

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
November 2016

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, we echo Pope Francis' 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 sent home on October 27. 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 Thursday, November 10 and the morning of Friday, November 11, with no school for students on Friday, November 11. 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.

With the first quarter behind us, we are proud to recognize the students who were named by their teachers to receive the Mother Teresa Award for the quarter. This award honors students who are inspired by Saint Mother Teresa to do small things with great love. Our first quarter Mother Teresa Award recipients for grades 1-8 are: Room 104—Alex Henry, Room 105—Katie Ann Bickett, Room 106—Claire Wenzlik, Room 103—Logan Gibson, Room 107—Sia Mahesh, Room 108—Alexxis Schmitt, Room 204—Connor Bickett, Room 208—Bailey Prince, Room 209—Ryan Houser, Room 205—Eliana Hower, Room 206—Anna Werckman, Room 207—Gwendolyn Pszonowksy, Room 201—Anastasia Musson, Room 203—John Paul Vasko, Room 111—Marina Ziegler, Room 113—Ryleigh Renz, Room 114—Morgan Graham, Room 118—Sydney Starkey, Room 119—Steven Scott, Room 120—Nathan Phillips, Room 115—Richard Hearty, Room 116—Nicholas David, Room 117—Virginia Roman, and Physical Education—Zachary Brown. These students received a Saint Mother Teresa medal at our October 28 school Mass. They also participated in a field trip to the St. Bernard Hunger Center



where they made lunches for the homeless, followed by lunch and a manners lesson at Crave.

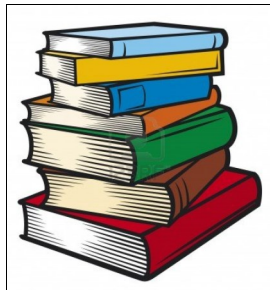
Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

~ Saint Mother Teresa

Congratulations 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! Special congratulations to our CYO fifth grade football team on being named the recipient of the CYO Sportsmanship Award. The fifth grade team, led by Mark Gore, Bubba LaCause and Ben Schlater, along with coaches from St. Joseph School, was selected for exemplifying good sportsmanship and Christian values. In addition to boys from St. Joseph School, team members include St. Hilary fifth graders Jacob Buntura, Timmy Gallagher, Joseph Gilbride, Andrew Gore, Joshua Jukanovic, Brian McGrath, Vincenzo Modugno, Freddie Nemr, Joseph Reese, Caleb Schlater, and Michael Yarcheck.

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 magazine drive, our teachers have already benefited from and will continue to participate in quite a few professional development opportunities this school year. On October 14, the teaching staff met for a day-long inservice. Teachers learned the elements of



close reading and the importance it serves in our curriculum. Close reading is engaging students with a text of sufficient complexity by examining meaning thoroughly and methodically, encouraging students to read and reread deliberately. Close reading can be conducted in any class in which text plays a role. The teachers were given time to plan effective close reading lessons to enhance their curriculum. Faculty and staff also participated in an active shooter drill to prepare for the most dire of situations that could arise at our school. That same day, Dr. Debbie Jackson, Associate Professor, STEM Teacher Education at Cleveland State University and Director, Northeast Ohio Hub of the Ohio STEM Learning Network led professional development for teachers representing each grade level

and specials focusing on STEM concepts. This professional development is particularly important as we continue to work toward achieving Ohio STEM designation for our school. We are excited to report that our curriculum team for this initiative has been assembled and our governance board is being formed. Our next steps are securing business partners and grant funding, and writing the first draft of our proposal, which is due December 9. We look forward to continuing to update you as the process moves forward.

The trees are almost bare, 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.

The second quarter is underway and will continue through December 21. As you update your calendars for 2017, please take advantage of the online school calendar at www.st-hilaryschool.org to assist in planning your schedule. 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 23 through Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. Looking ahead, our last day of school before Christmas break will be Wednesday, December 21, with dismissal at 11:30 a.m. that day. Please watch for more information about our early dismissal. School will resume on Wednesday, January 4.



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 many parents who helped with our recent Grandparents' Day, to those who assisted with our Fall Fest and Halloween activities, to those who helped with our magazine drive events, and to the parents assisting with morning supervision during our faculty meetings. We could not do it without you!

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

Mrs. Arnone

Mrs. Woodman