

## February 2012 Newsletter

As we begin the month of February we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week: *Faith Academics and Service*. We take the time to reflect on the many things that make us a unique setting for education but also to thank those that make this possible for our children. We thank you, the parents and guardians of our students, for sending your precious little ones to our school. I hope that you find the experience rewarding for you and your children.

May God continue to bless you with health and happiness in 2012!

Mrs. Hauck

### **REAPPLICATION PROCESS**

All families who plan on having their children enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year must reapply for admission. This is the policy of the Diocese of Syracuse schools.

The reapplication process is slightly different this year from the past. In the past we used FACTS, a company that was responsible for automatic deductions for tuition payments as well as for filing of tuition assistance. This year the diocese has chosen to use SMART for both services. Please see the comparison below.

#### **FACTS TUITION MANAGEMENT**

Used only for automatic deductions

Charged a onetime \$38 fee

Allowed only automatic deductions

Allowed only monthly payment

#### **FACTS TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Charged a \$25 fee per family

#### **SMART TUITION MANAGEMENT**

Used for all payment types

Charges \$37 per school\* with the second school charge to be refunded upon request. There is no fee if paying in full

Allows personal checks, automatic deductions and credit cards

Allows monthly, quarterly payments or full pay

#### **SMART TUITION ASSISTANCE**

Charges a \$20 fee per family if filing a paper form. Electronic filing will cost \$20 per school\*

Forms due by March 16

\*Children registered at both Notre Dame Elementary and Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School

Reapplication forms will be sent home with your child. Please take the time to complete the form and return by February 12. Grade six students are invited to an Open House at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School on February 9 at 7:00 P.M. They will be taking a field trip there on February 6. On the date of the Learning Fair a \$500 scholarship will be drawn from those families, Pre-K through five who have completed the registration process. It is our intention to make this transition as smooth as possible for you. There will be two workshop days to help with the process. The first will be at the Learning Fair at 3:00 P.M. to answer any questions concerning the reapplication process. Another, specifically for working on tuition assistance forms will take place on March 4 at 1:00 P.M. in the auditorium. Please bring supporting documentation such as W-2s to this workshop. We will make this transition as easy as possible for you.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ACTIVITIES**

This year Catholic Schools Week falls the week of January 29 through February 4. The week has many activities that have been suggested by the students. Those activities include a talent show and a basketball game between our sixth grade girls and boys. Our theme this year is Catholic Schools: Faith, Academics and Service. It is our hope that the children will see these characteristics expressed throughout the week. Please see the schedule below:

Monday, January 30 – We Celebrate Our Students – The children will have a free dress down day and they will also enjoy bingo in the afternoon.

Tuesday, January 31 – We Celebrate Service – The Pennies for Pets project will culminate with a visit from Jerry Kraus from the Stevens Swan Humane Society. Also grade four will share their outreach project, Project Linus, where they will display the blankets they have been working on.

Wednesday, February 1 – We Celebrate Our Academics – The first literary magazine of Notre Dame Elementary School, compiled by Mrs. Davis, will be released on that day.

Thursday, February 2 – We Celebrate the Future – Brother Leonard Wojtanowski, a Xaverian Brother, will visit classrooms to discuss vocations with the children.

Friday, February 3 – We Celebrate Our Faith – We end the week with liturgy at 9:00 A.M. All family members are welcome to attend.

We Celebrate Our Talents – Students in grades four, five and six will entertain the student body with a talent show after Mass. Families are welcome.

We Celebrate Our Teachers – Teachers will be honored with a luncheon after half day dismissal.

**The sixth grade basketball teams have been itching to play each other: boys v. girls.** They have also suggested that an admission be charged with the funds raised benefiting their class trip. Therefore a \$1 admission will be charged for the game. They also plan on having a bake sale at the event. The game will be held on Thursday, February 2 at 6:45. Come out and support the sixth grade and their class trip.

During that week and on into the month of February the students in every grade will be **studying heroes**. The teachers are all tackling the topic in their own unique way. On February 12 we request you and your child's presence at our **annual learning fair**. The children will be displaying what they have learned during the past few weeks.

Ongoing during the week, **Mr. Keida's Physical Education classes** will be working on a **book of records for our school**. Children have already started timing a counting to set records of sit ups, pushups and even jumping rope while on a pogo stick.

## **ANNUAL LEARNING FAIR**

Please be reminded that you and your child are asked to attend the Learning Fair on Sunday, February 12 from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. You may visit all classrooms to see the projects relating to heroes completed by each class. At 3:45 P.M. a drawing will be held for the \$500 scholarship from completed applications. A completed application is one that has a completed school application, a SMART tuition application, and a \$50 reapplication fee.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open during the Learning Fair and into the next week. Due to new tax laws, the Scholastic company now requires us to charge tax. Please be aware of this change. The Book Fair will end on February 16.

## **MSP AND REPORT CARDS**

The second quarter report cards will be distributed on February 7. You never need to wait until the report card to see how your child is progressing. You may log into My Student Progress through the link our school's homepage. You do need your password. This would have been sent to you by MSP this fall through an email. If you did not receive it, please call the school office for your password.

## **CHARLOTTE AWARDS**

Every other year boys and girls in New York State have the opportunity to vote for their favorite new book. Miss Buck is coordinating the activity in our school and has invited children from grades three through six to voluntarily read a series of books in order to be prepared to vote for their favorite. Approximately forty children have volunteered to participate. The children in the primary grades will have the books read to them in school so that they will also be able to participate. The award is given the New York State Reading Council. This is a great opportunity

for our students to have their opinions heard and to be involved in an activity that involves reading.

### **CHRIS ROLLER BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

Our annual basketball tournament begins on February 16. All teams will be playing. The coaches will send home a schedule with your child. A schedule will also be posted on our website. The basketball program is benefited through the money raised through this tournament. Come out and support our teams.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADES FOUR AND FIVE**

Our students in grades four and five have been invited to attend a concert at the Stanley free of charge. Due to the way they conducted themselves while involved in the Arts and Education Program, the children were asked to attend the African Violinist production on January 31. We are very proud of the way that our children conduct themselves.

### **BASKET “EGG”STRAVAGANZA**

During the month of February you will begin to hear more and more about the annual Basket “Egg”stravaganza. The event will take place on March 25 at the Roselawn in New York Mills. The event begins with a brunch followed by a raffling of baskets. Last year there were over two hundred baskets. Baskets were donated by local businesses and our own families. This is a major fundraiser for the school netting approximately \$10,000.

Currently we need donations. If you have a special connection with a business or would like to seek donations please contact the school office. We are coordinating the askers and have a letter describing the need for donations.

Tickets for the event are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. This includes the brunch and fifteen raffle tickets. Tickets will go on sale in the month of February. Mark your calendar for March 25.

### **CALENDAR NEWS**

Arts and Crafts Club, grade 1 – February 7

Children of Mary Club, grades 5 and 6 – February 2

grades 3 and 4 – February 16

Valentine’s Day – February 14 – Classes may have small treats and/or parties

ELA tutoring, grade 3 – February 8, 15, and 29

No Bullying Club – February 10

Dress Down Day for Basket Event – February 28

Mid – Winter Break – the week of February 20