



*Steelers Girls with the Head Coach!*

The School Advisory Council was created in August 2008 following Diocesan Guidelines and is comprised of Student Life, Budget and Finance, Enrollment Management, Vision and Planning, Athletics Association and Fund Raising.

Together and with the assistance of many parent volunteers, the goal is to have a viable and growing school fostering quality education and firm Catholic faith.

St. Ursula School is a special place because of the special people who teach, attend, nurture and support the school.

This newsletter will be a source of information and reference about the SAC, school fund raising, parent-powered volunteer groups and the St. Ursula Athletic Association. It will be published in October, January and May.

St. Ursula School Parent NEWSletter  
Established 2001:  
Kate Dunn  
Stephanie Lamperski

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## Are You READY K? REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN.

New for 2009-10 school year the St Ursula Ready K program is founded on the principal that age is not the only indicator of kindergarten readiness. Each child is an individual and develops at his or her own pace. Some children may be chronologically eligible for kindergarten but not ready for the increased educational and social demands of a Kindergarten classroom. There are also children who may not meet their school district's age requirements for Kindergarten but who are, nonetheless, ready for a kindergarten curriculum. The Ready K Program will provide your child with the opportunity to explore basic academic concepts, develop emotional and social readiness for academic success, and pave the way for a smooth transition to their Kindergarten year.



### The St. Ursula Difference

The Ready K Program develops Kindergarten readiness skills in a faith-based environment. The curriculum emphasizes hands on activities to develop basic curriculum competencies in math, reading, science, social studies, and physical education/health. Unique to the St Ursula program is the added opportunity for your child to engage in the creative arts with the inclusion of art class, music class, and library. With gentle guidance, support and structure your child will have opportunities for growth in the areas of social interaction, self-esteem, self-confidence, spiritual & emotional maturity.

### Program Structure

Unlike many pre k programs, the Ready K program meets 5 days per week beginning at 9 AM. You may choose the half day option with dismissal at 11:45 AM. All components of the extensive academic curriculum will be covered. If you prefer a full school day option, your child may stay for lunch and recess (hot lunch program) and participate in library, art, physical education, music and computer class. Dismissal for the full day program is at 2:50 PM. Before school care is available beginning at 8 AM and after school care is available until 6 PM. Call school office for more information or visit the website.

### "Lights, Camera, Bookfair!" was a Big Hit

St. Ursula School warmed up for Catholic Schools Week with a celebration of reading at our Scholastic Bookfair. The festivities started with a Teacher Preview, featuring a raffle for all teachers who filled out a "wish list." Ms Leskovec was the grand prize winner, receiving a \$30 gift certificate for the Fair. The Book Fair concluded on Sunday with a parish event hosting St. Ursula CCD students and their families for cookies, crafts, and interactive stories. Clifford visited once again, showing off his favorite book titles and posing for celebrity photos! We are very grateful for the support from the parishioners who visited. From a fundraising perspective, this year's BookFair was our most successful to date! We exceeded our sales target and earned from Scholastic nearly \$300 in books and instructional resources AND \$1000 cash for our fundraising account. A huge thank-you goes out to the many volunteers who made the BookFair possible and to all of our supporters for putting books into the hands of happy kids!



# Bulletin Board

**Thanks to our substitute teachers:** Mrs. Donna Blasinsky and Ms. Christine Leskovec for filling in for our teachers, Mrs. Angelucci and Mrs. Patrica. Welcome to Ms. Megan Gearhart, our new gym teacher. God Bless all of you!

**2 Congratulations to the Olup family** on the birth of a baby girl. Big brother Roman is in first grade.

**Matthew Leskovec** was the winner in the Coca-Cola Steelers Kids Kickoff Sweepstakes. He received 2 tickets for the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. New York Giants game on October 26th, 2008 at Heinz Field and the opportunity to go onto the field for pre-game warm-ups and retrieve the kicking tee during the Steelers opening kickoff. Matt also received a photo of his game day experience and a Steelers autographed football. Matt and his Mom thoroughly enjoyed this unique experience. Congratulations Matthew!

### SCRIP Success

"With the money our CCD program received for scrip sales the past year, a new desk was purchased for the CCD office. You are welcome to see it in Room 11." – Mrs. Charlotte Bossong

**FIRE and ICE** (MS and HS youth groups) have many activities planned for service to St. Ursula and the community. They have numerous hoagie and donut fundraisers on the calendar, collected money for NHCO, St. Roselia Center, East End Food Pantry and participated in the Lovewalk for the Poor. How about a Cinco de Mayo party, Cards and (root)Beer and a special Youth Mass? A mission trip for the ICE group in the summer is also planned. Check out the parish calendar and join us any time for some service, spiritual and fun activity. Contact Maureen Miller 412 487-7138 or Lale Virostek 412 366-5134.

**A Budding Author in our Midst!** Third grader Kathleen Dunn announced this week that she has a book to share with us that speaks to a challenge she has overcome entitled *The ABC's of OCD!*



About two years ago Kathleen was diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive. Through early intervention and a lot of tough work Kathleen has risen above the peculiar tricks OCD plays on a child. She has been invited to share her book at various book signings and events

around Pittsburgh this spring. For more information regarding Obsessive Compulsive Disorder visit [www.ocfoundation.org](http://www.ocfoundation.org) (Kathleen has been asked to host a Kids Corner on this site ~ coming soon) and also visit Kathleen's website at [www.abccod.com](http://www.abccod.com)

# Classroom News

### How Blessed We Are! Kindergarten Teachers Reflect

St. Ursula Parish is not just a collection of buildings: a church, a school, a rectory. It is a family. The school year 2007-2008 presented the family with a major problem: a flood on the first floor and all of its ramifications. As happens in a disaster, the family, parish and school, pulled together supported by the community to build even stronger ties and an even better structure. Often, this is where the story ends. However, as with so much at St. Ursula, this was just the beginning!



Early in the school year 2008-2009 the school parents put out a wish list for teachers in the event that a parent would like to donate something for the classroom. Teachers at the school were encouraged to list their needs. Almost immediately, the parents and families began to meet those needs. As indicated though, the story goes on. On Tuesday, January 27, 2009, Mrs. Charlotte Bossong, Director of Religious Education, made the rounds at the school to say that a CCD parent had been gathering supplies give to the teachers and children. Before long the eighth grade boys delivered bookcases, plastic containers, CD players and more to the rooms. We are truly blessed. This family continues to support each other in their day to day desire to educate, but even more importantly, to carry on the mission of Christ.

**First Grade** ~ Reading is a top priority. The children are reading in the classroom and at home for homework. In the classroom the first graders read daily with a reading buddy and a favorite stuffed animal. The children are participating in Book It and Book Adventure to increase their reading skills. As reading skills develop, writing becomes an increasingly important aspect of first grade. This group is so eager, enthusiastic and hard working; they have been able to accomplish amazing reading goals. This year first and fifth grades have become Science buddies working together on science experiments. The children created penny boats and float the boats to see how many pennies it could hold before sinking. They constructed turkeys with straws and balloons and had races to see whose turkey could travel the farthest. The fifth graders share their expertise and the first graders provide lots of enthusiasm.

**Second grade** will make their First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 7, at 1 p.m. at St. Ursula Church. We are anticipating the peace that will follow this sacrament - look for second grade to be glowing with grace. After preparing since November this date can't come soon enough. We will fully be part of the church after receiving our First Holy Communion in May. With Lent and Easter preparations, it will be the perfect time to discuss Communion since the first celebration of the sacrament took place on Holy Thursday. Did you realize that both second grade sacraments were instituted at this time; Communion on Holy Thursday and Reconciliation on Easter Sunday? Ask any second grader and they will tell you all about it!

**Third grade** says "6x6, 36 lollipop licks!" This is what the third grade recites every time they need to know the answer to 6x6. Rhymes like this one help the students as they learn their multiplication facts for the first time. They only have two more rhymes to go before they know all their facts. They are continuing to learn how to be good followers of Jesus. They recently learned about the importance of all of the

**Come and Cheer on our teams!  
Check the school calendar or  
website for days and times  
and updates.**



## The Viking Voice ~ and Spirit

We are nearing the end of basketball season. Our teams have made great improvements since the first practices in November. Next season we'll be looking for some coaching help as our eighth graders move on and those parents who are coaches will be helping with different teams.

There are two non-coaches who deserve the thanks of all of us this year. Colleen Andrews provided an invaluable service as the basketball administrator. Colleen kept the schedules straight, organized parent helpers for admissions, and dealt with the various gym managers. Her help enabled the coaches to concentrate on the teams and games. We'll be looking for another parent to take over this job next season. Janet Hanson took it on herself to run a small concession stand at our home basketball games. She came in the morning for the girl's games, then again in the afternoon for the boys. With a limited number of items and only juice and water, we made a profit at each session. Remarkably, she doesn't have a player on the girl's teams, but there she was on Saturday morning!

We'll be recognizing all of our coaches and athletes at the sports banquet this spring. Sharon Whelan is working hard to get things organized.



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### *Thank God for our wonderful volunteers.*

There have been two disappointments this fall, but both hold promise for next year. First, we never got the cheerleaders back on the sidelines for basketball. Next year, we'll be starting from a better position. We have a parent leader ready to step in and expect a good number of participants from grades 5 through 7. Second, we didn't get a developmental basketball program off the ground. There is still a chance we can get a 4 week program running in March.

Next up! Spring soccer and conditioning!

### ***Rick Behring***

President of the Athletic Association



## From the Principal's Office

### **Tax Credits Now Available to All Incorporated Businesses**

If you haven't heard yet, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program has been expanded to include all types of corporations incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania. Previously only C and S corps were eligible. Sole proprietorships are still ineligible. However this is great news because now more businesses can take advantage of the tax credits and more students will be given the gift of a Catholic education. The EITC program allows businesses to take a tax credit of up to 90% on donations made to a scholarship organization such as the diocese SOS fund. Business owners can even designate the specific school that they want to help. Over \$35,000.00 has been designated to help St. Ursula School students in the past two years. Last year our school was able to give a minimum of \$1000 to each student who qualified for financial assistance. If you are a business owner or know someone who owns a business, please consider learning more about EITC. Contact the school office for assistance.

We encourage all families to apply for tuition assistance through the Diocesan Scholastic Opportunity Fund and The Bishop's Education Fund. Approximately 13% of all families at St. Ursula receive some type of tuition assistance. In order to apply you can obtain an application for Student Aid through the school (a packet was sent home to all families). The application processing fee is \$21. This fee covers processing for the Scholastic Opportunity Fund, The Bishop's Education Fund, the Pre School Scholastic Opportunity Scholarship Program and the Educational Improvement Fund. Deadline to apply for the next school year is March 16.

Every year students from neighboring parishes must ask their pastor to sign the **Pastor Verification form** and return to the school office. This is needed before the first day of class.

Thanks to our local McDonalds which sent gifts and prizes in recognition of Catholic Schools Week. We received two gift baskets, cookies which were shared with the Veterans for our service project, a free happy meal certificate for the primary grades and a free sandwich for the upper grades.

#### **FirstinMath (grades 3-8)**

Students may participate on-line (www.firstinmath.com) for individual and school recognition in solving math problems. Program is sponsored by donations. This continues for the rest of the year. "First round" incentive for top students at St. Ursula was a trip to a Pens practice session. Finish up strong as the final "prize" has yet to be announced!

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We are extremely grateful to **Hampton Township Police** and specifically to Officer Vulakovich who presented an Internet Safety program to our students and teachers in grades 3-8 and in an evening meeting with parents during Catholic Schools Week. Officer V and a computer tech specialist made parents aware of dangers on the web and cell phone use. A parent attending said, "It is clear that education of what's out there is very important to keep our kids safe." In order to reach even more parents, Officer V agreed to come back in the spring. We'll let you know of the date as soon as it is scheduled. For the parents who attended many questions were answered and facts discovered that helped them immensely.

#### **From the Secretaries' Office**

- We are in need of your company's discards - envelopes (letter size and larger), card stock, or letterhead. We use these discards for intra-school letters and flyers. It really saves St. Ursula school money on office supplies. Please drop off donations in the school office.

- Our lost-and-found box is filling up with winter coats, gloves, sweatshirts, and other small articles. Please encourage your students to look in the box for their belongings. It always helps to label any clothing that is taken off during the day.

- Please remember to donate your used paper to our Abititi paper recycling bins. The school receives hundreds of dollars per year to recycle paper. Please do not place plastic or cardboard in the box. The boxes are located in the lower parking lot across Duncan Avenue. It is quick and easy money!

- Please try to use separate checks when remitting money to the school. It helps simplify our accounting process to have separate checks. It is especially important to separate your scrip orders and lunch money. Thank you!

- Remember to call the office if your child is out sick. It helps us make sure that we don't leave sleeping children on the bus. You can also request that the teachers gather your child's homework. Please call early in the day to give the teachers plenty of time.

- BEFORE your child leaves for school in the morning, please make sure they know what they are to do at the end of the day. There far too many kids coming into the office asking to call home because they don't know what to do, where to go, forgot about an after-school activity, practice, meeting etc.

## Finance Committee Update

As was discussed at the Student Advisory Council introductory meeting in the fall, the finance committee is well under way in consolidating information and trying to evaluate the school's current budget to actual amounts and make recommendations. St. Ursula School operates on funds from 3 sources: tuition, fundraising revenue and subsidies from the diocese and the parish. A significant portion of the revenue is our fundraising budget which is \$107,000 for the current school year. Our largest fundraisers are scrip, the parish run weekly bingo and the Pot O' Gold dinner/auction. These three programs provide 50-60% of our total fundraising revenue. Each school family is responsible for raising \$450 towards fundraising by participating in scrip, donating items for the POG auction, and various sales (Sarris candy, Market Day, lottery calendars, etc.).

#### **Fundraising made easy**

Who ever heard of fundraising by doing nothing but what you already do? The scrip program is just that. You (and the school) get credit for shopping and eating. Despite the ease of the program, our scrip revenue is currently below the level it has been in previous years. Now, we understand that some of this is related to the economy, however, we wonder if some of the shortfall is because families do not realize the ease of raising their fundraising requirement via scrip.

#### **The Details**

This program allows you to provide fundraising dollars to the school without buying anything that you wouldn't normally purchase. You buy \$100 of Giant Eagle gift cards and receive \$100 worth of groceries for that. Behind the scenes, you receive a \$4 credit towards fundraising and you did nothing. By purchasing groceries weekly, as you currently do, you can earn your fundraising credit. The only difference is, instead of paying with cash, check or EFT, you purchase gift cards from school. Each Monday, a daily scrip sheet is included in the Monday envelope. Complete this form and include a check and you are one step closer to reaching your goal. Monthly scrip is also available with many merchants giving a large percent (up to 16%).

So, let's figure, you spend roughly \$200 per week on groceries at Giant Eagle. If you purchase gift cards through school, each week, that would total \$10,400 of GE gift certificates. At a 4% return, you earned the school \$416 in fundraising for doing nothing - no door-to-door sales. Since GE offers you gas perks for purchasing gift cards from them, it's a double benefit - purchase GE gift certificates from school to purchase other vendor gift cards at GE. This way, you win all around - you earn your fundraising credit for school and you get gas perks at GE. Ask family members to buy for you too!

#### **Keeping You Posted**

Later this month, you will be receiving your Fundraising Assessment Report. Please be aware that you will owe the difference between your assessment and \$450 if you do not reach this goal by April 30, but more importantly, we will not meet our revenue budget if this goal is not met by each family. Feel free to call a committee member upon receipt of your assessment, and we can assist you in upcoming events/fundraisers to help you meet your goal.

**The Finance Committee** ~ Gary Regan, Jeff Shaffer, Nicole Saldamarco, Marilyn Spohn



## FUND RAISING UPDATE

Certificate Sales	\$14,656
Golf Outing (held in 8/08)	\$6,047
Entertainment Books	\$ 990
Enjoy Books	\$ 1,080
Kidstuff Books	\$113
Original Art Works	\$1,155
Market Day	\$ 775
Lottery Calendars	\$3,549*
Gold Party	\$868
Sarris Christmas Candy	\$2,014
Boxtops	\$1,168
Benefit Nights	\$ 335
Bingo	\$11,000

\* This is an estimate until all payouts to winners have been made.

**TOTAL \$ 43,750**

**GOAL \$107,000**



### Still to come!

- **Boxtops for Education** ~ Contest continues through Feb.20 Help us raise \$2,000 this year. Ask friends, relatives and co-workers to clip and save.
- **Sarris Easter Candy** ~ Orders due by February 24. 35% of sales go towards your fundraising assessment.
- **Pot O Gold Dinner Auction March 7**
- **Vendor Fair** ~ April 24, 2009 from 7-10pm. This a fun evening out for ladies complete with hors d'oeuvres and wine. Vendor booths are \$35 or \$20 for school/parish families. Each vendor also needs to donate a \$20 item for our raffle. Vendors range from Tuperware to Slipada to photographers to upscale crafters.

**Visit the fund raising page of the school website for more fund raising programs, opportunities and updates.**

## Library News

Many new books have been added to the library in the past few months. Through the online Usborne eFair many wonderful new books were donated to the library including Holocaust, donated by Ryan Whelan, Second WW, donated by Reagan Whelan, Dragon Painter and Tutankhamen, donated by Bill Felton Family and D-Day, El Reino De Los Juguetes, and Puzzle Farm, donated by the Lamperski Family. The library earned 6 free books and 3 books: Bears, Horses and Ponies and Dogs were donated anonymously.

Over \$350 worth of books will be added to library thanks to the successful Scholastic Book Fair. The titles were carefully chosen to replace some of our very old and outdated non-fiction books. One school family cleaned off its bookshelves and donated over 75 juvenile non-fiction, books in a series and picture books which were recently added to our library.

Please keep the St. Ursula Library in mind when cleaning off your bookshelves! Our library relies almost solely on donations. This year, under the advisement of our volunteer librarian, the library committee removed books from the shelves that were outdated in the time-sensitive areas. Therefore, we are specifically in need of current non-fiction books for grades K-8. We are always looking for books in a series, such as Junie B. Jones, Magic Tree House and Goosebumps. Hardback picture books in good condition are always welcome too!

sacraments. The students created beautiful stained-glass window clings bearing the symbol of each of the seven sacraments. The designs are hanging on our windows on the front of the building.

**6 Fourth Grade** is "Picturing America" The grant was awarded to St. Ursula School by The National Endowment for the Humanities. Mrs. Cross applied for the grant for our school. Over 40 large engaging, masterful works of art bring the story of America to life for the students. Picturing America's noteworthy, high-quality images offer an innovative way to teach American history and culture. These images and the accompanying Teachers Resource Book help students better understand America's diverse people and places. Mrs. Cross has used the paintings in her Social Studies class. Students compared and contrasted physical features in two paintings showing different regions of the United States. On Columbus Day paintings of Native Americans were observed and students discussed how Native American life centered on the use of natural resources. When studying the American Revolution, fourth grade students analyzed a painting of the midnight ride of Paul Revere and Washington crossing the Delaware River. In Reading Class fourth grade students read a story about Yosemite Valley, and thanks to the grant, they were able to view and discuss a painting of Yosemite called "Looking Down Yosemite Valley." Mrs. Cross says, "Having such a great tool for visual stimulation to use in the classroom enhances learning and makes it more enjoyable." The materials are available for all the teachers. With Picturing America, students at St. Ursula will develop a deeper understanding of history and our shared human- and American - experience."

**Arts and YOU** "Oh, the things you can think, if you're willing to try..." will be sung by the Cat in the Hat and company in the spring musical "Seussical, Junior". Saint Ursula students in grades 3 through 8 will be performing this Broadway Junior musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss in May. "Seussical", music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, weaves together the most famous tales and characters of Dr. Seuss in unexpected ways. Some will have desperate adventures and some will save the world as the characters travel everywhere from the Jungle of Nool to McEligott's Pool to Palm Beach. Dr. Seuss believes in helping a friend, in not giving up, in keeping a promise and that peace is the ultimate ideal. Mrs. Cross will direct and choreograph the show and Professor Coury will be music director. They will be volunteering their time after school to practice with the students. This production will also have the help of Mrs. Heyl and the middle school students who build the set. Many hands will help to put on a very entertaining production. So spread the word to family and friends to come and see this fun and entertaining show that celebrates Dr. Seuss and themes of the heart. Look for exact show dates in May to be announced on the school web site.

**Music to Her Ears** ~ a message from Dr. Coury

"I would like to thank each child and their parents who gave me such lovely Christmas gifts. I waited until Christmas morning and believe me I felt Santa Claus stopped at my house. Thank you again each child and parents and may God grant you all your wishes for being so thoughtful. It really pleased me greatly. I also want to thank Student Life for a lovely reception after school before Christmas Holiday and I want to thank all of you for the delicious food and the wonderful candy as well as the Borders Card. I love to spend time in Borders. Thank you and God Bless you for your kind consideration." Music News: Fourth graders are practicing for their Carnegie Hall Pittsburgh performance on Friday, March 27, 2009.

**Middle School Celebrates Service**

In November the Middle School students participated in the Operation Troop Appreciation Essay Contest. The topic of the essay was "How American Troops Make the World a Better Place". Each essay that was submitted accompanied a gift package that was sent to an American soldier serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jane Poorbaugh won second place and Ryan Whelan won third place. They were honored before the annual Operation Troop Appreciation Veterans Day 5K Race held in Hampton Community Park. Congratulations Jane and Ryan!

As part our celebration of Catholic Schools Week the students in grades 5-8 created Pittsburgh Steelers decorations. The decorations were delivered to VA Medical Center, in Aspinwall, to be distributed to the veterans, who are hospitalized there, for their Super Bowl Sunday festivities.

The students in grades 5-8 are currently working on their Middle School Project. The theme is Pittsburgh-250 Years. To launch the project, the students created personal timelines highlighting the important events in their lives. They're now finalizing paintings of Pittsburgh landmarks. Next they will be gathering research about "Pittsburgh Firsts"- things that originated in Pittsburgh such as well-known inventions, innovations, and foods. They will create a display based on their assigned topic. Look for them in the Spring! In conjunction with our Middle School Project, the students will be going on a field trip to the Heinz History Center to see the exhibit, "Pittsburgh- A Tradition of Innovation", celebrating our region's impact on the world.

**Students in Grades 7-8** will be competing in the English Festival that is held at Duquesne University in May. Students read six novels. They then compete with other schools, public as well as parochial, to see who knows the most about the novels and characters. Trivia showdowns, drama events in which they have to be the characters and super trivia are just some of the events. One of the authors, Carolyn Meyer, will speak to the entire group of participants about novels and writing careers. This is St. Ursula's third year to participate in this event.

**Mrs. Conley** says The Allegheny Intermediate Unit reading program offers reading support to students who are having difficulty with either decoding or comprehension. Students in grades K thru 2 do Word Building with letter cards at the beginning of each session. Students in Grades 3 and above do the Syllsearch activity or review decoding patterns in a word study before oral reading. Writing about the main ideas is part of the program to address both comprehension and writing skills. In the AIU math program, students are taught computation skills that they are expected to master in the classroom, and strategies to make these easier. However, the main focus of the math program is twofold 1.)the development of math concepts in the participants; and 2.) the development of the student's ability to solve word problems. Instruction in both programs is tailored to the individual needs of the student.

**Mrs. Pontoriero** is helping the students create works of art for the POG auction. The students have been exposed to a number of art mediums this year and sold cards and ornaments at the Parish craft show in November.

# SAC It To YOU! (School Advisory Council)

## The School Advisory Council has had a very busy winter to say the least!

Our Athletic Association has girls and boys JV and Varsity basketball teams playing hard. They have learned so much and the boys look great in their newly purchased uniforms! Soon they will ramp up for soccer season and before you know it they'll be celebrating at the year end sports banquet.

The Fundraising Committee is deep into planning the biggest fundraiser of the year, Pot O' Gold on March 7th. Still to come is a wonderful vendor fair planned for the spring. Catholic School's Week activities, Santa Workshop, and Cookies with Santa are just a few items that have kept our Student Life team on the run. What fun all these events were for kids and families alike!

Enrollment Management hosted Open House at the end of January with a great turnout. Our next open house is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th. Don't forget to tell your friends! Many of the SAC members were privileged to attend a presentation with Diocese enrollment consultant John Cooper. John gave us a few new exciting ideas to implement in the upcoming year.

The Finance team has diligently worked to capture and report on our expenditures and receipts in a new more comprehensive manner. These reports are sure to help our planning process for the upcoming school year.

And, if you haven't yet heard, our Vision team has the Ready K program up and running for 2009-10. We already have several students enrolled and it proves to be an exciting new venture for our school. Plus, we get to see those cute little faces everyday!

Most importantly, the SAC really seems to be coming together as a group working toward the common goal of the success of St. Ursula School. Father Dorsey attended a SAC meeting recently and thanked the group for their work and commended their efforts to work together for such a worthy cause. Personally, I have to say, I have never experienced such talent, passion and commitment in a group of volunteers. I feel so honored to be a part of this team. Soon we will begin planning to fill vacant positions on the Advisory Council for the 09/10 school year. If you have a passion for our school or ideas on how we can improve our programs, consider joining this group of committed, energetic, and talented individuals.

**Susan McKee** *President, SAC*

## Girl Scout Brownie Troop #682

This has been a fun and busy second year of Brownies for Melina Walko, Aletta Fischer, Sarah Wallace, Sarah Rock, Nora McKee, Meghan McLoughlin, Peyton Wheeler, Isabella Donatelli, Annie Shields, and Angelina Saldamarco. We also welcomed Emma Fitzgerald this year! The girls are under the leadership of Jennifer Walko, Lynda Fischer, Jennifer Wallace, and Ann Rock.

The girls started out this year in October by learning about money to earn their Penny Power try-it badge. They took a fun hike outdoors in North Park on a cool fall day to earn their Outdoor Adventurer badge. The girls had so much fun in November when they made some yummy foods and put together a Brownie recipe book for Make it, Eat it, and ended 2008 going to John's toys in Glenshaw to learn about the past and earn their Listening to the Past badge.

They are off to a great 2009 with the Girl Scout cookie sale and have sold over 500 boxes!!! So far they have earned their Friends are Fun badge and Write Away, where they composed their own letters on their hand-made stationery to their old classmate and friend Shan Kim, who left Brownies and the school last year to return home to Korea. See the note below we received:

*Hi, Jennifer!*

*It's really nice to hear from you again. We've well settled down in Seoul. Shan has been busy to catch up with her school life and studies. In Korea, many students are really busy doing after school activities, which are taking lessons for piano, swimming, painting, English, Math, etc. Shan is also taking swimming, painting, piano and singing lessons. Shan misses Pittsburgh a lot. -- Best Regards, Myeongsun Kim*

**Fourth Grade Girl Scout Troop #50420** and leaders went bowling at Pine Creek Plaza on Nov 8th. They earned their "Celebrating People" badge by having international students come in and speak at their meeting. Thanks to Colleen Ruefle (Julia Shield's mother) who hosted the meeting, the Girl Scouts were able to learn about different cultures, different food and different dances from places as far away at Africa and India.

**Junior Girl Scouts** (grade 4 & 5) visited the Hampton Twp. Police Dept on Nov.19. The girls were so well behaved and totally enjoyed the visit. Officer V was so good with them. They toured the offices, the cells, the garage (saw the police cars, CSI van), and asked a lot of questions.

## St. Ursula Wish List UPDATE

There was a wonderful response to the wish list published in October! Many families bought items from the list or sent in a check for the teacher. Some of the items received include:

- Classroom Carpets
- CD players
- Computer printer
- Classroom Clocks
- Overhead projectors
- A pull down screen for overhead projector
- Volunteers to help teacher copy papers
- Several Usborne Teaching kits
- DVDs about the Holocaust for grades 6-8
- Teacher desks (donated from a nearby business)

Every teacher that requested an electric pencil sharpener received one—for a total of 5! Books, games, hand sanitizers, markers, and transparency film were also donated by several families. Please see the website for a complete list of all items received.

Several items are still needed, and it is not too late to donate an item! Everyone who has worked cafeteria duty recently knows that there are some things that would be helpful to add to our kitchen. Karen and Janice are making a list that will be available on the updated wish list--coming out soon!

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED! The teachers are grateful and our students are enjoying the rewards of your generosity! This is one of the things that should make us proud to be a part of St. Ursula School!

**Back to Business!**

Michael V. Jaconski, D.M.D.

## Family Dentistry

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