

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
November 2018

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 25. 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 8 and the morning of Friday, November 9, with no school for students on Friday, November 9. 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 Holy Spirit Award for the quarter. This award honors students who exemplify the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Our first quarter Holy Spirit Award recipients for grades K-8 are: Room 101—Lauren Warmus, Room 102—Joseph Eldred, Room 105—Landon

Panagopoulos, Room 104—Matthew Murphey, Room 106—Abigail Hoffmann, Room 110—Jayne Arison, Room 103—Wyatt Hannan, Room 107—Vincent Salamone, Room 108—Keagan Slaght, Room 204—Devanand Brickman, Room 208—Andrew Schafer, Room 209—Maria Brennan, Room 205—Courtney Manby, Room 206—Maura Christie, Room 207—Amelia Brouse, Room 201—Jenna Devine, Room 202—Owen Schlater, Room 203—Daniel Nemer, Room 111—Bethany Kerrigan, Room 113—Alexis Korwin, Room 114—Lucy Wang, Room 115—Caleb Schlater, Room 119—Seth Motz, Room 120—Nathan Kerrigan, Room 116—Ella Petit, Room 117—Madeleine Krismanth, and Room 118—Katheryn Horning. These students received a Holy Spirit medal at our October 26 school Mass. They also participated in a field trip to St. Ed's nursing home, where they spent time interacting with residents. In the spring, award recipients from the entire year will also go to Camp Christopher.

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!

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 12, the staff had a professional development day that allowed us to spend time analyzing scores from our first round of MAP testing and using this data to inform our instruction and lesson planning. At our professional development day, we explored many research-based resources that can be implemented to enrich or to provide remediation to students. 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. Other professional development opportunities teachers have participated in so far this year have included Orton Gillingham training, which is a multi-sensory approach to teaching reading and language arts, as well as training for teachers mentoring new teachers who are going through the Resident Educator program. We have also begun 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.

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 4. As you update your calendars for 2019, 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 21 through Friday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving. Looking ahead, our last day of school before Christmas break will be Thursday, 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 Thursday, 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 parents who assisted with our Fall Fest, Halloween activities, and Fall Fundraiser prize party. We could not do it without you!

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

Mrs. Woodman

Mrs. Alexander