

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
October 2016

With the first month of school behind us, we move into October observing the Month of the Holy Rosary and honoring the Blessed Mother Mary. We hope you can join us on Tuesday, October 11 when we gather as a school to say the Rosary together at 2:00 p.m. in the Church. Our newly-formed Rosary Club has begun meeting and will be planning this special service for our school. You may also want to take advantage of the wonderful fall weather we've been having and stop by the Marian Shrine. Prayer in this beautiful space is especially meaningful. In addition to growing in our faith by honoring Mary during this month, we continue to follow our school theme, *Do Small Things With Great Love*, inspired by recently canonized Saint Mother Teresa. One of the many very special ways we are putting this theme into practice is by praying for those discerning to become nuns, and for our own St. Hilary School alumnus, James Parisi, who entered Borromeo Seminary in August. We are proud of our many students who are living out our school theme daily, putting into practice the teachings of their faith. We look forward to recognizing our first quarter Mother Teresa Award recipients at our school Mass on October 28.

Along with developing the spiritual sides of our students, we also strive daily to raise the bar in academic progress. Students in grades 4-8 continue to enhance their math skills by using the Simple Solutions math books in addition to their classrooms lessons. Our science lab is in high gear with Mrs. Durkin's junior high science classes using the lab regularly for hands-on experience. Students in all grades will also have an opportunity to participate in lessons in our Starlab portable planetarium to learn about astronomy during the school day. Beginning this month, academic progress for students in grades K-8 will be monitored using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. These brief online assessments will be administered to students during their computer classes three times during the school year and will provide valuable insight into students' depth of knowledge across multiple subject areas. We continually work to improve the learning experience your children receive each and every day. One exciting way in which we hope to take our school forward is by pursuing STREAM designation, representing excellence in science, technology, religion, engineering, arts, and mathematics. This designation would supplement, not replace, the comprehensive approach to education we have always embraced. We are in the very early stages of the process to explore and apply for this designation, so please watch for more information as the process unfolds.

The interim point of the first quarter was September 23. Please continue to monitor your child's progress on Ascend and help him or her set goals to make this a productive year. Establishing good study habits and organizational skills now will help your student achieve throughout the school year. If your child is experiencing difficulty, now is the time to address issues with his or her teachers. First quarter progress reports will be available on October 27, and formal conferences will be scheduled in November. Please watch for conference scheduling forms to come home this month. Conferences may also be requested any time a need arises.

Besides staying current with your child's academic progress, we encourage you to also be aware of what he or she is doing online and on his or her cell phone. Many students today use popular social media sites to post information and photos about themselves and others. This information becomes public domain the minute it is posted. Similarly, students today are fond of texting and often do not realize the implications of messages sent electronically. Please monitor what your child is doing to ensure that he or she is safe, and that his or her actions are not bullying others. We have filters in place at school and on the 1:1 iPads for 6th, 7th and 8th graders, but your help is still needed at home to ensure your child's use of social media is appropriate. Please be vigilant and help us keep all of our students safe in every possible way.

We are proud of our students who are working on developing their leadership skills through clubs, sports, service, and in the classroom. We recently held our Student Council homeroom representative elections, and would like to especially congratulate the following students: eighth graders Joe Hoffmann and Jimmy Salamone (Room 117), Gia Abucejo and Bryce Hayden (Room 116), and Stephanie Conley and Cline Hearty (Room 115); seventh graders Jacob Cook and Grace Hlavin (Room 120), Caroline Horning and Colleen Reagan (Room 119), and Natalie Fisher (Room 118); sixth graders Brad Bisesi and Zach Zimmerman (Room 114), Kevin Holland and Jacob Kim (Room 113), and Allison Malick and Ben Thoman (Room 111); fifth graders Regan Houser and Cate Werckman (Room 203), Ella Kohrs and Caleb Schlater (Room 202), and Grace Fricker and Harrison Pumphrey (Room 201); fourth graders Danny Bisesi and Piper Pitchford (Room 207), Noah Pellegrini and Anna Werckman (Room 206), and Meghan Graham and James Morris (Room 205); and third graders Addyson Alexander, Kevin Hart, Drew Rasmussen, and Madeline Solomon (Room 209), Trent Hayden, Claire Tomaszewski and Ben Tompkins (Room 208), and Ben Goske and Madeline Olack (Room 204). These newly-elected members join Student Council officers elected last spring: President Kate Krishnanth, Vice-President Emma Advent, Secretary Connor Thomas, and Treasurer Luke Monteleone. Student Council officers and representatives will be inducted at the school Mass on October 21. Thank you to the many students in grades 3-8 who ran for Student Council positions.

The approach of the second quarter on October 24 brings a few changes. Shorts are not permitted during the second and third quarters, but turtlenecks may be worn during both quarters. As a reminder, with the weather turning cooler, sweaters may be plain knit, **buttoned cardigans**, crew necks or V-necks that are a solid color navy, grey, white, or true red. Sweater should not be oversized or cropped. They should not have ornamentation, logos, hoods or turtlenecks. Also, the **uniform sweatshirts** that may be worn are grey or navy can be purchased through the school. Red or navy quarter zip sweatshirts are permitted for 6th, 7th and 8th graders, and may be purchased through the school as well. No other sweatshirts are permitted. For more specific dress code information, please see the Family Handbook.



We appreciate everyone's cooperation during arrival and dismissal. By now, all the students, even our kindergarteners, are into a daily routine. We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for your children. Please remember to drive slowly in our parking lot and around the school, avoid parking on sidewalks, watch for crossing children, and obey the signs and supervisors on duty. Thank you for your support of the rules that ensure the safety of the more than 600 students we dismiss daily.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to all of you who are so involved in your children's educational lives. We love seeing you helping at school, and are touched by the number of parents and even grandparents who take time from busy days and work schedules to make attending school Masses with your children a priority. We are especially looking forward to hosting over 600 grandparents on the morning of October 7 for our Grandparents' Day, and thank in advance the many parents who will be helping to make this a memorable event for students and grandparents alike. Your contributions are a vital part of what makes St. Hilary such an excellent school, your children such special children, you such great parents. We appreciate everything you do!

Autumn Blessings!

Mrs. Arnone

Mrs. Woodman