

VISION



NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2, 2009



THOUGHT OF THE MONTH!

Let us not grow tired of
doing good, for in due time
we shall reap our harvest,
if we do not give up.

- Galatians 6:9



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HOPEFUL THOUGHTS

On October 7, I had the honor and privilege to represent Archbishop Henry J. Mansell by serving on a panel with Bishop Lori of Bridgeport and Bishop Cote of Norwich. The Connecticut Association of Catholic Secondary School Presidents, Principals, and Superintendents invited us to reflect on the current climate of Catholic school education in our state. Some of the highlights of the panel are noted below. I am grateful to Sr. Colleen Smith, ASCJ, Principal of Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, for providing me with the minutes of this meeting.

Bishop Lori began by speaking of the challenge of evangelization in a culture that undermines the hard work being done in our schools. He heralded that Catholic schools are the hope for the future, and that we need to evangelize our students in a radical way. Bishop Lori stated that once our students realize God's love for them, we will also be able to reach their parents. Before we can teach theology, we have to teach faith. Bishop Lori challenged the educators to impart a Catholic world view, a view of the dignity of the human person, a right order in society, and knowledge of the role of the Church in shaping western civilization.

Bishop Lori shared that we need to encourage our boards to be more active in marketing our schools. This marketing will be more effective if, with our boards, we set goals to upgrade our facilities, enhance the use of technology, and invigorate our programs with current best practices.

Bishop Cote discussed the need for evangelization, since the foundation of all that we do is our faith. He recalled a canon from the 1917 Code of Canon Law that said every parish should have a school. He pointed out that Vatican II reiterated that "no sacrifice is too great to support a school." He explained that we need to teach the parishes the value of Catholic education. Bishop Cote commented that students who have attended Catholic schools do stand out.

I commented on how blessed Connecticut is to have such supportive (arch) bishops who truly prioritize the ministry of Catholic school education. During my presentation, I discussed seven key thoughts for 21st century Catholic schools: clarity of mission; participation of

educators in intellectual faith formation; partnerships with higher education; building cultures of collaboration; marketing our schools particularly through our parents; active involvement with the Connecticut Federation of Catholic Parents; and future planning based on research.

I share these thoughts as a message of great hope, vision, and direction. Henri J. M. Nouwen stated, *"All the great spiritual leaders in history were people of hope. Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Mary, Jesus, Rumi, Gandhi, and Dorothy Day all lived with a promise in their hearts that guided them toward the future without the need to know exactly what it would look like. Let's live with hope"*. You, too, are among the array of great leaders and educators who bring hope to our ministry. May you be blessed in communion with the Saints and those loved ones who have gone before as we celebrate a month of great thanksgiving for all that God has given us and entrusted in our care. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS:

Julie Pion, Principal of St. Mary Magdalen, Oakville, is being honored by Sacred Heart High School with the Rev. John J. Fitzgerald Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is for her commitment and dedication to furthering the mission of Catholic education in the Greater Waterbury area.

Principal, Eileen Sampiere, and Corpus Christi School, Wethersfield, won the first prize drawing at the Catholic Educators Convention. Corpus Christi School received a SMART document camera presented by Vincenza Egidio of Connecticut Business Systems in Newington.

Principal, Sr. Juanita Syzmanski, CSSF and St. Bernard School, Enfield, won the second prize drawing at the Catholic Educators Convention. St. Bernard received a SMART attaché presented by Vincenza Egidio of Connecticut Business Systems in Newington.

St. Dominic School, Southington, won two school division awards in the recent town-wide Apple Harvest Parade, the Chairmen's Award and the Best in the Parade Award.

Two students currently attending St. Dominic School, Southington, **Vinny Penisse** and **Sean Young**, along with alum, **Ben Wakefield**, were the grand prize winners [for their age group] of the Lego competition at the Connecticut Science Center for their project, *Hurricane Repel Shield*.

The students from **St. Thomas School** and **St. Dominic School, Southington** participated in the 1st Annual Southington Catholic Schools Walkathon. Five hundred dollars in raised funds will be donated to Southington Social Services.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the repose of the soul of **Rev. Bradford Colton**, the founding principal (1961-1968) of Northwest Catholic High School, West Hartford, who passed away on October 5, 2009. May the soul of Rev. Bradford Colton rest in peace!

the repose of the soul of **Nicholas Grippo**, the father of Angela Heffter, the fourth grade teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Meriden, who passed away on October 6, 2009. May the soul of Nicholas Grippo rest in peace!

the restored good health of **Mary O'Donnell**, the second grade teacher at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Waterbury.

the restored good health of **Diane Palermo**, a paraprofessional at St. Francis Xavier School, Waterbury.

the repose of the soul of **Paul Reardon**, an English teacher at Northwest Catholic High School for 36 years (recently retired), who passed away on October 17, 2009.

the soul of 18 year old, **Alexander Rogers**, the niece of Lisa Figueiredo, the Pre-K paraprofessional at St. Dominic School, Southington, who died tragically in an automobile accident. May the soul of Alexander Rogers rest in peace!

the soul of **Josef Stasyczszyn**, the father of Bernadette Novicki, the second grade teacher at St. Dominic School, Southington, who passed away in September 2009. May the soul of Josef Stasyczszyn rest in peace!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Prayer of the Month, written by Melanie Cirillo, a fifth grade student at St. Mary School, Branford, will be featured on the Office of Catholic Schools' website for November.

Adult Faith Formation: Registration is now open for the next cycle of faith formation courses offered by University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community, and will remain so until classes begin on January 6, 2010. Courses currently available include: Catholic Beliefs; Sacraments; Old Testament; and New Testament. Register directly on their website at <http://vlc.udayton.edu>.

ADMINISTRATION

Principal Appreciation Day: The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) has designated November 19 as NCEA Principal Appreciation Day – a day to salute Catholic school principals! We, at the Office of Catholic Schools, are delighted to bear witness to the great work of these principals, and pray that they will be blessed abundantly.

Save the Date: Invitations have been sent for the Office of Catholic Schools Christmas Reception, scheduled for Tuesday, December 1 in the Alumni Lounge of the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary. This popular event gives the many friends of Catholic school education an opportunity to come together and enjoy one another's company along with fantastic food and beautiful holiday music. We hope you will join us on December 1 for this annual holiday gathering.

H1N1 Flu Preparedness in Your School: Information for schools continues to be updated pertaining to the H1N1/swine flu epidemic that is expected to intensify as winter approaches. Please report to your designated assistant superintendent any documented cases of H1N1 that occur at your school. The Office of Catholic Schools' website offers a link to information regarding the H1N1 virus, and includes information on policy guidance, a toolkit, and press release.

Criminal Background Checks: The State Police Bureau of Identification has increased its fees for processing fingerprint supported background checks to \$74 per applicant. This increase has affected all background checks that have been received by the Office of Catholic Schools for the 2009-2010 school year. If you submitted such a request, you will receive an invoice for additional funds to cover these expenses.

Principals are also asked to double check all requests being submitted to the Office of Catholic Schools. Each employee submission should include:

- Two fingerprint cards, one for the State and one for the FBI, with all the blocks filled out
- One – three page Authorization form that has been signed and notarized
- One check made payable to the Office of Catholic Schools at the rate of \$74 per person

Only volunteers should have the Mind Your Business form completed with a fee of \$18.50 per person made payable to Archdiocese of Hartford. Please do not combine volunteer and employee payments.

New England Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (NE CACE) Inservice: *Marketing, Merchandising, and Messaging Our Catholic Schools* is the topic of the meeting with the New England Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (NE CACE) on November 5, 2009, at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield. Contact Kathleen Simpson, Diocese of Fall River, MA at ksimpson@dfceec.com or 508.678.2828 for more details.

CURRICULUM

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee: The Connecticut State Council of the Knights of Columbus has announced their annual Catholic School Spelling Bee for students in grades four, five, and six. Principals should have received an announcement from the State Chairman, Ron Scoville, and are asked to inform him by December 23, 2009 of their intention to participate. In-school competitions should be held, and notification given to Mr. Scoville by January 22, 2010, as to the winner and the alternate for each grade. The winner will be invited to participate in the regional competitions which will be held in February and March. The state final competition will be held at the Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary on April 11, 2010 at 1:00 PM. Contact Mr. Scoville at 860.745.6541 for more information.

Jeanne Jugan Essay Contest: The winner of the New England wide Jeanne Jugan Essay Contest, sponsored by the Little Sisters of the Poor in honor of Jeanne Jugan's canonization as Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor is **Alex Coffey**, a sixth grade student from, St. Bernard School, Enfield. Alex will be given a trip to visit the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Flemington, NJ and his essay will be featured in SERENITY, the Little Sisters of the Poor quarterly magazine.

Free Resources and Lesson Plans for Math Teachers K-12: Visit <http://illuminations.nctm.org> to view the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' (NCTM) free website, *Illuminations*, to explore hundreds of online resources, activities, and lesson plans, or to learn more about NCTM's *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*. Every file may be downloaded at no charge. Align this website with your math benchmarks to ensure quality instruction and innovative projects for all students.

State Education Resource Center (SERC) Celebrates its 40th Anniversary: Thousands of free resources are available through SERC to educators in Connecticut. This library of resources offers information, research tools, and professional development about best practices to better prepare educators to meet the diverse instructional needs of all students in our schools. Visit their website at www.ctserc.org to learn more about SERC resources and for information on upcoming professional development events.

Youth Essay Contest: Catholic Family Life Insurance is sponsoring a youth essay contest for students in grades 3-8. Children are invited to write a short essay (250 words or less) describing how receiving a Catholic education helps to shape them into becoming well-rounded, faith-filled human beings. The essay should focus on the important role that Catholic education serves in the lives of our youth. There will be two categories: grades 3-5 and grades 6-8, with prizes awarded in each category to both the winning students and their schools. The deadline for entries is December 14 and more information, along with entry forms can be found on-line at www.cfli.org or by calling 1-800-227-2354, ext. 280.

2010 CT Private School Professional Development Summit: The Archdiocese of Hartford is honored to provide professional development to our Catholic school teachers by top educators in the field today, **Carol Ann Tomlinson, Jay McTighe, Jan Chappuis, and Tony Flach**. They will lead a two-day train-the-trainer workshop on differentiated instruction and related topics, which will take place on April 7 and 8, 2010, at Sacred Heart University. An invitation will be sent this month to all Archdiocesan and private elementary and secondary schools. To be assured of seats, please RSVP as soon as possible.

ADVANCEMENT

Elementary School Open House Dates: Each year, the Office of Catholic Schools promotes the Open House dates of the elementary schools in the January issue of the Catholic Transcript. This is a great way to get the word out to prospective Catholic school families and encourage them to visit during your “big event”. Elementary school principals are asked to submit the dates of their Open Houses to School Advancement by November 23rd to allow sufficient time for us to meet the Transcript’s copy deadline. Feel free to send your dates via email to dnewell@adh-ocs.org.

High School Annual Report Alert: Once again, the Office of Catholic Schools will be preparing an Annual Report to be included in the February issue of the Catholic Transcript. Featured prominently in this report is a section dedicated to the high schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Very soon, high school administrators will receive an email requesting certain information that will be utilized in this marketing effort. Should you wish to get started on preparing this information, it includes the following Class of 2009 data: graduation rate; top ten colleges/universities attended; Ivy League institutions attended; total scholarship dollars received; number of National Merit Scholars, Advanced Placement Scholars, Governor’s Scholars; National Honor Society members, scholar athletes, and students involved in fine and performing arts; along with the total amount of dollars in tuition assistance distributed to the students at each high school during 2008–2009. We thank you in advance for providing this information to Anne Clubb, Director of School Advancement, via email at aclubb@adh-ocs.org by November 20.

FINANCE

Preliminary Elementary Budget Template for 2010/2011: The budget template for 2010/2011, along with supporting documents, is projected to be on the Office of Catholic Schools’ website by **December 1**.

It is not too early to start planning for the next school year. Please consider some of the following changes in your planning based on the new policies effective September 1, 2009, which are outlined in The Archdiocese of Hartford Handbook of Policies and Procedures for Catholic Schools.

- Tuition rates for Catholic non-parishioners shall be the same as those for parishioners. If they are not registered parishioners in another parish, they may be charged higher tuition. **Policy 2.403**
- In setting tuition rates, consideration shall be given to families with more than one child in the school through the use of a sliding scale. **Policy 2.403**
- Schools shall set tuition and fee rates equal or comparable to other parish schools in their town/city. **Policy 2.403**

DUE DATES

NOW DUE

Elementary School Principal Archdiocesan Wide Goal Form due to liaison Assistant Superintendent

Parent Student Handbooks due to liaison Assistant Superintendent

Faculty Handbooks due to liaison Assistant Superintendent

Periodic Inquiry and Source Report due to Anne Clubb via dnewell@adh-ocs.org

NOVEMBER

13 Non-Public School Report, Connecticut State Department of Education, ED159, due to Leslie Nelson via U.S. mail.

20 RSVP for OCS Christmas Reception due to Anne Clubb via dnewell@adh-ocs.org, or

(860) 242-4362, ext. 145

20 **High School Class of 2009 Data** due to Anne Clubb via aclubb@adh-ocs.org

23 **Elementary Open House Dates** due to Anne Clubb via dnewell@adh-ocs.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 1 **All Saints Day**
- 2 **All Souls Day**
- 2 **Partners in Education, An Assembly of Catholic School Parent/Guardian Ambassadors**, Sacred Heart Academy, Hamden, (Districts 3, 4, 6, 7 attending) 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 3 **Partners in Education, An Assembly of Catholic School Parent/Guardian Ambassadors**, St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol, (Districts 1, 2, 5 attending) 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 3 **Administrators' Curriculum Conversations**, Office of Catholic Schools, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. (*Note change in date from December 2*)
- 5 **NE CACE Administrators' Professional Day**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 5 **Adult Faith Formation Committee Meeting**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- 7 **Religious Education Congress**, St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol, for details visit www.orehartford.org
- 10 **Curriculum Commission Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- 11 **Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools, Board of Trustees Meeting**, Chancery, 4:00 p.m.
- 12 **Principals' Advisory Council for Elementary (PACE) schools**, Office of Catholic Schools, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. followed by lunch
- 17 **New Principals' Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- 19 **NCEA Principal Appreciation Day**
- 26/27 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

DECEMBER

- 1 **Office of Catholic Schools Christmas Reception**, Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Alumni Lounge, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 **CT Federation of Catholic School Parents, Board of Trustees Meeting**, Catholic Center, Bridgeport, 6:00 p.m.
- 7 **Archdiocesan School Board Meeting**, Office of Catholic Schools, 6:30 p.m.
- 16 **Connecticut Catholic Superintendents' Meeting**, Chancery, Norwich, 10:00 a.m.
- 24, 25 **Christmas Holiday** (Office of Catholic Schools Closed)

Catholic Schools
Education for a Lifetime