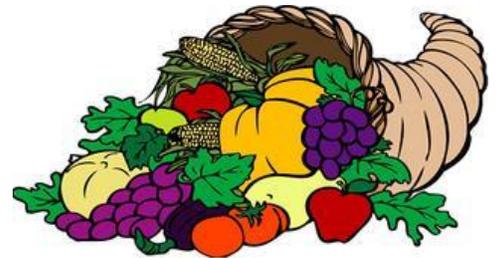




Sacred Heart School
Principal's Pen
11.22.16



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have just completed the 1st Quarter of school with a very successful evening of Parent-Teacher Conferences. I want to thank everyone for coming out Monday evening on such a cold and windy night to meet with your child's teacher and for caring as much as you do for your child's academic success. By showing your interest in their homework and school work, you are reinforcing the importance of learning in their lives. I certainly can see why we have such a great school. It is because of you and your commitment to education.

This has been a very successful quarter in terms of fundraising, and there are so many people to thank for this. We had the Yankee Candle Sale. Thank you Mrs. Meddaugh, our Pre-K teacher, for running this very successful fundraiser. Mrs. Anne Schiller and Mrs. Alyssa Cupo took care of the pie and cake sale to raise money for our 8th grader's class trip to NYC. Thank you moms! And thank you all for your generous support of both fundraisers. Thank you Mrs. Stacie Magnussen for running the Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Sale. This sale ends today. I know we seem to have had a lot of fundraisers this past month, but we are simply trying to offer a variety of resources. We do not expect everyone to support every event, just the ones that appeal to you. We must keep in mind our \$40,000 fundraising commitment for the HSA.



This past weekend we had one of our biggest fundraisers...our Christmas Bazaar. What an incredible amount of work went into this year's event. Truly amazing! The team did an outstanding job getting vendors, organizing volunteers and gathering donations. This was a tremendous team effort all around. There were so many donations and personal out of pocket expenses for this event; a huge thank you for those who dedicated so much time and effort to making this a big success. The one factor, completely out of our control, was the weather! We all woke up to a blanket of snow and ice. There is no doubt the poor weather conditions impacted the final numbers. But even with the unexpected snow storm and howling winds, I have to say, the team really did a terrific job raising just over \$4,500 net revenue this year! A really great outcome! Congratulations to Mrs. Claudia Eckert, Mrs. Kim Ladka and their Committee who ran this event. They actually pulled off a small miracle.

You may have been surprised by the new report card this quarter. Last year we dedicated several of our HSA meetings to an explanation of standard based teaching/learning, and shared Archdiocesan links to NYS Learning Modules. The new report card was piloted in 9 schools in Manhattan, Westchester, the Bronx, and even St. Peter's in Liberty. A final adjustment to the report card was made by Dr. McNiff over the summer. The inclusion of Progress Codes 1,2,3 and 4 in Conduct, General Effort, Math and ELA came as a surprise but not a shock as we all knew standard based grading was becoming the norm in education. This quarter however we were only required to use the Progress Codes in Conduct and General Effort. By

next Quarter however, ELA and Math will be graded using a numerical grade but each standard assessed will be given a Progress Code as well. In other words if you child has an 88 in Math you will be able to see with a 1,2,3 or 4 which standards that quarter need improvement and focus.



Yesterday we celebrated Thanksgiving as a school. We all enjoyed a delicious hot Turkey Feast with all the trimmings. It is your generous contributions of time and talents that make this day so special for everyone. We had so many parent volunteers, thank you. The Birmingham family is at the top of my "thank you list" for shopping, cooking and coordinating this whole event. I also want to thank our resident "Martha Stewart," Mrs. Sharon Mangonon, for her creative planning and decorating.

We have so much to be thankful for this holiday season. We know in our own heart what the reasons are. Tomorrow is a special day to thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on each of us. I want to wish all of our families at Sacred Heart School a very Happy Thanksgiving!