

The Sacred Heart Beat

Sacred Heart Elementary School

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Volume 15, No. 2

October 2011

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Can you help? November 19 is work day. Parents will gather in the morning to help with a painting projects. Read all the details.

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Parents go back to school at Open House

*By Andrea Leavitt
PTG President*

Held on September 22nd, this year's Open House was again a great way for parents and teachers to connect. Along with providing an opportunity for parents to visit

classrooms and teachers, the evening gave parents a chance to talk to representatives from a number of Sacred Heart organizations, including the Athletic Association, the Cookbook

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Gala tickets available

*By Carrie Zenkevich
Gala Chairperson*

Sacred Heart's second annual Green Tie Gala is almost here! On Saturday, November 12, we hope you will join us at beautiful Heinz Field.

We are planning a delicious dinner, great entertainment, a raffle for one year's free tuition, and silent and live auctions with everything from food and restaurant fun to an on-field Steelers experience of a lifetime!

Remember, all money raised at the Gala will go directly to the funding of Sacred Heart's new science lab.

Invitations with a ticket order form will be mailed home soon, and tickets will also be available in the

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Important dates

October 2

Parish picnic at Highland Park, 2-6 p.m.

October 3

First day for full uniform for grades 1 to 8. No shorts or polos. Boys must wear a tie.

October 5

Protecting God's Children class, 6:30-9:15 p.m., Art room

October 14

School picture day – dress-up day

October 16

First Communion Blessing Service, 9:30 a.m. Mass

October 23

Open House at Oakland Catholic High School, noon-2 p.m.

October 27

End of report period

October 28

11:30 dismissal; teacher in-service

October 30

Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9:30 a.m. Mass

October 31

No school; clerical day

November 1

All Saints Day

November 1-6

Book Fair

November 3

Parent conferences 6-8:30 p.m.

November 4

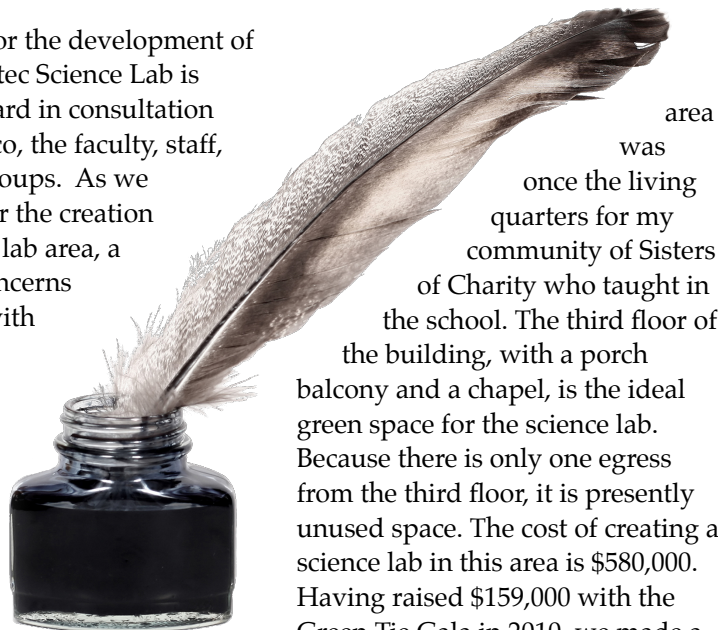
Parent conferences 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

By: Sister Lynn Rettinger, S.C.

Dear Parents,

The process for the development of the Mark Krotec Science Lab is moving forward in consultation with Fr. Grecco, the faculty, staff, and parent groups. As we strategized for the creation of the science lab area, a number of concerns were raised with the initial proposal and drawing. While we anticipated that the best place for the science lab to be at the north end of the building on the lower level, it became clear that the construction in that space was more costly for the product we were hoping for.



area was once the living quarters for my community of Sisters of Charity who taught in the school. The third floor of the building, with a porch balcony and a chapel, is the ideal green space for the science lab. Because there is only one egress from the third floor, it is presently unused space. The cost of creating a science lab in this area is \$580,000. Having raised \$159,000 with the Green Tie Gala in 2010, we made a remarkable start. I anticipate that it will take 3-4 years of successful fund raising to accomplish our goal.

We are currently writing a grant for the science lab and have expert advice regarding that process. Hopefully, we will see some positive results from that effort.

The 2nd Annual Green Tie Gala at Heinz Field on Saturday, November 12, 2011 is soon and there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the Mark Krotec Science Lab at Sacred Heart Elementary School. Be part of the scene in whatever way you can.

After studying all of the space available in the school, it became clear that other areas had potential. In order to make an informed decision, a facilities study became necessary. A Request for Proposals was made to gather design options from local architects. After receiving nine different firms' plans, A/E Works was chosen to do the facilities study.

The faculty and staff participated in the initial phases of the study and will continue to be involved as their particular job relates to the science lab.

The facilities study recommends the creation of the science lab on the third floor of the school. This

Green Tie Gala tickets available

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back of church after some Masses and by cash or check in the school office. Raffle tickets will also go on sale soon, so be sure to get your chance to win free tuition for a year!

Hope to see you on November 12.

Not going to Gala? Consider attending as a volunteer

Volunteers are needed the evening of the Gala (Saturday, November 12, 2011) to help things run smoothly. If you don't plan to attend the Gala, but would like to contribute to this worthy cause (a Science Lab for our kids!!), please contact Michele Cromer at mcromer@gtnlaw.com. Help is needed to register attendees, monitor the auction, assist the band, clean up, etc. We need you! Please let us know if you can help!

Open House

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Committee, the Green Tie Gala Committee, International Connections, Market Day, and the Technology Committee. Sr. Lynn warmly welcomed new and returning families and teachers, and presented a facilities report on future developments in the construction of our science lab, and other uses for the school building's space. She also explained the importance of the Middle States Evaluation coming up in December. We also heard from Carrie Zenkevich, who updated everyone on details of Green Tie Gala.

Correction

Honor Roll

In the September Newsletter, Mara Keen was omitted from the 4th quarter Honor Roll, 2011. Our apologies, Mara.

Students start learning about changes to Mass prayers

*By Reverend Robert J. Grecco
Pastor*

Changes are coming for the prayers we use to celebrate during the Mass. The official use of the new "Roman Missal" is scheduled for the weekend of November 26-27, 2011.

All Catholic parishes throughout the world that use English as the first language will experience these changes. Although most of the changes will affect the prayers offered by the priest, those folks in the pews will notice a significant difference.

The children of Sacred Heart Elementary School will be instructed in these changes and the teachers will be using special textbooks for the instruction. *As the children will eventually bring their books home, parents are encouraged to take their role as the "first teachers in the ways of Faith" to review the changes with their children and discuss the importance and necessity of attending Mass weekly.*

Information and copies of the actual changes in the Mass can be found by clicking the link on the parish website (www.sacredheartpittsburgh.com).

Classroom news

Third-graders busy studying rain forest, literature, and more

*by Pam Giardina
and Mrs. Angela Stead
Third-grade Teachers*

The third graders are off to a great start. They are getting used to switching classes and being responsible for organizing their planners.

They have begun their journey to the rain forest. They will be creating a variety of projects that

reflect animals found in these regions. In Social Studies, they are enjoying working with the desk maps identifying rural and urban areas. They're also being introduced to different genres of literature through the monthly book reports.

This should be a great year for exploration and discovery. We just can't wait to see what we do next!

Notes from the office

Thanks to volunteers

Thanks to the following parents who graciously responded to our need for help:

BoxTops For Education Coordinator:
Emily Marshall
Scrip Assistant: Megan Culig
Recess Monitor: Georgia White

Reminder: Please turn in overdue forms

Please turn in your Family Survey, Family Information Update, Parent Lunch Form and Family Assessment Form if you have not done so. They are all past due.

Contact information

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

**Sign up to help on Work Day,
Saturday, November 19**

Every year, a group of parent volunteers gets together for "Work Day," when we do some minor repair or clean-up work around the school.

This year, we will be painting the third floor hallway outside the third-floor chapel.

If you can spare a few hours on November 19 from 9 a.m. to noon, we would love to have you join us. It's always fun working with other parents and we'll bring the doughnuts!

If you can help, please contact Ken Zenkevich at ken.zenkevich@verizon.net. Or just meet us outside the school office at 9 a.m. on November 19.

Thank you!

**SMART tuition grace period
changed to five days**

Attention all parents using the SMART tuition program: you no longer have a 10-day grace period when making your payments. The grace period has been reduced to five days. This change is effective immediately.

A friendly reminder to any parent who currently has an unpaid balance on their SMART account—in order to avoid additional late fees, please ensure your account is up-to-date each month.

If you have any questions pertaining to tuition, please contact Laura Abinader at 412-661-0187 Ext. 113.

Food of the month

Pasta sauce

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

**Play by Sacred Heart parent will
benefit school project in Sudan**

Sacred Heart parent Tammy Ryan's play, *Lost Boy Found In Whole Foods* will have its Pittsburgh Premiere by The REP at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, Studio Theater September 30-October 16, 2011.

On Saturday, October 1, the matinee performance at 2 p.m. will benefit River Nile Villages (www.rnvillages.org), an organization led by Kate Ruppel and Aluong Garang to build a school in Mr. Garang's village of Duk in Sudan. For tickets to the

October 1 performance, contact Tammy Ryan at tammyryanplays@gmail.com or 412-915-5486. Seating is limited and tickets are \$24, payable to River Nile Villages.

For tickets to performances other than October 1, contact the Pittsburgh Playhouse at www.pittsburghplayhouse.com or call 412-392-8000. More information about the play can also be found at www.tammyryan.net.

Online news

**You've got mail! From
GradeBook....**

You may already know that you can communicate with teachers through GradeBook (the online system that lets you access your child's grades). Even better, you can set it so any message they send to you in GradeBook will automatically forward to an e-mail address you provide.

This is handy when you've e-mailed a teacher because you don't have to keep logging onto GradeBook to check for a response. It's also useful for getting the class-wide e-mails teachers sometimes send via GradeBook.

To set up a forwarding e-mail in GradeBook:

1. Log onto GradeBook.
2. Choose Messaging System on left.
3. Choose E-mail Forwarding from list on left.
4. Enter the e-mail you would like messages to be sent to.
5. Make sure the check box is clicked next to "Forward all incoming messages to the e-mail

account provided below."
6. Click Save.

If you need the link for GradeBook (www.rvsgradebook.com), it's always available on the school website (www.sacredheartpgh.org). Choose *Quick Links* and then *Useful Links*.

**How to contact a teacher
through GradeBook**

To send a message to a teacher in GradeBook:

1. Log onto GradeBook.
2. Choose Messaging System on left.
3. Choose New Message from list on left.
4. Click on To button.
5. Click on drop-down menu that says "select a default list."
6. Choose Teachers from that menu.
7. Click on the teacher you want to message.
8. Push the single arrow pointing right. Repeat 7 and 8 if you want it to go to more than one teacher.
9. Click OK. It will go back to the message screen.
10. Type in your subject and message and click on Send.