

Siena Circular



January 15, 2008

*At the eventide of life, we will be judged on love.
Saint John of the Cross*

Dear Parents,

Last Wednesday a lady who identified herself as a member of the Tribunal Office of the Archdiocese left a message on my voicemail. She asked me to contact her because she wanted to share some information with me regarding two of our students. My first reaction was a sick feeling in my stomach. Even though my experience with our students has been so positive, all sorts of possible horrible misdemeanors committed by these two students crowded my imagination.

When, with trembling hands, I dialed the number to the Tribunal Office the next day and identified myself as the principal of Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School, this lady, with great excitement in her voice, proceeded to tell me the following:

“Sister, I just want to tell you how impressed I was last evening when we were in the school cafeteria setting up for our Tribunal meeting. At one point I needed to find the restroom. A nun offered to show me the way, but one little boy offered immediately to walk me there. Another little boy rushed to open the cafeteria door for me. As I walked down the hallway I asked one of the boys: ‘Do you go to school at Saint Catherine’s?’ He answered: ‘Yes, ma’am’! We don’t find such nice manners anywhere nowadays. So I want to tell you, whatever you’re doing at Saint Catherine’s, keep doing it! I have not stopped telling everyone at the office what nice students you have at Saint Catherine’s!”

You can imagine my surprise and relief. I managed to respond: “Thank you for calling to share this story with me. We have wonderful parents and teachers at the school who support our students and try to foster good manners and the virtues.” (That “nun”, by the way, was me; I was doing Snack and Yak duty.)

I share this story with you because you need to know both you and the teachers are doing a very good job forming children. We are approaching the time of the school year when anxiety tends to build. Second quarter report cards will go home this Friday. The grades will be lower than expected for most students because, unlike the first quarter which reviewed concepts already learned during the previous year, contents covered during the second quarter are new.

The sight of a struggling child can be very distressing for parents and teachers. Our response to the student’s struggles is crucial. We must support, but not enable; it takes wisdom to distinguish between these two approaches. Please trust that the teachers confer with one another regularly to ascertain how to support the students appropriately while fostering growth in responsibility. Success demands hard work and self-motivation (read about our Robotics Team), but it is not guaranteed by them. We must allow for failures. For the longest time while in high school, I had wanted to be a police officer! I worked hard and was very motivated. Only after multiple failed attempts at weight lifting/training did I realize and had to accept the reality that I was not cut out to go into law enforcement. Our goal is to encourage all students to achieve their *personal* best, which is all that God asks of each of us.

With prayers,

Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- Pope Benedict, Archbishop Gregory, Archbishop Donoghue, Father Doyle, Father Terry
- The Taylor Family
- The McNally Family
- Noah and Olivia Zimmer’s grandfather who recently underwent a kidney transplant

Calendar at a Glance

Wednesday, January 16

- School Mass (3A)

Friday, January 18

- 2nd Quarter report cards to be distributed
- Scrip pick-up from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 20

- MLK Youth and Young Adult Program @ St. Peter Chanel School from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday, January 21

- No School – MLK, Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, January 23

- School Mass (6A)

LEGO ROBOTICS

Congratulations to our Lego Robotics team! Last Saturday, the team competed in a regional meet against twenty-one other teams. The competition involved two components. One: completion of various “missions” by the Lego robot designed and programmed by the students. Two: the presentation of a research project to a panel of judges. Our team placed 1st in its search project presentation, 6th in its robot’s “missions”, and 5th overall, thus qualifying for the state’s final competition on February 9. Under the guidance of Mrs. Paglioni and with the support of other parent volunteers, this team of students has put in more than 100 hours of work since the beginning of this school year. Way to go, Blazers!

GEOGRAPHY BEE

Congratulations to our Geography Bee finalists, Vinny Paglioni (1st place) and Tony D’Arienzo (2nd place). Vinny will represent Saint Catherine’s by taking the “School Winner Qualifying Test” next week; the top fifty winners of this test from each state will compete in the National Competition in Washington, D.C.

MLK, JR. YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM

Parents and students are invited to attend the MLK, Jr. Youth and Young Adult Program at St. Peter Chanel School this Sunday, January 20 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Lauren Bohling’s winning art work will be displayed and Patrick Connolly will deliver his winning essay to the audience.

OPEN HOUSE & CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

SCS students will speak at each of next weekend’s Masses at the Church to invite families of prospective students to attend our Open House on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. To celebrate our presence at the parish, students are encouraged to come to Mass dressed in their dress uniform on January 19 and 20 as well as January 26 and 27 (beginning of Catholic Schools Week). As an extra incentive, these students may receive an out-of-uniform pass to be used on Thursday, January 31 by signing in with Sister Mary Jacinta or Ms. Huval, both of whom will be at the various Masses on both weekends.

REGISTRATION & RE-ENROLLMENT

Registration and re-enrollment applications are available on our SCS website from January 3 to February 14, 2008. FACTS Tuition Assistance application forms are available on-line also. Hard copies of all forms are available through the school office upon request. Students who do not re-enroll by February 14 will be considered un-enrolled for the next school year and will need to re-apply and be charged with new application and registration fees.

PEACEMAKERS

Coming Soon: “Peacemakers” is an anger management and peacemaking group for kids. This group is open to children ages 6-12. “Peacemakers” is designed to help kids better understand their anger so they can make healthy and successful choices and build strong relationships. The overall objectives are for participants to realize that they can control their behavior and develop practical skills and strategies to manage their feelings, which in turn will increase their self-esteem. This group will run during the scheduled school day for approximately eight weeks. If you have any questions or are interested in having your child attend, please contact:

Melissa Zipfel Williams at 770-419-8601 x 1413 or mzwilliams@scsiena.org

PARENTING SPEAKER: JOHN ROSEMOND

Calling all SCS parents! For ten bucks, reserve your seat NOW to hear **John Rosemond on February 26, 2008** in our gym at 7 pm. We’ve sold 50 tickets to this event so far for this outstanding parenting speaker and would love to sell out at 500. See the **flyer in the Tuesday Folder** for more details. After January 15, we will open up this event to the preschool and the parish as well as surrounding parishes...so don’t miss out! Call Ann Contrucci 770-516-6211 or email theshirleys4@bellsouth.net for questions.

DISMISSAL & STUDENT RELEASE

For the safety of each student, please remember to send a note to your child’s teacher in the morning if you would like him/her to be released to the parent of another student or another adult at dismissal.

Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School unites with family and community to provide an excellent academic and religious education, developing the whole child while encouraging individual talents and abilities in a Christ-centered environment.

In imitation of Saint Catherine, faithful daughter of the Church, we provide a formation grounded in truth through which we engage the culture, setting the world ablaze with the love of Christ.