



Third grader Jessica Volchek with Planet Project

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

Building... Our Future

On April 16th, St. Ursula School parents were invited to a discussion about the St. Ursula Parish Capital Campaign. Why a Capital Campaign for Saint Ursula Parish you might ask, especially if you are not a St. Ursula Parishioner or even a practicing Catholic. The reason is because St. Ursula Parish is now moving to Phase II of its building plan.

About 10 years ago, Father Dorsey asked the St. Ursula congregation what they thought might improve the Parish and School campus. The resounding answer was a larger Church building and a gym/activities building. After two more years, a professional study brought a master plan formulated for St. Ursula Parish and School. We can all see the wonderful completion of Phase I, which was centered on renovating the Church.

This meant demolishing a parish-owned house on Cole Avenue to make way for the circular drive way and parking lot along the side of the Church. Also, Phase I entailed building an ADA compliant bathroom on the main level of the Church and adding an ADA compliant entrance by the new driveway. The attractive and useful lower side patios and brick walls were also added at the time of Phase I. Another expensive part of Phase I was the necessary grading and landscaping of the hill adjacent to the new side parking lot.

Now St. Ursula Parish and School are ready to take on Phase II of its master building plan which includes the building of a multipurpose room, which would serve as a gym, auditorium, reception ball room and multiple meeting rooms for the Church and School.

Imagine no longer having to rent gym space for our school's basketball teams' practices and games? Imagine no longer having to say "no" to on site wedding receptions, or larger Christian Mother's social events. Imagine no longer having the Christmas concerts and spring musicals in the school's cafeteria. It is almost too much to hope for, but the dream can come true for the St. Ursula Community and our students.

Continued on page 3



Seussical Jr. performed in the State Capitol on April 1, met Sen. Jane Orie, and performed here at St. Ursula School on May 15 and 16 at 7:30 pm. The drama department would make great use of the proposed Activities Building!

Look for pictures and cast and program list on our website.

Bulletin Board

Educational Improvement Tax Credit

In the current school year (08-09) we received \$20,000 in scholarships through EITC in which 15 families benefited. Looking ahead to next year, we will receive about \$42,000; the awards to families have not yet been made.

Alums Giving Back

2

Alex Intriери will be working on the replacement walls of the playground for his Eagle Scout project beginning in the middle of June, after school is out. We'll keep you posted on the results.

Alums Making the Grade and Shouting Out

Courtney Kwiatkowski has been on high honor roll from Mt. Alvernia all year. Kevin Davis, Highest Honors, at Pine Richland High School. Central Catholic Honor Roll: Kyle Cronin, William Miller. Oakland Catholic: Kayla Browning, Nancy Conicella, Emily Spirk, Casy Stelitano. North Catholic Honor Roll: David Lamperski, Alexandra Stelitano, John Patrick Hanna, Sean Berger, Jessica Hartman. Shaler Area: Meaghan Bernicic has been on honor roll all year and is enjoying and doing well playing soccer. Congratulations to Jessica Hartman, (class of 2005), who has been nominated for the St. Timothy Award and has been accepted as the recipient of this honor to represent North Catholic High School. Matt Curry says, "Mrs. Heyl --she is the bomb. She raised my grades. She brought me up when I was down. She was always there for me. The best teacher I ever had."

Math in the News

Math is alive and well in our school, thanks in part to the Pittsburgh Diocese Math 24 competition on April 30, 2009 at Bishop Leonard - St. Mary of the Mount Academy. This competition drew in dozens of math wizards from across the diocese to compete in the card game Math 24. Fourth grader, John Michel, took home the gold medal in the 4th/5th grade division. This fast-paced game has students make the number "24" from a variety of numbers and methods, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. John survived three rounds of play and ultimately took the top prize at the final four table. Other top students representing St. Ursula School at the competition included Alex Singer in 3rd grade, Devan Broskey in 6th grade, and Maggie Wilson for the 7th/8th grade division.

St. Ursula Has A Vision Plan

The Vision Committee is working to assist Fr. Dorsey and the Capital Campaign Committee by keeping school parents informed about meetings associated with the next phase of the project: The Multi-purpose Building. Also, there are plans to work with Sr. Joanita to develop a detailed calendar for the upcoming school year. The calendar will include all extra-curricular activities including middle school activities and sports as well as field trips. Thirdly, the Ready-K program has drawn a lot of interest from our community. The office staff is receiving calls on a regular basis from parents looking for this type of a program.

Enrollment Management Soars

The team is excited to report we had a third, very successful open house in March. For the first time in more than six years, St. Ursula School is project-

Continued on page 4

Assorted Gems in the Classroom

Kindergarten Delivers!

One of the highlights of the kindergarten child's week at St. Ursula School is Workshop. Every Friday after Mass the children look forward to returning to the classroom to meet with parents who have come to guide them through several different activities related to the week's work. At the end of Workshop the children leave with math packets the extend their understanding of the week's math concepts, little books incorporating the phonics of the week, crafts for the season and much more. That "much more" is the sense being cared for by the loving attention given by the parents who volunteer at the beginning of each month to share one or more Friday mornings with the children. At the end of each workshop the children pray a prayer of thanks for the helpers of the day and for the parents who were unable to join them, but who wait anxiously to see what treasure their treasure will bring home that day.



Prayer and the Blessings of a Kindergarten Teacher

Prayer is an intrinsic part of every kindergarten's day. The day begins with the children calling to mind the goodness of God, His great generosity, and the needs they wish to place before Him. They offer God their day, and then turn to His Blessed Mother, the Queen of Peace. They dedicate the Hail Mary to peace in their hearts, peace in their families, peace in the classroom, peace at St. Ursula and peace throughout the world. Then comes the delight of any teacher's day. As she turns to the children and wishes them the "peace of the Lord," the children turn to her, smile and say, "And also with you!" This marvelous greeting is so loved by the students that when the world intrudes with a knock at the door or other interruption, and the teacher forgets to offer the sign of peace, the children initiate that sign with even bigger smiles. We are indeed blessed!!

Holy Second Grade

Second grade has been very busy in this last quarter of the school year. Of course, our most important accomplishment is the reception of Holy Communion. Also in second grade, we have just about completed ALL of our cursive letters - the children's writing is beautiful! We are really looking forward to our field trip to the zoo on May 27th which goes along with our Science Unit on animals.



Out in the Field

The fifth and sixth grade students traveled to Erie, PA to visit the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and the Erie Maritime Museum. At the Tom Ridge Center they watched an environmental movie, Journey Into Amazing Caves, on the Big Green Screen, which is a 4-story-high, 45-foot-wide screen that puts you right into the middle of the action. At the Erie Maritime Museum they toured the U.S. Brig Niagara, a reconstructed flagship of Pennsylvania and the warship that won the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812. They also toured the museum and visited the gift shop. It was an educational field trip that was enjoyed by all!

All of the fourth and fifth graders will go to Seton LaSalle on May 22 to participate in the WPCTE sponsored English Festival for area students in grades 4 - 12. Over 2000 students from over 70 area schools participate.

Continued on page 6

Building... Our Future

Continued from Front Cover

Looking into the future, adding a multipurpose building would provide the Parish and School rental income when another area group might need a meeting facility.

So, how much is this dream going to cost? The general figures are as follows:

Construction (approximate and based on 2007 study) - includes demolition of Priest residence and Parish offices	\$2,520,000
Architectural fees	\$150,000
Alternate Priest residence	\$250,000
Total ESTIMATED costs	\$2,920,000
Diocesan Contingency	\$730,000
Grand Total	\$3,650,000
Cash Required by Diocesan Policy (approx 50% of \$3.65 M)	\$(1,850,000)
Current amount in Capital Campaign Fund	\$(1,200,000)
Amount necessary in cash and pledges before ground breaking Of multipurpose building	\$600,000

When you are called upon, or attend a future meeting, we ask you to listen and to really consider contributing, even though your children might be graduating from the school this year, or in the next few years. You might ask your self what difference it will make. This multipurpose building will make a world of difference; not only to the current Parish and School students, but to increase the Catholic community and the work of God in our lives.

Music Ministry- How Shall I Make My Return to the Lord?

The Music Ministry of St. Ursula Parish under the direction of Nemesio Valle, III is a well rounded, rewarding experience for everyone involved. Nemesio explains the three components which are the foundation of what he wishes to accomplish. Members are: 1.) Ministers of the Church 2.) Educators in aspects of music, history, and traditions, and 3.) Vehicles through which the offering of the Mass is fully and completely expressed.

Currently there are six choirs: Traditional Choir, Contemporary Choir, Children's Choir, Hand Bell Choir, Schola Cantorum (a smaller choral ensemble which rehearses and sings a few times a year dedicated to singing 16th-century polyphonic music), Cantor program, and a 4-part Brass Ensemble. All perform groups perform individually, in various combinations, and on occasion together, to achieve beautiful harmony.

Nemesio plans weeks in advance for Masses and events. The 1:00 pm June 14 Centennial Mass with Bishop Zubik presiding is in the works even now. Nemesio finds that all the choirs welcome challenges and relish the chance to perform difficult pieces. He is especially impressed with the Children's Choir's rapid growth and confidence in performance. "Any child who is interested in singing in fifth grade or above can be a cantor and will overcome their nervousness quickly". When asked if he is seeking additional members, he said "Even if I had 40 people, I would still want more. This is because there can never be too many voices; two part harmonies are possible now and we would be able to have three part with more bodies." When asked what is the best way to invite new members? His response, "The parents are instrumental in passing their enthusiasm to others and their children inviting their friends to join." Sharon Gullo, parent and parishioner, has been a choir member for twelve years and a cantor for six. She shares her deep love for God through her singing voice. She has high praise for Nemesio who literally taught her how to use her voice and to read music. She feels lifted up after singing at Mass as a leader or as a member in the congregation. Her daughter, Gabriella, a fifth grader, has begun to lead as a cantor at Sunday Mass. When Gabriella is performing her other duty as an altar server, she sings and happily expresses adoration for God and the Mass. We are so fortunate at St. Ursula to have such expertise and devotion to the music accompaniment of our worship.

Mothers Set the Standard & Teach by Example

For the past two school years, Erika Sliwinski, beloved grandmother of Angelina, Christiana and Martina Saldamarco, has been volunteering for the school behind the scenes by entering in the daily shopping certificates/ SCRIP sales and all other fundraising credit into an Access database, so that the school can provide families with detailed information about their fundraising assessment goals. Erika is a retired bookkeeper who emigrated from Germany, with her husband and son, over 40 years ago. Nicole says, "My mother has always been an extremely efficient person and she also always likes to keep busy. When she retired about 5 years ago, she offered to babysit Christiana at our house 2 days a week. It was a huge help and she loved it too. When Christiana was ready to start kindergarten, my mom thought she was done babysitting, and then we dropped the news, I was expecting our third daughter. She continues to babysit the girls two days a week, and in-between playing with Martina and feeding her lunch, she finds time to do our laundry! (No, I will not loan her out!) When the school fund raising committee was looking for someone to take over the data entry from the Davises, I thought of my mom --not because she had nothing to do--but because I knew she loves to be busy. She is very thorough, so I thought she'd be perfect. When I asked her, I prefaced it with, 'do not feel obligated, I'm just asking'. But as a true Mom, she stepped up to the task. The beginning was a little rocky, learning Access and how it works, but she did find it to be extremely easy and user friendly. I have to give her credit, she examines everything and it really bothers her when errors occur (since she is very thorough and responsible). I want to thank all of you who do ask questions about your assessment reports for being patient and understanding and for always thanking her. I think that it helps to make it a worthwhile experience for her. My Dad deserves credit too as he helps with printing and computer issues."

Mrs. Sliwinski attended the Volunteer Mass and reception where she was able to put faces to the names of the many people she serves. Thanks from all of us!

ing an increase in enrollment for the new school year. "It is wonderful to see our hard work pay off" says Susan McKee, Enrollment Management Chair. Our new families are being invited to join us for the play, last day of school picnic and move up day. If you see a new face at any of these events, please take a moment to welcome these new students to the St. Ursula Family. Increased enrollment not only helps to ensure a long future for our school but also provides financial security and enriches our school community with new families committed to our common values. Watch for an exciting opportunity to promote our school in the fall of 2009.

Principals for a Day

The winning bid for the Principal for a Day package at the Pot O' Gold live auction was made by the Szafranski Family. On May 6th, Anthony, Luke and Jacob assisted Sr. Joanita and Mrs. Leskovec with daily duties in the office. The boys helped deliver mail, recorded the attendance, made copies for teachers and said the afternoon prayer. They worked side-by-side with Sister Joanita and granted extra recess time for the students that day! The dress code was a jeans day with sports shirt and hat. Lunch for the day was Taco in a Bag or Hotdog. Both were chosen ahead of time by the winners.

St. Ursula Wish List Update – Promises Kept

The response to the OctoberWish list was wonderful! Many of our teachers received many items that help them on a daily basis. Most of the donations were from school families, but there were also donations from parishioners and local businesses. One parishioner walked into the school office and asked what she could donate to the school. She went out and bought a brand new, state of the art, computer for the office! Sister Joanita got the Wii that she wished for because one of the winners of the POG grand raffle donated his prize back to the school. Sister was able to exchange the prize for a Wii! We are truly blessed! The teachers were asked to make a list any new supplies that they needed this spring. If items that they requested were not purchased, the items are still listed under their name. You can find a complete list of items that have been received to date as well as the new wish list on our website www.stursulaschool.org. Click on the School Event Calendar tab and look under May.

St. Ursula Centennial Festival is May 25 ~ 30!

Rides, food, games, flea market, Grand Raffle Prizes, entertainment and more. Treat yourself and friends and neighbors to the first (and best) church festival of the year!

Student Life and Nutrition Group Sends You Off!

Come Friday June 5 to the Last Day of School Picnic on the school grounds, immediately following dismissal at 11am. Parents and siblings invited too! Regular buses will leave school at the 11am scheduled time.

Children staying for the picnic are responsible for their own transportation home. (There is no after school care on this day). The cost for lunch is: Students: \$2.75 (free and reduced lunches apply). Guests: \$3.50 If you are able to bring snacks or desserts--it would be most welcome. Games and fun included! Please let Student Life know if you will be staying so we can plan for lunch and activities.

School Library News

The St. Ursula School library was recently awarded the "Picturing America" bookshelf from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). This grant included 22 beautiful hardcover books with a value of over \$300. The library committee applied for the grant, which was awarded to 4,000 public and private libraries across the country. The library committee thanks the many families who donated books through our Birthday Book program. Dedicated books make wonderful tributes for students celebrating birthdays and special occasions. Consider making a last tribute to your child by donating a book in his or her name. Each book has a colorful book plate with your child's picture and name, plus a spine label indicating that it is a birthday book. Many students search our shelves for these special birthday books to see their pictures or pictures of classmates. Look for the birthday book envelope during the month of your child's birthday.

We also thank families for the generous book donations that came in this school year. We processed over 400 new and gently used books into our collection. This allowed us to remove many old and damaged books from our shelves. Our non-fiction section was recently revamped through a huge library committee project. We now have a wonderful collection of non-fiction that is easily accessible for our younger and older students. Many Thanks to: Melissa Colner for donating books to The St. Ursula Library in Brenna's name: *The Dinosaur Who Lost His Roar*, *Emperor and the Nightingale* and *Princess Polly and the Pony*. We also received 4 free books from the Usbourne on line e-fair.

The library committee is looking for new members for the 2009/2010 school year. No skills are required other than a willingness to learn and a love for books. We have spots open in new book processing, planning special programs, helping at the book fair, securing book donations, and decorating the library each month. Please contact Susan Michel, Colleen Ruefle, Ginny Szafranski, or Donna Wright with ideas and/or your offer to help. It is a great way to give back to the school and make a difference in your student's experience at St. Ursula School.

One final note – please consider donating your used books to St. Ursula School. If you clean off your shelves over the summer, please drop the books off at school. We won't take yellow-paged books or books with ripped covers. We also do not accept soft back picture books. But we will consider any other books, especially chapter books and hardcover books. Your donations are what keep our library sprouting!

Scout Corner

St. Ursula's Cub Scout Pack #674 recently wrapped up a great year of scouting with a cookout and Raingutter Regatta. After carefully designing, cutting, sanding & painting, the Pinewood Derby cars flew down the tracks as the scouts tried their hand at building a car from scratch to race. Camping at Guyasuta & Twin Echo provided a great opportunity for the boys to hike, fish, and enjoy the outdoors. The scouts went on numerous Go-See-Its (field trips) such as a tour of Consolidated Communications, Hampton Depreciation Lands Museum, a trip to Beaverun for Go Karts, bike rodeo, and much more. While touring the KDKA Radio Station, the pack was invited into a booth to watch scout Austin Shaw be part of a live radio talk show which could be heard in several surrounding states. New skills were learned as the scouts tried their hands at BB-guns and archery. With just a little practice they were hitting the targets with ease. In April the scouts participated in Scouting for Food by soliciting non-perishable food items and monetary donations during one weekend, before and after masses at St. Ursula. 670 food items and \$500 were collected and distributed to two local food banks. Pack #674 is planning for even more fun and great activities next year.



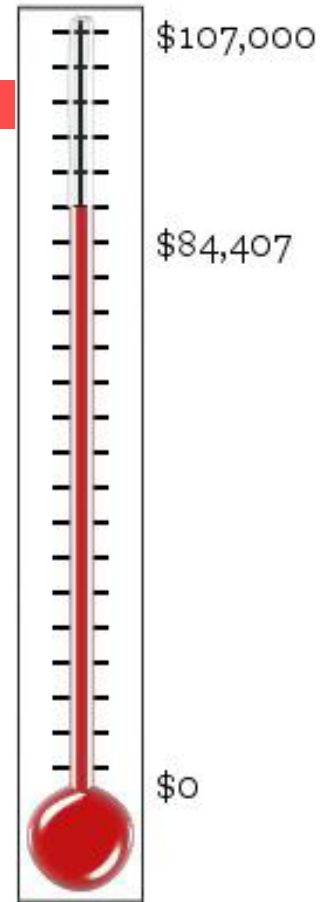


FUND RAISING UPDATE

Certificate Sales	\$14,656
Pot O' Gold.....	\$31,400
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	\$2,413
Lottery Calendars.....	\$7,135*
Gold Party	\$868
Sarris Christmas Candy.....	\$2,014
Sarris Easter Candy	\$2,093
Boxtops	\$1,168
Benefit Nights.....	\$335
Misc.	\$400
Vendor Fair (held 4/09).....	\$1,540
Bingo	\$11,000

* This is an estimate (5/09) until all payouts to winners have been made.

TOTAL \$ 84,407 **GOAL \$107,000**



Don't stop! We still have Bingo for the January – June period, certificate sales, Market Day and some Misc. items. We will reach our goal. All money over the goal will go directly to benefit the school and students. Look at the website for updates and the results. Thank you for your tireless and great support!

FINANCE UPDATE / PROPOSALS / GUIDANCE

Each parent recently received the tuition increase letter. The increase letter included tuition increases/decreases as follows:

- An increase of \$150 for the first child;
- An increase of \$50 for the second child;
- No increase for the 3rd child;
- We reduced the 4th child tuition to be in line with competing schools.

The letter also explained the change in our fundraising assessment. Although we increased the overall assessment amount from \$450 to \$500, we reduced the limit you need to attain in order to receive tuition credit. In prior years, you needed to earn fundraising credits of \$600 before receiving tuition credit, now it's only \$500. Once you reach \$500, 50% will be credited against your next year's tuition. (Example: You raise \$1,000 in fundraising during 2009/10; you will receive a \$250 credit toward 2010/11 tuition.) If you have an eighth grade student, we will credit your final payment.

If the \$500 fundraising assessment is not met by April 30, 2010, you will receive a bill for any difference. This bill needs to be paid in full by June 1, 2010. This is part of your current year tuition and must be paid by the end of the school year.

On the horizon:

Tuition Payments - We are investigating a different tuition payment service as we understand many parents are not happy with the customer service of SmartTuition. We would also like to STRESS the importance of TIMELY tuition payments. If we don't receive your payments, we do not have the cash to pay payroll and other bills.

Report Card - The finance committee is developing a parent "progress report" for the upcoming school year. This "progress report" will provide balances owed for tuition, cafeteria, fundraising, afterschool, etc. If any other monies are owed, this will be included on the progress report. There will be increased attention paid to any outstanding balances throughout the year. The plan is to provide this report to parents quarterly.

Fundraising Goal Counseling – The finance committee will host small group sessions to counsel new families (and/or established families) on the various fundraising programs available during the year and how to plan to help us reach the fundraising goal. They will work closely with the fund raising committee to provide all that is necessary to keep our school fiscally sound.

Spring Musical Review

Seussical, Jr. was live at our school for two outstanding performances, May 15 and 16 at school as well opened at the State Capitol on April 1. We are lucky to have such a dedicated group of teachers and parents to provide this experience for our students. Mrs. Cross directed and choreographed and Prof. Coury was the musical director. Look for pictures and cast and program list on our website.

All Aboard!

The 7th and 8th grade students are excited about going on their field trip this year to Washington, D.C. Our field trip is scheduled for May 27th. We have a very busy schedule to fill our day.

The Washington Mall (All the various memorial walls)

The Capitol--With a tour included

The Arlington Cemetery

The FDR memorial

The WWII memorial

A tram ride

The Holocaust Museum

One of the Smithsonian museums (if time permits)

The Eighth Grade is particularly excited about visiting the Holocaust museum because it relates to our recent studies in Literature class. We read the novel *Night*, by Elie Weisel. Elie was a teenager during World War II living in Sighet, Transylvania. Elie and his entire family were evacuated and transported to Auschwitz. Elie and his father managed to stay together during much of their stay in the camps until his father passed away towards the end of their ordeal. Elie writes about his experience during this time. The students also did research on Concentration Camps, making posters to show and present to their classmates. We hope to have great weather and enjoyable as well as enriching day.

On May 21, two groups of students from the seventh and eighth grades will be attending the English Festival at Duquesne University. Throughout the year, the students are independently reading six novels. They will compete with many schools throughout Pennsylvania by answering trivia questions based on the novels, playacting scenes from the novels, and other surprise activities. The teams are: Grade 8 - Rachel Durkot, Jane Poorbaugh, Megan Andrews, Claire Connell - Grade 7, Ryan Whelan, Tina Stelitano, Sarah Regan, Jaime Borner, Maggie Wilson **Wish them Luck!!!**

The Lobby Bulletin Boards Year Long Project by Mrs. Lehmeier

"The Church was asked last year to honor St. Paul. Sister Joanita requested that we incorporate one of our greatest gifts from the teachings of St. Paul, the Fruits of the Spirit, into our school life this year. The boards emerged from that directive. You may have noticed that the theme of each board has been a Fruit of the Spirit. St. Paul related the Fruits to the Galatians when he was traveling around spreading the Faith. He wanted us to know that these are the character traits which are the keys to making our lives a reflection of Christ living in us, the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit telling us what we need to do to grow as Christians. I read recently a description of people as being 'under construction'. The Spirit never leaves well enough alone. It's always working to make us better. I hope the boards have helped to remind us as individuals, and as the St. Ursula School faith community, to strive to model Christ in our lives."

On a Musical Note

Mothers and Grandmothers of second and third grade students will be entertained by their children performing Hansel and Gretel on May 26th at 2:00pm under the direction and instruction of Prof. Coury.

Band Honors

Three of our fifth grade band students were selected to participate in the PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) District 1 Honors Band. Erica Davis, Eric Hanson and Matt McLoughlin joined 133 other 5th and 6th grade musicians from 64 schools in the District 1 region. Quaker Valley High School was the host school for this year's Band Fest. The students were selected to this prestigious group based on nominations from our band director Mrs. Chambers. After hours of practice at home and school the students spent all day Friday and Saturday morning practicing with the group under the direction of guest conductor and accomplished composer, Michael Grady. Parents and guests were treated to a wonderful concert that afternoon. Congratulations Matt, Erica and Eric.



Junior Achievement

The eighth grade students will team teach K – 4th grades all day on May 26 with the instructions and packets they received from the JA program. Last year our school received a \$600 grant for the many years of participation we have tenured. The topics for the classes will be Kindergarten - Ourselves, First Grade - Our Family, Second Grade - Our Community, Third Grade - Our City, Fourth Grade - Our Region.

Teacher Appreciation Week

St. Ursula celebrated Teacher Appreciation week May 4-8. The Student Life committee planned a week of special treats for the teachers and staff. On Monday they received trays of bagels and cream cheese and a fridge full of cold drinks. On Tuesday, a basket of grab 'n go snacks was available for all staff in the teachers' lounge. On Wednesday, each staff member received a special delivery of a lunch cooler filled with spring survival items. The highlight of the week was the Luncheon on Thursday. Fr. Dorsey graciously allowed the committee to use the rectory dining room. Food was provided and served by parents. Several parents covered the teachers' lunch and recess duties so the teachers could attend the luncheon together. Fr. Dorsey, Fr. Ernie, Joyce Carney and Mrs. Bossong also enjoyed the luncheon! A raffle was held after the luncheon and 7 staff members won prizes. On Friday, the teachers' lounge was filled with a large variety of baked goodies. The committee worked together to make the week very special for our VERY SPECIAL staff!



Thank you to our Student Life Committee; Colleen Ruefle, Jada Donato and Amy Valenty

Buddy Families are needed for the 2009-2010 school year

All new St. Ursula families are partnered with a veteran buddy family to provide another resource for information about our school. It is a great way to welcome and meet the new parents. Being a "Buddy" does not require much time but you are asked to provide your email or phone number so they can contact you if they have questions. No studying required – you already know the answers: dress code for a jeans day, where do I park? procedure for lunch payment, and on and on. If you are interested, please email Amy Valenty, mikamy@verizon.net, or contact the office.

State of Our School from SAC

The inaugural year of our School Advisory Council is quickly coming to a close. Can our kids really be another year older already? Hopefully, we are all a bit wiser. This first year of the SAC has taught us plenty. Opening communication channels between all of our core committees and involving the talents and energy of so many has benefited the school in so many ways. Our new Ready K program, a projected enrollment increase, active social and athletic communities, and fiscal accountability for all committees are wonderful examples of the improvements and growth this year at St. Ursula School. I am happy to announce that many of our current SAC members are returning for a second year but we always have room for parents who are committed to the mission. If you would like to have a part in shaping the future of our school, please consider joining us in the new year. You can do so by contacting any SAC member directly.

As part of our charter plan, we committed to ending the year with some candid feedback from our families about the impact of the SAC. You will find a short survey below that we would appreciate you completing and returning to the office. It can be done completely anonymously. It will provide us important information to build with next year.

Susan McKee SAC president 2009



DID WE CLEARLY EXPLAIN:	Yes	No	Don't know
How the SAC works in conjunction with the Pastor and Principal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our objectives in the formation of the council?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our objectives for the current school year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DID WE COMMUNICATE:			
Our progress on issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our progress on a regular schedule?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DID YOU FEEL:			
You had the opportunity to voice your concerns?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
You had the opportunity to attend meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your views and concerns were represented?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to explain or expand on any answers please feel free to add additional comments on a separate piece of paper and staple it to your responses. Thank you, we appreciate the time you took to take this survey and assure you your opinions will be reviewed with open minds and grateful hearts!

Back to Business!

Michael V. Jaconski, D.M.D.

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