

# The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School  
October 2019

With the first month of school behind us, we move into October observing the Month of the Holy Rosary and honoring the Blessed Mother Mary. We hope you can join us on Tuesday, October 8 when we gather as a school to say the Rosary together at 2:00 p.m. in the Church. You may also want to take advantage of the wonderful fall weather we've been having and stop by the Marian Shrine. Prayer in this beautiful space is especially meaningful. In addition to growing in our faith by honoring Mary during this month, we continue to follow our school theme, *The Courage to be a Saint*, inspired by Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. We are proud of our many students who are living out our school theme daily, putting into practice the teachings of their faith. We look forward to recognizing our first quarter Courage Award recipients at our school Mass on November 22.



Along with developing the spiritual sides of our students, we also strive daily to raise the bar in academic progress. Last month, all students in grades K-8 completed first round of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing, which monitors academic progress throughout the school year. These brief online assessments will be administered to students a total of three times during the school year and will provide valuable insight into students' depth of knowledge across multiple subject areas. Feedback from the September tests will be shared soon, and testing will take place again in January and April. This will enable us to ensure that each student is learning and progressing as he or she should be. We continually work to improve the learning experience your children receive each day.

First quarter interim progress reports were issued on September 27. Please continue to monitor your child's progress on Gradelink and help him or her set goals to make this a productive year. Establishing good study habits and organizational skills now will help your student achieve throughout the school year. If your child is experiencing difficulty, now is the time to address issues with his or her teachers. First quarter progress reports will be available on October 29, and formal conferences will be scheduled November 6 and 7. Please watch for conference scheduling forms to come home this month. Conferences may also be requested any time a need arises.

Besides staying current with your child's academic progress, we encourage you to also be aware of what he or she is doing online and on his or her cell phone. Many students today use popular social media sites to post information and photos about themselves and others. This information becomes public domain the minute it is posted. Similarly, students today are fond of texting and often do not realize the implications of messages sent electronically. Please monitor what your child is doing to ensure that he or she is safe, and that his or her actions are not bullying others. We have filters in place at school and on the 1:1 iPads and Chromebooks for 6th, 7th and 8th graders, but your help is still needed at home to ensure your child's use of social media is appropriate. Please be vigilant and help us keep all of our students safe in every possible way.

We are proud of our students who are working on developing their leadership skills through clubs, sports, service, and in the classroom. We recently held our Student Council homeroom representative elections, and would like to especially congratulate the following elected students: eighth graders Ella Kohrs (Room 116), James Collins and Anna Solomon (Room 117), and Brooklin Fish and Harrison Pumphrey (Room 120); seventh graders Jacob Bolha and Sophia Kim (Room 115),

Elizabeth Nester and Noah Pellegrini (Room 119), and Sehar Mahesh and Massimo Manera (Room 118); sixth graders Tommy George, Madeline Solomon and Ben Tompkins (Room 111), Kevin Hart and Lucy Winkelmann (Room 113), and Ben Goske and Madeline Olack (Room 114); fifth graders Meely Luby and Bella Root (Room 201), Caleb Malick and Sienna Tipton (Room 202), and Sia Mahesh and Andrew Simonetti (Room 203); fourth graders Katie Ann Bickett and Noah Glenn-George (Room 205), Selene Alnemr and Robbie Orr (Room 206), and Tripp Beringer and Claire Wenzlik (Room 207); and third graders Katherine Eldred and Matteo Manera (Room 204), Charles Nester and Peter Thoman (Room 208), and Wyatt Hannan and Jack Tomaszewski (Room 209). These newly-elected members join Student Council officers elected last spring: President James Bauman, Vice-President Kate Wenzlik, Secretary James Morris, and Treasurer Kaylee Simonetti. Student Council officers and representatives will be inducted at the school Mass on October 25. Thank you to the many students in grades 3-8 who ran for Student Council positions.

The approach of the second quarter on October 28 brings a few changes. Shorts are not permitted during the second and third quarters, but turtlenecks may be worn during both quarters. As a reminder, with the weather turning cooler, sweaters may be plain knit, buttoned cardigans, crew necks or V-necks that are a solid color navy, grey, white, or true red. Sweaters should not be oversized or cropped. They should not have ornamentation, logos, hoods or turtlenecks. Also, the uniform sweatshirts that may be worn are grey or navy can be purchased through the school. Red or navy quarter zip sweatshirts are permitted for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and may be purchased through the school, as well. No other sweatshirts are permitted. Finally, coats, jackets and other outerwear must be kept in the classroom and may not be worn during the school day. For more specific dress code information, please see the Family Handbook. To order uniform apparel, please go to School Uniforms and SpiritWear under the Links tab on the school website.



We appreciate everyone's cooperation during arrival and dismissal. By now, all the students, even our kindergarteners, are into a daily routine. We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for your children. Please remember to drive slowly in our parking lot and around the school, avoid parking on sidewalks, watch for crossing children, and obey the signs and supervisors on duty. Thank you for your support of the rules that ensure the safety of the nearly 550 students we dismiss daily. Special thanks to the parent volunteers who have been assisting with traffic safety during morning drop-off.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to all of you who are so involved in your children's educational and faith lives. We love seeing you helping at school, and are touched by the number of parents and even grandparents who take time from busy days and work schedules to make attending school Masses and helping out at school a priority. One way you can help is by supporting our magazine drive to the extent you are able. The drive begins on October 1 and will end on October 15, with proceeds helping to fund professional development for the teachers who educate your children each day. Your contributions are a vital part of what makes St. Hilary such an excellent school, your children such special children, you such great parents. We appreciate everything you do!

Autumn Blessings!

*Mrs. Woodman and Mrs. Alexander*