

OUR STUDENTS

3 SPS Students Compete in MathCounts Competition

(PHOTO) Four students from St. Paul's School competed in this year's MathCounts Competition. MathCounts is a nation-wide math enrichment competition that promotes middle school mathematics achievement. These students, coached by Mrs. Hogancamp, spent Saturday, February 4 at Reynolds Middle School in Hamilton, New Jersey competing against 16 other Mercer County schools.

The top scorer for SPS was 7th grader Justin Veno. Other students participating in the competition were Ryan Bruvik, Jonathan Falzon, and Rosalie Machado. Congratulations go out to these students for doing a great job representing SPS!



SAVE THE DATE



You're Invited to the
St. Paul's Parish
Athletic Committee



9TH ANNUAL SPORTS BANQUET

May 17, 2006

Angeloni's Cedar Gardens
Route 33, Hamilton Square, NJ

6:15 – 8:30pm



Look for sign up information
during the early part
of April, 2006.



Science fair 2006

A Science Fair, under the wonderful leadership of Vice Principal Susan Gordon, was held during Catholic Schools Week. The Science Fair featured the clever and original science projects of the 7th and 8th grade students. Each project was proudly displayed by students showing their ability to hypothesize, experiment, and research the project selected by them. We are proud of their accomplishments and how they each new every nuance of their science project



Spelling Bee Winners



Above: For the second consecutive year, Brennan Maragh in 8A, was the St. Paul School Spelling Bee winner, and runner up was Jonathan Falzone. Brennan will now compete in The Times annual spelling bee to vie for a place in the Washington, DC spelling bee competition. Good luck Brennan and congratulations Jonathan.

February 2006

SPS Catholic Schools Week 2006

By Kathy Maley

Catholic Schools week was celebrated by all from Saturday January 28th to Friday, February 3rd. During this week our focus was on the importance of Character, Compassion, and Values in our lives and in our society. The week was kicked off by our parish and school community joining in the celebration of the Mass.

Why set aside a week to celebrate Catholic schools? As parents you have chosen a Catholic Education for your child and we applaud you. Catholic schools provide an environment of faith, with a high quality academic education. More than that, it is a place where children can speak of, question and debate their faith. We are able to address these conversations because the teachers can speak from a base of Gospel values that they are unable to do in secular education. The school provides and nurtures a value based education. The children have a commitment to the service of others. Catholic education gives your child a moral compass so that they can make their way through difficult situations that are in the world, and a

basis to make the right choices and know that they are not alone. Parishes and families make sacrifices to keep Catholic schools going. Catholic families that choose Catholic education need to be celebrated. Catholic schools week gives us the opportunity to recognize all who make Catholic education happen here at St. Pauls. The children, the parents, the parish, the teachers, the administration and support staff and, of course, Monsignor Nolan and Father Dunn who lead us in nurturing the gift of faith in every student. The greatest evaluator of Catholic education is not test scores, its how we see our students grow and live their lives. Our graduates are dedicated to social justice, respectful of human dignity and carry the flame of faith into a world in a great need of a gift.

Again, thank you all for choosing Catholic education for your child. It is a privilege to be entrusted with your children and open their eyes to an insight to their faith and academic achievement. We do not take this responsibility lightly.....Kathy Maley



CURRICULUM CORNER

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Once again, we find ourselves in the Holy Season of Lent and it enables us to follow Christ's journey of death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday, we were reminded of our own mortality both spiritual and physical. That reminder often brings us to the soul searching opportunities that Lent offers. We now can reflect on our lives in light of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. We encourage you as a family to use the Lenten season to instill in your children a sense of the true meaning of Lent as a time set aside to provide an opportunity to save our souls and show our appreciation to Christ for His ultimate sacrifice. At school, we will provide many lessons and opportunities for penance, giving, abstinence, and prayer. Simple devotions at home will compliment our school Lenten activities.

Let me take the opportunity to thank you for the cooperation, support and assistance that you offered during the month of February. Now we look forward to the enjoyment of the legendary St. Paul School Shamrock Auction.

Thanks, too, for your cooperation with the registration process. Remember to announce the "good news" of St. Paul School to your friends and neighbors. And special thanks for sharing your beautiful children with us.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Barrella, Principal



Classnotes



Kindergarten

The kindergarten children have been very busy since we have returned from winter break! We learned what a true friend is when we talk about Martin Luther King Jr. in January.

In February we learned lots about groundhogs! Did you know that groundhogs are herbivores? That means they eat plants!

We also celebrated Valentines Day and our 100th day with yummy treats and games! We learned all about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln too! Since February is Dental Health Month, we learned about many healthy ways to take care of our teeth, including healthy food choices for our teeth!

Grade 2

Both 2nd grade classes have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To indicate their "change of heart" after receiving the sacrament, the students received a heart necklace. Many of the students have worn their heart necklace to school and to Mass on Sunday.

The "young authors" in grade 2 have been busy with creative writing. To celebrate 100th Day, the students wrote their own 100th Day of School book. Each child completed the following sentence starters: If I had 100..., I would not want 100..., I can eat 100..., I would never eat 100..., I can do 100..., If I had \$100, I would buy...and their illustration for, When I am 100 years old I will look like this... In addition, each student brought in a collection of 100 items and presented their collection to their class.

The 2nd grade has completed the book, *Charlotte's Web*; during class read aloud time and on Friday, February 17th we had the annual, *Charlotte's Web Day*. Students used their creativity and completed a project of their choice. Each student presented his or her finished project to the class. A fun day was had by all!

6th Grade

The 6th grade has been immersed in the study of Ancient Egypt. In Social Studies, the students have begun work on a giant mural which will depict various aspects of life in Ancient Egypt. The work will demonstrate all that the 6th graders have learned about the religion, customs, and culture of Ancient Egypt. To complete the mural, each class will have to work together to decide on a theme and create an outline for the mural. They will have to decide on the scenes that will be depicted and the colors used. After that, the class will divide up into small groups with each group completing a section of the mural. With enough teamwork and planning, it will be difficult to determine where one section ends and the next begins. The mural will be on display once it is completed.

In reading, the 6th grade just completed *The Golden Goblet*, a novel set in Ancient Egypt. Many of the customs and traditions followed by the characters in the novel were those that the students had learned about in Social Studies. The 6th graders also created their own travel brochures showing the many things to see and do in Ancient Egypt. Some of the brochures even contained innovative time travel ideas for tourists determined to visit. The unit will conclude with a class trip to the Princeton Art Museum to view their collection of Egyptian artifacts.

WE ARE BUSY BEES IN THE SCIENCE LAB

by Kathleen Ritz

All kinds of special things are taking place in the lab this year. Each grade has been learning the scientific method by developing his or her own hypothesis, examining and performing a procedure, writing results, and drawing conclusions based on these results. Each class is concentrating on different areas of science, including earth, life and physical science. The students are learning to become thinkers by asking related questions and discovering some of the answers for themselves or researching information on their own! They are often in groups and are able to work off of each others ideas. One comment from a third grader was "This is the

AROUND ST. PAUL

A Catholic Schools Week Retrospect

St. Paul's Message to Us in 2006

by Rosalie Machado 7B

St. Paul of Tarsus is one of the greatest and most revered figures in the Catholic Church. In his early years he was called Saul and an ardent persecutor of the early church. On his way to Damascus in search of more Christians to torture, he was confronted by Jesus with a powerful message, "Saul, Saul, why doest thou persecutest me?" Saul converted to Christianity and became Christ's vessel conveying the message of love to the Gentiles. Thousands of years later, as we celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Paul, Jesus is challenging us with the same question, "Why do you persecute me?" St. Paul is calling us, the students of St. Paul School, to respond to this challenge and emulate him in spreading Christ's message of love and hope to our fellow humans.

Our persecution of Christ today does not involve searching and torturing Christians as Saul did. Instead, it involves our neglect of the defenseless unborn, sick, aged, and poor in our society. By ignoring and neglecting our fellow sisters and brothers, we are persecuting Jesus who said, "What you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me." Each of us has to ask ourselves whether we as individuals are persecuting Jesus with our thoughts, words, and deeds. Equally importantly, are we making this persecution even worse by our acts of omission – standing by and doing nothing while wrong is being done.

So, the message for us on the feast of our patron, St. Paul, is clear – stop persecuting Jesus and spread the message of Christianity by loving God with all our heart, body and soul and our neighbor like ourselves.

Terra Nova

Terra Novas are standardized achievement tests designed to provide achievement scores that are valid for most types of educational decision-making.

Basically, the reason for the testing is:

- To identify and examine areas of strength and weakness in the performance of students
- To provide a basis for reports to parents and students
- To inform teachers of the needs of their students. This helps in working toward increasing student achievement and closing achievement gaps.

Areas that are assessed are Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. (Second grade is Reading and LA only and third grade is Reading, LA and Science). In seventh grade a writing portion is also included. Primarily, the inferences from the test results include measurement of achievement of individual students relative to a current nationwide normative group and relative program effectiveness based on the results of groups of students. Progress can be tracked over years and grades. **The results is used to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of a student's achievement in each content area, to plan for further instruction, to plan for curriculum development, and to report progress to parents.**

We would suggest that no test be taken as conclusive for any further educational development. As a parent, what you may do is to discuss with your child's teachers the areas that he may not have performed well and use that information to help in those areas rather than making any decision on his future educational development. Results will be sent home with your child in the spring.

MISSION NEWS... Share Your love

Dear Parents and Students,

I take this opportunity to thank you for your donation of \$3494.00 on behalf of the world's neediest citizens. This is the total of your donations as of February 2006. Your generosity will make the word's of the Psalmist, "Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted....", ring true for many of our sisters and brothers in the mission. You help them experience peace and joy in the midst of suffering. You share with them hope that conquers fear and death.

St. Paul School received second place for the Diocese of Trenton 2004-2005. Our total donation was \$7,681.30.

We also reviewed a plaque which hangs on the wall outside the school office. Let's strive for first place this year!

Please continue the fine work you have begun. Realize that God will bless you a hundred fold.

Gratefully in the Lord, Sister Jane Higgins, RSM

Physical Education

Ms. Ricciardi "Ms. R"

The 2005-2006 school year, has been a fun filled year, but in the gym the Physical Education classes have only been getting warmed up! In the up coming months, all our PE classes will be very busy with the following activities.

In February, we participated in Jump Rope for the Heart, which is a yearly event sponsored by the American Heart Association. During this week we talked about the heart and why it is so important to take care of ourselves, and raised funds for the American Heart Association through the jump rope for heart challenge. All the students either jumped rope individually or in pairs, and used the jump ropes for a limbo competition. As a result, St. Paul school raised \$2131.50 for the American Heart Association. And... the winner of the jump rope longevity contest was Sarah Domino in 2A! Way to go Sarah.



Also in February in honor of the 2006 Olympics in Torino, Italy, each class held their own mini Olympics. Each class was divided into teams and then picked countries to represent during our mini Olympics. The students all made country signs to bring in on the day of their PE class to cheer on their teammates. In class we also discussed other things the students can do to show their spirit, such as wearing wristbands of their country's colors, or ribbons in their hair, colorful shoelaces or even make a t-shirt to wear the day of their mini Olympics.

During the week of March 6th-10th, all students will be performing their yearly fitness challenge. This challenge will include a shuttle run, push ups, sit ups, and v-sit. The results will be tallied using the format for the President's Challenge, which is a nation wide challenge.