

The Sacred Heart Beat

Sacred Heart Elementary School

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Volume 15, No. 5

January 2012

From the Principal's Pen

Sr. Lynn shares good news about the Middle States evaluation and tells us about some events marking Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
Page 2

Bake sale benefits victims of Japan earthquake

International Connections group raises funds to help children after earthquake, tsunami.
Page 3

Wanted: A few good parents

Get involved with PTG events, this year or next. Spring Flower Sale, Magazine Sale, and Book Fair are all looking for help.
Page 4

Nothing beats a cup of tea on a cold winter day

Warm up by coming to the Afternoon Tea on February 26.
Page 5

Take a look at what our student journalists are writing

A new feature gives parents a glimpse of stories from the student newspaper, The Pulse.
Page 6

Family brunch kicks off Catholic Schools Week

*By Maureen Dolan
Family Brunch Cochair*

The time has come for the annual Catholic Schools Week Brunch! The Family Brunch marks the traditional beginning of Catholic Schools Week. This year, the brunch will be held on Sunday, January 29th at 10:30 a.m. (after the 9:30 Mass) in the school cafeteria. All families are invited to come and enjoy this wonderful opportunity to celebrate our school and each other! This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service." The theme reflects the fact that Catholic Schools are an added value for the nation. Because of our high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic

• Sign-up form, Page 5

schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to American society. Catholic schools give a high level of service to the local communities because of the many service projects students undertake. Giving back to the community and helping others are values instilled in every student here at Sacred Heart!

Mrs. Maola works diligently with a group of volunteers who cook a delicious buffet. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Maureen Dolan at dolanelectric@msn.com, Karen Nesbitt at karen@walltowall.com, or call 412- . If you have

Continued on Page 4

Important dates

January 2

*No school;
New Year's Day observed*

January 3

School resumes

January 16

*No school;
Martin Luther King Day*

January 26

11:30 a.m. dismissal; Parent-Teacher Conferences 6-8:30 p.m.

January 27

No school; Parent-Teacher Conferences 9 a.m.-noon

January 29

*Catholic Schools Week begins—
9:30 a.m. Family Mass
10:30 a.m. Family Breakfast*

January 30-February 3

*Catholic Schools Week;
activities TBA*

Food of the month

Peanut butter

The school is collecting peanut butter to contribute to the food bank run by the East End Cooperative Ministry.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

By: Sister Lynn Rettinger, S.C.

Dear Parents,

Best wishes to all of our wonderful families for a very blessed 2012. Let us celebrate peace within our families, cities, and a world so desperately in need of God.

Many thanks for the cards and gifts lavished upon our office staff and teachers at Christmas. Your example of thoughtfulness is seen daily in your children throughout the year.

Middle States Evaluation Report

Sacred Heart School completed the Middle States Evaluation with rave reviews. A thorough verbal report was delivered by the chairperson of the Visiting Team at the end of the three-day visit. The report commended the faculty, parents, students, and administration for being faithful to the ministry of Catholic education and establishing goals and programs to support the mission of the school. Other commendations included: (1) the qualified faculty, the involvement of the pastor, and the effective school organization, (2) the continuous assessment of outcomes of school experiences by the faculty, (3) the continuity of school programs, and (4) plans for the future.

We were blessed with an excellent, professional team who asked pertinent questions, observed interactions among children and staff, paid attention to details, caught the spirit of the school, and worked beautifully together. Theirs was a good experience, as was ours.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events

All are invited to the Annual Dr. King Mass on Sun., Jan. 15 at noon at St. Paul's Cathedral. Light refreshments follow in the church hall. The celebration is sponsored by the Race and Reconciliation Dialogue Group at the Cathedral.

The Sacred Heart School student choir and other students will participate in the ecumenical celebration of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15 at the Temple Sinai Synagogue. The 3:30 p.m. event is sponsored by the East End Cooperative Ministry, of which Sacred Heart Parish is a proud member. All families are welcome.

The 9th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive for Life will be held on Mon., Jan. 16 from 1-6 p.m. at St. Benedict the Moor Church. The drive is sponsored by the Black Catholic Ministries Office in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Central Blood Bank.

GradeBook (rvsgradebook.com)

We strongly encourage the use of GradeBook (rvsgradebook.com) by many parents and students to keep current with grades online. Please note that the site will be unavailable from Jan. 16 through Jan. 23. This is because hundreds of people throughout the diocese visit the site during the last week of the report period. Teachers often have to enter grades at 11 p.m. at night in order to get on the site. Additionally, during the last week of the report period, entries are not complete which often gives an incomplete and inaccurate picture of averages.

St. Antoine School, Fondwa, Haiti

St. Antoine's School in Haiti has been the sister school of SHES for many years. During Advent, the Student Council sold Christmas Tree angels to raise funds for the school. We are happy to report that \$144 was sent to Partners in Progress, the fund-raising arm for St. Antoine's School, to assist in the rebuilding of the elementary school after the devastation of the hurricane in January of 2010.

Annual Ornament Workshop spreads glitter and fun

By Maria Mastriano
Ornament Workshop Cochair

This year's ornament workshop proved once again to be an amazing success. It is a great time filled with holiday cheer, creativity and candy canes!

Each student in levels Kindergarten through 5th enjoyed making a unique ornament to take home.

This year, Leah McCord (son, Clark in second grade) brought her creative expertise to the workshop. She came with a fresh approach to the event and provided new ornament ideas for the students to create.

Every year many parents come out to help with this event. Thank you all for the help you provided.

The children loved having you there and we can't wait until next year to do it all again!

Contact information

Sacred Heart Elementary

325 Emerson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-1582
info@shes-pgh.org

Principal

Sr. Lynn Rettinger
412-441-1582

PTG President

Andrea Leavitt
412-

www.sacredheartpgh.org

The newsletter, handbook, and other forms and information are on the school website.

New feature highlights student writing

The Pulse is the student newspaper put out by a super-hardworking staff of student writers, photographers, and editors from grades 6 to 8.

Working under the guidance of parent coordinator Patty Maloney, they put out a great monthly newspaper full of news, photos, and commentary on student life at Sacred Heart.

As a new monthly feature, we're going to include a sampling of news from *The Pulse*. Stories may be edited for space.

See page 6 for this month's stories.

Thank you from the Cookbook Committee

By Maureen Dolan
Cookbook Committee Chair

Thanks to all of you who placed your order for the Cookbook Fundraiser!

We had about 35 orders and sold more than 100 books! We hope that you had a chance to look over the recipes and try a few over the holiday break.

If you missed this past opportunity to participate in the fundraiser, remember that you can always order the books on the Scrip order form throughout the year.

We will do a similar sale around Mother's Day. It is a great gift for a new mom, bride, or graduate! Have a beautiful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



International Connections raised more than \$1,000 with a bake sale to benefit Ashinaga, a non-profit organization that helps to provide educational and emotional support to children who have lost one or both parents in the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

International Connections raises money for earthquake victims

by Holly Rubinoff
International Connections Chair

At the end of last school year, our International Connections group sponsored a bake sale. All proceeds went to Ashinaga, a non-profit organization that helps to provide educational and emotional support to children who have lost one or both parents in the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Ashinaga has taken the extraordinary step of providing one-time educational grants to these children. All children—from newborns to those in graduate school—who lost parents or guardians in connection with the earthquake/tsunami are eligible for these grants, which are free of any repayment obligation. We specified that our donation be used to support these grants.

When some of the women from our program approached me about this last year, I thought it was a fantastic idea. Although my personal concept of baking consists of going

to the Giant Eagle bakery, I offered to organize, and help. These women worked so hard to put this bake sale together and quite honestly, I've never seen anything quite like it.

Not only were there ample varieties of delicious baked goods, but each item was individually packaged with the ingredients listed. For the students with food allergies, a separate table had all of the baked goods containing nuts or sesame. Because of their diligent hard work and thoughtfulness, every child could participate.

The bake sale took place after the band concert one evening, and then the next day in the cafeteria during lunch. I attended both and was just as amazed at the generosity of our families who donated both baked goods and/or money.

As our hope was to raise around \$200, with so much pride, I am

Continued on Page 4

Get involved with PTG

Magazine Sale, Book Fair looking for leaders for next year's events; Spring Flower Sale needs helpers this year

By *Andrea Leavitt*
PTG President

Lending a hand for PTG activities is rewarding on so many levels.

In addition to the benefits to our school and our children, it's a terrific way to get to know your fellow Sacred Heart Families and make some new friends.

Currently we are looking for volunteers for the Spring Flower sale on May 3.

As for next year, chairpeople and volunteers are needed for the Magazine Sale and the Scholastic Book Fair (No dates are scheduled yet, but both are autumn events.)

If you are able to help, please contact me at ajl@kaligrafika.com, or Jessica Levy jessicalevy921@yahoo.com for more information.

Thanks so very much for your support!

Family Brunch

Continued from Page 1

already volunteered on the Volunteer Survey earlier this year, we will be contacting you shortly to let you know what we need.

Reservations for this event are a MUST! See form on page 5.

Please mark your calendars now to save the date for the Brunch! We're looking forward to celebrating our school and having a wonderful time!

Correction

Honor Roll correction

Mary Nicole Gentile earned Highest Honor rather than High Honor.

Grace Poillucci and Francesca Bowser earned Highest Honor rather than High Honor.

Yo Sasatomi and Lark Davin-Blackson earned High Honor rather than Honor.

Sorry for the errors and congratulations Mary Nicole, Grace, Yo, Francesca, and Lark.

Classroom news

Seventh grade raises money for Thanksgiving dinner

Seventh grade recently collected money from the whole school for the Light of Life Rescue Ministry.

They collected a record amount this year, about \$800, which was enough to feed about 340 people Thanksgiving Dinner.

Even in these hard times, Sacred Heart families really reach out to help those in need.

Bake sale succeeds

Continued from Page 3

pleased to announce that our bake sale raised exactly \$1001!!!

We recently received a heartfelt thank you letter from Ashinaga. "... Please accept our deepest appreciation for your generous donation. We will do everything in our power to help these children cope with their losses..."

A special thank you to Yukako Thomas, Hiroko Scherer, Yuka Hirashima, Kaoruko Onishi, Hanae Oita, Tomoko Tajiri, and Nozomi Takahashi for making this event happen.

And thank you to all the families, teachers, and staff for donating toward this wonderful cause!

Catholic Schools Week

January 29 to February 5

2012 theme:

Catholic Schools:
Faith. Academics. Service.



Native American Dance

Fifth-graders perform symbolic dances that they developed and explained as part of a Social Studies lesson on Native Americans.

Family Brunch sign-up

**Catholic Schools Week Family Brunch
Sunday, January 29th at 10:30 a.m.**

Family Name: _____

Number of adults: _____

Number of children: _____

Total enclosed:

_____ @ \$5 each: \$ _____

_____ @ \$4 each: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Sacred Heart PTG.

Send your reply to the office marked as:

*Catholic Schools Week Brunch Reservations
c/o Karen Nesbitt.*

_____ I am available to volunteer (please fill out contact info below).

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Join us for Afternoon Tea

*By Mary Jo McCartney
Winter Tea Chair*

Please plan to join us for an afternoon tea on Sunday, February 26 at Sacred Heart.

This event is open to all Sacred Heart students and their parents, aunts/uncles, grandparents, and other special grown-ups. If you wish, bring your doll along.

Please watch for more information in the February newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please call Mary Jo McCartney at 41 _____ or mijmccartney@msn.com.

Make sure sports medical forms are up-to-date

*by Greg Rubinoff
Sports Registrations*

Please be sure that your child's sports registration medical form is up to date. They are effective for one year from the date of the exam, not the date signed. If you do not know when your child's expires, you can email holly.rubinoff@gmail.com or call 41 _____ and we'll be happy to let you know.

A few medical forms on file for some children are not the standard school form required. Unless the form/report provided (and signed) by the physician has a clause clearly stating that the child can play a sport, it will not be acceptable, and the standard school medical form is needed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. Thank you for your cooperation.

All stories on this page originally appeared in the student newspaper, *The Pulse*. Stories have been edited to fit the space. See story, page 3.

Elements in Style

by

Isabella Salvi and Jenny Zheng

Elements in Style is a project Mrs. Rickard has done with students for many years.

She said it first started when a student asked if they could dress up as an element. She replied, "as long as it has style,"



which is how the name came about. Each year she changes it up. "Anything to keep science interesting", she said.

This assignment gives students the opportunity to learn something, while showing off their talents. Students dress up as an element, chosen at random. The costume has to reflect the characteristics you are giving your element, something your elements is a part of or the colors of your element. The report includes information such as the elements symbol, atomic number, atomic weight, color, standard state, classification, date of discovery, melting points, and boiling points.

Many of the students wrote poems about their element but there were a handful that did a rap, a story, or sang. There were many interesting projects in both classes, however, a few really stood out from the rest.

Claudia Hebert (Phosphorous) surprised the class with her amazing rap along with her outfit that was lined with glow sticks all over. In one part of her rap she explains what she is in, "In fertilizer, Glow-sticks too, I start fires. How about you?"



Francisco Carratino (Oxygen) sang a song and played along with the guitar.

Amy Culig (Krypton) surprised the class with a remix to "California Gurls" by Katy Perry.

Aaron Fischer's (Barium), report almost made everyone jump out of their seats.

Barium is very reactive and he took the characteristics of Barium by screaming his project. Many students had amazing costume ideas.



Blaine Snyder (Iron), dressed up as Iron Man.

Anna Spanos (Bismuth) dressed in her element colors, blue and yellow.

Josh Frey (Zinc) was dressed up in all blue and taped objects that zinc belonged in onto his shirt.

Mary Gentile (Calcium), dressed up as a milk bottle, and threw a square of cheese. She also made milk bottle shoes! Madalena Psillidis (Lithium) dressed up as the Energizer Bunny.

When asked which year she thought was the best, Mrs. Rickard replied "Definitely this year."

Meeting Kanye West

by

Francesca Bowser

November 29, 2011- it was supposed to be a normal day, with a normal practice, but instead it became an extraordinary day for ten 7th grade girls.

It was a little weird to see the two men in suits waiting outside of the gym before practice. They asked to speak with the coach, Steve Bowser. They took him aside and started talking to him. A couple minutes after that, he walked up to our team and said, "Kanye West is coming." Everyone screamed- we were ecstatic. The two men walked over to us and told us not to tell anyone they were there—**NO** Facebook status updates, **NO** texting and **NO** calling anyone.

We found out that Kanye West had made a donation to our school in order to be able to privately play basketball

with his friends at our gym, unaware of the time of our practice. His manager made a proposition- if Kanye could have the whole gym, then we would get complimentary tickets to his concert that very night. Coach Bowser agreed, and we proceeded to practice until Kanye and his friends came.



We were just learning a new play when the man appeared in the doorway. We all looked up and our eyes instantaneously widened in awe. Coach called everyone to our end-of-practice

huddle, and he said, "Okay girls. Kanye West is here, so we're going to meet him, get a picture, and then get out of their way."

Everyone nodded and again looked up at the celebrity in the doorway. We all gathered around him, and took the picture. He gave everyone hugs and smiles. He was polite and very nice to all of us. We were sad when we had to leave, but we still knew that we would see him again, in concert.

Later that night, we went to "Watch the Throne," Jay-Z and Kanye West's concert. Everyone on the team went, including a few siblings and parents. One thing for sure; the girls on the 7th Grade White B Team will never forget the day that they met Kanye West.