

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GOOD NEWS BULLETIN
October, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPALS' DESK – Recently, *The Economist*, reported on an academic study conducted in England examining how character is formed. The study revealed that the most important influence on whether young people developed a healthy and wholesome character was their parents. If parents disciplined their children, held them accountable for their behavior, and practiced “tough love” with them, the children would grow up shaped by the values of the community. When children did not receive this parental guidance, they were much more likely to be shaped by the social norms of the changing culture.

What this study also revealed was that many parents today were reluctant to provide the parenting that their children needed so badly. Too many parents, it seems, didn't want to fulfill their parental obligations, preferring instead to be their children's friends.

The National Study of Youth and Religion (conducted in the U.S.) offers us additional thought on this matter. According to Dr. Christian Smith, the head of this ongoing study, the role of the faith community is almost as important as the role of the parent. The more members of the Church who are engaged in the lives of young people, the more likely it is that these young people will develop a strong faith of their own.

We have a responsibility to other members of the faith community. We have an obligation to speak up as God's witness so that others may hear and understand God's message of salvation and choose whether to accept it.

SUPPORT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BY SUPPORTING THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SWEEPSTAKES!

You can help support our Catholic school by purchasing a \$5.00 raffle ticket for the Catholic Schools Sweepstakes. **ALL MONIES FROM THE SALE OF THE TICKETS GO IMMEDIATELY TO OUR SCHOOL.**

Catholic Life Insurance is sponsoring the Sweepstakes and has donated one grand prize for the entire Sweepstakes and fourteen secondary prizes. Grand Prize includes the choice of: 2012 Ford F150 Truck OR 2012 Ford Fusion Sedan OR Prepaid \$20,000 Visa Credit Card; Secondary Prizes: (4) Prepaid \$2,500 Visa Credit Cards; (10) Prepaid \$1,000 Visa Credit Cards

The official drawing for prizes will be January 28, 2012.

Every Sacred Heart Catholic School family has received 20 tickets to buy and/or sell. More tickets are available from Joyce Smolik in the Elementary Library (798-5349) or Kathy Haas in the front office (798-4251.) Our first turn in date will be Monday, October 3, 2011. PLEASE TURN IN YOUR MONEY EARLY FOR SOLD TICKETS IF YOU SELL THEM BEFORE OCTOBER 3RD. The second turn in date is Monday, October 17th, and the third turn in date is Monday, October 31st.

The top student seller from grades Pre-K -8 and 9-12, who sells 100 tickets or more, will each receive a 2GB iPod Shuffle, provided by Catholic Life Insurance. They also will provide the two top selling classes (PreK-8 and 9-12), with a pizza party if Sacred Heart Catholic School sells at least 2,500 tickets. The top seller in each grade will receive a \$30 pre-paid Visa gift card.

The name of each family that sells 50 tickets or more will be placed in a drawing for one month's free tuition. Your name will be added again for each additional 50 tickets sold.

EARLY DISMISSAL – Friday, October 7, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 24, 2011 – 2:00 p.m. – Distribution of report cards

STUDENT HOLIDAY – Friday, October 14, 2011 – teacher in-service, Catholic School Seminar

2012-13 PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN EARLY NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

We are in the process of planning for the 2012-13 school year. Please notify the school now if you are planning on enrolling a child in Pre-Kindergarten and/or Kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year.

Please be reminded that your child must be 4 years old on/or before Sept. 1, 2012 for Pre-Kindergarten and 5 years old on/or before Sept. 1, 2012 for Kindergarten.

There is no registration fee due at this time and your name will be put on our list for the 2012-13 school year. There are a limited number of students we can enroll so please call or come by the school office as soon as possible.

DELIVERY OF MESSAGES, LUNCHESES, AND OTHER ITEMS TO SCHOOL-School employees will deliver only those messages which refer to an emergency. Sacred Heart Catholic School will not accept or deliver flowers, balloons, candy, lunches, etc., to students.

Parents are asked also not to bring lunches to school for their children during the regular school day or at lunchtime. Students should bring their lunches with them to school in the morning if they are not eating in the cafeteria. We encourage students to take advantage of the nutritional meals served in our cafeteria.

STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM – IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS ADMINISTERED SEPTEMBER 20th – 23rd

Standardized tests are tests that contain the same questions administered under the same conditions for every student and scored the same way. Students have approximately the same number of days of instruction each school year before the test. In norm-referenced tests such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), the objectives on which the children are tested are aligned with the National Teachers of Mathematics (NTCM) standards, the national science standards, national reading standards, etc., that students across the country should learn.

Each fall, we administer the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a series of achievement tests in the areas of vocabulary, reading comprehension, language skills, math, science, social studies, and sources of information. Although assessment of students happens daily in many ways and is ongoing (such as through observation, questioning and responses, practice exercises, portfolios, PowerPoints, quizzes, tests, projects, hands-on activities), norm-referenced standardized testing provides us with the following:

- Information about current student achievement in a variety of areas and skills. Principals and teachers do item analysis to pinpoint skill strengths and weaknesses for instructional purposes.
- Annual growth of a student's achievement.
- Information about our students and school performance levels in comparison to the national average.

Receiving results early in the school year provides parents and teachers the opportunity to work and plan together for the academic progress of each child through the year. Teachers receive detailed printouts of scores, including information about subtests and skills, which help them plan instruction not only for their class but also for specific groups of students. Teachers have access to both class average scores and individual student scores, helping them determine areas which are well understood as well as areas where all or most of the class may need additional instruction. Teachers can also determine which students may need to review certain skills.

The children at our school do not compete with each other, for we examine each individual child's test results each year. Our schools do not compete with each other, and our classes do not compete with each other. Instead, we examine the scores of each child each year, graphing his or her progress from year to year and working with each student on any weaknesses, strengthening each child in all academic areas. In other words, we measure your child's own academic growth.

The ITBS is an achievement test covering objectives that are based on national standards that children across the United States should learn, providing them with a foundation for the college/university entrance exams they will take in high school. Colleges and universities use the high school PSAT, SAT, and ACT as predictors for success. Although testing data is only one measure of educational quality, we are proud that our scores demonstrate the exceptional academic preparation that Sacred Heart Catholic school students experience.

OCTOBER-MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY – October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is on October 7th, and we will honor Mary by praying the mysteries of the rosary each day in the religion classes. When we pray the rosary, we repeat the “Hail Mary” many times. With each set of ten “Hail Mary’s” that we pray, we think about a different mystery in the life of Jesus: Joyful (Monday and Saturday), Sorrowful (Tuesday and Friday), Glorious (Sunday and Wednesday) or Luminous (Thursday).

OCTOBER 4, 2011-BLESSING OF ANIMALS FOR GRADES PRE-K THRU 8 – October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis preached peace and unity. He believed all things God created are like our brothers and sisters. He often addressed the sun, moon, stars, and animals as brothers or sisters.

Father John Peters will bless animals at a prayer service on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in front of the school. Parents, you may bring animals to be blessed between 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. No pets will be allowed in the classroom during the day. If it is not possible to bring your child’s animal, send a picture your child can hold during the blessing.

Anyone interested in joining the students of Sacred Heart Catholic School is invited to bring their pets and participate in this service.

SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES UNITE FOR RED RIBBON WEEK – OCTOBER 24-28, 2011 –

Sacred Heart Catholic School will participate in the Red Ribbon Campaign during the week of October 24-28. This red ribbon is more than just a ribbon. It is a symbol of awareness. It is a sign that we will continue to strive for a drug-free state and nation. The red ribbon is a powerful educational tool that will be utilized not only one week in October, but throughout the year.

PHOENIX YEARBOOK ON SALE NOW - The Phoenix yearbooks are on sale for \$65.00. Names on covers are \$5.00 (must be ordered with the book). There are still a few copies of last year’s yearbook available for \$65.00.

Your support is greatly appreciated! Contact Mr. Scott at 798-4251, or any yearbook member to purchase a yearbook. Reserve your copy today!

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS RECOGNIZE “QUALITY KIDS” – The Kindergarten through 4th grade teachers will be recognizing students each month based on special “qualities” that are chosen for that month. The “Quality Kids” for August were selected for being RESPONSIBLE.

Congratulations to the August “Quality Kids”:

Kindergarten: Braxtyn Sitka and Macie Jansky;

First Grade: Arabella Arellano and Bailey Haas

Second Grade: Cole Jansky and Victoria Kraatz;

Third Grade: Abigail Clark

Fourth Grade: Ella Harper and Josh Steffek

BAND TAMALES SALE, OCTOBER 17TH – NOVEMBER 11TH – The Sacred Heart Band Booster Club will hold their tamale sale from October 17th through November 11th. Regular pork and jalapeno tamales are \$8.00 per dozen, and chicken tamales will be sold for \$10.00 per dozen. Tamales can be purchased from any band member or the following Band Booster Club officers: Tim Hines at 798-5554; Becky McElroy at 798-2831; Karen Wysocki at 512-332-6365 or the school office at 798-4251. Delivery will be on November 17, 2011, at the Sacred Heart Parish Family Center from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

BAND BOOSTER CLUB NEWS – The next Band Booster Club parent meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the band hall. Band Boosters are responsible for the October 8th football concessions.

DIOCESAN SAFETY AND LIABILITY GUIDELINES TRANSPORTING STUDENTS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

– Students will be transported to and from extra-curricular activities by school-provided vehicles (bus) whenever possible. If a parent wishes to transport a child home after an activity is over, the parent must personally sign the child out with the coach, band director, or sponsor of the activity. **The child may only be released to the parent and not anyone else, such as a relative.** If extraordinary circumstances arise, the principal must be notified by the parent in writing at least two days in advance for approval. (See Parent/Teacher Handbook – pg. 48)

WITH GRATITUDE FROM KENYA – We have already received thanks for our donations to Sister Rebecca to buy shoes for the children in Kenya. However, she first had to load up food to deliver to the people because they were suffering from a drought as we are. Only for them, it often means starvation because the people there are far from stores or any place to get food when there is no rain to grow food for themselves. The shoes are now on their way.

Sister Cicilia Nzioka, Superior of IWBS Sisters in Kenya, shares information about their ministry in Africa. “God is blessing us with so many openings to continue extending the mystery of Incarnation in our African Region. We were welcomed officially in Muranga Diocese, Kenya and soon we are going to open another community in Morogoro Diocese, Tanzania. Our sisters are going to run Primary and Secondary Schools in both places. I believe strongly that the only way our Sisters can be effective in their ministry is when they are prepared academically. This year we have the highest number of sisters who are studying. Currently we have 15 young Sisters studying and this is going to be the strength of our Region in the future.”

REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION, OPEN HOUSE, AND EARLY DISMISSAL, MONDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

- **Early dismissal is at 2:00 p.m.** In order to be more informed as to your child’s conduct and academic progress, we ask that all parents come to our **Open House on Monday, October 24, 2011** to pick up your child’s report cards for the first nine-weeks. This will also give you an opportunity to meet with your child’s teachers.

You may pick up your child’s report cards between the hours of 2:15 – 3:30 p.m. and 5:00-6:00 p.m. Report cards for students in grades 5-12 will be distributed in the Sacred Heart Cafeteria. All other report cards will be distributed in the respective teachers’ classrooms. Please limit your conference to 5 minutes. Please schedule an appointment if more time is needed. If you are unable to attend this day, please call the principal at 798-4251 to make other arrangements.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION STRUDEL BAKE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

– In the school cafeteria. Our goal this year is to make 2,300 strudels. We need everyone’s help to reach this goal. The funds from the strudel bake are used to purchase educational equipment, supplies, and materials to better serve your children. If you have not turned in your form to work, please do so as soon as possible. Prices are \$15.00 for baked strudels and \$13.00 for unbaked strudels. We hope to see you on Saturday, October 22nd. Hamburgers will be available for lunch; cost is \$3.00. Please remember that all fundraisers help keep tuition rates to a minimum.

MAGAZINE DRIVE

– Every year the elementary library media center sponsors a magazine drive. This year the drive will begin February 2012 with QSP, Inc. This is an EXCELLENT moneymaking project for the school. We receive 40% profit from every magazine subscription that we sell. Please save your magazine renewals until February, and if you receive a discount coupon or a renewal discount, we can honor them also. Please support Sacred Heart Catholic School by ordering your magazines through our magazine drive and ask family and friends to help also. You may also go on line and make your purchase at QSP.com. Our school account number is 425000939.

CAPRI SUN DRINK POUCHES

– The school is now collecting empty Capri Sun Drink pouches for recycling. The Terracycle Company will donate money to the school for each pouch we send in. Your child can bring the empty pouches to their homeroom teachers. For more information, contact Brenda Etzler at 798-4251.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR –The Sacred Heart Catholic School Elementary Library and Media Center will host a Scholastic Book Fair, October 24th through October 28th. Book fair will be open Monday until 6:00 p.m. in conjunction with parents picking up report cards. Tuesday through Friday the fair will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please come and visit the fair and help get new books for the library. Thank you for your support!

SUNNY D BOOK SPREE PROGRAM – Sunny D will donate 20 books to each classroom Pre-K to 7th Grade. To qualify for these free books each classroom has to mail in 20 UPC labels for Sunny D products. They will accept the UPC label from 16 oz. bottles or larger, also the UPC label from the shrink wrap on the smaller bottles. (Cans and 12 oz. or smaller bottles are NOT eligible). Please help out Sacred Heart Catholic School classrooms by saving these labels and sending them to the school. We will be collecting these labels until Nov. 20, 2011, at which time each classroom teacher will mail them to the program for their 20 free books.

TARGET TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM – Sacred Heart Catholic School recently received a check in the amount of \$168.08 by participating in the Target Take Charge of Education Program. Parents can join this program by using their Target REDcard credit card, which will donate up to 1% of your purchases to our school. Each September, the funds are distributed to schools nationwide. To date, Target has donated over \$300 million to help K-12 schools. To find out more about this program, visit Target.com/tcoe. We appreciate Target's generosity and encourage parents to link their REDcard to Sacred Heart Catholic School.

SAFETY AT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAMES – We want to ensure a safe and pleasant environment at the high school football games and avoid accidents. We are, therefore, asking that young children (those not involved in the actual game) do not play football, or any game involving a ball inside the fenced area of the stadium. Please do not allow your children to bring footballs, etc., to the game. Students are also not allowed to play underneath the bleachers or run up and down the bleachers. All young children are asked to remain in the bleachers unless supervised by an adult.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation concerning this matter. Parents, we need your help in supervising your children.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER- Important Dates:

October 1 – SAT test date (deadline to register was September 9th)

October 7 –registration deadline for November 5th SAT

October 12 – test day: 9th Grade - EXPLORE; 10th Grade - PLAN; 11th Grade - PSAT;
12th Grade - ASVAB

October 17 – Seniors & Parents Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria; learn about applying for college and technical schools, financial aid, and more!

October 18 - Victoria College Parent Night; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Victoria College Student Center (for seniors interested in attending Victoria College, and their parents)

October 21 – late registration deadline for November 5th SAT

October 22 – ACT Test Date (deadline to register was September 16th)

October 24 –Juniors & Parents Meeting at 6:00 pm in the family center. This meeting is for all juniors AND their parents, to discuss prom, SAT, ACT, dual credit classes, and more.

November 4 – registration deadline for December 10th ACT

November 8 – registration deadline for December 3rd SAT

To register on line for the ACT, go to: www.actstudent.org

To register on line for the SAT, go to www.sat.collegeboard.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION – We are in need of volunteers to assist the primary teachers (K-4) with playground supervision during lunch (11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.) Monday through Friday. If you can commit to one or more days during the week, please call the school office at 798-4251.

SPECIAL THANKS – A special thank you goes to everyone who was able to work at or participate in our annual parish picnic on Sunday, September 4th. It was a tremendous success and your help and assistance made that possible. The majority of the funds raised from the picnic go to the parish investment for the general operation of Sacred Heart Catholic School. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

THE ROLE OF THE SOUTH TEXAS BLOOD AND TISSUE CENTER – South Texas Blood and Tissue Center is the nonprofit organization that conducts blood drives at Sacred Heart Catholic School. They provide blood and blood products to 80 medical facilities in 43 surrounding counties.

We are fortunate enough to live in a region where state-of-the-art medical facilities, organ and tissue transplant centers and cancer therapy programs are available. Blood is the lifeline of most care. Patients in our service area require an average of 400-500 blood donations each day. The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center collects, tests, processes, and distributes these donations, which are obtained on mobile blood drives.

Basic Requirements – To be a blood donor, you must:

- Be age 16 or older.
- Weigh at least 110 pounds.
- Be in good health.
- Not have donated blood within the past eight weeks.

Teenagers are our Future Blood Donors –The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center will take good care of your teenager.

Testing – South Texas Blood and Tissue Center tests each and every donation for several different viral markers to ensure the safest blood supply possible for our community. These viral markers are not limited to, but include HIV, syphilis and two forms of hepatitis. **Donor Notification** – A small percentage of all donors may test positive for one of the above viral markers. These donors will be notified by mail. All donors will receive a letter with their total cholesterol, blood type, and their next eligibility date.

Texas Law – Under Texas State law, parent permission is not required of any blood donor 16 years of age or older.

Important Phone Numbers – If you have questions about donating blood call South Texas Blood and Tissue Center at (210) 731-5555 or (800) 292-5534.

Dates for 2011-2012 Blood Drives – 11/14/2011; 1/09/2012; 3/12/2012; 5/14/2012

3rd ANNUAL INDIAN OPEN GOLF CLASSIC HUGE SUCCESS-We want to thank everyone for their contribution to the success of the 3rd Annual Teacher Appreciation Indian Open Golf Classic held on Saturday, September 4. A total of 12 teams (36 players) participated in the tournament and the net income was \$10,100.00.

A special thank you to the hole sponsors, silent auction donors and buyers, and cash donors. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank the Most Reverend David Fellhauer, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, for his participation in the golf tournament. We were all blessed to have him with us throughout the day.

The 4th Annual Indian Open Golf Class will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at the Hallettsville Municipal Golf Course. Please mark your calendars.

WELCOME BABY PASTUCHA – Mrs. Pastucha and her husband welcomed baby boy Bransen on Sunday, September 11th, at 8:37 a.m. Branson weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz., and is 19 inches long. Congratulations to the Pastuchas!

HOMEcomings FESTIVITIES, OCTOBER 28TH AND 29TH - The pep rally and letter burning will be on Friday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m., on the school grounds. Saturday, October 29th, the Memorial Mass will be at 12:30 p.m. The Homecoming Game is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m., and the dinner will be from 6:30 to 8:00 at the KC Hall. Tickets are \$7.00 and must be purchased by Wednesday, October 26th. The Homecoming Dance is from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

HEALTH SCREENING-The Sacred Heart Catholic School nurse will conduct spinal, hearing, vision, and acanthosis nigricans screening during the year.

The 68th Texas Legislature passed the Special Sense and Communication Disorders Act of 1983 to identify those children in need of professional vision and hearing examinations. Hearing and vision testing are conducted on Pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade and all new students to the school during the school year.

The 77th Texas Legislature passed a law in 2001 that requires schools to screen children for acanthosis nigricans in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th grade. Acanthosis nigricans is a black brown velvety marker that appears on the back of the neck. It is the result of too much insulin. It can be a pre-diabetic condition.

Also according to the state law, all students in grades 6 and 9 must receive a spinal screening. The purpose of spinal screening is to detect the signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stage so that the need for treatment can be determined.

Parents will be notified of the results of the screening only if professional follow-up is necessary. Please call me if you have any questions at 798-2910.

Gerardette Haas-School nurse



Happy Birthday!



October

2	Abigail Clark Hannah Bludau Fr. Tommy Chen	14	Rev. John Peters
3	Samuel Brown Kelsey Bohuslav Kolby Janak	16	Addison Belicek
4	Savannah Baker	17	Wade Shimek Jenna Brown
5	Brady Haas Nicholas Hadash Mrs. Shadra Pastucha Mrs. Sandy Zaruba	19	Lynsi Shimek
9	Mrs. Ruth Barton Mrs. Rhonda Brown	20	Madison Kutac
12	Dalton Grahmann Blake Shimek Brianna Jirkovsky	22	Hannah Fogle
13	Kylie Grahmann Jake Mullen	24	Audrey Ross Taylor Opela Rick Masek Troy Spring
		26	Corrina Lackey
		28	Riley Haas
		30	McKenzie Bludau Michael Wysocki Brier Shimek

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 Dolores & Kenneth Renger

24 Sandi & Larry Koerth

*It would be considered a theft on our part
if we didn't give to someone in greater need than we are.*

St. Francis of Assisi