

Principal's Corner

Celebrate Catholic Schools! Next week is Catholic Schools Week and it's our week to join in with all other Catholic schools in the nation to recognize the greatness in our Catholic Schools—wonderful students, dedicated parents, an unsurpassed staff, supportive pastors and parishes, a nurturing community. How can our children lose?

As we celebrate Catholic Schools, it's interesting to look at our history. St. Pat's School was established in 1840. Talk about roots! There is a little anecdote the Sisters used to tell. Apparently, the school was established by the Sisters of Providence. When they decided to leave in 1888, the Sinsinawa Dominicans were asked to come in to educate our children. When they arrived during the summer, they realized that the Sisters of Providence had provided the school desks-and had taken them with! The Sisters had to scramble to outfit the classroom in time for school to begin. There is so much history in a school that has roots in the 1841's—15 years before the beginning of the Civil War.

St. Alphonsus School began in 1868—a youngster in terms of St. Pat's. As German immigrants settled in Lemont, they wanted their own parish, and in those days, most parishes established a school soon after the church was built. St. Alphonsus was housed in an old wooden building until 1950. Stories are often told of taking turns filling the coal bucket to stoke the old stove.

In 1968, after the loss of a pastor at St. Al's, it appeared that the parishes would be combined. In those days Catholic schools had declining enrollment, so the schools were combined into our consolidated school. It was quite revolutionary in 1968 to combine parish schools. St. Al's/St. Pat's thrives because of its rich history, not in spite of it. It thrives because of all the tiny factors which make it unique. It thrives because of parents, staff, students, pastors and parishes. What a community! Let's celebrate!

REMINDERS

**Progress reports go home today.

**Tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 27, fourth grade class liturgy in the chapel at 8:15 a.m. Please join us. (No all school liturgy.)

**No BUS SERVICE, tomorrow, Friday.

**Saturday, Jan. 28, 80s Trivia Night at Three Corners.

Catholic Schools Week Open House on Sunday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tell your neighbors and friends.

**The Book Fair, Art Fair and Invention Convention will be part of Open House on Sunday.

**Catholic Schools Week activities all next week. Please check last week's Link or our website.

**See today's envelope for the 2011 Illinois income tax credit sheet for tuition and fees.



COME BACK TO
THE 80S WITH
an 80s Trivia
Night at Three

Corners on Saturday, Jan. 28, as we begin reliving in the 80s of long ago.

(Check the Crazy For You Gala website for more details.)



Trivia Question:

Who won the World Series in 1984? (Hint— it wasn't the Chicago Cubs.)

Spelling Stars

In preparation for the Regional Spelling Competition, some of the best spellers of St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick's School participated in our school spelling bee which began on Friday, January 20, and finished on Monday, January 23. Cheered on by their classmates, students from grades 4-8 did their best to spell some very challenging words! Participants from Grade 4 included William, Patrick, MaryAnn, Jennye and Andrew. The Fifth grade spellers were



Ryan B., Alex, Aiste, James, Natalia, and Michael. From sixth grade, the challengers were Bruno, Ben, Thomas, Makayla, and Dana. The seventh grade super spellers included Megan A., Alyssa, Bridget, Hunter, Phinu and



Danny. Eighth grade competitors were Brian, Gina, Jake, Jenna, and Nicolet.

Every one of these students showed poise and spelling prowess as they stepped up to the microphone to spell a number of difficult words. The Spelling Bee had to be suspended on Friday afternoon for lack of time and was concluded on Monday with the remaining five spellers (Bruno and Dana from 6th, Bridget from 7th, and Danny and Gina from 8th) competing to be the champion for our school. Dana finished in third place, Bruno in 2nd place, and Danny became our new Spelling Champion after spelling all of his words correctly through 15 rounds and finally spelling "extrapolate" for his championship word! We are proud to have Dan represent our school at the Regional Spelling Bee in early February.



SPORTS CORNER

Athletic Photos – Team and individual pictures will be taken on Wednesday, February 8. See the flyer/order form in today's envelope. Team and individual photos will be taken for girls' volleyball, boys' basketball, and girls' basketball. Team photos only will be taken for Celtics Football and Football Poms (for the yearbook).

Lady Comet Tournament – Come out and cheer on our 8th grade girls basketball team in the annual Lady Comet Tournament. Game 2 takes place Thursday at 7:00 pm and Game 3 is on Saturday at 7:00 pm. All games are played at Lemont High School.



Basketball games return to the gym on Tuesday, January 31. 7th grade girls play at 6:00 pm, 7th grade boys play at 7:00 pm, and 8th grade girls play at 8:00 pm.

TRIVIA:

What was the name of a top game in the 80s that involved removal of body parts?

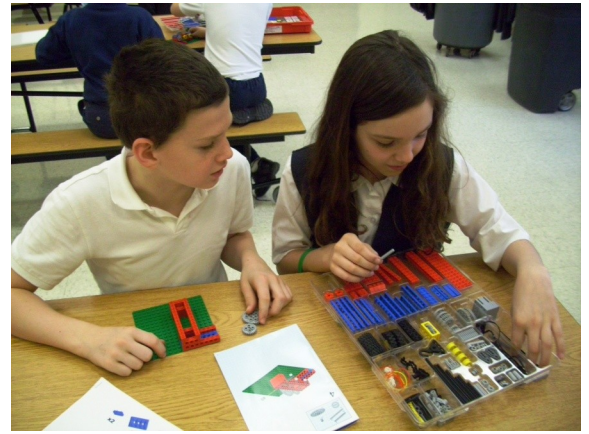
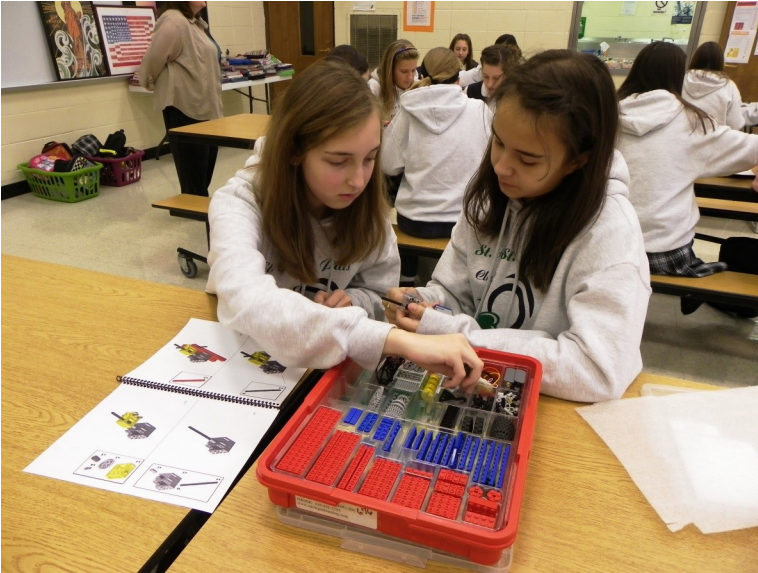
What was the name of a doll named after a vegetable?

RAFFLE TICKETS

Are you looking for ways to reduce your fundraising obligation? We have plenty of extra raffle tickets if you are interested in selling them. Please stop in the office to pick up any extra tickets you wish to sell. Maybe one of yours will be the lucky ticket.

If you haven't returned your raffle ticket stubs, please do so by tomorrow. They were due last Tuesday.





LEGO Engineering On-Site Field Trip

From Wednesday, January 11 through Friday, January 13, the St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick School cafeteria was transformed into an engineering center. By a joint effort between the school and our Family School Association, all students in grades 1-8 were able to participate in an on-site LEGO engineering field trip. Children worked in teams of two with designated roles as builders and suppliers. The roles were switched with each turn of the page in their instruction “blueprints”. By working together and carefully following the instructions, the students were able to construct either a machine with an electric motor, a carousel, or a collision car depending upon their grade level. Each class had their own dedicated 75 minute session. The children had a great time working collaboratively to create a working mechanical system!

