

Wildcat Weekly

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S LAIR

OCTOBER 2, 2006

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Peter's,

Last Tuesday our parish and school community celebrated the life of Mrs. Sarah McPherson, our Director of Faith Formation. It was a beautiful liturgy that brought out Sarah's faith in the Lord as the Resurrection and the Life. It also celebrated her presence among us for twenty years and how she used her God-given gifts to bring countless of people, especially our children, closer to the Lord Jesus. I know that the Mass was a great source of comfort and peace for Bill, her husband, and their five children. I wish to thank so many of our room moms and other parents who graciously volunteered their time to substitute for our faculty and staff, so that many of us could attend the Mass of Christian Burial. Thank you for your gift to all of us!

On last Thursday evening and Friday our faculty gathered with all of the Catholic educators from our diocese and from the Diocese of Charlotte in Greensboro for a professional day. It was an extraordinary sign of the life and spirit of Catholic education in the State of North Carolina. The growth of the Catholic Church in our State is phenomenal! Bishop Michael Burbidge has come to us from Philadelphia—in an area of the country where Bishops are closing schools or consolidating them. Here he encounters a Church that is growing in leaps and bounds! New parishes and new schools are the order of the day! We are privileged to be part of this movement and growth. The professional day was filled with much joy as all of us celebrated the wonderful work that our Catholic schools are doing in North Carolina. I spoke to Bishop Peter Jugis, the Bishop of Charlotte, about our school. He was delighted to hear about our growth as a school and the impact we are making on Catholic education in eastern North Carolina. He was especially impressed with the size of our school and the wonderful work of our faculty and our parents! As the Principal, I was so pleased to be able to speak so highly of our children, our families, and our faculty/staff. I know that the conference was very uplifting and served as a source of encouragement for our faculty, who like our parents, give so generously and make many sacrifices for our school and our beloved children! I hope that all of our parents realize what a truly professional and experienced group of teachers and staff serves you and your children throughout the school year. We have been trained to accept this marvelous vocation of bringing children closer to Christ and in providing them with the necessary academic tools to be successful at higher levels of education. What a joy it is to be a Catholic school teacher—especially here at St. Peter's!

Starting on Wednesday, 4th October and running through Friday, 13th October, we will be administering the diocesan mandated ITBS and COGAT to our children. Please note that only Grades 2 and 5 take the COGAT. These standardized tests are given to assist the school administration and faculty in determining better means of assisting our

students to be academically successful. Often the tests can lead to new and better programs or new approaches to academic learning. Hopefully, they demonstrate that all of our students have grown in some important aspects of education, namely, reading and math. At St. Peter's we look very carefully at each student's scores to identify strengths and weaknesses—both of the student and our curriculum. I remind parents that these scores are “indicators.” They are never to be viewed as the only way of assessing a student's academic progress. Some children excel in these types of tests and others do not (just think of SAT scores). The ITBS and COGAT are only one way of giving a true picture of a student's academic growth. The scores will be sent to you with explanation after we receive them. To help our students, please make sure that they get a good night's sleep and a good breakfast! It does make a difference!

The Halloween Carnival is right around the corner!

May God bless you and your families...John Fencik

DEVELOPMENT NEWS:

You did it!! Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$27,000. We had the highest percentage rate (74%) the company has seen in quite some time. It is the first time in 32 years that a school has raised more money the second year!! You've done a great job and I can't thank you enough!!

MAIN EVENT

The Main Event will be held on Friday, October 20th (the morning of the carnival). If you would like to help that morning from 9:30-12:30, please call the front office and leave your name and phone number.

We will have the list of games that will take place in each classroom and per grade level in the next Wildcat Weekly.

This year, we will be having a Haunted House!! It will be in the Friary and it will be Scary! Admittance will be \$3.00 per person.

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR NEWS:

- Progress Reports will be distributed on Tuesday, October 3rd.
- 8th Grade Nut Day Wednesday, October 4th
- ITBS & COGAT Testing begins October 5th.
- NO Chess Club on Tuesday October 3rd.

*****ALL SCHOOL MASS on Friday, October 6th** will be at 9:30***note new time. Please come and join us in prayer.

SPORTS NEWS:

Next football game: Wednesday, October 4th at South Lenoir HS. Wildcats vs. Woodington game starts at 6:00 PM.

Congratulations to the Lady Wildcats Volleyball Team on their second victory of the season as they defeated Greene County on Wednesday afternoon! Go, Wildcats!!!

Next volleyball game will be Monday, October 2nd at home, Wildcats vs. Woodington game starts at 4:00 PM.

MUSIC NEWS:

During this week of COGAT testing, vocal ensembles will meet on their normal day from 7:45-8:05, in order to enable the students to be settled and ready for the testing time.

Congratulations to Kaylee McCord and Alexandra Price who were selected by audition for the North Carolina Elementary Honors Chorus!!!