

ST PAUL NEWS



Thanksgiving St. Paul Style

Thanks to the efforts of parents, the annual Thanksgiving feast at St. Paul School was great fun and exciting. The children sat together for lunch enjoying the traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, stuffing, potatoes and vegetables.



NEWS FROM SPS LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

In January, a panel of judges from the American Library Association bestows a Caldecott Medal on distinguished picture books published the previous year. The books are honored for their outstanding illustrations. The picture book winning the top honor is awarded a gold medal. Silver medals are awarded to a few other exceptional books.

The Library Media Center decided to hold a mock Caldecott contest with the second graders as judges. Ten books that had been published in 2006 and considered worthy of nomination were chosen by Mrs. Heitzman.

The second graders learned about Randolph Caldecott for whom the medal is named. They were shown the many books that won medals in previous years, becoming aware of the variety of styles in the illustrations. These books were checked out to allow the students more time to look at the important reasons why the books won this award – the attractive cover, the colorful end papers, and whether the pictures told a story.

Finally, the ten nominated books were displayed in the Library Media Center. A mock Caldecott contest was held with all the second graders as judges. A mock Caldecott ballot was given to each student and the books were examined closely, focusing on the above considerations. A decision was made as to which book was “very special” and should be awarded a gold medal; and which three others were special enough to become honor medal winners.

The results of the contest were posted outside the Library Media Center.

Now we are waiting to hear which books won the “real” contest. Wouldn't it be wonderful if one of our winners received a Caldecott Medal?

Our Winners are:

GOLD MEDAL: *Duck & Goose* by Tad Hills

SILVER HONOR MEDAL: *Not Afraid of Dogs* by Suzanna Pitzer

Flotsam by David Wiesner

Art by Patrick McDonnell

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND JOY

Christmas at St. Paul School is always a very special time as the children prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, through several events. Of course, the adorable and moving kindergarten pageant is truly one of the more special events enjoyed by parents, students, teachers and families. Thank you Mrs. Brennan and Ms. Miller for your gift of sharing the joy of your precious kindergarten children.

The annual 4th & 5th grade Christmas Pageant was held with students singing about the birth of Jesus and acting out his birth in the manger. Thank you 4th & 5th graders for showing us the real meaning of the birth of Jesus Christ.



January 2007

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 28 through Feb. 3. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: the Good News in Education."

Catholic Schools Week is an activity of the National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools, a joint project of National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Dr. Karen M. Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said, "Catholic Schools do good work all year round. But on this week we want to focus everyone's attention on the fact that Catholics schools are good news. In addition to learning reading, writing and arithmetic, students also learn responsibility—and how to become persons of character and integrity."

That's the good news and we want to share it.

At St. Paul School, Catholic Schools Week is a time to honor our school's excellence and to highlight its mission and traditions. High achievement rates, high retention rates, high moral values and high student and parent satisfaction are the distinctive marks of a Catholic school. So, it's a time to celebrate! We've planned a variety of events and we have lots of "good news" to share about our school!

GOOD NEWS IN THE PARISH

Saturday, January 27 5:30 P.M. Mass- honoring Mrs. Sina
Storie and Mrs. Kathy Maley

Pizza Party

GOOD NEWS IN THE COMMUNITY

Monday, January 29 Wrap Utensils for Soup Kitchen

Soup-er Bowl
(Students bring cans of soup for the needy)

Ice Cream Treat for Students

Theology Wizard

GOOD NEWS FOR THE STUDENTS

Tuesday, January 30 Morning Prayer Service 9:00 a.m.

Kind Kid Awards distributed

Slipper Day for students

Pep Rally

GOOD NEWS IN THE NATION

Wednesday, January 31 Prayer Service for our Nations Heroes 8:30

Parent or Grandparent Day 9:00 to 9:45

GOOD NEWS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS

Thursday, February 1 Student Council Hosts Teacher Breakfast

Volunteer Recognition Breakfast

Spelling Bee

GOOD NEWS FOR THE FACULTY

Friday, February 2 First Friday Mass 8:15 am

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

GOOD NEWS FOR SCIENTISTS

Sunday, February 4 Science Fair in the Gym – 1:00 to 3:00

CURRICULUM CORNER

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Beginning January 27, we will observe Catholic Schools Week! We will be honoring our school's excellence and reflecting on our high quality and faith focused education. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: The GOOD NEWS in Education." I am blessed to see the wonderful reality of Catholic Education every day at our school. I see it in our teachers and staff. It's in the accomplishments of our students as they grow in the Lord. And, it certainly is in the commitment of our parents/guardians who give so selflessly to help make our school excellent.

Those of us who entered the New Year with a commitment to Catholic Education take pride in the fact that Saint Paul School is thriving.

WE'RE PROUD OF THE FACTS

- Founded in 1880 by the Sisters of Mercy
- Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools
- Eighteen Classrooms
- No more than twenty-five students per class/Student-Teacher Ratio is 19 to 1
- Qualified, Certified, Dedicated Teachers

WE'RE ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT

- Standardized test scores indicate high levels of proficiency
- Graduates attend prestigious high schools
- Writing lab with one-on-one tutorials
- Science lab teacher who works collaboratively with the classroom teacher.

WE'RE CATHOLIC

- We ARE the GOOD NEWS in Education

Please join our Catholic Schools celebration and spread the word about the "good news" in education at Saint Paul School.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Barrella,
Principal



Classnotes Kindergarten



In December the two kindergarten classes put on a performance called "The Best Gift", where they told the story of the birth of Jesus. The kindergartners are proud to say that they know the real meaning of Christmas..... Jesus' birthday! The children gave Jesus their own birthday presents too! Some of the presents were promises to be helpful, to be a kind friend and to be a good listener. Happy Birthday Jesus!

Fifth Grade



The fifth graders held a bake sale on Wednesday, November 15. They raised \$74.15. The money raised went to buy a gift certificate to Marketfair. This certificate will be donated to a family in Hamilton who has a very sick child named Julianna. This beautiful little girl turned two years old in December. Julianna has a mitochondria disorder that has already resulted in blindness, lack of motor skills and brain deterioration, and she is fed through a feeding tube. Julianna has five siblings under the age of seven, so the compassion and kindness of the fifth grade was generated throughout the entire family.

The fifth graders also sold stuffed teddy bears and t-shirts at Santa's Secret Shop in November. The children worked in 15 minute shifts at the shop to raise almost \$300 with proceeds to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to help find a cure for the disease.



Seventh Grade



After reading Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" Mrs. Chrisman's 7th graders had a Victorian Dress-up Day in December.



ST. PAUL SCHOOL AND PARISH SPIRIT OF GIVING

Thanks to the generosity of St. Paul School parents and children, the St. Paul Parish Adopt-A-Family program received over \$2,100 in donations used for food certificates and store gift cards, which went to Catholic Charities families in need.

To raise the funds for the school-wide Adopt-A-Family Program, the St. Paul School Student Council sponsored a dress down day in November, a bake sale in December and the sale of holiday candy grams to send to friends and family during Christmas week.

Many thanks to the St. Paul School parents, students, families, teachers and staff who contributed money, items, time and, best of all, goodwill to mankind.

AROUND ST. PAUL

COMMUNITY SERVICE *Operation Christmas*

As part of their service project for the year, the fifth and second grades organized care boxes for Operation Christmas Child. In this project, the children fill shoe boxes that are distributed as gifts to poor children in over 95 countries. The children viewed a video provided by Samaritans Purse, the ministry that distributes the boxes. Then the buddies discussed and chose what they would like to buy to put into their box.

The buddies worked together to compile their items in the boxes, and made cards for the children who receive the boxes. Completing this project was a way the children focused on others as they prepared for the season of Advent. The children filled about 50 boxes, making Christmas merrier for children around the world.

Special thanks to Mrs. Vickie Coonan who delivered the boxes to the Operation Christmas Child distribution center.



Kathy Maley Commissioned as Lay Ecclesial Minister

Our very own Mrs. Kathy Maley, 4th grade teacher, was one of 14 who were commissioned by The Most Reverend John M. Smith, Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton, as a lay ecclesial minister on December 10 Mass in St. Mary Cathedral, Trenton.

Mrs. Maley completed the requirements of the diocese's institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry, a rigorous three-year program of education, spiritual formation, pastoral skills development and practical experience, in evening and weekend classes and retreats. The commissioning qualified her for professional positions of leadership in the Church.

This is only the diocese's third commissioning, so we are proud of Mrs. Maley's commitment to her faith and teaching ministry. Congratulations!

SPS Places First in Scholastic Olympics

On December 7, 2006, a team of Saint Paul School eighth grade students brought home a First Place Award from the Twenty-Fifth 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: John Rodrigo, First Place, English; Kevin Link, Third Place, English; Kyle Niederer, Third Place, History and Jonathan Falzon, Third Place, Spelling.

Other members of our winning team were: Erica Milan, David Lopez, Frances Zappone, Joe Mendoza, Clare Larson, Rosalie Machado, Jenna Wandishin, Justin Veno, Jules Manalang and Patrick Clancy.

