



Principally Speaking

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St. Mary Prep

November 3, 2008

Poor Souls Remembrance

What a beautiful ceremony took place at the 6:00 PM, 10:00 AM, and 11:30 AM Masses on Sunday, November 2nd. 83% of the eligible children from St. Mary Prep participated in the 10:00 AM Mass and ceremony honoring people who died in the past year from St. Mary Parish. The ceremony also brought peace and comfort to the families of the deceased and to the parishioners as each of us continues on our journey toward everlasting life. The children from Grades 2 through 7 participated by lighting and holding candles as each name of the deceased was called. Following the calling of the names, the students raised their candles as the choir sang the Litany of Saints and the congregation responded with the appropriate invocations. The ceremony was very solemn and the entire congregation was moved by the experience. You could hear a pin drop during the ceremony. It was so quiet and reverent that it moved many to tears. It is events like this that make our Catholic Faith strong. The school children begin to appreciate their faith and to put it into practice. The Confirmation class and the children from our CCD program took part in this same ceremony at the 6:00 PM and 11:30 AM Masses. We are very proud of our students and the wonderful example they gave the parish in their participation for the Poor Souls. I would like to thank the parents for their cooperation in bringing the children to the designated Mass and for supporting them in their efforts to spread the Gospel by their actions.

God bless each of them and all of you for the Catholic witness you displayed on Sunday, November 2nd, 2008.

Trunk 'n Treat

Our very first Trunk 'n Treat was a huge success. The parade of children in Halloween Costumes was a delight. Pre-K through 4th grade circled the entire building in their Halloween Parade. We did have one student from the upper grades who dressed as a Saint. From the other upper grade students we had responses that they would like to do that next year. Following the parade, the students returned to the school building and proceeded to the back door once again leaving the building for **Trunk 'n Treat**. Since this was our first time, we were not sure how many parents who be

participating; but to our delighted surprise, we had 38 cars and vans that participated. The children moved from vehicle to vehicle and thoroughly enjoyed the decorations and the goodies that they received. The trunk decorations were creative and attractive and it seemed that everyone wanted to have the children enjoy the activity. Many parents took their children home after the **Trunk 'n Treat** activity, so children were able to be dismissed a little sooner to enjoy the rest of Halloween. Mrs. Pietrucha came in yesterday with the prizes recognizing the costumes that the upper grades voted on. They are as follows: Kindergarten 1 - Brock Loddato - Giants Football Player,

Amanda Brochhausen - Giants Cheer Leader; Angelee Asitimbay - Girl Pirate; Matteo Agudelo - Iron Man. Kindergarten 2 - Lenny Cocca - Batman; Ryan Cocca - Red Power Ranger; Mac Boulinger - Ghoul; Reagan Smith - Michi from Camp Rock. Grade 1 - Michael Piertrucha - Indiana Jones; Kylie Landolfi - Black Butterfly; Jack Nelson - Spiderman; Ryan McAndrew - Hobo. Grade 2 - Danielle Mills - Girl Pirate; Liam Mulrenan - Ninja; Robbie Singley - Indiana Jones; Elizabeth Kelson - Super Woman; Grade 3 - Rosa DiMaggio - Witch; Annie Clancy - Angel; Giana Franklin - Pirate; Damon Lattuga - Star Wars Hero; Grade 4 - Maggie Pietrucha - Sock Monkey; Cosette Bouglanger - Suma Wrestler; Jack tucker - Werewolf; Robbie Veraldi - Rapster; Jack Pietrucha - St. Francis of Assisi. Congratulations to all our students on their wonderful participation.

Book Fair Time

Today is the "Sneak Peek" day for our teachers to see what will be available at our upcoming Book Fair. Mrs. Lattuga and Mrs. DeLuna are working hard at setting up the books for the Fair. We are using Scholastic Books once again. They have a wide variety and books that are economically priced. The Fair will be open to the children, parents and public beginning Wednesday of this week, November 5th through Friday, November 7th. The actual times are: Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 AM to 12 NOON; Friday, 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM and 1:00 - 4:00 PM. We ask you to support our efforts. Your participation assures us of providing current and new books for the Library. We hope that we will see you at the FAIR.

fire is

... is an effort to change fire safety education in all school districts from an exercise that in the past has been superficial and entertaining to a focused, organized program that is educational, serious and age appropriate. The video, hosted by Dr. Frank Field, his son Storm Field and daughter Allison, will no doubt save countless lives. The video will be shown to Grades 5-6-7. There are five segments and each segment is divided into two parts, each of which is approximately 8-9 minutes in length. The segments are: "Fire is Black," "Fire is Hot," "Fire is Smoke and Gas," "Fire is Fast" and "Fire is an

Election Day

Our students may not be age eligible to vote at the many voting stations in our area but they are eligible to cast their vote at the St. Mary Prep Voting Station. Mr. Pietrucha has been generous in using his talents to provide us with a voting booth for the students. Mrs. Pietrucha is at the table as an officer of our voting station. She is guiding the children to sign into our registration booklet where all their names appear as '**Registered to Vote**'. Mrs. Kathy Best has organized the activity with her Humanities Research Class. All of the teachers have been explaining to their classes what it means to vote. The students have made posters of the candidates and parties. These line the halls as reminders for all of us of the importance of our vote. We have a photographer to come in and take pictures and we will have a write-up in the local paper. Please keep your eyes open to see citizenship in action at St. Mary Prep, as it appears in the local news. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to participate in 'government' by casting their ballots for the next president of the United States.

Helping Others

Girl Scout Troop 312 is sponsoring "**Donations for the Food Pantry**" during the first two weeks of November. Items that are needed include nutritious canned goods, and dry non-perishable items such as rice, pasta, beans, stuffing mix, cereal, oat meal, etc. Hillside Community Food Bank and the Interfaith Food Pantry will be receiving the donations. During this season of **Thanksgiving**, this gesture is a perfect way for us to express our gratitude to God for the gifts that we have received. Here at St. Mary Prep, we will have a box in the lobby for any and all donations of food. Please help those who are less fortunate than we are. Stop by and drop in your donation or send it in with your son or daughter. We commend Girl Scout Troop 312 for their efforts in helping those in need.

Just a Reminder

On Thursday of this Week, Father Richard will be celebrating his birthday. I have asked the students who are Altar Servers and any other students who would like to participate to please bring in a Birthday Card that they have signed and we

Emergency. If you would like to see the video online, please visit www.njfmbs.org. We know that fire although a good, can also be tragic. Therefore, it is important that we all know how to control it and react in the event that it becomes destructive. Please take advantage of this opportunity provided by the Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association. We received the above information from the State of New Jersey, Department of Education from the Division of Field Services.

would like to present Father with a decorative basket of cards for his birthday.

Friday of this week marks the end of the **1st Marking Period** for this year. Reports will be distributed on Wednesday, November 12th. On Friday, November 14th, we will have school only till noon, so that the parents may come in for Conferences with the Teachers. Please take this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and share information that will help your child attain greater success.

On Thursday, November 13th Mr. John Fannelli, Director of Technology for the Diocesan School Office, will be here to meet with Mrs. Bassano and myself to begin the process of putting our attendance, our subject grades, and our report cards onto to our electronic program known as **Power School** and to complete the process for us to use '**School**

Notes' for homework and personal communication with our parents concerning the status of their children's educational progress.

Mrs. McAndrew will be sending out a short questionnaire concerning our lunch program. She is interested in finding out what the children eat at home so that we can ask the caterer to provide some of those items for us in our lunch program. Please be on the look-out for the questionnaire.

Concerning celebrating birthdays. Each student celebrating his or her birthday may wear an outfit of choice and not the school uniform. The outfit should be something age appropriate and suitable for school wear. The children are not permitted to wear jeans as part of the outfit. If they wish to bring in a treat for their class, they are most welcome to do so.

Celebrate the Saints and Souls in November

Remembering the dead in November is a tradition that dates back to the early Church. After Christianity was legalized in 313 A.D., the Church tried to give each saint and martyr a feast day but there weren't enough days in the calendar for each one. Eventually, Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1st as All Saints Day to celebrate the saints and martyrs in Heaven. All Souls Day on Nov. 2nd came later and commemorates souls in Purgatory, as well as people we loved who have

who have died and we recall the saints of November. Outside the Principal's Office we have bulletin board listing the saints.

We are using these saints to acquaint the students with the lives of these saints during Religion Class. We may not have known them, but they are members of our Catholic Family. Their lives are examples of how we should live as we following Jesus on our journey of faith and life. Two November Saints are St. Josaphat (1623) born in the Ukraine to Orthodox parents, he converted to Catholicism and became a Basilian monk. He continued in his vocation and became a priest and was named Bishop of Vitebsk (now in Russia). He worked hard for unity in the Church and was martyred for his efforts. His feast is Nov. 12.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1231) was the daughter of the King of Hungary. Elizabeth chose a life of penance and service. Married at age 14, her beloved husband was killed after only six years of marriage. She joined the Secular Franciscan

Order and spent the last years of her life caring for the poor. She is the patron of Catholic Charities and her feast day is Nov. 17.

CALENDAR ADDENDUM

Thursday, November 6th - Mrs. Annette Rodeiro, the Special Services Teacher will not be here for classes due to the Public School Teacher's Convention.

Monday, November 17th - There will be a noon dismissal. Our faculty Meeting will take place at this time since we were not able to have a meeting due to our Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you for your understanding. There will be After Care.