



November 27, 2007

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A portion of Bishop Burbidge's Homily Thanksgiving Day Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral November 22, 2007

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise." These words we say at every Mass have particular meaning today. As a Church and nation, and as families and individuals, we are reminded of the countless reasons for our gratitude. We are thankful for the precious gifts of life and faith; of freedom; of the special people God has placed in our lives and of all the comforts we enjoy. I express today renewed thanks to the Lord for the blessing of being the Bishop of this wonderful Diocese and for the love and support of you, my brother priests, and of you, my dear friends in Christ.

This homily is published on the Diocese of Raleigh website and can also be viewed in its entirety at this site.
www.dioceseofraleigh.org

News from the Principal's Lair

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Peter's,

ANNUAL FUND

Over the past three years much has been accomplished for our school children due to your generous response to the fund raising efforts of Mrs. Fencik, our Development Director. That generosity has continued this year in your support of Mrs. Hudson's efforts as well.

Your response to our *Annual Fund* appeal is also crucial to further improvements. The State of North Carolina currently states that it costs over \$6,600 to educate a child in the state school system. You already know that we provide a much better overall program, including spiritual and moral development, at a much lower cost. I have attempted to keep the tuition and fees cost as efficient as possible. I have been able to maintain a balanced budget without using your generous gifts to our fundraisers and the *Annual Fund*. It is those gifts that enable us to make necessary improvements without significantly raising the tuition or fee schedule.

The *Annual Fund* provides much needed funds to continue my efforts to improve the facilities and to provide better educational equipment to our faculty and staff. All of your gifts to this appeal directly affect the learning environment for our school children—your sons and daughters. You will be receiving shortly an *Annual Fund* letter from Mrs. Micheala Fencik, the *Annual Fund* Director. I ask you to again be generous to this appeal, so that I may continue to work with the faculty/staff and with you, our parents, to have a school community that continues a tradition of sixty-one years of excellence in education.

IOWA TEST RESULTS

In a week or so we will be forwarding to you the parent copy of the *COGAT* and *Iowa Test* results. These standardized tests were taken in the first week of October.

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Please remember that these scores must always be placed in the context of the student's overall performance. This includes the report card, progress reports, participation, homework, and classroom behavior. The scores you receive help the administration and faculty to review our academic programs. It also helps the Diocese of Raleigh review the standard course of study that it mandates to all of the schools of the Diocese.

The University of Iowa folks who prepare and score these standardize tests occasionally revise the tests and the SCORING NORMS. They realize that after a certain period of time, schools can adjust their teaching curriculum and methods to the types of material that appear on the tests. Thus after a few years the scores for a student and a school may become skewed. The tests are then revised and the SCORING NORMS are changed. In other words, they raise the bar on the questions and the SCORING NORMS.

For many years the Diocese of Raleigh used norms that came from the year 2000. Those norms were adjusted in 2005. The Principals decided to use the newer norms for this year's tests. (The *COGAT* did not change!) In the University of Iowa's review of the differences, there was not any significant change in a student's score when compared with the 2000 norms. In fact, in Middle School it was negligible. In the other grades it may have shown a 1% or 2% difference. When reading your child's scores, please keep that in mind. Please make that mental adjustment when comparing scores from previous years. Our school will review all the scores and use them to make adjustments

CONGRATULATIONS

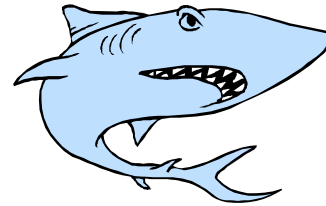
On Monday evening our football team met in the school cafeteria for their annual awards dinner. The team finished 6-1 this year—an outstanding season. I congratulate Coach Joe Blick and his staff for this season. Their commitment to our young men is deeply appreciated by all of us. They certainly teach the boys much more than just X's and O's. The players are to be congratulated for their commitment—long practices, road trips, missed classes (to be made up), and striving to maintain good grades. They did it all! I also wish to thank our parents who support this program by their presence and driving to the away games. Without them we could never run this program! Congratulations to everyone for a great season!

God bless you and your families...

John Fencik
Principal

Math Sharks

In case you missed this last week. There is a new math enrichment program for our middle school. The program is designed to promote and develop problem-solving skills and higher level thinking skills in our students. The problems, which come from both Math Superstars and Math Olympiads, are designed to get the students to think “out-of-the-box” in order to solve math problems. While this is a voluntary program, we encourage all students to participate.



There will be 2 sheets available each week for the students who choose to participate – one from Math Superstars and one from Math Olympiads. The students are encouraged to try every problem and **show their work**. Students may discuss their thinking process with their parents and get some guidance on ways to solve it, but parents should not give the answers. The process of the thinking involved in solving these problems is what is most important.

There will be incentives given out to the students who complete the worksheets throughout the year.

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| 4 worksheets | Coupon for a treat in the cafeteria (up to \$.75) |
| 8 worksheets | Giant Candy Bar |
| 16 worksheets | NUT day (date to be determined by Mr. Fencik) |
| 20 worksheets | Pizza Party |
| 30 worksheets | NUT day AND No homework pass or a “Get out of Cafeteria Duty for a week” pass |
| 35 worksheets | Trip to Bojangles for lunch |
| 40 worksheets | Special Recognition at Awards Ceremony and Surprise Gift Certificate (place and amount to be announced) |

We hope you will encourage your child to participate in this program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Maria Moloney, Math Sharks Coordinator at 353-7064 or maria@firehorn.com.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Thursday, November 29

Club Pictures

Friday, November 30

Mass 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 6

Primary Music Program

**Master Basketball Schedule has been posted on the website under
Athletics - Basketball**

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