

## Notre Dame Elementary

### October Newsletter 2011

#### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

It was so nice to see so many of you at our Family Fall Fest. From the smiles on the children's faces, I could tell that the children had a great time. I would like to thank our chairperson for the event, Kari Strangeway and her committee for putting on such a wonderful event.

I would also like to thank everyone for their support of our fundraisers. Our bazaar raised a significant amount of money from early totals. A full report has not yet been given. Our chocolate sale has been sold out. We are expecting more candy soon. We hope to wrap it up by October 7 to award the sales prizes.

Our Opening Mass was beautiful on September 16. It was nice to see so many of you there. Liturgy keeps us focused on the real mission of our school.

As the seasons change, we notice the beauty of our surroundings and realize how blessed we are by God's wonderful creation. On October 4, we invite you to bring your **pets to be blessed** by Fr. Joe Salerno in our school parking lot at 9:00 A.M. weather permitting. If the weather is inclement we will move the blessing to our auditorium. We ask that you only bring caged or stuffed animals to that celebration.

I wish you all a wonderful autumn season.

Mrs. Hauck

#### **SCHOOL PICTURES**

All students will be photographed on either Tuesday, October 4 or Wednesday, October 5 for their individual school photo. Parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to purchase a picture package from Prints Charles. Please dress your child in the clothing you want them to be photographed in for their picture. On Thursday, October 6 class photos will be taken. Children in grades Kindergarten through Grade Six are asked to wear their dress up uniforms.

#### **SCHOOLS HELPING SCHOOLS FUND**

Our superintendent, Christopher Mominey, has created a fund called Schools Helping Schools. This fund will be used to aid other Catholic schools in our diocese when a crisis or disaster strikes. The impetus for this move was the devastation to the Binghamton area with the flooding from Hurricane Irene. Many diocesan schools in that area were affected as well as many of their individual families.

We will add to that fund by having a dress down day on October 13. Your child may dress down with a monetary donation determined by your own family. It is our hope that you will be generous in this drive. We hope and pray that our own community may never need to access this fund. God bless you in your generosity.

## **NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI WEEKEND**

Notre Dame High School is celebrating fifty-one years of service to the Greater Utica community with an alumni weekend on October 7 through October 9. Even if you are not an alumnus or have no student attending the school you are welcome to attend the events. A full slate of activities is planned for that weekend. You may check out the full listing by going to [www.ndjugglers.org](http://www.ndjugglers.org).

## **SCIENCE FAIR**

Students in grades four through six will participate in a Science Fair on October 20 between 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. The classroom teachers are providing instruction on how to prepare for the Science Fair. They will demonstrate their project during the day to their peers and then they will replicate those experiments for their families in the evening on that day. Please plan on visiting our first Science Fair.

## **MY STUDENT'S PROGRESS**

My Student's Progress is the name of the web based program that Notre Dame Elementary uses to keep parents updated about their child's progress. When the site goes live this year, you will be notified. At that time you will be able to go to the website and see your children's grades. Your access is attached to your email address. If you have not submitted a current email address to the school, please do so as soon as possible so that you can take advantage of this program.

## **PBIS DAYS**

Once a month we take the opportunity to recognize those students who have been a shining star with the Star Student Award. Each teacher selects a student from his/her class to receive this award. New this year will be the Principal's Award. The recipient of this award will have shown good character outside of the classroom and will reflect our Junior Juggler values: Be respectful; be responsible; be safe.

On that day, students also may redeem their Junior Juggler tokens that they have received during the month. Students may choose to save their tokens for use at a later time. Teachers are given a list of ways a child may redeem their tokens for that month. The list varies each month. For example, in October children may choose to eat a picnic lunch on our picnic tables. A student may redeem a hundred tokens for a Junior Juggler t-shirt at any time.

What does PBIS stand for? Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports signify the different aspects of the program. We believe in rewarding good behavior. How many tokens does your child have?

## **HALLOWEEN BASH**

Our annual Halloween Bash will take place on October 29 from 5:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. The chairperson, Marge Bartolomie, is looking for many volunteers. We are in need of volunteers to set up, work and tear down the haunted house. We need people to work individual games in the auditorium. Please look for a signup sheet during the Back to School Night.

In order for us to have candy for the Trick or Treat Street we are having two dress down days. If your child brings in a bag of candy, he/she may dress down on either or both, October 7 and 19.

**Please note: We will celebrate Halloween during the school day on October 28. Your child's teacher will give you information about time, costumes and refreshments.**

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

Our school will be participating in Fire Prevention Week on October 17. Representatives from the Utica Fire Department will share ideas on how to keep safe during a fire as well as how to prevent fires. Our children will be completing essays and posters following the theme "Protect Your Family from Fire."

## **PIE SALE**

In preparation for Thanksgiving, we will be having a brochure pie sale. The information will be going home on October 11 with orders due back to school by October 20. Pies are guaranteed for delivery the week before Thanksgiving. They are all prebaked and just need to be thawed to serve. Please help out your school with this fundraiser.

## **NEW CLUBS**

Mrs. Holden has created a new after school club. The club focuses on seasonal crafts and is open to students in grades one and two. Because of the nature of the club, the number of the children must be limited to fifteen. If Mrs. Holden has more than fifteen, she will allow the children who were not able to attend in October to do so in November. There will be a sign up sheet available sent home by Mrs. Holden. The date of the first meeting is Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> and will be held in Mrs. Holden's classroom.

Sister Therese Marie has created a Children of Mary Club. Children in grades four through six will be taught about Mary and her role in the Church through song, craft projects and prayer. The date of the first meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup> and will be held in Mrs. Holden's first grade classroom.

**If you ever have any questions about any of the information listed here, please contact the school office at 732-4374.**

