

PTA News & More

A Message from Susan Eberhard, PTA President



On behalf of the entire PTA, I wish you a very Happy New Year and welcome you to the second half of the 2005-2006 academic year.

Over the years my family and I have moved several times, and, as a result, we have belonged to a number of wonderful, faith filled parishes. But never have I experienced the dedication, commitment and unparalleled generosity of spirit that to

me defines St. Paul Parish and School. Most recently you evidenced this spirit with your overwhelming response to the teacher and staff Christmas collection. This selfless act embodies your love and commitment to Catholic education. Your response to the Spirituality Committee's joint efforts with the Advisory Board in our family assistance "First Response" program has been truly moving. This is clearly God's work you are doing here. I want to thank everyone for their support.

My thanks also for your similar support of our fundraising efforts which are on track to meet, and hopefully exceed, our commitment to the school. With the completion of the Ten Week Club (yielding approximately \$26,000), Innsbrook Wrap (\$8,500), Hidden Treasures Sale (\$5,000), Fall Book Fair (\$2,300), Kids Coupon and Secret Santa Shop (collectively \$3,000), we will have satisfied nearly half of our annual assessment commitment to the School. Thank you to the fundraising chairpersons who dedicate countless hours to these efforts and to all the volunteers without whom we cannot run these events. With the able assistance of the Hospitality Committee, the PTA was able to assist our Advisory Board's first rate Marketing Committee in their very successful Open House for the School at the beginning of January. The more than 37 families present were truly impressed by the professional presentation of our staff, current students and very articulate and poised alumni. Please do your part to continue to promote in the community the quality Catholic education that our very unique parish School offers.

The PTA has an exciting, jam-packed schedule to move us through the winter and into the spring season. Please mark your calendars with the events listed in the insert. We started out the events with Catholic Schools Week celebrating Character, Compassion and Values, the week of January 30th through February 3, 2006. The PTA sponsored a pizza party at 5:30 pm Mass on Saturday January 29th opening Catholic Schools Week. Once again, the Bridgewater

Manor will be the venue for our well loved Father-Daughter Dance on February 12, 2006. Special thanks to the Vizzoni family who so generously sponsor this event. This kind hearted contribution is a key factor in allowing the PTA to make our annual gifts to the School in excess of the assessment. Our young gentleman and their mothers will enjoy the antic filled entertainment of the Harlem Globetrotters on March 11, 2006 at the Sovereign Bank Arena. The entire family loves the PTA's Annual Pasta Dinner, the gift of Mrs. DeRosa (grandmother to Jim (6A) and Kimberly (4B) King) and her daughter Francine King, scheduled for February 10, 2006. Save your pennies for this PTA General Meeting as we will raffle off some kid favorite gifts! We still need volunteers for all of these events so please contact the fundraising chairs or Laura OKupski (921-3852) if you can volunteer your time and talents. I believe that when you volunteer to support any of our Catholic ministries you are working directly for God. There is no greater cause.

Finally, we are well on the way to carrying out another successful Shamrock Auction, planned for March 18, 2006. Please continue to make your family contributions to either Irene Goldoni (c/o Lucas 2B) or our Auction chairperson Jennine DeSilets (c/o Allison 3B). Volunteers for addressing invitations, soliciting donations, and many other tasks are still needed. To carry out an event of this magnitude we need all talents. Whatever gift you can offer is much appreciated. I look forward to record attendance and a wonderful celebration.

Thank you for your support and most importantly continued prayers for the PTA,

Suzanne C. Eberhard
President

We invite you to become involved in your child's education by taking part in the PTA. Here are the many ways you can get involved and the key people to contact.

FUNDRAISERS

SHAMROCK AUCTION	Mar 18, 2006	Jennine DeSilets	(732) 422-4643
POCKET CALENDARS	May/June, 2006	Sue Maloney	(732) 438-1260
BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION	Ongoing	Chris Gallerani	(908) 874-6608
MCCAFFREY'S RECEIPTS	Ongoing	Kelly Clark	(609) 924-5184

FAMILY EVENTS

PASTA NIGHT	Feb 10, 2006	Francine King	(609) 443-8106
FATHER/DAUGHTER DINNER DANCE	Feb 2006	Linda Daly	(609) 371-9359
MOTHER/SON OUTING	Feb/Mar 2006	Linda Daly	(609) 371-9359

Please contact Laura Okupski or Francine King if you would like to volunteer for a fundraiser or if you have questions, comments or ideas! This document can also be found on St. Paul's website: www.spsprinceton.org

February 2006

Sister Marlene Cunningham, RSM, Joins SPS

St. Paul School welcomes Sister Marlene Cunningham, RSM, as Assistant to the Principal and Vice Principal. In her new, part-time role, Sister Cunningham will be assisting in the daily administrative functions of the school. Sister Cunningham brings a wealth of administrative experience to St. Paul, serving as a Principal for 23 years. In addition, Sister Cunningham served as an Assistant Professor at Georgian Court College evaluating student, Assistant to the Superintendent of the Bayhead Public School System, and Director of the Brielle Learning Center.



*Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Lentini on
the birth of their daughter. Evalina Grace
Lentini, born on January 24, 2006.*



CANADA DAY

The annual 5th Grade Canada Day Showcase was held on Wednesday, January 11 by the 5th grade students, who proudly displayed their vast knowledge of our northern neighbor, Canada. Under the direction of their teachers, Mrs. Brisghe and Miss Rutkowski, the students were paired off with each pair representing one of Canada's territories. The students made display boards highlighting important information about the territory including location, natural resources, capital and population. As the students in K through 4th toured the showcase, they were met with enthusiasm, knowledge, and in some cases, a giveaway of candy.

Good job 5th grade!

CURRICULUM CORNER

PRINCIPAL'S POST

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to thank you for all the gifts, good wishes, cards and prayers you sent for the Christmas season. Your generosity is extraordinary. May I offer special thanks for the very generous Christmas bonus you provided us. It is symbolic of your kindness and appreciation for the hard work we do. What a marvelous affirmation! We all wish you God's blessings for health and happiness in the New Year.

Life is full of questions. Most of the time, we spend time thinking about the unimportant questions like: Does this tie match this shirt? What time is the dance? Where are we going for my birthday? These daily living questions are natural and there's nothing wrong with them. But the New Year makes us think about the more important questions, the ones that cause us to move in the direction of a better and holier life... a life that aims for moral excellence.

We celebrated Catholic Schools Week from January 28 – February 3rd. The theme of Catholic Schools Week clearly exemplifies the goal of moral excellence. It is: **Catholic Schools: Character, Compassion, Values.** In his book on Catholic Education, Tom Colyandro mentions that the Catholic School is a shining example of a place where the church forms and promotes the whole person and how, for decades, it has made a significant contribution to the evangelization mission of the church. How proud we are of our Catholic School! How happy we are to serve in St. Paul School!

It was with great joy that we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. Please be on the alert for a calendar of events and join us at every opportunity and you will see how we instill character, compassion and values in our students.

Again, on behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support, loyalty, trust and generosity.

With sincere gratitude,
Elizabeth A. Barrella, Principal



Classnotes



Kindergarten

All during the Advent season, the kindergarten children were very busy preparing for the birthday of Jesus! We waited and prayed every day. We also gave our family and friends a great gift- our Christmas program called "The Best Gift." The children were wonderful speakers and singers and certainly understood what the Christmas season is all about! We also made stockings for our eighth grade buddies who are so good to us. As we begin a brand new year, we are making promises to be better students and grow closer to Jesus.

7th Grade Rite of Welcoming

Just as the last piece of paperwork is filed from our 8th Grade Confirmation, we start out fresh again with our 7th grade students! On Saturday, January 8th, 7th grade students in St. Paul's School, along with the students in the Religious Education Program, were officially Received into our Confirmation Program at the Rite of Welcoming during the 5:30pm Mass. During the Rite, students are asked to commit themselves to preparing themselves more deeply on the mystery of their baptism and to answer the call to join deeper in the Church's mission to a life of prayer and service. The parish community is also called on to pray for these young men and women as they journey towards their full initiation into the church at their Confirmation this fall.

After the mass, the students took time for some dinner and fun at their first retreat. All 7th grade students were given their Confirmation packets which are due back to the Office of Religious Education by March 1st. Please feel free to contact Anne-Marie Calderone in the Office of Religious Education if you have any questions pertaining to the Confirmation packets.

7th Grade: Under the direction of Mrs. Sally Chrisman 7th Grade Language Arts teacher, the 7th grade students concluded their unit on "A Christmas Carol" with a Victorian Dress-Up Day.



8th Grade Scholastic Olympics

On December 1, 2005, a team of Saint Paul School eighth grade students brought home a Second Place award from the Twenty-Fourth Annual Scholastic Olympics, sponsored by the National Honor Society of Trenton Catholic Academy. The academic competition, open to eighth grade Catholic elementary school students in the Diocese of Trenton, is a test of general knowledge in the areas of Art, English, History, Mathematics, Religion, Science and Spelling. Medals are given for First, Second and Third Place in each subject. Team trophies are awarded to the three schools with the highest number of points based upon the medals earned. Eight area schools participated in this year's event.

Medal winners included Amanda Bautista, First Place, Art; Brennan Maragh, Second Place, Spelling; Joseph Convery, Third Place, Science; and Rebecca Sass, Third Place, English.

Other members of the winning team were: Kaitlyn Connaughton, Stephanie Heucke, Kyle Mariboe, Mary Kate McCarthy, Alexandra Scavone, Brandon Gagliardo, Emily Bamford, Nicole Seipp, Bridget Maley and Lucila Sparkes.



AROUND THE PARISH

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Third and Sixth Grade Buddies Carry Out the St. Paul's Mission

Once again this year, St. Paul's held a food drive to serve people of need in the Princeton area. With the help of donations from each grade, we were able to deliver over 100 bags of groceries and \$100.00 in grocery certificates to children who would not be provided access to meals supplied by their school, which was closed for the Christmas holidays. The third and sixth grade buddies formed an assembly line and packed up the bags to be delivered. The third graders love to do anything with their buddies and the look on their faces as they worked together was truly what being at St. Paul's is about. The children and their buddies also worked together on creating Christmas doorknob hangers, which were delivered to a local hospice. As our mission statement states, "we strive to serve God by serving one another, our students, parents and guardians and the larger community of Faith." It is experiences like these that provide the students with value-centered roles in our community. These experiences not only serve the students, but the teachers as well as we take very seriously our role as facilitators of the message of Jesus to join with others in faith, hope and love.

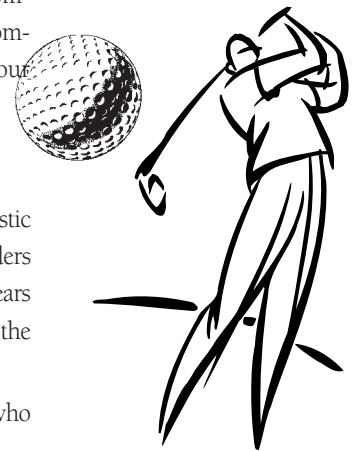
5th Graders Support Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

As part of their service project, the fifth graders sold stuffed bears and rubber wristbands to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The sale took place at Santa's Secret Shop in the beginning of December. The fifth graders took turns selling the bears to their schoolmates at the shop. A donation also allowed for them to send some bears to the Student Council's Adopt-a-Family. Altogether, the fifth grade children raised \$500 that will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Thank you to all who purchased bears and wristbands. Special thanks to Mrs. DeSilets and Mrs. Brennan, who ran Santa's Secret Shop, for their help.

Upcoming Golf Outing

The St. Paul's Athletic Committee has begun its planning for the 2006 Golf Outing scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2006. Volunteers are needed to help with this great parish event! If you can help, contact Frank Taylor, Outing Chair.



RIGHT: On Saturday, January 21, the St Paul's 4th grade Girl Scouts Troop 664 participated in the Girl Scouts "Sock Hop." The troop dressed up in 50's outfits and danced the night away! All proceeds will benefit local nursing homes. The night was a big success with over 100 girls from local troops participating. The girls have many more exciting outings planned for the spring. Once again, great job girls!!



BELOW: Once again, the students and parents enjoyed the annual 4th and 5th grade Christmas Pageant, where the students sang songs of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and acted out the birth of Jesus in the manger. Special thanks to Mrs. and Mr. Lantini for their musical talent and commitment to our students.

