



# SACRED HEART SCHOOL

## Newsletter February, 2017



### Principal's Corner

By Mrs. Merrill

We are about mid way through the year which is the perfect time for me to provide our families updates on the school year in general.

Since the summer, several parish and school staff members have been working on plans to upgrade the facilities. Over the summer, ***new bathrooms were installed in the cafeteria***

Additional ***security cameras*** were installed which also record over extended periods of time. Several spaces on campus were de-cluttered, organized or re-purposed for more practical uses. An example of this was the Art room, which was originally below the Main Office all by itself. With assistance from students, parents and teachers, the Art room was moved up to the Third floor to be included with the other Specials classes.

Over Christmas vacation, the entire hallway on the second floor behind the Choir loft was cleared of bookshelves, books, furniture and carpet. Volunteers painted the entire hallway and we had a carpet professionally installed. Some comfortable furniture was added, along with a small play table and religious literature, making for a lovely, ***welcoming school and parish space!***

Our library has also received a ***make-over***. Outdated books were removed to make room for brand new children's literature. In addition to the Smart TV, we now have a set of ***Kindle Fire tablets and Chrome-books*** that both students and teachers are utilizing to experience more vitalizing lessons.

Our Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Mooney, is lending her artistic talents to paint the walls of the Second floor on the K-2 floor. The fresh paint and vivid colors of the characters truly enhances the primary grades' floor!

I would like to extend a sincere debt of thanks ***to Antonio Morabito, Kevin "Smitty" Smith, Devon Camenga, Annette Mooney, Don Buell and Katie Archambault*** for all the hours of hard work to complete the above mentioned improvements!

This brings me to the last piece of updates. On **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**, Mr. Camenga and I will present a ***"State of the School" address*** to our entire community. I urge at least one family member to come and hear the address which will cover Catholic identity, enrollment, finances, teaching and learning, assessments, governance and accreditation. Depending on final approval from the Finance committee, I may also be announcing our tuition rates for next school year. The address will be held in the Church beginning at 6:30pm. Because of the nature of the address, it would be helpful if only adults attended the session.

### Vice Principal's Corner

By Mr. Camenga

#### The importance of assessments

A popular topic in education today is the effectiveness of testing. Recent research is revealing the way we utilize and interpret data from benchmarks, formative and summative assessments has changed. For years the education system used assessments as a way to determine if a child has learned a concept or topic. Today, we are using assessments in different ways.

We use them to ***drive instruction*** where teachers can build lesson plans that are able to reach all learners and apply strategies to meet multiple needs. We use them to ***monitor and evaluate learning***. ***This does not necessarily mean these assessments are for grades to go on a report card, but to provide teachers with data.***

We use them to ***communicate learning expectations*** as we prepare our students for the next academic level.

With the effective use of data and assessments, Sacred Heart can continue molding and meeting the needs of today's students, so they will be strong problem solvers tomorrow.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Mrs. Brandt**, who has been chosen to receive the **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Distinguished Teacher Award**. The award honors a Catholic school teacher who has promoted a school's Catholic educational vision and who has a strong awareness of a school's Catholic identity and mission. The teacher is one who has demonstrated excellence in teaching skills and has a positive effect on the moral growth of students.



Our principal, **Mrs. Merrill**, will also be recognized for her **40 years of service** in the ministry of Catholic education.

Both women will be honored at a **Catholic Schools Week celebration on January 29th, at 2:00 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** on the corner of Eagle Street and Madison Avenue in Albany.

## **PSA Happenings**



The PSA continues to assist with the final plans for the **20th Annual Auction: "The Wizarding World of Sacred Heart School"** which is our **biggest fundraiser** of the year. If you would like to volunteer for the auction but have not attended a meeting please send a note into the office and an auction committee member will call you. **All are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend the auction.**

Special thanks to Adrienne Alley for coordinating our Ice Skating Day on February 3rd and Meagan Strong who for coordinating the Tubing event at Willard Mtn. on Saturday, February 25th. Let's hope for snow!

The **February PSA meeting** will be announced at a later date

### Mr. G's Fun Camp

Mr. Giuliano will be holding his Fun Camp again this year over the winter break. Mr. G's camp will run from (8:30 am to 3:00 pm) during the week of February 20th-24th. The fee will be \$125 per child/\$200 for 2 children/\$30 per day.

A registration form will be sent home soon. If you have any questions please call the school office.



### Re-Registration for All Sacred Heart School Parents:

We are going to try something different this year: **EARLY registration** will allow families to save 20% on their registration fees! More information to follow during Catholic Schools Week.

### Our Next Open House:

**Wednesday, February 1st from 6-8:00pm**



### A VERY IMPORTANT REQUEST:

It has come to our attention that many of our students do not know their parent contact information in the event of an emergency or change of schedule.

Please consider writing this information on a little card and place it into your child's backpack. This will enable them to have quick access to this information.

Thank you!



## WANTED:

SHS students and families to participate in (or attend?) the **Catholic Schools Liturgy on January 29th** as we join in celebrating **Mrs. Brandt's "Teacher of the year" award!** Let's have a dress of red, white and blue in Mrs. Brandt's honor!

PS: All students who attend may have a dress down on the following Monday (or Tuesday depending on gym days).

## Dates to Remember...



- \* **Sun. Jan. 29-** Catholic Schools Week Begins-Liturgy at the Cathedral in Albany at 2:00 pm
  - \* **Weds. Feb. 1-** Open House 6:00-8:00 pm
  - \* **Fri. Feb. 3-** Troy Catholic Schools Mass at CCHS, Ice Skating at HVCC 6:45 pm
  - \* **Tues. Feb. 7** - State of the School Address at 6:30 pm
  - \* **Thurs. Feb. 9** - Lifetouch Spring Portraits, 3 Wise Men Dinner 3:30-6:00 pm
  - \* **Tues. Feb. 14** - Dress Down in red/white for Valentine's Day
  - \* **Mon-Fri. Feb 20-24-** WINTER RECESS/NO SCHOOL-Mr. G's Fun Camp here or TSL at OLV
  - \* **Sat. Feb. 25** - Tubing at Willard Mountain
  - \* **Mon. Feb. 27** - Classes resume
  - \* **Tues. Mar. 1** - March Madness Raffle Pull Begins
- \* **A more detailed schedule for Catholic Schools Week activities will be available later in the month.**
- \* **SELL your March Madness Raffle tickets!**

## CONGRATULATIONS!



The following 6th graders have been awarded a scholarship to CCHS:  
**Riley Archambault, Isabella Barcher, Adelaide Borowsky, Samantha Brady, Seamus Camenga, Marilyn Sullivan and Sophia Vasil**

## PAIN FREE FUNDRAISERS UPDATE

### Simple ways to raise \$\$\$ for our SHS

It is just a simple fact that without fundraising, we would have to raise tuition. Here are a few PAIN-FREE fundraisers for you to consider:

- ♥ **Clothing drop-off box**—located in the smaller parking lot across from the school. Drop off purses, belts, linens, towels, stuffed animals, etc. We receive \$.04/pound!
- ♥ **Tools for Schools** - through Price Chopper . Just register your AdVantage card and use it every time you shop!
- ♥ **BoxTops for Education** - just clip them off of the product and send them to school. We'll get \$.10 to \$.15 for each box top.
- ♥ **Coca Cola Bottle Caps** - Submit the bottle caps with codes to the office to earn points which can be used in acquiring school equipment and supplies
- ♥ **Colonie Center School Bucks** - every time you shop at Colonie Center (bookstores, nails, travel plans, phone cards, movies, gift cards, etc) please bring your receipts to Customer Service, where they will calculate your spending and stamp your receipts. This is a year-long program, and we can earn up to \$8,000 for the school. In past years, we have placed second and received between \$4,000 and 5,000 each year!

## *Fall in Love with TSL Adventures*

Cupid is aiming his arrow at you this February! Fall in love with TSL. We have a lot going on. February camp is open for children 3-12 at Our Lady of Victory from February 20-24. Registration is now open on our website.

While you are exploring [tsladventures.net](http://tsladventures.net) check out our summer themes. We have already taken numerous registrations for our summer program 2017! It's never too early. If you are still not tired of surfing our website by then, go ahead and check out our online store and purchase your TSL tees and sweatshirts.

Enrollment for our after school program is always ongoing. Join us today! As always, direct any questions to [tsladventures@gmail.com](mailto:tsladventures@gmail.com) or stop by the cafeteria between 2-6 and say hello. We are always there with friendly faces.

See you in March.