

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
February 2018

In this month when love fills the air, we are reminded of the love Jesus asks us to share with one another each and every day. Lent begins on February 14 with the observance of Ash Wednesday. We hope to see all of you at our Ash Wednesday school Mass, as well as our Stations of the Cross on March 1 and March 15, both at 2:00 p.m. Please watch for more information about our Lenten opportunities in the coming weeks. As we move further into the second half of our school year, we continue to live out our theme, Calling All Angels. Every student in every class has taken or will take an active role in being a living example of this theme by reaching out into the community to serve others. Our students have been and will be helping organizations that provide food and basic supplies for those in need, assisting organizations that support families with new babies and ill children, tending to our environment, and assisting with services for the homeless.



We are excited to again host students and educators from China! We have nine students and nine educators who traveled across the globe to learn more about our school, the American education system and American culture. Our visitors will be with us through February 6. We are also in the midst of celebrating Catholic Schools Week. It was wonderful to see so many of our school families, as well as quite a few new faces, at our Catholic Schools Week Open House and Faith, Hope & Love Café! Thank you for embracing Catholic education and partnering with us to provide the very best for your children.

Next week, we will begin registering new students and conclude re-registration of current students for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration for new students entering grades K-8 will be held February 5, 6 and 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the school office. The deadline to re-register returning students

Did you know? February is African American History Month. But did you know that February was not just chosen randomly? The month of February was chosen because it celebrates the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both of whom dramatically affected the lives of African Americans.

online is February 9. Instructions for applying to receive tuition assistance were emailed on January 5 and can also be found on the school website. Applications must be submitted online through FACTS by March 1.

Students in grades K-8 completed MAP testing last month, which is the second round of this progress-based testing for the school year. The final MAP testing will take place in April and May. CAT testing for grades 3, 5 and 7 will begin March 6 and is slated to continue through March 20. Please be sure your child has a good night's rest each night and a whole-

some breakfast each morning during testing. Students will also need to have several sharpened #2 pencils - please ask your child if his or her supplies need to be replenished. Thank you for avoiding scheduling appointments during testing.

On February 27, we will welcome two authors to our school! Jordan Sonnenblick and Michele Jakubowski will join us to visit with students and talk about their books and their work as authors. Jordan Sonnenblick is the author of 11 books for children and young adults, including *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie*, *Notes from the Midnight Driver*, *Falling Over Sideways*, *The Secret Sheriff of 6th Grade*, *After Ever After*, and more. Michele Jakubowski is the author of the series books *Sidney and Sydney*, *Perfectly Poppy*, the *Sleuths of Somerville*, and *Ashley Small and Ashlee Tall*, as well as the *Choose Your Own Adventure Fractured Fairy Tale Rapunzel*. Please watch for more details as the visit approaches!

The last few weeks have been busy and exciting. Our eighth graders have completed the process of choosing their high schools and will know later this month where they will be headed in the fall. Our school Geography Bee and Spelling Bee in January had us on the edges of our seats! We congratulate fifth grader Ryan Roman, winner of our school Geography Bee, and eighth grader Jacob Cook who was runner-up in the competition. As the winner of the bee, Ryan also received a \$500 scholarship in



memory of St. Hilary School graduate Jimmy Lyons, who won the school bee for four consecutive years between 2003 and 2006, was a state bee competitor, and passed away in 2011. Ryan will next take a written test in hopes of qualifying to compete in the state Geography Bee this spring. In addition to Ryan and Jacob, contestants participating in the bee included eighth graders Rory Arnold, Jack Mercer, and Nathan Ost; seventh graders Sebastian Appleby, Joey Markowski, Christian Parker, and Joey Redle; sixth graders James Bauman, Kaitlyn Chiera, Madison Hart, Caleb Schlater, and Anna Solomon; and fifth graders Brennan Albainy, Jonathan Heckman and Brody McConnell. Congratulations also to sixth grader Elle Burkhalter, who was our school Spelling Bee champion, and to our runner-

up, seventh grader Vivian Brown. Contestants joining Elle and Vivian in the bee were fifth graders Danny Bisesi, Jacob Bolha, Lucia Chase, Kylie Hicks, Sehar Mahesh, and Elizabeth Nester; sixth graders James Bauman, Sebastian Hahn, Joe McCarron, Stela Nonno, and Cate Werckman; seventh graders Matthew Gomez, Augustine Leung, Mary Kate Miller, Evan Ray, and Daniel Welty; and eighth graders Charlie Earley, Caroline Richardson, Lindsey Sipplen, Paul Slanina, Clarissa Snyder, and Jack Zitzman. St. Hilary School will be represented by Elle and Vivian at the Summit County Spelling Bee on February 10 at the Akron Public Library.

As planning for our Parents' Association Celebration fundraiser on March 10 is in high gear, we encourage all of you to try to attend the event or support it in some way. We are truly excited about the wonderful opportunities we hope to bring to your children in the months and years ahead through the funds raised at this annual event. One of the most exciting projects we hope to earmark proceeds for is the upgrade of our playground which our students use every day for recess! Our playground is nearly 18 years old and the equipment and rubber flooring surface are in need of an update. Check out the State of the School address on our school website for more on this topic. If you have thoughts to share after viewing the presentation, please contact Mrs. Arnone at tarnone@st-hilary.org with your ideas. We are so grateful for all of your continued support of our school and all that we do together.

Please remember to send your children to school with winter gear as the weather warrants. Please also remember to call the school office by 9:30 a.m. if your child will be absent or late. Unexcused tardies and absences continue to be closely monitored. Students should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. In addition, we would like to thank everyone for your patience and cooperation with our new drop-off procedures and school security policies. We realize that change is not always easy. We appreciate your understanding as we continue to make the safety of your children our top priority.

We look forward to working with you to make this a successful second semester. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Mrs. Arnone and Mrs. Woodman