

Principal's Corner

We have officially kicked off the 2015-2016 school year. Although it meant getting up early and getting back into a routine, everyone came in with smiling faces. I actually heard students say they were glad to be back and beginning a new year. How refreshing was that?

One preschooler probably put it best when she said to her mom: "Today was the best. Thank you, thank you for letting me go to this school."

We welcome our new students and their families. It is exciting to have new Celtics joining our school family. As we live out our theme this year, Celtic Mission: Powered by Love, I am sure they will learn a great deal about what it means to be a Celtic at St. Al/St. Pat's School and what it means to be powered by Christ's love.

Our worship moderator, Mrs. Bruno, created a bulletin board outside the gym that says:

POWERED BY LOVE

These are some things posted on the board by students: I've been powered by love:

...people entertained me.

...by my family and teacher.

...when I dropped my pencil sharpener and people helped me to pick it up.

...my parents encouraged me to do well.

...my friend told me the truth.

...my friend Brenden told me a good joke.

REMINDERS

- Our opening school liturgy is tomorrow, August 28, at 8:15 a.m. As with all school liturgies, we hope you are able to join us.
- Tomorrow, August 28: Chess Family Night.
- Wednesday, Sept. 2, Back-to-School Night for grades PreK-5.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT FOR PRESCHOOL TO GRADE 5

Back-to-School Night will be on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. I will speak at 7:00 p.m. and parents will be able to hear an overview from each child's teacher at 7:20 and again at 7:50. We strongly encourage parents to attend this evening. As this is an evening for adults, I would ask that children not attend.

Parents of students in grades 6-8 if have a student in the younger grades and you were at last night's meeting, there is no need to attend the first part of the evening.



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

For those parents requesting forms and information for Protecting God's Children, they will be in next Thursday's envelopes. Please complete and return all CANTS forms to the school office by September 3.



SHOP Corner

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you consider utilizing the SHOP Program to purchase gift cards for your shopping needs. It is a great “no cost” way to fundraise for the school! Over the course of the 2014-2015 school year, participating families in the SHOP Program earned over \$15,000 for the school while working towards reaching their individual fundraising goals. This program has so much potential, please consider giving it a try!

SHOP is a fundraising program that offers gift cards to a wide variety of businesses. Each participating business is assigned a percentage and you earn that percentage with each purchase you make. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Jewel gift card, you pay \$100 and earn \$4 towards our fundraising goal. If you purchase \$100 in groceries each week for 4 weeks, you will have earned \$16. There is no additional cost to you, just a little of your time and organization skills!



You can place orders online at www.mannaorders.net. This website keeps track of all your orders and the money you earn towards your fundraising. If you need your password for the Manna Website or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Candy Alfonso at candicemalfonso@yahoo.com or 630-910-1064.

Orders are placed each week on Tuesday morning. Orders are then sent home on Thursday or can be held in the office for pick up. The SHOP team is also available from 7:30am to 9:30am Tuesday and Thursday mornings for assistance and cash and carry purchases. Additional information about this program can be found on the school's website under fundraising.

Thank you,
Your SHOP Team

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



We welcomed two new faculty members this year. The faculty members are Mrs. Denise Cunningham, grades four and five language arts; and Mrs. Lisa Horn, preschool.

Mrs. Horn holds a Bachelors of Arts in Early Childhood Education. She comes to us with 17 years teaching experience in early childhood. Mrs. Cunningham holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Education. She also comes to us with years of experience. Mrs. Cunningham has taught eleven years in both public and Catholic schools.

A few changes were also made in teaching assignments this year. Mr. Michael Lundberg will be the fourth grade homeroom teacher and also teach grades six and eight social studies.

Mrs. Mona Parry, art quest teacher, who had been teaching art twice a month has graciously volunteered to teach art each week to our fourth through sixth grade students.

Mrs. Shari Wenzel, in addition to teaching physical education will be incorporating literature into an art class for kindergarten through third grade.

Please join me in welcoming them to our Celtic family.



If your child would like milk with lunch on days he/she does not order a hot lunch, please be sure to place an order for **milk only** on the online hot lunch order each month...this helps us be sure we have enough on hand. Remember, ordering for October lunches will become available next Tuesday, September 1.

IMPORTANT

PHONE CALLS: Student use of school phones is only done in emergency situations. This is done through the main office. Forgetting a lunch, book, assignment, gym shoes, etc. does not constitute an emergency (although your child may think so). As we strive to teach our students responsibility, I encourage you not to bring to school forgotten items. We don't serve our children well by allowing them to ask you to bring something they have forgotten. Please know that no student will go hungry if he or she forgets a lunch. We are great at sharing. If you notice that your child forgot something and you feel it is necessary to drop it off at school, you can bring it to the main office and we will make every attempt to get it to your child in a timely fashion. Please understand, however, that while we try to do our best, circumstances of the day may prevent delivery during the day. If a child has forgotten a lunch, please **remind them** to check the cart outside the front office to see if their lunch was dropped off.

CELL PHONES: If your child brings a cell phone to school, he/she must keep it turned off and in the backpack. Cell phones are not permitted during school hours or at after school clubs. If a phone is used at an inappropriate time, the phone will be taken to the office and the parent will be asked to pick it up.

ALUMS: We love our alums and love to have them visit. We ask that if they will be visiting teachers that they do so after school or that they feel free to attend Mass with us on Fridays.

NEW THIS YEAR: Due to the vast volume of tardies last year, we have instituted the following: any student late for school three or more times in a trimester will receive a detention notice. Detention is served after school from 2:15-3:00 p.m. All students must be in their classrooms and settled for the school day (i.e. all necessary items taken from their lockers to their seats, etc.). It may be possible that if you have two or more children that one may be marked tardy but not the other two children. This would occur because the child who is tardy wouldn't be in the room or ready to begin the school day. All students are expected to be in their seats when the tardy bell rings at 7:45 a.m.

VACATION AND EARLY DISMISSAL: As instructional time is extremely important, I ask that you plan vacations at times when school is not in session. I also ask that you not take your child out of school before 2:15 p.m. When a student leaves early from school, he/she misses instructional time and any announcements made at the end of the day. It is also disruptive to class being taught.

REBECCA CAUDILL SUMMER READING



ICE CREAM TREAT: Read at least three books by Thursday, September 3, 2015. Accelerated Reader (AR) tests must be taken and Book Logs must be returned by Thursday, September 10, 2015.