



# *Cathedral Grade School*

## *News from the Principal 1/14/10*

### Gearing Up For State Evaluation

We have been working toward the State Evaluation visit next Wednesday since the day I started last July. This is an amazing project, which actually looks like a self-evaluation of our Catholic identity and our curriculum offerings. The book we have compiled is about 3 inches thick and contains "everything you ever want to know about Cathedral Grade School".

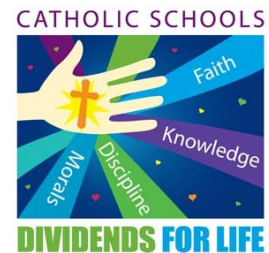
Our visiting team will consist of representatives of the State Board of Education (who authorizes our recognition), the Regional Superintendent of St. Clair County, the Asst. Supt. from Dist. #118, the principal from Blessed Sacrament and four officials from the Diocesan Office of Education. This is a great opportunity for our school to really "shine" and show what a wonderful learning setting we offer.

### Collection for Haiti

In the wake of the horrible conditions following the earthquake in Haiti this week, the diocese will be asking all parishes to have a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the disaster relief for these poor people. There is a desperate need for medicine, food, water and other personal items, so we hope that you can be generous for this cause.

### Catholic Schools Week Coming Soon

Right after the Christmas break, we always start to get excited about the events of Catholic Schools Week. This program has been in place for many years and is used to promote all of the Catholic Schools around the country. Traditionally, this is a week for many special activities and this year is no exception. This year's theme stresses the value of Faith, Knowledge, Discipline and Morals as the Dividends for Life that our schools work toward each day.



Our teacher committee has come up with a very active agenda for the week, including allowing the students to wear their hoodies or other "spirit clothes" on Wednesday of that week. (an extra out-of-uniform day!) During this week we will feature an ongoing PENNY WAR to donate funds to a local charity, have an all-school BINGO on Monday. Tuesday will feature a production of the National Theatre for Children - a program called "Alice in Waterland". This is sponsored by Illinois American Water Company.

Wednesday will be School Spirit Day when we hope everyone will show off their Crusader Pride. We will also be doing a stand-up-and move activity throughout the day

with music. Thursday will feature a Staff Appreciation Lunch and Friday we will have our super LipSync program at 2:00 on Friday afternoon in the McCormick Center.

### **Open House Planned**

We have gathered a wonderful committee of parents who are helping to make this opening day for Catholic Schools Week a very special day. Our school will be having an Open House after the 10:30 Mass and are inviting present families and any PROSPECTIVE families to come and learn what unique opportunities only Cathedral can offer to their children. We invite families to come and perhaps "adopt" a prospective family for a tour on that day.

No one can "SELL" our school better than our own families!! You are the people who can inform, advise, and perhaps even BRING friends who may be interested in coming to our school. This Open House will truly attempt to show off our facilities, especially our beautiful chapel, all of our technology, our exciting classroom environments and explain our program. Many of the staff will be here to answer questions and show families around.

Hopefully, your family can join us and bring some new, interested folks. Thanks to all of those wonderful parents who are working so hard to help to make this Open House so special.

### **Family Event for Catholic Schools Week**



Fr. Myler and I are proposing a very different activity for any families who may wish to sit down and compose some impressions of our school. We are looking for essays/posters/letters that express what "Christ in Cathedral School" means to them.

This year we have already experienced firsthand the loving kindness of our families on several REAL occasions. During the trials of Mrs. Vollmer's passing and other families who experienced health and financial hardships, we have everyday proof of the generosity of our families with such things as providing meals, babysitting, gift and gas cards, lawn care and more when families were in need.

This is truly what a Catholic School is about. Many families are so appreciative of the generosity of others and I believe that some of you might wish to put some similar thoughts on paper to share. Our plan is to use these "declarations" in newsletters, web announcements and brochures. We can also display posters in a prominent place as people enter for the Open House. We will recognize every entry we get and encourage families to take some time before January 29<sup>th</sup> to send your project to the school office.

### **Proud of Our Winners**

We are proud to announce that Cathedral students took the entire Kindergarten category division of awards in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Students received cash prizes for their awards. First place winner is Thomas Merchiori; second place to Olivia Pederson; third place was won by Ryan Phillips. Great job, Kindergarten students!!

### **Walk for Character**

This event is held in downtown Belleville next Tuesday morning at 10:30 and is meant to have schools and other organizations have the opportunity to proclaim their core values in a very public way. Since our school is so close uptown, we will have some of our older students march in this short march and carry signs that depict those special values we profess in our school. We have not done this before, but I feel that since it is such a short walk to the YMCA, a couple blocks uptown and then to the hospital for a short presentation and refreshments, we certainly can do this. We will be the only Catholic school to participate and I think that it is important to profess our beliefs.

### **Great Bulletin Board!!**

Special thanks to Mrs. Casson for a most ingenious bulletin board design outside the office. It depicts a frozen lake with a variety of skaters. If you look closely, you can see that all skaters have the faces of our STAFF!! What a clever idea!! We really all look so agile and talented too.

I'm sure you'll all agree that we are grateful for the warmer weather!!

Dr. Bennett