

A decorative border of hearts surrounds the text. The hearts are arranged in a circular pattern, alternating between solid purple and hollow purple outlines. The top and bottom rows consist of solid purple hearts, while the middle rows consist of hollow purple hearts.

## February Newsletter 2010

In just a few weeks, the season of Lent will be upon us. The ashes placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday are a spiritual icon. Made from the palm branches distributed last Palm Sunday, the ashes represent our transient earthly citizenship. The sign of the cross traced on our foreheads moves us to reflect on our true home in heaven. It also challenges us to examine the seriousness of our efforts to prepare for life in the heavenly kingdom. Occasionally, I have heard someone comment, "We have here no lasting city". It is an expression used to recall the transitory nature of our life here on earth. It cautions us to live in the reality that all things are passing. It reminds us that we are all pilgrims who journey in a foreign land. The church invites us during the forty days of Lent to reflect deeply on these realities.

Most of us travel through life at breakneck speed, rushing from one activity to another, one responsibility to another, one task to another. Living in a complex technological society bombarded by noise and movement, it is no wonder that many feel restless and pulled in a hundred different directions at the same time. Lent is the perfect time to stop the merry-go-round of constant distraction. It is the grace-filled moment when we silence the clamor around us and pull back from the constant movement of daily life. It is the time to be quiet and still before the Lord and to attend to the things of the spirit.

Maybe this Lent you can put some time aside each day or week to quiet yourself and reflect on your relationship with our Lord and reprioritize the things that truly matter on your pilgrim journey to that lasting city, the heavenly kingdom.

### **Lenten Practices**

Just a reminder, it is still the Church's practice to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays in Lent. Even though most of our students are not old enough to be bound by that practice, it would not hurt them to participate in this small practice with the rest of the family. It is also a practice to sacrifice something in Lent. I suggest that instead of *giving up* something, we *Take On* something. Do something tangible, something good that will benefit another, whether it's being kind to someone we don't particularly care for or taking out the trash when we don't feel like it. A positive ACTION always does more than giving up the calories of a candy bar. ☺

### **Catholic Schools Week**

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools. I'd like to take this time to acknowledge our appreciation of our parents who are so supportive of our efforts at school: in joining with us to form your children in the faith by taking them to Mass and supplementing at home what we teach in school, for that is what we are all about; for attending sacramental and parent meetings; for following school policies and procedures; for supporting the school by volunteering in school, at socials, or with fundraisers; for working with the teachers to give your children that extra help when they need it; and for praising your child's good efforts and for correcting his/her not so good efforts. You are an invaluable part of Catholic School Education!

A graphic with the words "THANK YOU" in white capital letters on a dark blue oval background, with a sunburst effect behind it.

THANK YOU

## Re-registration

Forms were recently sent home as an attachment to re-register your child(ren) for the 2010-2011 school year. The deadline for re-registration is **Thursday, 2/11/10**. Some classes are tight in number and may be closed after this date; we cannot hold places for those who are not re-registered. Registration will be open to new students beginning February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Also, we are accepting registrations for Kindergarten from our present school families beginning 2/16.

## Congratulations

To the winner of our grade 4-6 **spelling bee**: Sean Zarzatian (5) and to Zachary(4) Chipperfield who was the runner-up.

The **Christian Peacemakers** for January:

Kira Hutchinson (K)	Cole Craven (KA)	Alessia Barricelli (1)	Brian Lennon (1A)
Kellie Emehizer (2)	Shaylen Schnepf (2A)	Arianna Barricelli (3)	Andrew Plunkett (3A)
John Gorecki (4)	Brendan Barnes (4A)	Brendan Sullivan (4B)	
Sean Zarzatian (5)	Erin Musick (5A)	Jacob Rowan (6)	Daniel Brown (6A)
Elizabeth Gougler (7)	Emily Hancin (7A)	Alison Szyszko (8)	Isabella Montalvo (8A)

**Good Writers Club** for December:

Grade 3	Sarah Streng	Conor Sweeney	Madison Mower
Grade 4	Patrick Cannon	Victoria Zdunkiewicz	
Grade 5	Bethany Liberatore	Matthew Costanzo	
Grade 6	Mickey Schneider	Charles Fitch	
Grade 7	Kimberly Zeladonis	Julia Smith	Shelby Samuels
	Alexa Parlapiano	Samantha Liney	
Grade 8	Dominic Webster	Kierstyn Rossi	

In **Forensics Competition** on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, our team results were as follows:

We had three entries that made it to the semifinals. They were:

In Poetry - Jessica Hyska

In Prose - Brynna Izquierdo

In Duo - Samantha Liney and Elizabeth Gougler

And in finals - We brought home two trophies

In Declamation 2nd place - Colleen McBride (trophy)

7th place - Kelly Trusdell

In Dramatic Performance 7th place - Alexandria Reisinger

In Extemporaneous Speaking 3rd place - Emily Hancin (trophy)

In Congress Rosemary Geraghty made it to the Supersession and placed 9th.

As a school we made sweepstakes 5<sup>th</sup> place

In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade **News Bowl Competition** for December, our *Toasters* team had the top score of 32 and the rest of our teams had the top 10 scores of the top 13!

The recipients of the **Light of Christ Medal** in Cub Scout Pack 128:

Dylan Souders          Joseph Gottshall          Jeffrey Duda          Brendon McManus  
Ryan Henry          Emmett Lombardi

## Home & School

### Chance and Auction

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the Chance and Auction on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser typically raises \$30,000 to \$50,000 for our school. We would like EVERY family to participate in some manner by donating a basket, volunteering on a committee, or helping at the actual auction or preview night. *Many hands make light work* and we can only continue our efforts with everyone's help and interest.

Thank you for your participation in the Gianni's fundraiser. We realized \$4,192.00 profit.

**The Family Bingo scheduled for Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.**

### Catholic Schools Week:

Monday

Spelling Bee (grades 4-6) 9 AM in the cafeteria

Tuesday

9:45 AM Mass – Thank you to our volunteers following Mass

Wednesday/Thursday

Career Days – Speakers from various professions

Thursday

Open House & Science Fair – 7-8 PM

Friday

WWII Vets to speak to grades 7 & 8. The school will present them with supplies collected for the VA home.

Jeopardy competitions in grades 3-8

### Technology

Check out our classroom blogs:

Room 4A      <http://morris4a.blogspot.com/>

Grade 8      <http://needham8.blogspot.com/>

