

# The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School  
November 2017

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 sent home on October 26. 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 2 and the morning of Friday, November 3, with no school for students on Friday, November 3. 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 Calling All Angels Award for the quarter. This award honors students who display courage and bravery in giving of themselves and standing up for others. Our first quarter Calling All Angels Award recipients for grades K-8 are: Room 101—Grace Arison, Room 102—Jenna Price, Room 105—Liam Morris, Room 104—Sal LaCause, Room 106—Charles Gilbride, Room 103—Christopher Lee, Room 107—Timothy Beringer, Room 108—Veronica Brown, Room 204—Will Crooks, Room 208—Roco Oravec, Room 209—Katherine Wiedt, Room

205—Rylee Jackson, Room 206—Sloane Petersen, Room 207—Roman Kuppusamy, Room 201—Maria Kramer, Room 202—Morgan Scherler, Room 203—Jacob Bolha, Room 111—Brian McGrath, Room 113—Stela Nonno, Room 114—Mya Hower, Room 115—Lauren Mercer, Room 119—Ava Hirsch, Room 120—Ryan Dougherty, Room 116—Samantha Klippel, Room 117—Lily Jaroch, Room 118—Collin McDermott, and Chinese—Bryan Flannery. These students received a guardian angel medal at our October 27 school Mass. They also participated in a field trip to the Crown Point Ecology Center where they assisted with gardening, and to the Bath Police and Fire Departments where they toured the stations and learned about the work of first responders.

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!

***Did you know?... Most genetic variety is not between races, but rather within races. For example, two random Italians are as likely to be as genetically different as an Italian person and a Chinese person. Celebrate the differences that make us who we are!***

Our new career elective classes have been a huge hit! Junior high students describe these classes as their favorite part of the school day! In hands-on lab-based classes, students can explore biomedical engineering, emergency medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, dentistry, sports medicine, therapeutic services, forensics, digital manufacturing, virtual architecture, electricity, alternative energy, environment and ecology, and audio

communications. Rounding out the career exploration electives available to seventh and eighth graders are additional courses in digital media, entrepreneurship and financial literacy, entrepreneurship and marketing, writing and debate, graphic design, robotics and coding, and a newly added photography class! Additionally, all students from kindergarten through eighth grade have been enjoying learning in our new Maker Space. This area in the media center provides a wealth of age-appropriate STEM experiences that foster thinking outside the box, creating and learning. A collaboration table in the center of the space enables groups of students to work jointly on problem solving and projects. As you can imagine, these classes and facilities require equipment and supplies. If you are looking for a way to support the school and might be interested in helping to underwrite the cost of some supplies or equipment, please let us know.

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 / cookie dough fundraiser, our teachers have already benefited from and will continue to participate in quite a few professional development opportunities this school year. On October 13, the staff had a professional development day that allowed us to practice our state-required simulated safety drills and to spend time analyzing scores from our first round of MAP testing, which has replaced the Iowa Test of Basic Skills as of this year. Parents can expect to have an educated discussion at parent-teacher conferences about how the teacher and parent can work together to help each child grow academically throughout this school year. At our professional development day, we explored a myriad of research-based resources that can be implemented to enrich or to provide remediation to students. Our kindergarten teachers also recently attended Orton-Gillingham training and we are now able to use the multi-sensory phonemic awareness program in all grades K-2. Giving our students a strong foundation in reading is extremely important. Equally important is building strong math skills, and to that end, our fifth grade math teacher, Mrs. Rauber, recently attended the Ohio Teachers of Mathematics conference in Columbus. We look forward to sharing with you additional professional development opportunities our staff members participate in throughout the school year.

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. 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](mailto:wearnumberone@gmail.com) with questions.

The second quarter is underway and will continue through January 4. As you update your calendars for 2018, please take advantage of the school Google calendar at [www.st-hilaryschool.org](http://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 22 through Friday, November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving. Looking ahead, our last day of school before Christmas break will be Wednesday, December 20, with dismissal at 11:30 a.m. (no lunch periods) that day. Please watch for more information about our early dismissal. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3.



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 assisted with our Fall Fest and Halloween activities, to those helping with our magazine / cookie dough fundraiser 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*