others allow you to assess a learner's growth over time. By utilizing various forms of assessment, the teacher is supporting equity for all students.

### St. Paul School PTA Annual Pasta Night Filled With Fun, Food and Friendship

Friday, January 21, over 150 St. Paul School families gathered together to break bread, share conversation and enjoy a most delicious meal of meatballs, pasta and salad. This annual dinner is due to the hard work and commitment of Mrs. Frances DeRosa, mother of Francine King and grandmother of Jimmy (5A) and Kimberly (3B). It is the love of family gatherings that motivates Mrs. DeRosa to donate and prepare this feast by making over 800 meatballs and cooking over 50 boxes of pasta, serving more than 375 guests – a record attendance in the 6 years of the annual Pasta Dinner!

The first group to serve was Monsignor Nolan, Mrs. McMullen, Sister Jane, Sister Terena, and Father Dunn, who rolled up their sleeves to the great enjoyment and surprise of the children. They were followed by the second group of servers: Mrs. Barrella, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. McMullan, Mrs. Maley, Mr. & Mrs. Petruzzi, Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Chnelich and Mrs. Dolan.

Mrs. DeRosa is assisted by a wonderful group of moms and dads who volunteer their time to cook and serve the meal. After dinner, the children gathered in the gym to dance to DJ Phil, who also passed out bead necklaces and blow up instruments to the children compliments of the PTA.

Thank you, Mrs. DeRosa, for your culinary talent, generous donation and treasured support of St. Paul School – and for your delicious meatballs that have become a part of the great tradition of St. Paul School. Thank you to Francine King PTA Program Chair, and to Janine Balascak, Brian & Karen Dubrule, Regina Meehan, Darlene Coester and Barbara Golden for shopping, setting up, washing dishes and cleaning up. Thanks also to all who baked the delicious desserts, and to Jim and Bridget Brennan for donating the Coca-Cola.

And a special thank you to Mynor and his team in the clean up of the gym.

# CLASSNOTES

## SCHOLASTIC OLYMPICS

On December 2, fourteen of our eighth grade students competed in the Twenty-Third Annual Scholastic Olympics sponsored by the McCorristin Catholic High School National Honor Society.

This is a contest in which students from Catholic elementary schools in Mercer and Burlington Counties are given the opportunity to show their academic expertise in a spirit of friendly competition. Students are chosen for the Scholastic Olympic Team for their high academic achievements in the areas of Art, English, History, Mathematics, Religion, Science and Spelling.



This year the following Saint Paul students received medals: Michael Kratlian, First Place in English, Marissa Daly, Second Place in English, Colby Haring, Third Place in History and Brandon DeLiberio, Third Place in Math. Other members of the Scholastic Olympic Team are: Stephanie Scalice, Lauren Poole, Caitlin MacKay, Timothy Brendel, Stefano DeSantis, Jonathan Murray, Maura Giordano, Laura Russo, Christopher Starke and David Twamley.

We are proud of our students for their achievements and commend their teachers for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence.

## COME PRAY WITH US

Although our world may seem huge and diverse, prayer is the bridge that unites all people, cultures, religious paths and practices. At St. Paul School prayer is a part of our everyday life. We strive to teach the children that prayer is not just for when you want something. Prayer can be in thanksgiving or for guidance. Prayers for family members, friends, neighbors and everyone, do, indeed uplift those who pray as well as the people for whom we pray. Prayer lets the children know there is always someone there they can talk to, who passes no judgement, who listens.

Every morning at 7:45, the teachers gather for prayers as a group. Starting the morning like this unites us as a community. Special intentions, personal and for the families of our school community are shared and remembered in prayer. Joining together with peers who have strong ties to the Catholic faith strengthens each one of us.

At 7:55 the teachers join the students in prayer. This is another way of helping students understand that their religion is alive and well in today's world. Children long for acceptance, and realizing that there are other boys and girls growing up Catholic offers a sense of security and purpose as they begin to understand their own places in society. We invite you wherever you are at 7:55 each day to join us in prayer and thanksgiving for the day the Lord has given us.

The students also reach out in prayer to others in our Diocesan community who we may not be in direct contact with, but whom touch our lives in some way. Each class has a list of names and each week pray for a person on their list. The children sign a letter that lets the recipient know that "someone has prayed for them" today. The teacher then mails the letter and often we receive a response back in gratitude for us thinking of them. This prayer letter always seems to arrive at a time when prayers are needed most. We have invited the children to bring to our attention anyone they would like their class to pray for and we will include them on our list to receive prayers from us.

What we enjoy most in Catholic Education is that ability to speak freely about God and about the importance of God in our lives. St. Paul's provides a supportive environment where the values of Christian community, coupled with personal responsibility and growth are essential parts of each day. We have a personal interior life with God connected to the Church including prayer, the sacraments, and service to others.

As our mission statement states, "Conscious of Catholic identity, of the heritage of the past, and of the challenges of the 21st century, we strive to serve God by serving one another, our students, parents and guardians, parish and the larger community of faith."

## St. Paul School Advisory Board Receives National Award

The Saint Paul School Advisory Board is one of eight boards selected to receive the Outstanding Board Award in 2005 from the National Association of Boards, Commissions and Councils of Catholic Education (NABCCCE).

The award will be presented to the St. Paul School Board at the Outstanding Board Award Luncheon which will be held Wednesday, March 30, 2005, in the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The award will be presented to the St. Paul Advisory Board by Regina Haney, Ed.D., Executive Director, National Association of Boards, Commissions and Councils of Catholic Education

The award was presented to St. Paul School based on the accomplishments of the last three years including, the 5 year Strategic Plan, Spirituality Family Support Program, the new Science Lab and the overall marketing efforts.

## Fifth Grade Canada Day

The fifth grade culminated their study of Canada with a "Canada Day," held on January 5, 2005. Each pair of students studied a different province of Canada and completed an oral and visual presentation and brochure. The children shared their knowledge of Canada with the children from grades K through 4, as well as their parents, who visited the displays on Canada Day.

