

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
November 2019

During this month of Thanksgiving, we pause to reflect and show our gratitude for the gifts God has given us. We have so many blessings for which to be thankful, and all of us at St. Hilary School are grateful for the opportunity to share with your children the gift of a Catholic education. This is the best gift you can give your children, and we appreciate that you have chosen our school to help you fulfill it. As we approach the holiday season, we hope you will seize the opportunity to gather your family for prayer, meals, and other activities as often as possible. With so many divisive forces in our society today, it is more important than ever to focus on maintaining the integrity of the family. Within our own school community, we are saddened to see many families experiencing difficult situations and pray for all of you daily. Because the family unit is the foundation upon which our children's lives are built, we hope you will join us in our quest to do everything we can to keep our school families strong and thriving.

First quarter report cards were published on October 29. This is a perfect time to talk with your child about his or her successes and challenges over the past two months, and to help your child establish goals for achievement in the second quarter. Congratulations to the many students who earned a place on the honor roll this quarter. We offer remedial services for students with learning difficulties, so please be sure to address concerns of this nature with your



child's teachers. Conferences will be held the evening of Wednesday, November 6 and the morning of Thursday, November 7, with no school for students on Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8. We look forward to seeing you at conferences. This is a wonderful opportunity to talk to your child's teacher about how he or she is doing academically, behaviorally, and socially at school. Please know that you may request a conference at any time with your child's teacher should the need arise.

Even as our students are learning, our teachers continue to learn, too. Professional development is important in any field, and as education evolves with our modern world, our teachers

must continue to challenge themselves in order to keep pace. Thanks to the generosity of our Parents' Association and the proceeds from the Fall Fundraiser (magazines and cookie dough), our teachers have already benefited from and will continue to participate in quite a few professional development opportunities this school year. On October 11, the staff had a professional development day during which we heard from Cary Dabney, Director, Office of Ministry to African American Catholics for the Diocese of Cleveland, who spoke about recognizing prejudices that we can and cannot control, synthesizing what we can do as educators to diversify our appropriate conversations, and school-wide planning in order to address social concerns. Other professional development opportunities teachers have participated in so far this year have included special education training sessions provided by the McKeon Educational Group, which will be ongoing throughout the year. We are also continuing to collaborate with teachers and administrators from other schools throughout the Diocese of Cleveland on instructional methods across the grades and subjects. We look forward to sharing with you additional professional development opportunities our staff members participate in throughout the school year.

Our most heartfelt congratulations go out to Sister Carol Joy, who has been named Religious of the Year by the St. Hilary Knights of Columbus! Sister and a guest have been invited to attend a special celebration later this month at which she will be presented with this award. Congratulations also to all students who participated in our fall sports programs. We are grateful to all of our athletes and cheerleaders, and to all the parents who served as commissioners, coaches and advisors for these students, for representing our school and parish so well!

The leaves are falling, and the air is turning colder, which means winter is not far away! Please remind your child to dress appropriately, with a coat, hat, gloves, and boots when necessary. We will continue to take students outside for recess each day as long as the weather cooperates. Please be sure your child's name is on all his or her items. Items labeled with names can be returned if they are lost. Also, keep in mind that Wear Number One, our school uniform supplier, has plenty of sweaters, pants and other winter school uniform items on hand for you to outfit your child. Contact wearnumberone@gmail.com with questions.

The second quarter is underway and will continue through January 10. As you update your calendars for 2020, please take advantage of the school Google calendar at www.st-hilaryschool.org. The calendar is updated regularly, so be sure to check the school website frequently for the latest information on school events. Please note that school will be closed Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29 in observance of Thanksgiving. Looking ahead, our last day of school before Christmas break will be Friday, December 20. This will be a full day of school. There will not be early dismissal as in the past. School will resume on Monday, January 6

Thank you to all the many parents who so willingly support our school by volunteering through Parents' Association committees, School Board, or in the classroom. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated and vital to the success of our school. Special thanks to the parents who assisted with our Fall Fest, Halloween activities, and Fall Fundraiser prize party. We could not do it without you!

With the first quarter behind us, we would like to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of our partnership with you in the education of your children. Our teachers strive daily to provide the best possible academic experience for each student, and to maintain professionalism, positivity and respect at all times in their communications with you and your children. We ask that you keep this in mind as you communicate with teachers, as well. It is our policy to reply to parent communication within 24 hours, but just as circumstances beyond your control may arise in your lives, the same sometimes happens for our teachers. We ask for your patience if a situation such as this should cause a delay in replying. In grades 6-8, we encourage the students themselves to take the lead in communicating with teachers. A special reminder as conferences approach, to respect the teacher's time as he or she respects yours, and to be on time and come prepared for a respectful conversation with any questions you may have. Working together in this way will allow us to best serve your children.

THE BE'S
Always Be...
Polite
Professional
Prompt
Productive
Positive

We wish you and your families a blessed, prayerful Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Woodman and Mrs. Alexander