

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Mrs. Beth York, Principal
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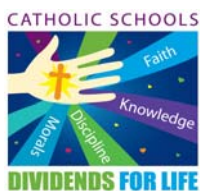
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January 31 – February 6

Catholic schools provide good things for students and families—high expectations and daily experiences of faith. In these challenging times, we are reminded that the dividends of a Catholic school education—students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline—last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future—or the future of our world.

Dear Parents,

I have some very exciting news! St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School applied for Blue Ribbon School for the 2009 school year this past November. On January 15, 2010 we received notification from CAPE (Council of American Private Education) that we have been nominated as one of only 50 private schools nationwide to be designated as a Blue Ribbon School! We have been asked to make a couple of small revisions to our written application and return the final draft to CAPE in very early February. At that point they deliver their 50 private school nominations to the Dept. of Education. The Dept. of Ed. has a council of educators comb through the 50 private school applications to make sure that compliance is met in every area (already done once by CAPE). They may choose to do site visits with some or all of the schools, or they may not. Blue Ribbon Schools will be announced in September, 2010.

Receiving the nomination is certainly an honor!

We have applied for High Achieving Status with Blue Ribbon School. This means that in our school.....at least the highest grade level of students (8th graders) on the last test taken scored in the top 10% nationwide (standardized testing) for math, reading and English. We had to report the past 5 year's scores at all grade levels. The criteria states that your school must be in the top 40% or better nationwide in those areas for all grades over the 5 year period. And, your school must prove "above and beyond" in not only academics, but also in innovation and programs offered (attendance, demographics for students, degrees held and number of years of service, turn-over rate etc. are also things considered).

I couldn't be more proud that we've made it even this far! I'm always such a verbal advocate for how great I think we are (students, parents, teachers and staff)...this is confirmation that others see it too!! And, keep praying that we hear our school announced in September!

Sincerely,
Beth York, Principal

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February, 2010

- 1 Scholastic Book Fair all week
- 3 St. Blaise Feast Day; All School Mass 8:15 am- Volunteer Appreciation
- 4 Open House-see details below
- 5 First Friday; 11:30 am **DISMISSAL ALL STUDENTS**; Free Spirit Jeans Day (see pg. 60 in the Parent/Student Handbook)
- 9 Home & School Evening Meeting 7:00pm
- 11 NJHS Induction following Mass; reception following
- 12 11:30 am **DISMISSAL ALL STUDENTS-Fundraiser Reward**
- 15 **NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day**
- 16 **Re-Registration Materials Due**; Mardi Gras; CiCi's Night
- 17 Ash Wednesday; All School Mass (grades 1-8) - 9:45am
- 19 7th Grade Retreat, PLC

Thursday, February 4, 2010

SFA's Annual Grandparents/Special Friends OPEN HOUSE

All SFA family members are invited and encouraged to attend along with Grandparents and Special Friends!!

Spaghetti Dinner, including salad, bread, dessert, tea & lemonade, will be served from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Scholastic Book Fair will be open until 8:00 pm in the Activity Room

Teachers will welcome visitors to the classroom from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Congratulations to our Honor Roll Recipients for the 2nd Quarter:

~Principal's Honor Roll~

8th Grade: *Jacob Aljundi, Andrew Chandonnet, Gina Cianciolo, Rachael Cummings, Josh Durbin, Rachel Hofer, Connor Jones, Madeline Mahon, Stephanie McCarthy, Rachel Paduck, Erin Peel, Nikki Shah, Nick Sosnowski, Theresa Stoddard, Kyle Van Hoeck, Tara VanCleave, and Kayla Williamson*

7th Grade: *Mallory Barbier, Michael Bardos, Katie Barkely, Collin Beer, Madison Bond, Meghan Brino, Melanie Chando, Tia Clorina, Ryan Cobb, Nicole Dee, J.D. Dudek, J.R. Jamora, Jake McClure, Clare Morris, Will Nash, Bradley Reber, Kirkland Schuler, and John Yarbro*

6th Grade: *Lindsay Arvin, Sophia Bougeois, Will Dearman, Kate Dudek, Jake Griesmer, Bryant Grove, Will Hecht, Jackson Lewis, Monika Milczek, Dale Pitawanakwat, Fielding Quarles, Lance Sanderson, Luigi Siligato, Sarah Turner, Lawson Tyrone, Patrick Vassallo, Allison Weske, and Julia Wray*

5th Grade: *Nicholas Ashker, Baylor Bearden, Megan Brown, Ricky Carrasco, Nicole Chandonnet, John Barry Clark, Fischer Clarke, Isabella Giddens, Avery Graziosi, Raphael Guimera, Lauren Michele, Harrell, Andrew Holtwick, Michael Hovanec, Hayden Jones, Yuzuka Karube, Elie Kiameh, Rachel King, Caitlin McCrory, James McGregor, Michael Minatra, Nick Morris, Jessica Morrison, Megan Morrison, Lauren Neuhoff, Erin O'Brien, Connor Sheeks, Lucy Shoemaker, Emily Sosnowski, Olivia Stewart, Andrew Sweatt, Egan Webster, Sarah Webster, Brianna Williams, and Austin Wise*

~First Honor Roll~

8th Grade: *Charlie Amrein, Anna Arnold, Jonathan Boulanger, Pauline Cabe, Emily Cross, Hallie Dunham, Henry Evetts, Michelle Farler, Dillon Harckum, Grace Hill, Adrienne Lewis, Rosa Martinez, Katie Morgan, Maddie Morgan, Emily Mott, Connor O'Brien, Luke Parker, Gabrielle Salazar, Hunter Scrivener, Rachel Smith, Natalie Sowell, Jill Stark, Sarah Timmins, Olivia Turner, and Catherine Wylie*

7th Grade: *Cassandra Carrasco, Ally Darnell, Emily Gillenwater, Matt Holt, Ben June, Sarah Kutas, Raymond Lelis, Maggie May, Nicholas Michalski, Jessica O'Brien, Makenna Smith, and Maria Sosnowski*

6th Grade: *John David Aeschliman, Kenzie Baird, Matthew Barczak, Maggie Callahan, Harley Chapman, Leah Cluck, Matthew Crowe, David Fryt, Anna Graziosi, Tyler Griffis, Mary Elizabeth Hagan, Ashley Hammond, Gina Iovinelli, Ben Jones, Dominic Keilty, Abbi Leathers, Ethan McCrory, Sarah McMahan, Simon Montgomery, Courtney Parker, Rebecca Saunders, Zoe Speer, Gregory Sun, Jaret Thomas, John Truitt, Grant Walker, McKenna Wharton, and Erin Yoser*

5th Grade: *Bella Barthalow, Leah Blatteis, Jennifer Bond, Cameron Booth, Matthew Burgess, Daniel Caprio, Stella Cea, Jack Conroy, Joie Dianjoell, Kara Drago, Jack Dyles, T.C. Fowler, Lizzy Free, Olivia Hall, Jacob Hamann, Matthew Hammond, Sam Incardona, Catherine May, Baker Mitchell, Caroline O'Looney, Jacob Ripberger, Mary Shield Sterling, Cameron Strafuss, Rachel Sweeney, Max Thielemier, Camille Trice, Quinn Turner, Meghan Tuttle, Nick Vaught, Carter Viles, Jacob Williamson, and Katia Yniguez*

~Second Honor Roll~

8th Grade: *Mary Buchholz, Mathew Incardona, Chloe Parrish, Joseph Pearlman, and John Vassallo*

7th Grade: *Katie Elliott, Kaitlin Haynes, Caroline King, Michael Oliphant, and Stephanie Terry*

6th Grade: *Olivia Allen, Maddy Buchholz, Blake Criswell, Raymond Guasco and David McDonald*

5th Grade: *Luke Murray and Nikesh Patel*

Congratulations to our Christian Witness Award Recipients for the 2nd Quarter:

8th Grade: *Nikki Shah, Meredith Wylie, Caroline Johnson, Jacob Aljundi, Mark Hartmann, and Nick Sosnowski*

7th Grade: *Stephen Botto, Alex Fletcher, Matthew Smith, Melanie Chando, Nicole Dee and Kaitlin Haynes*

6th Grade: *Ashley Hammond, Nicole Hemme, Caroline Raulston, Jake Griesmer, Dale Pitawanakwat and Matthew Barczak*

5th Grade: *Sam Incardona, Luke Murray, Sam Childers, Avery Graziosi, and Olivia Stewart*

4th Grade: *Joey Maglio, Parker Heavener, John Iovinelli, Madeline Matheson, and Joseph Orgeron*

3rd Grade: *Cody Goodnight, Sydney McCoy, Alex Bond, Ellie Rose Focht, and Anna Schmidle*

2nd Grade: *Grant Dominguez, Nick Cathcart, Sebastian Villegas, and Johnny Beattie*

1st Grade: *Kathryn McGregor, Mary Grace Criswell, Ashley Hoekstra, and Sophia Matheson*

Timberwolves Helping Others!

*The National Junior Honor Society would like to thank the SFA parents and students for their generous contributions during the last jeans day. NJHS raised over **\$6,700.00** to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Your donations will support the medical clinic operated by the Haiti Medical Missions of Memphis.

*6th Graders Bake Sale! The 6th grade students were presented with a Math extra credit opportunity that dealt with using fractions and money in a real-world application. Students needed to produce a baked good to sell during break in order to raise money and earn a profit. All proceeds were then donated to charity. After 5 bake sales, students raised a total of **\$520** which was donated to Catholic Charities and the St. Vincent de Paul food bank to help those in need at Christmas time.



Yearbook Pictures Needed!

Send in your students sports pictures and/or candid shots for the yearbook.

Pictures can be sent on disc to Mrs. Beth Clemens or email to beth.clemens@sfaschool.cdom.org (if not too large). Thanks for your help!

SFA 3 Year Old Program!

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is beginning a new program for 3 year old children for the 2010-2011 school year. This will be a full day program, Monday – Friday from 7:50am – 3:00pm with morning care and extended care available. Children must be three years old by September 30, 2010.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact our Admissions Director, Susan Fetz by February 15th at 381-2548 or email to susan.fetz@sfaschool.cdom.org.

Re-Registration materials for the 2010-2011 school year will be sent home to all families the week of February 8th. Diocesan policy requires that all families must have fulfilled all financial obligations for the current school year before being allowed to register for the next school year. Completed re-registration cards and fees must be returned to the business office by February 16th to avoid late fees and to secure a seat for the 2010-2011 school year.

HOME & SCHOOL NIGHT MEETING

Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m.; PLC Rm. 113

Come and learn more about "Organization Skills: Helping Students both at Home and at School" Lauren Cox, our Middle School Counselor will talk about student disorganization which can cause much stress, both at home and at school, and it can create a number of academic challenges.

In this presentation, Miss Cox will discuss the factors affecting organization and provide parents with tips to help them strengthen organization at home.



Congratulations to the Geography Bee
Winners:

Duncan Fletcher, 8th grade – 1st Place

Matthew Crowe, 6th grade – 2nd Place

**Meghan Brino, 7th grade & Therese Stoddard, 8th grade
- tied for 3rd place**

Great job to all participants and good luck, Duncan, at the next level!

~Thank you **Tommy and Tammy Ashker & Nicholas, 5th grade**, for the donation of the beautiful Pinocchio print to SFA during the production of the school play. The Ashker's are the Owners of the Thomas Kinkade Gallery at Wolfchase Mall.

~JrK will have our annual **Beach Bash** for the Letter "**Bb**" on Friday, January 29th. Our **Bathing Beauties** and **Beach Boys** will wear their **best beach attire** to school. We will decorate **beach visors**, have **beach ball relay races**, and parade around the school in our **bodacious beach attire**.

~Mr. Piadade, father of **Marc Piadade-3rd grade**, presented the school with a flag that he had flown in Paktia Province, Afghanistan on the 7th of December for our school. It is beautifully framed, and we will hang it in our school.

~Congratulations to **Alex Turner, 3rd grade**, and **Isabella Scoggins, 2nd grade**, who both took 1st place in the City Chess Championship in their divisions and to the SFA chess team who took 4th place overall!

Boxtops for Education

SFA received a check for **\$2,896.02** from Boxtops for Education! Clipping does earn rewards!!

Win a pizza party for your home room! Clip and send in Box Tops and Campbell's Labels by February 19th. The homeroom that collects the most per student will win a pizza party! Runners up will get a tasty treat of their choice. Look for the pink box tops on General Mills, Yoplait yogurt, Ziploc, Hefty and Betty Crocker products. The Campbell's labels are on Goldfish, Swanson broths; Spaghetti-O's and Prego products.

Please participate - clip, save and win pizza!

3rd-5th Grade SFA Mass Choir

Mrs. Crone's 2010 Rehearsal Schedule

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Crone's portable

February 22nd

March 22nd & 29th

April 26th

May 24th - End of the year party!

WINNERS SELECTED! STUDENT WRITING CONTEST: "A GUIDE TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHER SUCCESS" sponsored by Author Mark Diamond

All the 8th graders wrote a paper on "A Guide to Substitute Teacher Success" and the students picked their favorite from each class (only 5 entries per grade were allowed).

Congratulations to **8th Graders Kayla Williamson** who won 1st Place and **Theresa Stoddard** who received Runner-Up in the Middle School Category!

The winning authors will receive a \$25 gift check (made possible by the Esther Diamond Memorial Scholarship Fund for Excellence In Children's Writing, created and originally endowed by Ronald Tracy Trussell), with the top three authors in each category receiving a copy of Mark Diamond's, *6 Tricks to Student WRITER'S ORIGAMI Success* (A Fun & Easy Guide for Students, Teachers & Parents). In addition, recognized students will soon be posted on the website, www.anyonecanwrite.com. Click on "Writing Contest" on the left-hand side of the home page.

Counselor's Corner...from the desks of Mrs. Debbie Brown & Ms. Lauren Cox

Students in grades K4 through 4th grades have been busy either learning about or reinforcing what they already know about Empathy. Empathy is defined as the ability to understand what others feel and express that understanding in a caring way. It is considered the social emotion because it brings a sense of emotional connection to others (Vreeke & VanDer Mark, 2003). Or as the kids know it as “putting yourself in someone else’s shoes”! I have presented age appropriate developmental programs using stories, stuffed animal friends, puppets, videos and role playing games. The studies show that children who view the world through the eyes of others (not just themselves) have a more positive outlook and tend to exhibit more empathic/prosocial behaviors. Here are some books that I recommend: “Emotional Intelligence” by Daniel Golman; “The Optimistic Child” by Martin Seligman; “The Odd Girl Out” by Rachel Simmons; “Queen Bees and Wannabees” by Rosalind Wiseman (the cover states for “Adolescents”—I recommend reading it BEFORE they get there)! Books that are recommended for children to read are “A Fish in His Pocket” by D. Cazat; “The Mitten Tree” by C. Christiansen; “How Do I Stand In Your Shoes” by S. Bell; “Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen” by D. Desalvo-Ryan. Encourage your child to “read” others’ feelings. You can practice this by looking at pictures in magazines and playing a game where you take turns telling how you think that person feels. If your child has hurt another child, ask them to consider how their behavior has hurt the other. Instead of just focusing on the behavior, have them focus on the others’ feelings. And lastly, as a family, practice Random Acts of Kindness for others. (The kids have done an amazing job at school raising money for Haiti, bringing in cans for our food pantry, etc. -keep up the good work). **Mrs. Brown**

In the 5th grade classes, we have been discussing bullying, which is defined as a pattern of repeated behavior that is meant to hurt someone (physically, emotionally, or socially) and that usually has an imbalance of power. We have discussed different kinds of bullying behaviors, including both direct and indirect behaviors. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking more closely at each of the three roles in a bullying situation (the aggressor, the target, and the bystander) and discussing what students should do if they find themselves in any of these roles.

In January, the 6th graders were presented a lesson on stress. We talked about what causes stress, as well as the feelings and physical symptoms that are associated with it. We also discussed strategies for managing stress, including changing one’s thinking about the stressful situation, staying organized, using relaxation exercises, talking with a friend or trusted adult, and engaging in fun and/or calming activities.

Over the next few weeks, both 6th and 7th graders will be learning about various social skills, including empathy, understanding emotional tone, active listening, and appropriate communication styles.

Last but not least, our 8th graders have been spending some time thinking about their futures. They have been using the Tennessee College and Career Planning System, an internet-based resource containing information on hundreds of different careers. The students took an interest assessment that provided them with information on how closely each of sixteen career clusters matched their interests. They then used the results of the assessment to research various careers. In February, we will conclude our unit on careers with a Career Day, in which the students will have the opportunity to hear speakers from a variety of professions.

Ms. Lauren Cox