

January 26, 2010

Time is passing at lightening speed and it's hard to believe that the month of January is nearly complete! As of this writing, we are officially into the second half of the school year and report cards will be distributed by the end of this week.

This past Sunday, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel hosted an Open House and showcased our comprehensive Catholic Education Program (PreK thru Grade 12) to parents, family, friends and parishioners alike. I received many positive comments with regard to our programs and we had many new families walk through in consideration of Fall 2010 enrollment. Thank you to all of my dedicated faculty and staff for your hard work in preparing for this event. And, thank you to Mrs. Cerulla and my better half, Mrs. Scanlon, for coordinating refreshments et al.

Concurrent with the Open House, Mrs. Zielman coordinated the Junior High Science Fair and our students in Grades 6-8 proudly displayed their projects. Congratulations to John Henry (Grade 8), this year's Grand Prize Winner. Congratulations are also in order to the classroom winners, as follows:

Grade 8

First Prize – Sarah Drongowski
Second Prize – Stella Costello
Third Prize – Stephanie Nagy
Honorable Mention – Breanna Byrd

Grade 7

First Prize – Monika Dziuba
Second Prize – Philip Consiglio
Third Prize – Jacob Moore
Honorable Mention – Grant Galazka

Grade 6

First Prize – Madeline Romatowski
Second Prize – Veronica Czarnota
Third Prize – Gabrielle Galazka
Honorable Mention – Sarah Waligora

Mrs. VanBoxell was a busy beaver at the Scholastic Book Fair that also opened on Sunday. The book fair has become a staple of our Catholic School Celebration and Mrs. VanBoxell does a wonderful job each year spearheading the event. The book fair is still in progress and it is not too late to shop! Come in and take a look!

Finally, for the last bit of business from the Open House. Congratulations to Mike Koberg, winner of the raffle to waive his 2010 registration fee and Teresa Surowiak, MaryJo Bzura, Mike Galazka and Brian Becraft, winners of the Wendy's Cards. Thank you to all who attended Open House and entered the raffle by signing the guest book!

This week, the Soup Kitchen Initiative is in full swing. High School students have completed the grocery shopping, the lunch bags are decorated and packed (or in the process of being packed) thanks to Grades K-6 and Grades 7 & 8 will be spending the next two days working with Mrs. Costello at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The beauty of this service project is that everyone could be involved and experience in some form or fashion the importance of Christian Service in our community. Mrs. Costello went out of her way to help with this event. Thank you to her and everyone that helped in any way. Know that your efforts allowed our students to experience first hand: "Inasmuch as you have done it for the least of My brothers, you have done it unto Me."

On Friday, January 29th, we will celebrate Mass as a school community at 8:00 a.m. Immediately following Mass, Fr. Ptak and I will formally thank you, the parents, with an appreciation breakfast. Judging by the RSVP's received, it is safe to say that we will be feeding a great group of parents. Thank you for the opportunity to thank you for entrusting your child to our care!

Next week, our Catholic School celebration will focus on the individual students and the kids will be given the opportunity to kick back and have some fun. The dress code for next week is as follows:

Monday, February 1st – Pajama Day

Tuesday, February 2nd – Mix & Match Day

Wednesday, February 3rd – Favorite Sport Team Day (Jeans allowed)

Thursday, February 4th – Comet Spirit Day (Jeans allowed with OLMC Spirit Wear)

Friday, February 5th – Uniform (First Friday Mass)

The Catholic Schools Week Committee (Ms. McKay, Mrs. Zielman and Mr. Fricke) also have fun activities planned for different days, as well (ie crafts, board games, etc.) And, the student leadership of the school under the direction of our president, Colette Cerulla, is once again organizing a basketball tournament. So, the days will be packed with fun and surprises for everyone involved.

Finally, on a sad note, Mr. Shiveley continues his struggle with cancer. A fundraising dinner is being planned for Saturday, February 6th from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. to help defray the cost of the family's medical expenses. To date, the response to our appeal has been tremendous. If you would like to help in any way, shape or form, please contact the school office. The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School Community is a family and it's times like these when a family rallies, prays and supports one another. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that this fund raising effort will be a huge success and that we will inevitably ease some of the financial burden and comfort the Shiveley family in their time of need.

Timothy Scanlon
Principal