

The Sacred Heart Beat

Sacred Heart Elementary School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania www.sacredheartschool-pgh.org Vol. 13, No. 6 March 2010

Up Front:

For all of the information on make up days following this winter's storms, please see Sister Lynn's article on page 2.

PTG Elections for the 2010-2011 school year are coming soon. Would you like to be part of our team? Do you think someone you know would make a good fit? Please turn to page 7 to learn more about the opportunities!

Join in on an "adults only" evening of fun with Bill Deasy here at Sacred Heart. Bill's much anticipated concert is set for April 10th, but you can get your tickets now! Michele Cromer's article on page 4 has the information you need.

Sacred Heart's student newspaper, The Pulse, needs parent volunteers for next year. Can you help? Mindy Dilmore's article on page 3 gives you an idea of their need.

As always, Sacred Heart's families have gone "above and beyond" in responding to the call for help from our sister school in Haiti. Articles on page 5 and page 8 outline out efforts to assist them in their time of need.

Family Fitness Day and 3-on-3 Tournament Set for March 20th!

By: Michele Cromer

On Saturday, March 20, 2010, the PTG will host Sacred Heart's Annual Family Fitness Day and 3-on-3 Tournament in the Activities Building. We plan to kick off the day at Noon with Family Fitness events geared toward our younger families. For children in kindergarten through 2nd grade attending developmental basketball until Noon that day, please plan to stay awhile! There will be karate, games, aerobics and plenty of fun. There is no charge for this event.

Before the 3-on-3 Tournament games begin, there will be a half court shoot out. The shoot out will begin at 2:15 p.m. The fee for the shot is \$1.00 per child, to be paid that day. The Tournament games will start at 3:00 p.m., and continue into the evening, depending on how many teams register. The Tournament will be open to kids in 4th through 8th grades. There will be divisions for 4th graders, a division for 5th and 6th graders, and a division for 7th and 8th graders. Boys and girls will be separated in each division. Teams can be of 3 or 4, although only 3 will be allowed to play at one time. If you have not yet registered, please do so. Kids, think about your teams!

We will need volunteers to help on the 20th with keeping things organized, refereeing the games, and working the concession stand. If you are interested in helping, please contact Michele Cromer at 412-661-2519 or Connie Kramer at 412-913-5124.

Tickets for the Bill Deasy concert will be sold, as will March Madness tickets . . . so bring your checkbooks!

March's Important Dates:

- March 2nd: Confirmation Retreat Day – Grade 8*
- March 14th: Rite of Intention Mass – 9:30 a.m. – Grade 7*
- March 19th: Easter Candy Sale Pick Up – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Lower Level of Activities Building*
- March 20th: Family Fitness Day / 3 on 3 Tournament – Noon to 9:00 p.m.
Activities Building*
- March 24th: Musical "Dig It" – Levels 4, 5 and 6, Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.*
- March 26th: Live Stations of the Cross – 1:30 p.m.
Last Parish Fish Fry – 5:00 p.m.*
- March 31st: No School – Beginning of Easter Break*

From the Principal's Pen

By: Sister Lynn Rettinger, S.C.

Dear Parents,

Blessings!

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Mirashima who welcomed baby boy, Taigo, into their family in December. Mr. & Mrs. Mason welcomed baby girl, Lucy, in January. We are thrilled to welcome both precious children into the Sacred Heart School Family.

More Blessings!

We are pleased that the Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of Pittsburgh is permitting our schools to 'count hours' as opposed to counting days in order to 'make up' snow days. The Sacred Heart School instructional school day (without the lunch period) is 6 hours, one half hour more than most schools. We will make up four of the seven school days missed on March 30, May 28, June 10, with June 11 being the last day for grades 1-7. Without making up the remaining three days, we still have more than the number of hours required by the PA Dept. of Education. Please check the monthly calendars for the changes as we move forward.

Coming Attractions!

Standardized Testing for grades 2-8 is scheduled for the weeks of April 12th and April 19th. We will be using the newest edition of the Terra Nova and InView assessments with updated norms and advanced concepts. Because of this, we anticipate the scores will be lower than what we have been accustomed to in the past couple of years. This is nothing to be alarmed about. It is just to say that we should not be surprised if that happens.

Staff Changes

Mrs. Teresa Wood, SHES art and computer, broke her foot in an accident at her home. She will not be returning for the remainder of the year. Her convalescent period will longer than mine was so I can fully empathize with her injury. I am actively looking for a person to replace her as a full time substitute teacher.

Technology's Advantage Card

Be sure to use your Advantage Card with the Sacred Heart School code each time you shop at Giant Eagle. We have almost enough points for a second computer but we have to move quickly. The program concludes for this year on March 17. New enrollees are welcome and extra points are given for them. Call 1-800-474-4777 or www.GiantEagle.com to register. Our school code is **0938**.

SCRIP Program

We have had a rather erratic SCRIP schedule this past month and hope that it will go back to placing orders on Mondays with pick-up on Thursday afternoons after 1:00 p.m. We are sorry but we can't fill orders during off times. Our office is an enormously busy place with the staff multi-tasking to meet the expected needs of children, parents, and teachers. We can't fill SCRIP orders outside of the scheduled days and times.

If your family chose to pay the \$350 assessment instead of earning it through the SCRIP Program, that amount is now due. Please make the check payable to Sacred Heart School and sent it to the office with the word Assessment on the envelope. Thank you.

Father Grecco would like to remind us all that the Catholic Church requires her members to observe the "Easter Duty" each year. This requires all Catholics to receive the Eucharist during the time between the First Sunday of Lent (this year: February 21) and Trinity Sunday (this year: May 30). The sacrament of reconciliation is required before reception of the Eucharist if the faith is not practiced and Mass attendance is not regular. The ideal for the individual Catholic is that the Eucharist be received regularly if the recipient is spiritually eligible.

The Pulse Needs Your Help

By: Mindy Dilmore

Our student newspaper, *The Pulse*, is looking to have a productive March. First, our February issue will come out at the beginning of March because of all of our snow days. Before the end of the month, we will start working on the regularly-scheduled April issue. In between those times we will be submitting nominations for Diocesan Journalism Awards. Our student staff was very successful at this awards ceremony last year, and we are hoping to have a good showing this year as well.

I am also looking beyond March to next school year. As of yet, we do not have any other adults to replace me as parent-moderator. My daughter will graduate and move on this year which means I will, too. If there is no one to replace me, then *The Pulse* will probably be shelved for next year. It would be a real loss to the school to no longer have this extracurricular activity in which our older students can creatively express themselves.

I am looking for one to two parents to step up as moderators. I am sure that you will be as pleased and inspired as I have been by the talent the students display, how quick they are to learn, and how student-driven the process can be.

If you have even a slight interest in helping with this project, please don't be intimidated by a "lack" of credentials or worry about a strict time commitment. These are issues that, I have learned firsthand, are not impediments. Rather, please contact me so I can give you some more information. I will also suggest that you shadow me as we work on one or both of the final issues. This way, you will be very familiar with the publication process. You may contact me at mindilmore@gmail.com or at 412-241-5657. Thank you on behalf of the current and future student staff of *The Pulse*.

Catholic Schools Week Family Brunch

By: Maureen Dolan and Karen Nesbitt

It seems like a long time ago, or maybe it was just many inches of snow ago! We had a wonderful turnout for the Catholic Schools Week Family Brunch! Over 200 people attended the brunch, and all enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the fabulous Mrs. Maola and her parent volunteers! We want to thank everyone who helped us put this event together. The most gratifying part of this experience was the confirmation of the fact that we have amazing parents at Sacred Heart. It was so wonderful to meet such helpful and willing participants. Special thanks to Mrs. Maola, without her, this event would not happen. Also, we would like to thank Jim Scanlon. He was such a big help to us and was a wonderful volunteer coordinator. We look forward to next year, and another opportunity to celebrate the great community of Sacred Heart Elementary School!

Make Your Time and Money Work Harder for SHES!

Sacred Heart families are incredibly generous supporting our school and parish with their time and other resources. But did you know there is a way to make your contributions to the school go even further? Many local and national companies have "Matching Gift" and "Volunteer Incentive" programs that match time and money contributed to non-profit organizations. Your company may have one, too.

In Matching Gift programs, companies will match a financial donation to the organization of an employee's choice, often at a dollar-for-dollar level. This means that if you donate \$100 to SHES, it could be worth \$200! With Volunteer Incentive programs, companies make financial donations to an organization for a certain amount of hours volunteered by their employees. For example, Verizon acknowledges its employees' contributions such as serving on PTG, tutoring students, and coaching athletics. Verizon employees can apply for the company's Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) grant, then simply log their hours in an online journal; when they reach 50 hours to one organization in a single year, Verizon gives that organization a \$750 grant. SHES parent and Verizon Wireless employee, Dave Evans, has been racking up volunteer hours by painting at both of this year's "Work Days" and other activities. "The Verizon Wireless Volunteer Incentive program makes it easy for me to earn extra money for SHES," says Dave. "I have also found volunteering to be very rewarding and a great way to meet other Sacred Heart families."

Other companies with similar programs include: AT&T, Mellon Financial, Gap, Home Depot, Neiman Marcus, Rockwell International, PPG Industries, US Airways, HJ Heinz and many more. To find out if your company offers matching gift or volunteer incentive programs, contact your human resources or community relations departments.



Get Your Bill Deasy Tickets

By: Michele Cromer

Tickets are going fast, so if you want to attend the ever popular and always sold out, "Adults Only" concert, get your tickets now! As you know, Bill Deasy is a local singer and songwriter with four sons and is an involved Sacred Heart dad. He has again graciously offered to donate his time for a concert to benefit the school. The concert will be held in the auditorium on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served. Please feel free to bring your own wine. Pop and water will be provided at a nominal charge. There will be plenty of time to chat and mingle with other parents while bidding on various raffles and prizes. Bill will begin playing at 9:00 p.m. It is always a spectacular event, and a ton of fun. Seating is limited to 200 guests, so get your tickets before they sell out!

For additional information or to help with the event, please call Michele Cromer at 412-661-2519 or Shannon Mischler at 412-441-4967. Tickets can also be purchased through the office. Simply send in a check (tickets are \$25.00 per person) and a request for tickets in an envelope marked "Bill Deasy Concert", and tickets will be returned to you.

Thank you from Hearts for Haiti ~

Dear Sacred Heart Students and Parents,

Thank you so much for your generous donations to St. Antoine School. Your lunchtime donations and Pajama Day contributions raised \$2,345.40. What a wonderful way to share your blessings with your fellow students in Haiti!

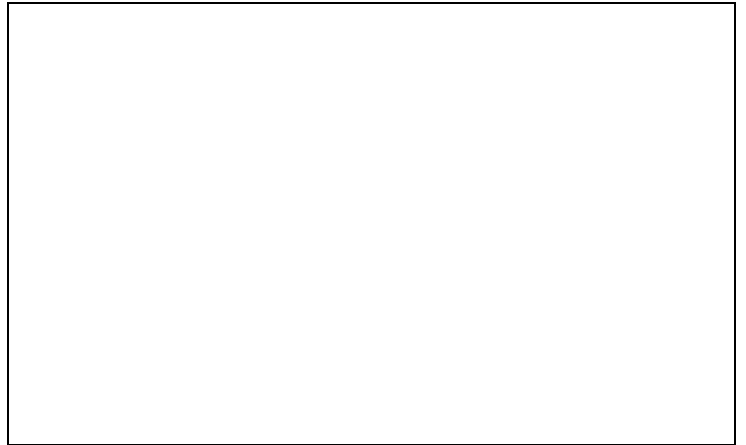
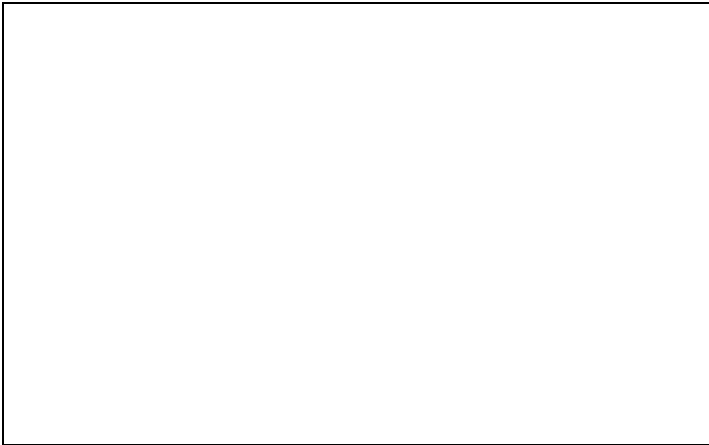
Fondwa, where St. Antoine School is located, was much affected by the earthquake. Most of the buildings in the village, including the school, an orphanage, and a guesthouse have collapsed. The one blessing is that school was not in session at the time of the earthquake, so the children were not in the building. Sadly, two contractors who were working on the school were killed. At least 25 people in Fondwa died, and many more were injured.

However, there is also hope. Rich Gosser of Partners in Progress, the organization Sacred Heart works through, reports that a small part of the school's first floor is still standing, and may be structurally sound enough to keep if the rubble of the top floors can be safely cleared. The people in Fondwa hope to restart classes in some form, even perhaps in tents and sheds, by March. They hope that the structure and routine of school will be helpful for the children, as well as letting them continue their lessons.

God bless you for your help. Please keep those in Haiti in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Hearts for Haiti Committee
Sacred Heart Church



March Madness Is Coming to Sacred Heart Again!!!!

Be on the lookout for March Madness. It is about to strike Sacred Heart for the third year in a row!!

March Madness is making its third annual appearance this March (after two very successful performances in 2008 and 2009) at Sacred Heart. Each raffle ticket sells for \$5.00, and there are four prizes totaling \$1,850 available to win.

Here's how the raffle works: Each Sacred Heart family will receive five March Madness raffle tickets to sell. The first thing each family needs to do is buy or sell their tickets (each ticket comes in a sealed envelope). After purchasing a ticket, open the envelope and fill out the ticket stub, hold onto the half of the ticket with the ticket number, team names, and web address, and return the stubs with the buyer's information and the cash/check to the office.

Now the fun really begins! A fundraising organization has set up a website just for Sacred Heart's March Madness Raffle. Once a ticket is purchased, a school volunteer enters each sold ticket number and the first name and last initial of the ticket purchaser onto a database, and that database is uploaded onto Sacred Heart's March Madness website. Sacred Heart's "My March Madness" website link is listed on each ticket. Also listed on the ticket will be three NCAA teams who have qualified for the March Madness tournament. Each time one of the NCAA teams listed on the purchased ticket scores a point in a tournament game that ticket increases in point value. Every ticket holder can go to the website at any time and see how many points their ticket is worth. The more games and points the teams listed on the purchased ticket play and score, the more the purchased ticket increases in value.

The website changes every day as different teams play and score. So every day the ticket values change! It's fun to see how your ticket is doing. Check to see if it's on the leader board. Check to see if one of the teams on your ticket is playing. Check out the scores of all the tournament games. Check out some of our March Madness Raffle sponsors. There are many things to explore on the March Madness website. You can also check the website to see just who is holding onto the winning tickets. The more tickets you buy the better chance you have of owning the ticket that has a winning combination of teams! At the end of the tournament the winning ticket will be the **ticket sold** that is worth the most points. First prize is \$1,000, Second prize is \$500, Third prize is \$250, and the ticket that has the lowest point value will receive a consolation prize of \$100. Good luck in the raffle and thanks for your support.

This year, we'd like to get some recycling bins for the gym, a new score board, and . . . Timing is key for this event, as there is a very short turn around period to sell the tickets. As soon as you get your tickets (5 per family) please buy them or sell them and return the stubs and payment to the office. Included with your tickets will be an order form to get additional tickets. We anticipate that this raffle may be very popular in offices, and restaurants or anywhere groups of people work or play together. Please let us know if you can sell additional tickets. The more tickets we sell, the faster our profits add up. If you'd like to check out the website just go to MyMarchMadness.net and click on Sacred Heart. More features will be added to the website as the raffle begins.

We are looking for a ticket sponsor! Ticket sponsorship is \$250 payable to Sacred Heart PTG. Your organization's name goes on every ticket we print. Your organization also gets an ad on the website, and your organization gets five free tickets. If you are interested in being this year's ticket sponsor please call Lisa Anselmo at 412-683-5574, or email her at selmoseven@msn.com. We also need website sponsors. If you'd like to be a sponsor please send your copy ready advertisement to selmoseven@msn.com. Web sponsorship runs \$50 dollars per advertisement, and checks are payable to Sacred Heart PTG. Your ad will run on the site everyday continuously throughout the fundraiser. Web sponsors also get five free tickets! Thanks in advance for your help. We are certain that this year's raffle will be another success.

LOOKING AHEAD TO PTG ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again, when we, the members of SHES Parent Teacher Guild (PTG), begin thinking about seeking new members for the next school year. PTG provides a fantastic opportunity for parents to get involved or become more involved with the happenings at Sacred Heart, whether they are the yearly events or new ones. Being part of PTG also provides an opportunity to provide insight on areas effecting fundraising, school policy and teacher support, just to name a few.

PTG is on the look out for parents interested in helping to continue to make SHES a special place to be. Following is a brief description of the positions we will be seeking new members for in the 2010-2011 school year. Please take a moment to read them over and think about your ability to help or the ability of a friend, you think would be interested in joining, and watch the April newsletter for the nomination form.

Corresponding Secretary: This is a one year commitment. The Corresponding Secretary attends the monthly PTG meetings and is responsible for general correspondence on behalf of the PTG. The person in this position attends to things like thank you notes, invitations to special events, and requests for donations for fundraising events.

Level Representatives: This is a one year commitment. Level Reps attend the monthly PTG meetings, present comments, questions or concerns brought to them by parents; assist with various fund raisers and events and act as a contact for the grade levels you are chosen to represent. There are two level reps chosen for each of the following grade levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Being a Level Rep is a great way to get 'your feet wet' if you aren't sure you want to jump right in!

Please consider and nominate people who you believe might be interested in providing enrichment and support to the SHES community - *this may even be you!*

If you have any questions regarding the Parent Teach Guild, please feel free to contact me, or any present PTG Board Member, and we'll be glad to answer your questions.

Please keep in mind that we are also looking for volunteers to assist with the following jobs. Perhaps you're the person we're looking for!

Chair people/Coordinators Needed in 2010-2011

Pulse Newsletter Moderator

Cookbook- Tastings

Cookbook –General Coordinator of the Committee

Magazine Sale - Mentoring in 2010, to take over in 2011

Children of the World International Festival – General Committee

Important Contact Information:

Sacred Heart Elementary
325 Emerson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-1582

Principal: Sr. Lynn Rettinger

PTG President: Sharon
Hoffner
412-369-4042

The newsletter, handbook
and other school
publications are on the
Web:
www.shes-pgh.org

**Stop by the
Sacred Heart Parish
Fish Fry this week!**

5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**For a great Lenten
dinner!**

SHES Students Collect Money, Toiletries for Haiti

Sacred Heart students opened their hearts to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

Kids shared their snack money and more in a cafeteria collection for their fellow students at St. Antoine School, Sacred Heart's sister school in Haiti. Donations from a Pajama Day also went to St. Antoine. Altogether, students donated \$2,345.40. What a great job by students and parents! See the thank you note from the Hearts for Haiti committee for more information on the school and the village of Fondwa on page five.

Students also brought in soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths and much more to fill about 40 five-gallon buckets from Home Depot and Lowe's. Those buckets will be given to Brother's Brother Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based organization that will send them to Haiti.

International Connections

By: Katherine Davin-Flynn

Sacred Heart's "International Connections" Program continues to seek international families interested in being "matched up" with local host families. The hope of the program is to foster relationships between our international families and families in their neighborhoods who can answer questions as silly as "What's Presidents' Day all about?", or offer suggestions on local dry cleaners, or any number of things that seem ordinary to you and me, but which may be confusing to someone who's new to our neighborhood! The level of participation and involvement is unique to each family, and our only goal is to get you together!

You don't have to be new to the SHES community to consider participating, whether you are an international family or a local family. If you have questions, or would like to get involved, please contact Kate Davin-Flynn at k.davin_flynn@verizon.net or 412-363-1835.

