

The Mustardseed

Sharing the News of Norwalk Catholic School

May 2009

Volume 18 Issue 9



Spring Fling 2009 "An Evening on the Boulevard"



To Support Norwalk Catholic School !!

Director's Chair

Sue Riley, FCEDO Director

Over the last few weeks, I've learned many lessons firsthand; how much my faith means to me, the power of prayer, and what Christian love is truly all about.

Three weeks ago today, I received a frantic phone call from my mom who lives in upstate NY five hours away. She was following an ambulance carrying my sister to the hospital an hour away from her home. Julie was suffering from a serious infection following hernia surgery and required emergency surgery.

My first response was, "I'll pray" and secondly I'll put Julie on our prayer chains. As I hurriedly contacted people to let them know I was heading to NY, I heard over and over, "we'll pray - for your sister, your family, and your safe drive."

What a blessing those prayers were. They put me at ease, guided my actions, reminded me who was in control and spoke to me of the love of family and friends.

Those prayers were answered. I arrived safely. My sister is healing and getting stronger everyday and we are all being blessed by the love of family and friends.

While I was in NY, I received the phone call that informed the Norwalk Catholic School community that school would be closed and asked for their help in finding one of our students. Again, it was time for prayer. Prayer for safety, clear thinking, and understanding.

Again, prayers were answered. Calvin called home, turned himself in and is now safely back in Ohio. Family, friends, school & community members are relieved, so grateful their prayers were answered.

But our prayers continue. Today I found out my sister will have more surgery to reconstruct the area damaged by the infection. And, the justice process has just begun for Calvin. So, we pray, for healing, patience, understanding, strength, love. Prayer that comforts us, calms us, helps us hold it all together, unites us and brings us peace.

Our faith teaches us many lessons. One of the most powerful is that the trials and tribulations we experience hold the most valuable lessons. We are strengthened by difficult situations.

Yes, I've learned a lot over the last few weeks. I've learned to rely on my faith, accept the love freely given, and trust in the power of prayer. I've learned that teaching these lessons to our children as we do each day at Norwalk Catholic School, is very important work. And so I pray.

The Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.*

Living one day at a time;

Enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him

Forever in the next. Amen.



Thank you for praying with and for me and my family. God Bless.

From the President

By Walter Klimaski, President Norwalk Catholic School

What a Saturday!

On Saturday, May 9th, there was a lot going on at Norwalk Catholic. The day started with our eighth graders being confirmed. What a wonderful day it was for our young adults as they became full members of the Catholic church. Now much is going to be expected of them as they become high school students in the fall.

Also on Saturday, NCS/St. Paul sent thirteen students to the State Science Fair in Columbus. In only our second year in State competition, our students truly excelled. Norwalk Catholic students took home two special honors. Six students received Superiors and seven students received Excellent ratings. Congratulations to the following students for a job well done.

Students receiving Superior ratings are: Brad Metcalfe, (also awarded a Heidelberg College Scholarship); Miranda Peer-Perryman; Chris Stang; Macie Ott; Joe Kowalski; Rachel Rhoad. Students who received Excellent ratings are: Jacob Caprara, (also awarded the National Association of Biology Teachers Award); Alex Rospert, Cece Hanline, Sarah Rhoad, Zach Miller, Will Crosby; Sydney Kramer.

I also want to congratulate Mr. Mike Wasiniak for the outstanding work he has done this year with our Science Club and organizing our Science Fair students.

Finally, a big, and I do mean big, thank you to our FCEDO staff for all the time and hard work they put into this year's Spring Fling. Thank you to Julie Grine, Loretta Laubert, Anne Harbert, Cassie Shella, and Caroline Bick. I also want to give special recognition to all the volunteers who worked so hard on the event. This was the fourth Spring Fling that I have attended and I believe the best one yet. What a wonderful night. Thank you for the financial support that was provided by those who attended.

Yes, May 9, 2009, was quite a day. Now we gear up for the final days of the school year and all the graduations that will soon be upon us. God Bless.



Read All About It!

You can access the Norwalk Catholic School Library Card Catalog on the Web! Go to www.infohio.org. Click on ONLINE CATALOG. Click on LEECA. Click on Norwalk Catholic School.

Thanks to Ohio tax dollars working for our parochial school!



Spring Fling

"An Evening on the Boulevard"

Our 2009 Spring Fling was a huge success!!

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this wonderful achievement!

If you were the lucky winner of one of our auction baskets and do not have a use for your empty basket, don't throw it away, bring it to FCEDO and we will recycle it for our next Spring Fling.

NCS Jr. High

Presents

HONK!

Thursday and Friday



June 11 and 12

at 7:30 PM

Joan C. Camp Auditorium

Tickets are \$6 and are on sale in the St. Paul High School Office

8 AM—3:15PM

Monday thru Friday



Early Childhood Center

The month of April was a busy month for Mrs. Scavuzzo's Young 5's and Pre 4's classes. We continued with our Lenten discussions and then parties as we moved closer to the celebration of Easter. It was also an exciting month of field trips for both classes.



The Young 5's took a field trip to National City Bank. The students were able to walk behind the teller line and see the coin counting machine operating. We were also able to see the vault where the money and safety deposit boxes are kept. Many employees explained their jobs to the students as we toured the bank. At the end of our tour, the students enjoyed cookies (shaped like coins) and punch in the board room.



The Four Year Old class toured the fire station. The students were able to see all the equipment the firefighters use. We saw many large fire trucks. The students enjoyed sitting inside one truck and looking around. We learned about all the different types of clothing and gear that firefighters have to wear when they are putting out fires. Most importantly, we learned many things about fire safety. It was an exciting afternoon for the students.



As spring has finally arrived, the students have been busy with planting projects. We planted lettuce and spinach seeds in the garden area at the ECC. Inside the classroom, we have planted sunflower seeds in cup containers and flower seed in eggshell containers. Within a week of planting the seeds, the plants began to sprout. The students have been watering them and soon will be taking them home to plant outside.

The Early Childhood center honors Mary at the May Crowning for Grandparents Day.

Bike-a-thon





Counselor's Corner

By Betsy Pertner

I am excited to introduce a program that I have begun with our sixth grade students. It is called the All-Stars program. It is an evidenced based program that prevents substance abuse, fighting, and delinquency. The program also enhances positive characteristics we all want young people to develop. For example, it promotes idealism and a belief in the future, a commitment to a positive lifestyle, wholesome standards, resiliency, a sense of belonging, and positive relationships with parents and other adults.

This is a highly interactive program, both with the students and their parents. It includes small group activities, activities in which students work together in pairs, games, and art activities. There is a lot of discussion that occurs within the sessions and students are encouraged to express their opinions. We are meeting once per week, for the remainder of the school year.

I have facilitated this program in a number of other schools with great success and participation. In just the short time that I have been meeting with our students, they have come to look forward to the next session and all of them are participating in the classroom. We hope that this involvement will promote positives in all aspects of our students' lives.

Chaplain's Chat

By Fr. Dave Cirata



Since my columns aren't usually very long, I thought I would begin to reflect on my 3 years as Chaplain of Norwalk Catholic School. The position of Chaplain was newly created upon the consolidation of the Catholic schools in Norwalk and not following in someone's footsteps can be both a blessing and a curse. I have always viewed my role as the Spiritual Director of the school system and worked to maintain a strong and faithful Catholic Identity in our school. Working with the students and staff of NCS was inspiring and challenging, but I know that I have grown in my faith and I pray that they have also!

As you may know, my appointment was originally set to end in June of 2010, but with fewer priests available to become pastors, I was called upon by Bishop Blair to move a year earlier. I am sad to have to leave NCS this year. I was looking forward to continuing the spiritual growth of the school next year, but I'm sure that the next Chaplain will do a fantastic job! I think that my situation should remind all of us of our need to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It wasn't too many years ago that our Catholic schools were staffed almost exclusively by sisters and priests. Those vocations are still out there! We need to encourage our young people to consider a religious vocation. Norwalk Catholic School has a distinguished history of producing vocations. Let us pray that many of our students follow God's call to ministry for His Church!

May our Blessed Mother intercede for us and protect us!

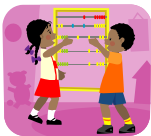
Good Luck to Fr. Dave in his new position!

We will miss your smile and sense of humor.

NCS Uniform Clothing Sale Update

We will hold the sale in conjunction with the St Paul Rummage sale the week after school lets out for the summer, June 10, 11, and 12. You can drop off your marked items or donations to Katie McKinney at the St Paul Parish Center. Items you wish to sell must be marked with your full name, price and description. Forms are available at all school offices or from Katie. We can use hangers and helpers! Please call with any questions @ 419-660-9811.





Elementary



The students at Norwalk Catholic Elementary school celebrated "A Day At the Oscars" on April 30 as part of their Right to Read Week festivities. Students came dressed for the Oscars and were invited to walk the red carpet as they entered school that day. They were interviewed by our guest hostess Ms. Annie Bleile and photographed by the "Parent Paparazzi." This was part of the Right to Read Week theme, "Lights, Camera, Read!"



Congratulations to our 2nd graders who made their 1st Communion the weekend of May 2 and 3. The girls pictured are left to right: Madelyn Hipp, Lauren Pabst, Mackenna Foster, Sabra Nolan, Jasmine Cervantes.

The 3rd and 4th grade classes performed their spring musical on April 23 and 24. Parents and visitors were treated to a fun and talented cast dressed as pirates and singing many pirates songs. The young sea worthy scalawags did an excellent job!



Ohio History Fair

5th grader, Kelsey King was awarded the "Most Creative" project at the Ohio History Fair, state level. Her teacher, Mrs. Amy Weisenberger, received the Distinguished Teacher of Merit for

Social Studies Award.



St. Paul Junior High/High School



Learning to Lead!

By Jaime Fries



Next year, our Juniors & Seniors will have the opportunity to take a new course called “Teen Leadership & Service”. This elective is made possible by a non-profit group, “Teen Leadership Corps” directed by SPH ‘79 alumni, Mary Anne Creamer. I recently spent 3 days of training with teaching professionals from 7 other local schools to prepare to teach this exciting new course at SPH.

The goal of this course is to empower student leaders to understand the importance of service in the equation of happiness and fulfillment in life. At the beginning of the year, we will learn leadership and communication skills, as well as how to work together as a team. Then the students will begin to organize many of the intergenerational service projects that they will take on throughout the year. There will most likely be weekly projects, like volunteering at a nursing home or mentoring elementary students. We will also take on large-scale projects, like creating programs for junior high or high school students.

One of the most interesting parts of the course is that the students will have a big part in determining what projects to undertake. The projects will be student driven and relevant to our school and community. We will talk about issues they believe to be important and try to work on projects for them. The students will become primary planners and implementers of these projects. The hope is that these students will learn leadership skills, gain confidence in themselves and realize they can really make a difference in their community and then continue to do so throughout their lives.



Ohio State Science Fair

Left to right: Rachael Rhoad, Superior, Brad Metcalf, Superior, Sydney Kramer, Excellent, Macie Ott, Superior, Sarah Rhoad, Excellent, Cece Hanline, Excellent, Alex Rospert, Excellent, Wil Crosby, Excellent, Zac Miller, Excellent, Miranda Peer-Perryman, Superior, Chris Stang, Superior, Joe Kowalski, Superior, Jacob Caprara, Excellent. Also pictured is Mr. Mike Wasiniak, Advisor. Special Awards; Brad Metcalf, Heidelberg College Scholarship Honorable Mention, Jacob Caprara, National Association of Biology Teachers, 1st Place.



Work Hard, Play Strong, Serve Well Be Your Best . . . Be A Flyer

- ☺ May 25 ~ No School, Memorial Day
- ☺ May 27 ~ PTO Meeting, 7PM, ECC
- ☺ May 29 ~ All School Mass at 9:15AM followed by Alumni Fellowship in Gathering Space
- ☺ May 31 ~ St. Paul High School Graduation
- ☺ June 2 ~ Kindergarten Graduation
- ☺ June 3 ~ 6th Grade Graduation
- ☺ June 4 ~ 8th Grade Graduation
- ☺ June 4 ~ Last Day of School
- ☺ June 10, 11, 12 ~ St. Paul Rummage Sale and NCS Uniform Exchange

Upcoming Events