

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL WAPPINGERS FALLS

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Monsignor Francis P. Bellew, Pastor  
Mrs. Mary Ellen LaRose, Principal

## Principal's News

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Drama Club Production: 3/27, 3/28 and 3/29
- ◆ Easter: 4/12. Look for calendar changes regarding recess



Spring has sprung! The long, cold days of winter are gone and signs of new life are appearing everywhere.

As I write this, we are gearing up for our production of *Willy Wonka, Jr.* opening on March 27. Four shows are scheduled for the weekend, and we hope many of you will come and enjoy "the world of pure imagination" created by Mrs. Fenton, Mrs. Squarzini, and the talented cast of student actors.

Congratulations to our recent Science Fair participants and winners and to Mr. Varuzzo and the members of the Hudson Valley Catholic Schools' Honor

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit our Web site. Susan Lueck, our Webmaster, has done a great job with the design, and we have tried to provide many helpful tools for our parent and student community. Looking for a safe way for you child to do research on the Internet? Check out the link for *My Web Library*, a safe, family-friendly Internet destination. Need some helpful parenting tips? Click on the link for *The Parent Institute* for practical, research-based ideas to help you help your child succeed in school. Misplaced your monthly calendar or menu? You can find it each month on our Web site! Just click on the "Calendar" tab across the top of the home page. More updates are planned, so please check back often!

Band who put on an amazing show at Our Lady of Lourdes High School on March 8th. Congratulations also to our recently honored Students of the Month - Shannon Lowis (Gr. 8) in January, Rachel Zielinski (Gr. 7) in February, and Heather Stratica (Gr. 8) in March.

In other news, Mrs. Carol DiMaria and members of the Eighth Grade Select Chorus performed recently at the Irish Dinner at the Knights of Columbus and at the St. Patrick's Luncheon at the Wappingers Falls Senior Center. They did a terrific job and everyone who heard them thoroughly enjoyed their renditions of the Irish classics!

Upcoming April events to mark on your calendars include the kick-off of the Guilds' Golden Raffle sale on April 1, the CYO Art Show on April 3, the Dutchess County Science Fair on April 4, and our Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on April 5. Students go into summer uniforms when we return from Easter break on April 20, and our next Mothers' Guild Meeting is also on April 20th. The Parish Fair runs from April 22 through April 25.

In closing, I wish you all the blessings of the Risen Lord and thank you for entrusting us with your precious children and for your ongoing support of St. Mary's School.

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Parents,

It has been a great experience leading the students through the Stations of the Cross and celebrating Benediction with them each Friday during Lent. I look forward to seeing you at our Holy Week services and at Easter Sunday Mass. May God bless all of you during this holy Easter season

Monsignor Bellew

## Library

*Our library is a very busy place this time of year! New books, software and DVDs arrive each day. State funding and our successful Barnes and Noble Book Fair made it possible to purchase much needed items for the library. Check them out! The January "Pennies for Patients" campaign to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society raised \$697.49! Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> grade for collecting the most money...hope you enjoyed the pizza party!*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Computer

*These past months have been filled with all types of projects for students. Reading and Math skills were reinforced in Grades K-2, and some beautiful Valentine's Day pictures were sent home upon completion. Grades 3-5 created Catholic Schools Week posters and Valentine's Day pictures to share and used new Internet websites to highlight math skills they learned in class. Catholic Schools Week posters and banners were also the focus for grades 6-8. They also researched information for their Science Fair projects. With service to others never far from our minds, Grades 6-8 also wrote a paragraph expressing their thoughts about "service" quotes from famous people such as Emily Dickinson, Mahatma Gandhi and Albert Schweitzer. This activity included internet research, formatting, copying/pasting and inserting information.*

## Kindergarten News

Kindergarten has continued to work hard on their ABC's and 123's, discovering sight words and improving their handwriting. Everyone had so much fun during their very first "Catholic Schools Week"! They loved the Ice Cream Social and they were very happy to show all their special visitors their school. Kindergarteners were very happy to hear that they get to celebrate again next year! "Hearts" was the theme for the month of February, and

Kindergarten learned more about the love of Jesus. Now that Lent has arrived, they will learn even more about Jesus' great love for all of us.



## First Grade News

First grade remains a very busy class! They are learning and practicing addition and subtraction in Math. They are reading and writing stories. They also enjoyed learning about other cultures in Social Studies. First graders celebrated Chinese New Year with the second graders. There was a delicious feast with all types of food. And in February there was a wonderful Valentine's Day party---everyone made a beautiful heart picture frame! First grade especially enjoyed having parents at both of their celebrations!



## Second Grade News

Second grade has been so busy since the first of the year! Flat Stanley returned from visits to family and friends all over the United States and across the Atlantic Ocean! He traveled to North Carolina, Florida and Oregon—he even went to England and Portugal!

A story about Chinatown in the reader led to thoughtful discussions and written descriptions about the sights and sounds they read about. They truly enjoyed the celebration of Chinese New year with first grade too!

Catholic Schools Week was also a big celebration for second grade. They enjoyed the Ice Cream Social thanks to the Mothers' Guild and they had so many special visitors!

First Holy Communion preparation continues to be a focus in second grade. In addition to learning the parts of the Mass, second grade is also attending noon Mass each Wednesday and participating in Lenten activities to prepare for Easter and their Holy Communion.

## Third Grade News

Catholic Schools Week was enjoyed by all third graders and many of the students participated in the special Mass on Sunday to kick off the week. They have been practicing multiplication facts every day to improve their skills—they are becoming excellent at multiplying numbers! To celebrate President's Day, each student selected a president to report on for the class. Lent has arrived, and third grade is participating in Stations of the Cross with the school on Fridays.



## Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade spent many weeks preparing to take the ELA State tests in January and the Math State tests in March. They also worked hard on their other subjects too! In religion they studied the Mass and created booklets illustrating and describing the different parts of the Mass. In science they learned about magnets and their different properties. Soon they will have a Science lab about electricity. Fourth grade really enjoyed their Valentine's

Day party too! In February fourth grade also led the school in the First Friday Mass.



## Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade now has 132 fabulous words on their famous Word Wall. Congratulations to Katie Ungar, who added the 100th word, asteroid!

Fifth grade's latest Superstars, students who exemplify care in their studies and Christian values have been Noelle Pennacchia, Frank Csezak, Dayna DiMarco, Stephanie Zielinski and Katha Sikka. Congratulations on your hard work and dedication!

And believe it or not, the students had to become adept at fractions in anticipation of Shrove Tuesday, when they made pancakes for the entire school! What a delicious way to prepare for Lent!



## Sixth Grade News

Sixth graders remain a very busy and studious class! They have started reading Tuck Everlasting as a class and there are lively debates and discussion on the theme of immortality. They also continue to practice varied writing formats. In Math they demonstrated their knowledge of equivalent fractions with their very imaginative "Seeing is Believing" projects. Everyone is so enthusiastic about Math!

## Seventh Grade News

Like all the upper grades, seventh grade spent a lot of time throughout January and February working on their research reports and science fair projects. The class helped one student conduct a study of how activity influences heart rate by participating in 3 different activities and recording their heart rates for each. It was interesting for everyone! Each student also wrote and illustrated a children's book. These will soon be shared with Kindergarten students. They are also reading the Western classic Shane. "Chills and Thrills" was the theme of the seventh grade Math projects. They surveyed people about their favorite amusement park rides! Seventh grade students are history buffs and they recently enacted the firing of a Revolutionary War cannon. They learned it was a task requiring the skills of at least a half dozen men! The comparison of "how things were done back then" with modern technology helps students appreciate the accomplishments of those who came before us.

## Eighth Grade News

Eighth grade continues to work hard as they finish their last year at St. Mary's! In Math they also completed a project—using scale factors. These "Larger (or Smaller) than Life" projects displayed a lot of creativity! They also prepared for the NYS Math 8 tests which were held in March. Honors Math is also making great progress in preparing for the Math 9 Regents exam in June. All students are writing their novellas and enjoying a class novel about Australia. Eighth grade continues to enjoy working with their beloved Kinder buddies and they really enjoyed helping at the Catholic Schools Week Special Visitors Day.

## Spanish

*Hablamos Espanol a St. Mary's!*

*Sixth grade is writing paragraphs using frequency words and enjoying verb competitions to test their knowledge.*

*Seventh grade is learning vocabulary about "la casa" (home). In eighth grade students are learning the stem changing verbs and negative and affirmative words.*

*They are also practicing for part of the proficiency test they will take in June.*

...March...April...May...June...





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*"Every child is  
honored at St.  
Mary's, Wappingers  
Falls"*

## Phys. Ed. (AKA Gym)

Mrs. Weyant says...“It’s always great to be a Phys. Ed. Teacher!” She truly enjoys the pleasure of teaching all the grades and seeing all the things each class has learned. Kindergarten has had fun learning space awareness and stretching to their favorite song: “Boa Constrictor”. They sure love to sing! Grade 1 is on their way to playing an actual kickball game now that their kicking technique has improved, and Grade 2 loves kickball and the Ms. Pacman warm up game.

## Our ADAPP Counselor

Mrs. Mazzarella has completed work with the eighth grade girls and is now working with the boys to prepare them for the changes they will encounter in high school. She is also working with sixth grade in their weekly classroom meetings for the Olweus bullying program. The entire school recently completed a Bullying Questionnaire. Results are being calculated to share with parents and students. Fourth graders are now working with Mrs. Mazzarella on the Life Skills Program. Mrs. Mazzarella was invited to the March Mothers’ Guild meeting and she’s looking forward to seeing parents that night!

## From our Nurse

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with early symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. In general, during cold and flu season, unless your child is significantly ill, the best place for them is in school where they have all already been exposed to the same germs and where they are less likely to expose other more vulnerable people, like the very young or very old, to their routine bouts of cold and flu. Remind and show your children how to discard used tissues promptly, not to share personal items, to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and to wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and warm water. Suggest that they silently sing the Happy Birthday song twice while washing their hands. However, there are some situations in which it is best to plan on keeping your child home for a day to rest or to arrange for an

Grade 3 has been learning the rules of several games and they are becoming skilled at sportsmanship and teamwork too! Grades 4 and 5 finished up Ultimate Football units and enjoyed a day of kickball here and there. These grades really demonstrate great sportsmanship and team work—keep it up! Mrs. Weyant has had a wonderful time watching Grades 6–8 grow up these past 5 years. They have shown improvement in all areas and are true sportsmen and women.

## Music

Lest anyone think we are not singing our hearts out and learning to make joyful sounds, just wait for the Spring concert!!



appointment with your health care provider.

- Persistent fever greater than 100° orally
- Child is too sleepy or ill from an illness to profit from sitting in class all day
- Significant cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill, that persists longer than 48 hours or after known exposure to a confirmed case of Streptococcal throat infection
- Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning
- Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

If you are keeping your child home from school, please call 297-9988 by 8:30 AM and let the nurse know the reason your child is absent.