

October 19, 2009

Fall is upon us! There's a nip in the air, the leaves are changing and the faculty, staff and students at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are busier than ever!

First, let me begin by saying: I SURVIVED SPIRIT WEEK! It was controlled chaos as the entire student body, Grades K-12, showed their spirit by participating in each daily theme. If you missed me getting 'duck' taped to the wall on Thursday, pictures are posted on our website. The week culminated with Homecoming Mass on Friday morning, the grand opening of the Comet Spirit Shop on Friday afternoon and the Homecoming Dance on Friday evening. I am proud of our kids for both their level of participation and their behavior amidst all the excitement. Congratulations to our 2009 Homecoming Queen, Amanda Genaw, and her court: Colette Cerulla, Deanna Dombroski, Ashley Eggers and Ciara Viola. And, heartfelt thanks to all that worked so hard to make spirit week so successful. There were a number of committees that worked diligently both independently and together to make Spirit Week so successful. I hesitate to mention individual names for fear that I will unintentionally leave someone out. Please know, though, that your hard work did not go unnoticed and that I am grateful for the positive, hard working folks at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel that make this school community the best downriver!

From Spirit Week to Polish Heritage Week! As you know, October is Polish Heritage Month and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School will be officially celebrating it this week. In my last brown envelope, I mentioned that a table of authentic Polish artifacts will be on display outside my office. While I am happy to report that some families have already contributed to the display, there is still plenty of room on that table! If you're Polish, why not send in an item or two for display? It's a great way to celebrate the Polish heritage and share that heritage with those of other cultures.

On Wednesday, as is tradition, all students will enjoy a Polish Luncheon. The menu for Grades K-8 is being coordinated by each individual classroom. So, please touch base with your child's homeroom teacher in the event you haven't already signed up to bring a dish to pass. Grades 9-12 will enjoy their prepaid Polish Luncheon that day. Delphine Craft has kindly offered to spearhead that endeavor and I thank her for her hard work. Students in Grades 9 thru 12 are asked to bring in a donation of pop or dessert that day to round out the meal.

On Friday, October 23rd, we will conclude Polish Heritage Week with 8:00 a.m. Mass and an Ice Cream Social sponsored by Fr. Ptak and our fabulous PTG at 2:00 p.m.

Our Christian Service Committee has been busy organizing an effort with the Christnet Outreach Program whereby our students will be helping that emergency program feed and shelter the homeless. While the flier detailing the specifics has already been distributed via hard copy and email, it's so important that I am once again including it in this brown envelope. Please participate in this program with your child as it represents a wonderful opportunity to teach love, kindness and Christian compassion through action and deed. Items are due Friday, October 23rd. Thank you to the members of our Christian Service Committee: Ms. Johnston, Mrs. Klenke, Ms. McKay, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. VanBoxell for coordinating this effort and giving our students the opportunity to actively live their faith.

Great news from our Athletic Department! Our 5/6 Grade CYO Volleyball Team took First Place in their division this year and our 7/8 Grade CYO Volleyball Team took second! A congratulatory note from our Athletic Director, Bob Haire, is enclosed. The 5/6 Grade Team will actually receive their trophy on Saturday, October 24th at Ford Field.

And, speaking of Ford Field, Stella Costello (8), Ann Marie Nagy (10), Joseph Warren (10), Veronica Whitehead (11) and Ciara Viola (12) will also be receiving awards there on Saturday. Stella will be representing Our Lady of Mt. Carmel as a CYO Scholar Athlete while Ann Marie, Joe, Veronica and Ciara will join the Catholic League's Academic All Catholic Team. Congratulations and way to go Comets!!!

On Sunday, October 25th, there will be a buffet breakfast in support of our school parent group from 8:30 a.m. until noon in the parish social room. A flier is enclosed. Help is always needed and this represents a wonderful opportunity to fulfill all or part of your service hour requirements. If you would like to sign up to work, please email the PTG at ptg@ourladyofmountcarmel.org. If you cannot work this event, come and enjoy a wonderful, hearty breakfast! The price is reasonable and the smiles are free.

Hot lunch order forms for the month of November (Grades K-4) are enclosed in this brown envelope. Please remit the order with payment to the school office no later than Tuesday, October 27th. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE PRE-ORDERS!**

Because we will be out of session on Thursday and Friday, October 29th and 30th, I have received numerous questions regarding classroom Halloween parties, the costume parade, etc. After careful consideration and consultation with Fr. Ptak, the PTG and various staff members, I have decided that Grades K-8 can wear costumes to school on Wednesday, October 28th. Classes will be conducted in the morning, as usual. Lunch will also be run as usual. Immediately following lunch, the children will assemble for a costume parade and visit Fr. Ptak and Buddy for a Halloween treat.

On the evening of October 29th, the PTG is sponsoring the Fall Family Activity at Westcraft Nursery. Detailed information is enclosed. A permission slip accompanies the informational flier and must be filled out for your student if they plan on attending. Also, at the bottom of the permission slip is a family RSVP. Permission slips with RSVP information is due Friday October 23rd.

Two quick reminders before I run into three pages: Festival Worker Forms & H.O.P.E. Tickets are due October 30th.

Timothy Scanlon, Principal