

Volume 8 Issue 19

February 11, 2016

St. Alphonsus
St. Patrick School

Principal's Corner

We have celebrated Catholic Schools Week—a fun week for the children and staff. However, there's more to Catholic Schools Week than fun.

Catholic Schools: Faith, Knowledge and Service. That was the theme of this year's focus across the nation. While our test scores are high and our curriculum is challenging and we are proud of these, the reason for Catholic Schools is only slightly connected to these.

Catholic Schools exist for exactly what the NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) states: They are here to promote character, compassion, and values—sometimes a very difficult role in our society. Of course, we do it in conjunction with you, as parents. Your role is even more difficult because you must raise your children in a world that doesn't strongly promote Christian values.

How do we help children develop character? They see our character by the way we treat people, the words that we use when we talk about others, and the choices we make. They imitate what they see. If they see positive behavior, then theirs will be positive. If they see a negative attitude, then they will become negative.

How do we develop compassion in our children? They need to see us treating others with respect. We need to help them discover something good in everyone—even the kids they don't like. We need to constantly be alert to their temptation to blame or criticize other children. Even when wronged, we need to help them to forgive.

And values? That's a touchy one! Society's values are so different from God's. We must be countercultural and that's hard. Kids will badger us and plead with us to let them do what their friends are doing or watching or listening to, but we need to be stronger. It is our responsibility to help them understand that moral choices are difficult, but we become stronger each time we make them.

REMINDERS

****Tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 11:** Early dismissal at 11:15 a.m., No bus at dismissal.

****Tomorrow:** teacher staff development in the afternoon.

Monday, Feb. 15: No School, Presidents' Day holiday.

Tuesday, Feb. 16: NO BUS.



Follow us down the Yellow Brick Road for a night of wonder and **WOW!**

Magic in the Merry Ol' Land of Oz. Because there's no place like St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School!

Do you have your tickets for a night of fun? You won't want to miss out on this evening of celebrating and supporting our school—a place we call home. Never been to a Gala before—hook up with some friends and come walk the “yellow brick road”.

A Night in



There's No Place Like Home



SHOP Corner

Whether you are purchasing gift cards for your own day to day shopping needs or as birthday gifts for family and friends, consider the convenience of shopping right here at school while earning money towards your fundraising goal! Also keep in mind, if you are looking for fun indoor activities given the cold weather these days, gift cards to AMC, Brunswick Zone, Build A Bear, Chuck E. Cheese, and AMC. Orders can be placed online at www.mannaorders.net.



YEARBOOK "SHOUT-OUTS" deadline has been extended until FEBRUARY 26...don't miss out on sharing a special message for your student in the 2015-2016 school yearbook...only \$3, no limit on message length...please mark envelope Yearbook Shout-outs.

FAST FACTS

1009 donations

11 Junior National Honor Society members

12 hours collecting donations

\$965 raised

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this collection. A special thank you to Chipains and Jewel grocery stores for allowing us to share with our Lemont community this worthwhile undertaking.

These donations will be used to help our local food pantries.



It's amazing how a positive attitude turns into a great service project! Check out the Fast Facts to see the amazing results of the National Junior Honor Society food drive.

DID YOU KNOW?



The fire that engulfs the Witch's hands as she's trying to remove the ruby slippers is actually apple juice spewing out of the shoes – the film was then sped up to make it look more like fire.

Baum thought up the name for Oz when looking at his filing cabinets, organized A-N and O-Z.

Jell-O crystals were stuck over all the horses in the Emerald City palace to lend them their color. The scenes were shot speedily, before the horses began to lick them off.

"Over the Rainbow", which the American Film Institute recently named the greatest movie song of all time, was nearly cut from the film.

Margaret Hamilton, who plays the Wicked Witch of the West, was a kindergarten teacher before becoming an actress.



LUNCH
MOMS/DADS

UNIFORM RESALE
COORDINATOR



EXTENDED DAY
SUPERVISOR

1). **LUNCH MOMS/DADS** are needed for our “sub” list! If occasionally you may be available between 10:30 a.m. - 12:05 p.m., please let us know...we need extra names to contact on those occasions when our “regulars” are shorthanded. (Be aware, please, these are often last-minute, short-notice calls!)

2). **EXTENDED DAY SUPERVISOR:** three (3) days a week, 2-6 p.m. working with students in our after school program. Must be over 18.

Please contact mrswall@stals-stpats.org or 630-783-2220 if interested.

3). **UNIFORM RESALE COORDINATOR** – We are overwhelmed with donations of gently used school uniforms...we need someone to organize the clothing, and be available periodically to handle a Resale sale. Please feel free to find a few friends to help you.

CAN YOU HELP



ART FAIR 2016

Catholic Schools Week 2016

During the week of January 31 through February 5, we took the time to highlight some of the wonderful features of Catholic Schools in general and to celebrate the extraordinary qualities of St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School specifically. The theme of Catholic Schools Week this year was “Catholic Schools –Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service”. It is always our goal here at St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School to hold our students and teachers to the highest standards of academic excellence. While academics are the key essential, we also find ways to practice our Faith and to be of service every day. Added into that mix are ways to make learning fun.

Our commitment to service was clearly evident as we watched our National Junior Honor Society members sponsor the Souper Bowl of Caring. Guided by the NJHS moderators, Mrs. Lerch and Mr. Munyon, the students collected an amazing amount of food and monetary donations for the local food pantry. The whole school also joined together to collect pet food and useful items for the TLC Animal Shelter.....our service extends to all of God’s creatures.

The week’s festivities began with Open House on Sunday. Our classrooms and all of our extracurricular activities and athletic teams were on display along with a Book Fair, a spectacular Art Fair and an amazing array of creative inventions by our 7th and 8th Grade students. An old fashioned Cake Walk and a scavenger hunt added some extra fun to the event this year.

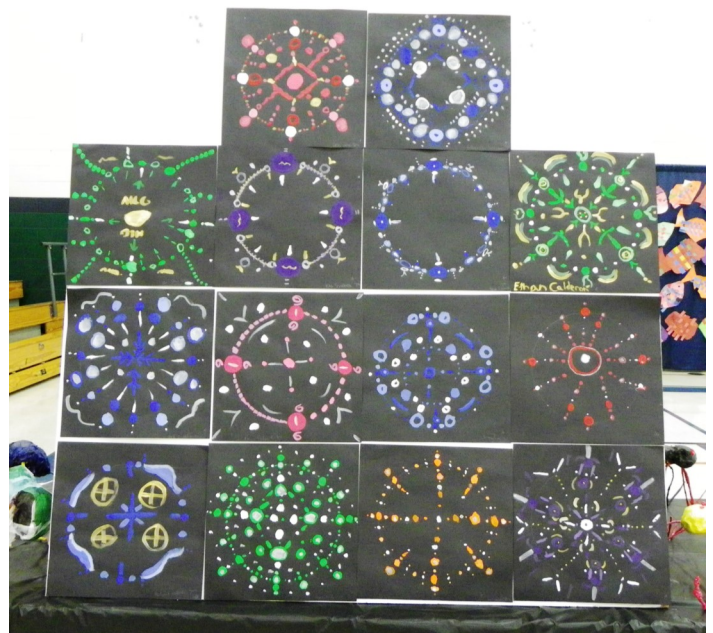
Every day during the week there were special activities to highlight the ways that our Catholic school practices learning, service, and spirituality, and there were many fun activities as well. Be sure to check our website for a video



montage of the week’s events. The singing you will hear in the background is our own school community singing, “Our God Is Here” by Chris Muglia during our Catholic Schools Week Mass.



Bibliopoly





February 11, 2016

FSA News! *It's the corner of eThursday where you can keep up with everything going on in our Family-School Association.*

World's Finest Chocolates: In addition to submitting paper order forms, you can click our [Online Store button](#) on our school website to purchase items from the World's Finest Chocolates catalog. Candy bars will be sold in our parishes this weekend after all masses! Thanks to our volunteers who are donating their time :) All unsold candy bars, catalog orders, and monies collected are due back to school on February 17. Checks can be written to FSA.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Each year we make changes and improvements to FSA based on your feedback. We need to know what went well this year, and what we can do better next year. We encourage all faculty and school parents to attend our March board meeting on March 3 so you have a voice in shaping things for next year! In April we will begin to lay out our schedule of activities, events, and budget for 2016-2017. In May the board will plan for final approval of these items. All are welcome!

2016-2017 FSA Board Opportunities: We have two board members whose youngest children will be graduating this May, leaving two board positions open for the 2016-2017 school year. We are looking for a **Secretary** and a **Marketing/Communications Coordinator** for next year. Additionally, our current **President** and **Room Parent Coordinator** have each held their positions for two consecutive years. While both are willing to continue in their current positions, it is best practice to open these positions to others that are interested in holding them. Note: working these spots will fulfill your volunteer requirements for 2016-2017!



With this being said, the [Volunteer Spot link on the FSA home page](#) has been updated with openings for these 4 positions. Everyone who is interested should sign up. If we have more than one candidate for any position, we will arrange for an election.

Please contact any FSA Board Member with questions or concerns.

Have a blessed week!!



February 11, 2016

Welcome to **CELTICS CORNER**- *Here you will find information regarding our athletics program.*

Congratulations to Billy (8th) for winning the 3 point contest and being voted to the all-star team at the Emil Tournament. WAY TO GO, BILLY!!!

FEBRUARY 12 – FINAL HOME BASKETBALL GAMES – 6TH GR. GIRLS 6PM, 7TH GR. BOYS 7PM, 8TH GR. BOYS 8PM

Last Call for Spring Volleyball
Registrations need to be in by February 16.
Considering joining your classmates for fun on the volleyball court.

Car decals available for sale- Cost are \$3 each. They are available at all home games, at the office, or through the Thursday envelope. Send your payment and order form to Laura Kerfin c/o Sarah (8th).

NEWS TO KNOW:

Please consider joining the Athletics' Board, where you will help mold the athletic program, meet new families, fulfill your volunteer requirement and have fun in the process!

BOARD POSITIONS FOR 2016/2017: It's never too early to start thinking about joining the Athletics Board. Be a part of promoting our wonderful program. Positions open for next year as of now are:

Treasurer, Equipment Coordinator, and Concessions Coordinators (2 person team). Positions need to be filled by April 2016 for transitional purposes. If you have any questions, please contact any board member or email your question at athletics@stals-stpats.org.