

The Principals' Page

St. Hilary School
October 2017

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 Monday, October 2 when we gather as a school to say the Rosary together at 2:00 p.m. in the Church. 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, *Calling All Angels*, inspired by the angels in Heaven and those here on earth who watch over us and make our lives better each day. One of the many very special ways we are putting this theme into practice is by praying for those who sacrifice to serve and protect us. 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 Angel Award recipients at our school Mass on October 27.

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. Junior high students have become immersed in career exploration in their elective classes. 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, and all students have already been enjoying using our new Makerspace in the Media Center. A few days ago, we completed the first round of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing, which monitors academic progress for students in grades K-8. You may recall that we introduced MAP testing last year alongside the traditional IOWA tests. Beginning this year, the Diocese of Cleveland has mandated that all schools use the MAP tests as a replacement assessment tool for the IOWAs. These brief online assessments will be administered to students a total of three times during the school year and will provide valuable insight into students' depth of knowledge across multiple subject areas. Feedback from the September tests will be shared soon, and testing will take place again in January and April. This will enable us to ensure that each student is learning and progressing as he or she should be. We continually work to improve the learning experience your children receive each day.

The interim point of the first quarter was September 21. Please continue to monitor your child's progress on Gradelink 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 26, and formal conferences will be scheduled November 2 and 3. Please watch for conference scheduling forms to come home this month. Conferences may also be requested any time a need arises.

Did You Know?... September 15-October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month! And 34% of adult Catholics in the United States are Hispanic! Be sure to check out the student-created Hispanic Heritage poster in our main hallway!

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 and Chromebooks 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 Rachel Alexander and Jack Mercer (Room 116), Charlie Durkin and Grace Hlavin (Room 117), and Jackson Alexander and Collin McDermott (Room 118); seventh graders Brad Bisesi, Lauren Mercer and Jack Paulus (Room 115), Kevin Holland and Joe Stock (Room 119), and Sophia Salamone and Molly Scanlon (Room 120); sixth graders James Bauman and Natalie Olack (Room 111), Grace Fricker and Michael Yarcheck (Room 113), and Ella Kohrs and Kate Wenzlik (Room 114); fifth graders Tatum Manby and James Morris (Room 201), Jacob Bolha and Jake Zimmerman (Room 202), and Sophia Kim and Alexa Kuy (Room 203); fourth graders Kevin Hart and Edie Bella Staiger (Room 205), Madeline Olack and Owen Schlater (Room 206), and Ben Goske and Trent Hayden (Room 207); and third graders Andrew Simonetti and Matthew Stangel (Room 204), Gavin Kohrs and Meely Luby (Room 208), and Jack Donohoe, Logan Gibson and Bridget Steiner (Room 209). These newly-elected members join Student Council officers elected last spring: President Natalie Fisher, Vice-President Max Alexander, Secretary Vincent Rossetti, and Treasurer Giana Mutersbaugh. Student Council officers and representatives will be inducted at the school Mass on October 20. Thank you to the many students in grades 3-8 who ran for Student Council positions.



The approach of the second quarter on October 20 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. Finally, coats, jackets and other outerwear must be kept in the classroom and may not be worn during the school day. 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 and faith lives. We 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 and helping out at school a priority. One way you can help is by supporting our magazine drive to the extent you are able. The drive will begin on October 6 and end on October 18, with proceeds helping to fund professional development for the teachers who educate your children each day. 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