

# ST PAUL NEWS

## THE HALLOWEEN PARADE AT SPS

The students of St. Paul School took the traditional Halloween Parade around the St. Paul School block on October 31, showing off their costumes, excitement and love of "being on parade." Parents, siblings, grandparents and Monsignor Nolan and Toby watched the children's parade on the most beautiful sunny and warm Halloween day ever!



(l. to r.) Lily McKenna, Shannon Daly, Elaine Milan and Kelly Wert



Halloween Fun (l. to r.) Katie Eberhardt, Laura Eberhardt, Carly Ilvento and Valentina Desantis

November 2006

## Cross Curricular Collaborations foster Dynamic Environment for St. Paul Upper School students

It's a lucky thing that the seventh and eighth grades, the "Upper School", occupy the uppermost floor of St. Paul's. The frequent cross-curricular collaborations, as well as the changing of classes, often create a lively din of involvement and activity. Students rotate among six subjects every day: Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Religion, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, they have classes once a week in Art, Computers, Gym, Health, Spanish, and Science Lab.

The experienced faculty of the Upper School brings a wide range of backgrounds and talents to St. Paul's. Sally Chrisman, certified in Elementary Education, has a Masters Degree in Education, and teaches Language Arts and Reading. She taught theater for fourteen years and wrote and directed numerous plays and musicals for her students.

**Margaret Goldman**, our Science teacher, is certified in Comprehensive Science - K-12, and Elementary Education. She has been teaching for eight years, including classes in Biology, Chemistry, and Lab Techniques. Mrs. Goldman has also taught Chemistry labs at Rutgers University.

With a certification in Secondary School Social Studies and a Masters Degree in Education, **Maggie Lyons** has been teaching Social Studies for five years. She also leads the Student Council at St. Paul's.

**Kristin Pokallus**, certified in Elementary Education, teaches Religion and Language Arts. She was a youth minister for eight years, and a High School Media Specialist for one year.

Another essential member of the Upper School faculty is **Patricia Bourdette**, who is certified in Elementary Education and has been teaching for eighteen years. Mrs. Bourdette conducts one-on-one writing tutorials with students in grades four through eight. She also directs the Collins Writing Program, a school-wide initiative that encourages writing across the curriculum and provides continuity

from grade to grade.

The nationally recognized Collins Program, now in its second year at St. Paul's, develops writing and analytical thinking skills. This program encourages writing in all subjects, including math and science, using "Focus Correction Areas" or FCA's. Teachers assign three FCA's for an assignment. The FCA's help the student understand exactly what the teachers are looking for in that particular assignment. Mrs. Chrisman comments that, "deciding on what FCA's to assign to which paper forces me to think about the most pressing writing needs for each class, as well as for each student. I think that the FCA's also help the kids write more carefully, proofread and peer-edit more diligently."

An additional strength of the Upper School is its math curriculum. Designed by **Linda Hogancamp**, a certified Elementary Education and Middle School Mathematics teacher, the program is designed to make math non-threatening and accessible to every student, regardless of his or her ability. The curriculum ensures that each student has the tools he or she needs to progress confidently to the next level. This is especially important in the upper grades, when students are preparing for high school entrance and placement exams.

Mrs. Hogancamp comments that, "so many students are frightened by math if they think they're not good at it. Therefore, in addition to teaching mathematical concepts, I'm trying to break down the barrier of each student's perception of his or her math ability. I want the student to think, 'Hey, I like math, and I can do this!'"

Some of the many academic projects currently under way include a joint Religion and Language Arts research paper. This project is an opportunity for seventh- and eighth-graders to explore social justice issues including genocide, illegal immigration, and racism. The students use Catholic teachings to shape their research on solutions to these serious problems.

*continued on page 3*

### Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Lunch  
November 21  
Doug Both, Chair

Secret Santa Workshop  
November 27 - 30  
Patty Fassnacht  
(609) 333-8875

Tree Lighting Ceremony  
after 5:30 Mass on  
December 2



### MISSION NEWS

By Sister Jane

On November 2nd, the Elementary Mission Reach Out Program was held at Saint Paul Elementary School in Burlington, New Jersey. Our St. Paul School was represented by Sister Jane, and school parents Theresa Falzon and daughter Rachel, and Bridget Dalrymple and daughter Margaret. This year's theme is, "A Eucharist Celebration for all the Mission and the Poor of the World."

For its outstanding donation of \$8,999, St. Paul School received a second place award for the school year 2005 - 2006. Accepting the award were Rachel Falzon and Margaret Dalrymple, to recognize their efforts in raising the majority of the funds for their 4A class during the 2005 - 2006 school year.



May the students of St. Paul continue their support and prayers for the poor of the world, for many years to come.

Bishop Smith presents Mission Award to SPS.

# CURRICULUM CORNER

## PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear Parents/Guardians,

"Well begun is half done." We've had a wonderful couple of months and I'm certain the adage will ring true for all that we do at St. Paul School. What is especially nice about education is that it gives us the opportunity to start each year with renewed hopes, dreams and expectations. What a life giving opportunity!



The seeds of an excellent year have long been planted during September and October to ensure a successful ending. We have all set personal goals for ourselves in light of our strengths and shortcomings and those of our students. Now we will take those goals and turn them into reality.

We began by welcoming so many new and wonderful people into our family – teachers, parents and students. Our new students and parents are becoming comfortable in the St. Paul School family largely because of our "old" students who took them under their wings. Our new teachers have already planted their seeds and began cultivating new friendships with teachers, students and parents. They are committed to maintaining strong religious and academic standards for our students.

I personally am pleased to continue my ministry at St. Paul School. I sincerely enjoy serving you and your children as I strive to build a stronger community – one that is filled with spiritual and academic growth.

I'm very proud of our little family. No matter what, we are, have been and will be bound together by our God who loves and accepts all of us and asks us to do the same.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your children. The children bring so much joy to us every day that we feel blessed to have them in our lives. Thank you too, for your cooperation and support. All of us here at St. Paul School wish you a very blessed and joyful Thanksgiving. May it be a celebration of all God's blessings.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Barrella,  
Principal



## Classnotes Kindergarten



The Kindergartners have been off to a busy start! They are learning many new concepts ranging from numbers and patterns, to letters and sight words. Some of the highlights for the Kindergartners include going to church with their eight grade buddies, and making new friends.

Everyday is exciting in the kindergarten classrooms. In October, the students learned about pumpkins, spiders, Christopher Columbus and fire safety. Of course, we wrapped-up the month with a fun and festive Halloween party!

## Second Grade ★

Pumpkins, Pumpkins Everywhere!

The second grade students celebrated "pumpkin week" by completing creative activities using pumpkins in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. We would like to thank Stult's Farm in Plainsboro for donating the pumpkins.



## Third Grade ★



Remembering the elderly and less fortunate during the holidays was on the minds of the 3rd graders.

While trick-or-treating on a warm and exciting Halloween night, the students in third grade were not just thinking about candy and treats. Their hearts and minds were focused on the elderly in our community, who are not able to enjoy this holiday. Students selected favorite candies from their abundant Halloween bounties to donate to a local rehabilitation center. This outpouring of faith and love is a wonderful expression of our Catholic faith. Through their kindness and compassion, the students brought many smiles to the elderly during this wonderful fall celebration.



**Have a very blessed  
and joyful Thanksgiving.**

**St. Paul School held its annual  
Opening Day Mass in prayer  
and faith as students began  
the new school year.**



# AROUND ST. PAUL

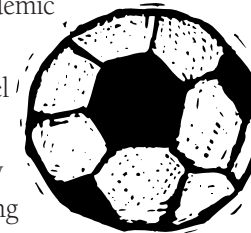
## Playtime Essential for Healthy Childhood Development

By Jane Chnelich, RN, MSN, NP

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently issued a report stating, "free and unstructured play is essential for a child's healthy cognitive, physical, social and emotional development." Play encourages imagination and helps to build a creative foundation that children need to become resilient to stress.

There are many factors that contribute to the decline in children's play time. The following suggestions may be beneficial in helping to promote free, unstructured play for children.

- Children should have ample, unscheduled play time that is child-driven, not parent-directed.
- Active play has many advantages over passive play. Passive play such as television viewing, computer time and video games should be limited to a total of no more than 2 hours per day.
- Children should have a balanced and appropriately challenged academic schedule, based on a child's unique needs, skills and temperament.
- Allow children to explore a variety of interests without pressure to excel in all of them.
- Character traits that prepare children for future successes arise not only from academic preparation, but most importantly from a firm grounding in parental love, role modeling and guidance.



**Cross Curricular...**  
*continued from page 1*

In Social Studies, eighth-graders will publish an Abolitionist newspaper, while seventh grade students will design "travel brochures" for the original thirteen colonies.

On the science front, **Susan Gordon** has been introducing students to concepts of osmosis. In the Science Lab, her students have been using potatoes to illustrate this scientific phenomenon. At home, they have been using eggs to simulate diffusion through cell membranes. In the eighth grade, students have been experimenting with endothermic and exo-thermic chemical reactions. The energy created is only for the lab, not for the home!

Seventh and eighth grades can be anxious years for students to navigate, emotionally and academically. The stresses of changing classes, responding to many different teachers, and fulfilling diverse responsibilities can challenge any student. The positive and energetic learning environment in the Upper School helps to ease the journey. To this end, every teacher at St. Paul is committed to the school mission: to provide sound spiritual, moral, ethical, and social teachings in a safe environment of love and mutual respect.

## PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS ACADEMIC AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Princeton Public library is offering two academic services to help students succeed academically: Springboard and Tutor.com. Springboard is an award-winning after-school homework help program that meets Monday through Thursday, from 3:30 to 6 pm in the Youth Services Department. Founded in 1991 by Laura Spear, this program is funded by grants from local foundations. The program involves teachers and a host of skilled volunteers who meet with students of all ages. These professionals help students with homework issues ranging from understanding concepts covered in earlier in class, to providing guidance on organizing school projects.

Over the years, thousands of students have benefited from Springboard. The winning combination of Springboard tutors, Youth Services librarians, and accessible library resources guarantee a more enjoyable and productive homework experience.

Still stuck on homework problems? Tutor.com may be able to help. Tutor.com is an online, real-time, chat tutoring service. Available through the library website by clicking on the live homework help link, the service connects students to a 20-minute session with a tutor.

Springboard and Tutor.com are sponsored through generous support of foundations and local corporations. The library is currently seeking donations to meet a \$6,500 challenge grant that will allow it to double the number of Springboard tutors.

To learn how you can help support this program, please call the Library Development Office at 924-8822 ext.251. email: [lburger@princetonlibrary.org](mailto:lburger@princetonlibrary.org).