

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
March 2017

With March underway, so is our observance of the season of Lent. It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Ash Wednesday Mass today. During this special season, our school theme, "Do Small Things With Great Love" continues to remind us of the many ways we can joyfully give to our community, spend time with God, and sacrifice for others. We are so proud of all of our students and their stewardship efforts over the past several weeks. We kicked off our service to the community during Catholic Schools Week, and it was refreshing that the focus during this week, and beyond, was not on the students, but on serving others. Our students ventured into the community to give of themselves in a meaningful way by serving individuals in need of care and comfort and organizations such as Haven of Rest, Ronald McDonald House, the St. Bernard Hunger Center, the Barberton Pregnancy Center, Open M, and more. Tying in with these efforts was our drive to support the Battered Women's



Shelter by providing items to create welcome bags for those served by the shelter. We can't think of a better way to live out the selflessness of the Lenten season. As Lent continues, please plan to join us on March 16 and March 30 at 2:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross, on April 10 at 10:30 a.m. as our eighth graders present their moving portrayal of the Mime of the Passion, and on April 13 at 2:00 p.m. for our Holy Thursday Prayer Service. All three events will be held in the church. Additional Lenten observances have been announced in the St. Hilary Parish bulletin and school mass emails.

Back by popular demand at St. Hilary School during Lent this year is our Breakfast of Champions series, offered for our junior high students. Seventh and eighth graders are invited to attend 7:00 a.m. Mass on a series of four dates. After Mass, the students are treated to breakfast while they hear an inspirational speaker. The series begins on March 7, continuing on March 21 and 28 and April 4. The Breakfast of Champions series is just one of many programs designed to help our students become future leaders and responsible world citizens.

Congratulations to Isabelle Hahn, who placed first in the eighth grade division of the Power of the Pen Regional Tournament at Kent State University on February 25. Isabelle also took best of round in the eighth grade division first and second rounds and won numerous individual awards. Earning best of round in the second round for the seventh grade division was Clara Hoffert. Clara placed seventh individually in her division. Congratulations to our entire eighth grade team, consisting of Gia Abucejo, Isabelle Hahn, Annie Hart, Eva Janigian, Meg Resweber, and Gina Roman, which earned a first place overall finish in the eighth grade division of the competition, and won the Sweepstakes Award. Individually in the eighth grade division, Gia placed fourth, Eva placed seventh, and Gina placed tenth. The eighth grade team will advance to the state competition on May 26.

Also deserving of congratulations are the following seventh and eighth grade pairs and individual students who have qualified to advance to the District Science Fair on March 18 at the University of Akron:

Will Kane and Ronetas Lubes (effects of different battery types on a motor), Jackson Alexander and Will Scherler (effects of different types of milk on plastic durability), Clara Hoffert (bacteria growth on makeup sponges), Sadie Nierzwicki (effects of different soaps on bacteria on hands), Nicole Reese (effects of artificial sweeteners on baking), Kiara Brady and Clare George (invented removable high heel), Erik Stern (effects of preservative bags on freshness of produce), Clara Krohn and Alison Swiatkowski (invented rotating bench), Gina Roman and Meghan Vieltorf (effects of temperature on glow stick illumination), Cline Hearty and Daniel Monea (effects of various tire air pressures on different road surfaces), Nick David and Matthew Kwok (invented ripstick brake), Lucy Chmura (effects of 2D image on bird foraging), Gia Abucejo and Regina Demechko (placebo effect on third graders running), and Meg Resweber (effects of wing length on airplane flight distance). The students qualified by receiving Superior ratings at the St. Hilary School Science Fair held February 1.

Our students have been busy competing not only academically, but athletically. Congratulations to all of our St. Hilary basketball teams on an outstanding season and tournament run. Coach Kennedy's sixth grade girls team took first place in their tournament division, and Coach Goske's sixth grade boys team placed second in theirs. Our other two sixth grade boys teams, led by Coach Franjesh and Coach Zimmerman, also made it to the semi-finals. Thank you to all the coaches who volunteered to help make this another great season. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

Standardized testing began earlier this week and is underway through mid-March. In addition to the Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered in grades 1-7, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) will be administered to students in grades 3, 5, and 7. All students in grades K-8 took the MAP test for the second time during the month of February. Letters have been sent home explaining how each student performed on these tests and what we are doing here at school if there are needs to be addressed. Students will take the MAP test one final time this spring. As prescribed by the Diocese of Cleveland, MAP testing will replace IOWA testing for all students next year.

Third quarter interim reports were issued on February 10, and the quarter ends on March 10. Students should be working on achieving goals set for the remainder of the quarter and the year. Third quarter report cards will be sent home on March 16. When the fourth quarter begins on March 13, students will again be permitted to wear uniform shorts but turtlenecks will no longer be permitted. As a reminder, there is no school on March 17 in observance of St. Patrick's Day.

Planning is in progress for the 2017-2018 school year, and re-registration is a critical part of that process. We appreciate that so many of you have promptly returned your re-registration forms for next year. *If you have not yet done so, please help us plan appropriately for next year's classes and staffing by returning your blue re-registration form as soon as possible. Teachers will soon begin assigning placement for students for next year, and students can be considered in this important planning only if they are registered.*

We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual St. Hilary Celebration auction fundraiser on March 11, and enjoying the fun Ohio-themed atmosphere Co-Chairs Suzanne Manby and Jen Sevald and their team of volunteers are creating for this year's event. Celebration is our largest Parents' Association fundraiser, and we are grateful for your support of our school through this event. In addition to funding ongoing needs, we would like to apply proceeds from this year's event toward incorporating STEM concepts, materials and facilities into our school. Please watch for your Parents' Association funding ballot later this spring! See you at Celebration!

We wish you and your families continued blessings in your Lenten journeys and during the upcoming Easter season!

Mrs. Arnone

Mrs. Woodman

