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Principal's Corner

Mr. Swanson

THANKSGIVING

The months of September, October, and November are simply a blur in my mind. It is difficult to comprehend how quickly these months have passed. The children, parents, faculty, and staff have accomplished so much during this time period that it seems we have been on a treadmill set at its fastest pace! From an academic perspective, the children and teachers have adhered to a schedule that would boggle your mind. Consider the following:

The regular grade-level curriculum is jam-packed with skills, concepts, and factual information each child is required to learn. Now, add in the following events that are designed to enhance the curriculum and help us develop well-rounded students:

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten orientation; The Block Party;
School Liturgies; Back-to-School Breakfast; Back-to-School Night;
High School Information Night; High School Placement Tests;
Board Meetings; Student Council Elections and Installation;
Fall Shopping Night; Walking Club; Enrichment Programs;
Halloween Celebration; School Pictures; Teddy Bear Project;
Christmas Fair; Quiz Bowl Practice; Basketball; National Honor Societies;
Eighth graders reading the story of the First Thanksgiving to their
second grade buddies; Clothing and Food Drives; and who could forget
Ballroom Dancing on Tuesdays!

How teachers and parents were able to accomplish all of this during the first three months of school is a testament to their expertise and dedication to making Saint Patrick School a place where children can receive a superior educational experience. I thank God daily for the happiness I feel being the Principal. I am truly blessed.

However – and there is always a “however” or a “yes, but” that invariably follows such comments - amid all this hustle and bustle, I periodically remind the children, as well as myself, to take time to think about all that we have, all the wonderful vacations, clothes, toys, games, etc., and try to remember what is truly important. The following prayer was shared at a meeting I attended recently. Perhaps you might choose to read it on Thanksgiving Day when your loved ones are gathered around the table.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

GIVE THANKS

Great God, giver of all good gifts, we ask You, above all, on each day and especially on Thanksgiving Day, to give us truly grateful hearts. May we give thanks for the beauty all around

us, in Your creation, in our relationships, in our families, and in our workplaces and our schools. May we never take for granted the daily gifts of good food and good friends, but always enjoy them with thanksgiving.

Thank You, too, for the comfort of our homes, for the blessings of our family life, and for the richness of our school communities. And, though we sometimes feel the heavy weight of our burdens and cares, thank You for the grace to see them through.

When we come to the end of each day, may our hearts still be grateful and hopeful and our prayer full of thanksgiving. Amen

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Stoffel

Mrs. Keegan

What a wonderful start to our year! All twenty of us have been practicing our social skills, sharing toys and waiting to take turns. By October, we were comfortable with our daily routine. We sign into class every day and love to make job choices. The calendar and weather jobs require number and pattern recognition, one to one correspondence with left to right directionality and the use of our observational skills. We sing songs about the days of the week, months of the year and the seasons. Having fun with language is a daily delight with our pick a poem/song job.

Our Pre-K work is small group and center based. Centers include the sand table, sensory table, moon sand center, play-doh, dramatic play, drawing and writing, puzzles and books.

In Religion, we have completed our first unit learning that we are each unique and wonderfully made by God. The stories and songs about our five senses included an individually created book that we are just finishing.

In Literacy, along with our variety of seasonal read aloud books each day, we are working on the Alphatales series of books from Scholastic. The books celebrate one letter each week providing lots of opportunity to practice the corresponding letter sound.

In Handwriting, we create free hand illustrations to strengthen our muscles and we practice the proper way to form all the letters that we know or are learning.

In Math, we have been exploring non-standard measurements, pattern and number sense, a variety of shapes and counting (1-10, including ordinal numbers).

In Science (otherwise known as Discovery Friday), we have explored mixing colors, compared liquids and solids, discovered that some objects sink in water and some float, magically painted with “mystery paint”, explored why the leaves change their colors and found out what is inside a pumpkin. There will be so much more to discover as our year unfolds.

Thanks to Mrs. Holland and Mrs. Skinner, our buddies have been so helpful. Whenever there is Mass, we sit with our buddies who are great role models! We also join them for seasonal activities. In September, we made an **All About Us** book. In October, we made Halloween bears and in November we made “Thankful Turkey” placemats.

Another first for Pre-K is that we have our own computer class! Our other specials are art, music and gym, all of which are great additions to our Pre-K experiences.

Wishing for you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Kindergarten A

Mrs. Hambrecht

Mrs. Williams

Our kindergarteners are adapting well to their kindergarten routines. Their listening and direction-following skills are becoming stronger each week. The children are learning to share materials, wait their turn, be kind to all their classmates, and become independent. They are using their words to help solve problems.

We started our year reading fairy tales. There was much enthusiasm about the classic **Gingerbread Boy**. No sooner did we meet him than he began to run as fast as he could. We decided he was quite the rascal! As we searched for him, the children became familiar with the classrooms in their building, Mrs. Anderson’s sixth grade room (where their buddies are), Mr. Swanson’s office and Mrs. Kelley’s office. The kindergarteners even searched the kitchen of the Rectory and found the Gingerbread Boy in a kitchen cabinet! (We think Fr. Bill and Deacon Frank enjoyed our visit as much as the children!) Fr. Bill then treated each child to a gingerbread cookie. It was great fun for all.

In literacy, the children practiced their names in rainbow colors, beans, stamping and tracing. Their lower case writing is improving every day. We worked on recognizing letters and continue to learn letter sounds. The children did a great job on word webs. The letter books provide much reinforcement of the concepts of print. The children are learning the high frequency words *like, a, I, the, and, see we*. We are learning what authors and illustrators are as well as characters, a title and a title page. The children are beginning to retell stories read aloud. The poetry charts that we read are now moving into their poetry folders. We’re quite proud of them. The Worldly Wise Program expands their vocabulary and supports sequencing of events in a story.

In math, we count higher each week. This week, the children counted to 100 and skip counted by ten and fives. We are focusing on number recognition to 20, positional words, sorting and classifying, graphing, shapes, and patterns. Number formation is coming along well. We continue to use many manipulatives to help understand the value of numbers. “Under the Cup” and “Monster Squeeze” are favorite math games.

I Am Special is the name of the religion series. The children are experiencing new lessons with the character Peter Matthews and his family. They learn to appreciate themselves, family, friends, and

nature. The sacrament of baptism was introduced and role played and the children visited St. Patrick Church and saw the Baptismal Font. We are enjoying your children's photos of their baptism. Each month, our kindergarteners attend Mass with their sixth grade buddies. They are doing a wonderful job! We practice the Our Father and say grace daily. We are learning songs sung at Mass.

Fall has been a great time to experience science. Apples, leaves, and pumpkins were a focus and family field trips were discussed. We estimated how many pounds our class pumpkin weighed and how many lines were on it. We went on a nature walk with our buddies; then, we sorted and graphed the items collected. We completed a unit on the five senses.

A highlight of Halloween was having Mr. Swanson visit our classroom. He read **It's The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown** by Charles Schultz. The kindergarteners searched for a pumpkin patch and found one in our playground! Each one selected a pumpkin to take home. Some of you may have seen our picture in the local newspaper. You may view our slide show on the St. Patrick website under Student Life, then School Happenings.

The Halloween parade was great fun. Reading scary stories, making our own book, playing games and singing songs completed the day. Now, the children are absorbing so much about Thanksgiving. We have several activities planned including a book to illustrate, art projects, poems and a play. We hope our children and their families have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Kindergarten B

Mrs. Janice

Mrs. Dolan

This year Kindergarten B was welcomed to St. Patrick School by Mrs. Janice, Mrs. Dolan, and, by our own little rascal, the Gingerbread Man. In keeping with a long standing St. Patrick School tradition, he led us on a merry chase throughout the school. He would disappear without warning and we would have to search high and low for him. In our search the children explored both Father Millerick Hall and Monsignor Sexton Hall. He was found in Mrs. Kelley's office, Mr. Swanson's office, the Nurse's office and in Mrs. Ens' second grade classroom. It was a great way for the children to become familiar with the school and meet the staff. During this time we read **The Gingerbread Man, The Gingerbread Boy, The Gingerbread Baby, Gingerbread Friends, The Gingerbread Cowboy and The Gingerbread Girl**. We had fun comparing and contrasting the stories.

This year Mr. Swanson read **It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown** by Charles Shultz. We discovered a pumpkin patch right outside our window and each child got to take home a pumpkin. It was great!

Our day starts with the morning message from Mrs. Janice and Mrs. Dolan foretelling what our day will bring. We work on calendar concepts including the days of the week, counting the days on the calendar and using straws to illustrate place value as we keep track of how many days we have been in school. We add another number to our green and yellow caterpillar each day. We make a bar graph using our weather calendar to illustrate how many days of each kind of weather we have had at the end

of every month. The children enjoy keeping track of the weather and it sharpens their math skills.

Our math lessons have centered on sorting, classification and building, recognizing and replicating patterns. We are learning positional words, ordinal numbers and logical reasoning. We are counting by tens and by ones to one hundred.

In reading we have been working on upper and lower case letter and sound recognition. Our word wall contains the words of, I, a, the, and, and like. The children are very excited when they find the words in their quiet reading time books, the morning message, our read alouds and in our poetry. We are also working on proper letter formation in our handwriting lessons. The children are on their way to becoming readers and writers.

In religion we are having a great time learning our lessons with felt board stories, prayers and songs. Our lessons include how we are each special to God, how we become members of God's family through baptism, and that God created all of us and the world in which we live. We are thankful for all God's gifts. The children love hearing the stories of Jesus' life. Father Bill presented our class with **The Beautiful Story of Jesus**. It is one of our favorites.

In science we learned about how apples and pumpkins grow. We even made applesauce and toasted pumpkin seeds. We learned about raccoons and other nocturnal animals. Now we are exploring living and non-living things and their characteristics. We learned about Siamese fighting fish because we have one as a class pet. His name is Darth Betta.

The children get to do many special things beyond the classroom. They attend Mass and do special projects with their sixth grade buddies from Mrs. Magazzu's class. They also have art with Mr. Anderson, physical education with Ms. Johnston, technology with Ms. Savino, music with Mr. Evans and library with Mrs. Bialock. We are looking forward to a wonderful year together!

Grade 1A

Mrs. McDade

The air is crisp, the leaves have fallen, and the geese have flown south. Summer days are but memory. Here in Grade 1A at St. Patrick School students are bustling along adapting to all of the changes of being a first grader. They have been as busy as beavers engaged in all kinds of activities.

Students have been working diligently in Reading. The new reading series by Houghton Mifflin has a variety of wonderful literature. It also has a vast amount of online sources which is utilized daily. Pupils have read many stories and have learned new skills and concepts. They have learned vocabulary strategies such as classifying and categorizing. Some comprehension skills and strategies studied were characterization, story structure, sequence of events, details, inferencing, predicting, analyzing, and text and graphic features. Phonics lessons revolve around phonemic awareness, decoding and encoding. Students have studied all short vowels and blends. They love to use the white boards to help them decipher new sounds and words.

Students have also put lots of effort into Grammar lessons. They have learned about capitalization,

punctuation, and sentence structure. They have learned about statements, nouns, verbs, and adjectives. They have utilized all of these concepts. They have written poems, stories, letters, and journal pieces. They really enjoy using the Smartboard to further practice skills.

Math is a favorite subject for many pupils. Math skills taught were numerization, patterns, addition, subtraction, greater and less than, problem solving, and graphing. The class converted quite a few tally graphs into pictographs. They especially liked making a "Favorite Thanksgiving Day Foods" bar graph and, of course, turkey led the way!

Science is exciting and challenging. Everyone has been observing, discovering, and creating. Some of the themes the children have explored are farm animals, apples, fall changes, leaves and trees, fire safety, bats, and hibernation. Each week we read non-fiction books about each topic and learn interesting facts, thoughts, and ideas about them.

In Social Studies, students studied people, maps, places, holidays, and important historical facts. They learned about John Chapman (Aka Johnny Appleseed), Christopher Columbus, Dr. Seuss, Maurice Sendak, the Pilgrims, and Squanto. They also gained knowledge about Labor Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.

Religion is a pertinent subject. Our school motto ("to act justly, love and serve one another, and walk humbly with God") goes along nicely with our religion book. The students focused on doctrine, worship, and Catholic life. They learned about the creed, sacramental rites, the Mass, the Church's traditions, and about the lives of saints.

As you can see, all of the students have been working hard! Now Christmas is fast approaching and the children are looking forward to the Pageant. They are eagerly awaiting Jesus' Birthday and cannot wait to reenact that first Christmas in Bethlehem. May everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Grade 1B

Mrs. Dzedziak

Fall greetings from Grade 1B!

First grade hopes that this newsletter finds you all happy and well. We would like to take this time to welcome a few new friends to the Saint Patrick Family. We are so glad that you are with us Lily, Julia and Ethan!

September started off with a celebration of the apple. We read many stories pertaining to the delicious fruit. We also kicked off our science/social studies unit on farms with the story **Apple Farmer Annie**. We learned about the many types of farms that exist to bring us not only fruits and vegetables, but also honey, meat and dairy.

October brought about the study of Columbus and his historic voyage. We also learned all about zipping, zapping, and zooming bats. We continued our study of maps that began in September. We even used the cardinal directions when we were making our giant pumpkin decorations.

November is for studying the Pilgrims and the community that they started right in our very own state.

We will be taking a look at the role children played in that community of so few.

In religion we learned about our place in the church community. We also learned about the items we see before us every Sunday at the front of the church and what these items are used for. (We still think saying ‘tabernacle’ is pretty fun.) On our tour of the church we had a surprise visit from Father Bill. He taught us to look very carefully at clues the artists leave for us in the beautiful windows that grace our church. We are now reading stories from the Bible and learning what God wants us to do and how we can make ourselves available to Him.

In math we are moving through addition and subtraction with ease and have conquered graphing. Keep on practicing those flash cards!

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving!

Grade 2A

Mrs. Barisano

The children in Grade 2A began the new school year by making our traditional time capsules. Inside each capsule was placed a tracing of our hands and feet, a sample of our best handwriting, some difficult math facts, a piece of yarn that showed our height, and a drawing of our favorite summer activity. At the end of the first day the time capsules were sealed in a box which will not be opened until the last day of school.

Our next group project entailed reading a poem about a group of children who joined together to work and play with each other throughout the school year. The students realized they were the children in that poem. Working together with a new friend, they made paper plate faces of themselves while learning more about their new friend.

Our new reading series became a great hit with the children. They loved all the activities and stories they could work on with the Smartboard. One of the lessons taught us about contractions. We became so good with these contractions that we decided to work towards earning a license to perform “Contraction Surgery”. When the day finally arrived, the doctors put on their surgical masks and gloves. With assistance from the surgical nurses, the doctors cut up the two words and joined them as a contraction. What a success we had! Can not became can’t, he is became he’s, and I am became I’m just to name a few of our successes. Congratulations to all the young surgeons who performed surgery that day.

Finally, the last day of September arrived and the students had their first shopping day. Any student who earned classroom money which equaled a dollar or more could shop in our classroom store. Most students made very wise purchases, but a few decided to save until next month.

When October arrived, we decided to continue the tradition of the haunted house bulletin board. Each student transformed a gift box into the spookiest of rooms. Tacking each room together, we were able to make a fifteen room mansion and three graveyards. Our haunted house will remain up until the Tuesday before Thanksgiving so feel free to come and visit. When you arrive you will even see the Halloween creation Mr. Anderson, our art teacher, helped us make for the bulletin board outside our

classroom. He showed us how to make bats and a rising moon. After gluing all of these creations on orange paper, he taught us how to blow black paint onto the paper thus creating a very spooky evening. Thanks, Mr. Anderson! We love having art with you.

Science, our most favorite subject, became even more exciting when we performed our first experiment. We wanted to prove that air takes up space. First, we carefully filled a container with water. Then we placed a paper towel inside a cup. Next, we turned the cup upside down and submerged it in the water. Last, we removed the cup from the water, expecting the paper towel to be wet. How could it not be wet? To our great surprise, it not only remained dry, but it even stayed inside the cup. Once we got over the surprising results, we began to think about what was preventing our paper towel from getting wet. We came up with the discovery that air was trapped between the paper towel and the water thus preventing the paper towel from becoming saturated by the water. It seemed like magic, but it was not. It was science! We just proved that air really does take up space. Our paper towel would be forever dry as long as we did not give the air in the cup a chance to escape.

Soon October slipped away and November arrived bringing Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims into our lives. Early in the month, we talked about the Mayflower and our trip to the New World. Since we could only bring a few items with us, we put a lot of thought into our choices. Finally making our decisions, we packed our trunks, received our Pilgrim names, and boarded the Mayflower. As the days went by, we kept a diary of our voyage. Finally, the day arrived when we found land. What will be ahead of us? We do not know. We do know our journey will continue throughout November and will culminate with a feast just before Thanksgiving. We are grateful to all who helped us on our way. Thanks to the mothers who helped with the feast and to our eighth grade buddies for the exciting stories they read to us about the Pilgrims. This adventure will never be forgotten.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Grade 2B

Mrs. Ens

When the students of Class 2B entered Room 19 on the first day of school, each second grader found an initial waiting on his or her desk. It was the initial of the first letter in his or her name, and their first task was to color it. Over the course of the next few days, we thought some more about our names – we created graphs to show the number of letters and syllables each of our names had, as well as discovering the meaning behind our given names. We learned that our parents had chosen our names for specific reasons, knowing that we were all special and unique individuals. It was this foundation that began our study of the theme “E Pluribus Unum.”

As we continued on this journey, we found that there were many other ways in which we were different from our classmates. The second graders considered how they had different hair colors, eye colors, interests, personalities, strengths and weaknesses. But, despite our differences, we also found some similarities – we are all Saint Patrick School students, we are all second graders, we are all human beings, and we are all God’s children. Over the course of the next few weeks, the students were able to explain how “From many, we are one,” just as St. Paul states in his letter about the body of Christ. We realized that we must work together as members of our classroom community, and beyond that, as

members of Christ's body, and use our strengths and talents for good.

The days and weeks passed by quickly, for we were so busy with all the new ideas and new skills we were acquiring. As we got to know one another better, our class began to really live as a community, helping each other and growing closer day by day. Reading is a subject that the students have truly enjoyed. We have become a true reading community and each day the students are "buzzing" about books, discussing and recommending books they have read. We are becoming better readers and building our skills through independent, shared, group and whole-class reading activities. I am so proud of the children for how they have embraced reading and for the strides they are making each day!

In math, the students have explored subjects such as estimating, addition and subtraction properties, fact families, graphing and probability, growing and repeating patterns, and place value. They have grown in their number sense and worked hard using addition and subtraction strategies to practice their facts. Soon they will be ready to add two-digit numbers!

The students have also enjoyed studying matter in science. We learned about how matter makes up everything that we see, and discovered the three states of matter. In one lesson, the students loved "being" the molecules in a solid, liquid and gas. They also explored whether objects will sink or float. We can't wait to continue with this fun unit!

Second grade is a special year for many reasons. One of the most important parts of the year is getting ready to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. After studying Baptism and how they were welcomed into the Church, the students in Grade 2B became familiar with each of the sacraments, and began to focus particularly on Reconciliation. We learned that God forgives us just as the father in the parable forgives his son. When we turn away from God, He is waiting for us to return to Him. The second graders have had many meaningful conversations about what it means to sin and how God forgives. Please keep all our second grade students in your prayers throughout the year as they work so hard to prepare to receive the sacraments.

As we continued in our study of "E Pluribus Unum," we broadened our view by learning about families. The students were able to explain how within a family we might find differences but there are some unifying characteristics. By reading and sharing stories about families, we became familiar with terms like generation, ancestor and tradition. Through the read-aloud **The Keeping Quilt** by Patricia Polacco, we learned that objects can be passed down through many generations, and enjoyed sharing stories of particular family objects we had in our homes. Later, we came to realize that other, less tangible things may also be "passed down" from our ancestors. Most recently, the second graders have been discovering how many immigrants came to be Americans, and have particularly enjoyed studying the history of Ellis Island. We are coming to understand why America is the country of "E Pluribus Unum"!

Class 2B would like to wish the students, families, staff and friends of St. Patrick School a wonderful, happy Thanksgiving!

Grades 3A and B

Mrs. Mitrano

Mrs. Fillion

We would like give a warm welcome to our new families. Our new students are quickly finding out that St. Patrick School is a great place for learning and making new friends! All the third grade students have been very busy learning and discovering in the interesting and exciting third grade curriculum.

We have completed five stories in Unit 1 of our Reading series. The unit introduced skills such as predicting, problems and solutions, and steps in a process as well as comprehension skills, Venn diagrams, cause and effect, and story mapping.

In Language Arts we are working on Wordly Wise words to build a strong vocabulary base. Our Spelling words challenge us each week. We are reviewing and practicing cursive lower-case letters and how to form words with these letters. Grammar skills covered so far include complete sentences, types of sentences and punctuation, subjects, predicates, compound and run-on sentences. Our writing is improving weekly as we put all these lessons into play.

In Math we have almost completed 4 chapters to include place value, digits, fact families, problem solving, patterns, comparing numbers ($<$ $>$ $=$), ordering numbers, rounding, bar graphs, dollar/cent notation, and estimating by rounding. We are going to practice our money skills when we visit the Christmas Fair.

Science and Social Studies Units are fast becoming favorites! In Science we have become experts on plants, seeds and life cycles. We grew seeds and watched them germinate and become seedlings. We labeled parts of plants and flowers, and we learned about the different ways seeds are scattered.

In Social studies we learned about Native Americans and specifically the Wampanoag Tribe that was instrumental in the survival of the Pilgrims.

We are learning about the Pilgrims and their struggle to survive in the New World. We are looking forward to our feast with our second grade Pilgrims. We are busy designing and making our Native American dress. We will come together at our Pow Wow and give thanks for all that we have been given.

So, as you can see, we are well on our way to another successful and fun-filled year. We wish all our St. Patrick friends and family a Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless!

Grades 4A and B

Mrs. Riley

Mrs. Beebe

There is much excitement in the fourth grade classrooms. Being a fourth grader means the Traveling Teddy Bear Project. On November 4th, we bid farewell to our Teddy Bears. The bears are traveling around the United States. Host families are sending postcards and pictures back to the students. With the technology of e-mail, several students have already received pictures of their bears visiting host families on the first leg of their journey. As students receive postcards from their teddy bear, they compile information and graph each state their teddy bear has visited. They also measure and compute the miles their bear is traveling using a log sheet. Each student also fills out a state fact sheet for every place their bear visits. At the end of the year, students will put together a Traveling Teddy Bear notebook filled with important facts and data about the United States. In addition to the Traveling Teddy Bear Project; we have begun learning about the four regions of the United States. As part of our Social Studies curriculum, fourth graders study the geography of the United States as well as learning about Native Americans and early settlers. Students selected a Native American tribe to research and soon will present an oral presentation with the help of a poster for their visual aid.

In Religion class students are learning about the Ten Commandments. Using Jesus as our role model, students are trying to follow in His footsteps in our everyday lives. We have discussed the value and meaning of prayer and discovered the various ways in which to communicate our thoughts and feelings to God. Students have also talked about the role of forgiveness.

In Reading, with the help of our new reading program, students are identifying genre, making story and character predictions, drawing inferences, and identifying problems and solutions while reading. Students also read chapter books. So far we've read **Sarah, Plain and Tall** and **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**.

In Math, students have created and used tally and bar graphs. This is used in the Traveling Teddy Bear Project. We have graphed where our bears have been sent. We also maintain a classroom graph of all the states each bear in our class has visited. Students began the year estimating and rounding numbers up to the millions. Then they went on to solving problems in addition and subtraction with numbers up to five digits. Students are also working on reasoning and multi-step word problems. We have just begun algebra. We began by computing problems using the order of operations. Currently students are evaluating expressions.

In Language Arts, students are receiving a strong foundation in grammar and sentence structure. Students have learned the four kinds of sentences. They can also identify the subject and predicate in a sentence. Students have also learned how to use conjunctions when writing compound sentences. We have begun the eight parts of speech beginning with nouns. Students have just completed Lesson 5 in their Wordly Wise books. In our writing workshop classes, students are experiencing the writing/editing process. They are compiling their writing which they will use to put together a writing book.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who have generously sent in classroom supplies.

Thank you for your continued support. God Bless.

Grade 5A

Mrs. Holland

Each September brings a new beginning: greeting old friends and meeting new students who have arrived at St. Patrick School. Each year we are called to grow and develop into a new creation, to be more mature, grow spiritually and academically. It is a pleasure to see former students walking the halls and greet each other and me.

As we begin each year, the fifth graders introduce themselves by creating the I AM UNIQUE posters. This is a great way to examine themselves and express who they are. Each child was asked to bring in pictures, words, etc., that describe who they really are. The students were asked to look at themselves as a total person and then describe themselves. I am always amazed that nine and ten year old children have the ability to see their positive and negative sides. They did a fantastic job and the final visual posters were artistically beautiful.

The fifth graders are buddies to the Pre-K students and we have done a few activities with our friends. Getting-to-Know You, a Halloween activity, and a Thanksgiving activity were all thoroughly enjoyed by both Grade 5 and our friends.

Since Room 5 was returned to a classroom this year, Deacon Frank blessed the room as a classroom and re-dedicated it to the education of children. Pictures of this re-dedication are available on the school website (look under the Student Life tab and then School Happenings). School is a sacred place and children are special, so this blessing was quite appropriate.

To help the students be more aware of giving, they collected money to purchase PJs for children who are in need. The class was very generous and I was able to purchase three pair of PJs for children entering foster care. The class decided to get sizes for children their own age and God bless them for being so caring of other children in need.

Reading takes us into many realms of all types of genres. We have, and will continue to read, pleasure reading books that enable students to experience and live through the lives of the characters and learn how the characters handled stress and strife. This helps a child understand difficult situations and learn through others.

Math is well on the way as the four basic math skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are being reviewed. The beginnings of exponents, algebraic expressions, order of operation, and conversions of the US customary and metric systems are underway. The classes are up to the challenge. Divisibility and prime factorization are on the horizon.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we all be thankful for what we have. Please take time out of your busy lives to thank God for life and the ability to love and share with family and friends. Take time to tell those we love that we love and cherish them. We need to be thankful for all the families, children,

staff, priests, and all the organizations that keep St. Patrick vibrant.

All of us working together helps the whole. Thank you for the smiles, ability to help in any small way, words of encouragement, and for just being there for the students, other families and staff. We do not take you for granted. Thank you, thank you, and thank you....

Give thanks to the Lord for all He has given to us.

Grade 5B

Mrs. Skinner

A new year, new faces, and a new room, September brought changes for both teacher and students. As we move into the end of the first semester, everyone in 5B has settled into a familiar routine and the first hectic weeks seem as if they were a lifetime ago.

In literature, we are finishing the **Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** and have studied the elements of fantasy. We are also working on an author study of fantasy writer, Chris Van Allsburg. Shelly inspired us in our first attempt at poetry. Our bulletin board is full of “odes to autumn.” Students have been reading an historical fiction book during the month of November and will be sharing their choices after Thanksgiving break. Reading is the cornerstone of education and we will be investigating the many genres available to expand the world beyond our front door.

Our social studies classes began with a lesson on geography and we revisit the five themes of geography throughout the year. During our fifth grade year, we move from the early civilizations of the United States to the expansion of a young country beyond the Mississippi. Students have learned about the vibrant cultures that existed in the Americas long before Europeans crossed the Atlantic. We are in the midst of creating picture dictionaries of the people and inventions that inspired the exploration of the world beyond Europe’s borders. Very shortly, we will learn how a small colony became an independent nation.

Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are part of our daily schedule, but the study of words is linked into all of our subjects. As we read and learn, we need to translate our thoughts and findings into words. We are building a wall of “pick a new word” choices. In our writing and descriptions we are trying to eliminate the same tired old words and replace them with vibrant words. We are trying to captivate our readers with words that appeal to all the senses. The writing process takes the students step by step through the stages of producing a “publishable” piece. Looking at words is a part of this process.

Finally, Religion is not just a subject, but the mission of our school. The Seven Sacraments are the cornerstone of the fifth grade curriculum, but we learn how living out the Beatitudes helps us to find true happiness. We are learning about Christian role models, not just the saints, but the people in our communities that can inspire us to live Holy lives. Our gifts and talents can be used to build up the church and spread the message of Christ at home, school, and in our community.

Our nametags for November explain the things 5B are grateful for this Thanksgiving. We give thanks

for our families, sisters, brothers, pets, grandparents, homes, moms, dads, teachers, and food. We are truly blessed.

Grade 6A

Mrs. Anderson

Autumn has arrived with its brilliant blue skies, and so, another year of exciting learning has begun at St. Patrick School. Our school is vibrant and active with more students bustling about than there have been for quite a while. It's wonderful to see so many smiling faces every day, and to hear how much students are enjoying school. Sixth graders have worked hard to acclimate themselves to the many changes experienced in middle school, and they've done a fine job. They have adjusted well to having more teachers now with varied expectations and also an additional subject - Spanish. That's a blessing!

Speaking of blessings, we love to start the day counting ours and sharing them with each other by reading the daily entries in our Gratitude Journals. Then, we enjoy being challenged by Mr. Swanson's "Question of the Day", and so far, we have a pretty good record of getting the correct answers! Next, we're off to our morning classes, which include grammar, science, social studies, vocabulary, and math. During the afternoon, we usually concentrate on the subjects of Spanish, literature, composition and religion. We also have each of our special subjects once a week. Sixth graders report that they love switching classes. They say it makes the time fly by! They also enjoy having different teachers throughout the day, the added privileges of moving from class to class without being led and being included in middle school enrichment programs.

We've been in school a little over two months, and already we have accomplished so much! We've taken our buddies to Mass and on a nature walk. We've also elected our class representative to the Student Council, Margaret L, and we're proud to have her represent us!

Academically, in literature, we are reading different forms of fiction, for example, fairy tales; and in composition, we are completing essays relating our pride in being citizens of the United States, a very appropriate topic for Veterans Day. In religion, we are discussing the different ways in which Jesus has been depicted throughout history. In grammar, we are practicing writing varied sentences and locating hard to find subjects. In vocabulary, we have already completed five lessons, and we're practicing our keyboarding skills in technology class. In art, we are creating products that represent our interests, and we are also drawing abstract portraits in the style of Picasso. As scientists, we need to know how to use the tools of the trade, and that is just what we're learning to do! We are also finding the density of matter, and using significant figures in our findings.

Can you believe that Christmas is next month? The sixth graders are practicing a beautiful song in music class that they will sing at the Christmas Pageant. You won't want to miss that! In social studies, we're traveling to ancient Mexico to study the Aztec culture. Different ways of displaying data is the focus in math class. We are creating all kinds of graphs and plots! In Spanish, we are studying numbers and words for classroom objects. We certainly are exercising our minds and keeping them in great shape. We're also exercising our bodies and displaying sportsmanship in physical education by playing some fine team sports like Speed Ball.

We're exercising our spirit by supporting the Student Council with their service project to collect clothing for Cradles to Crayons, a program that helps children in need. We know how blessed we are, and we are truly grateful. We thank all of you wonderful parents for your care and support, and we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Grade 6B

Mrs. Magazzu

As I begin another year in 6th grade, I recall a quote from the great Yogi Berra, "it's déjà vu all over again." As I look back on last year's newsletter, I began with a huge thanks to Mr. Stocks and his crew for the incredible transformation of my room. I must begin this year with the same. Thank you to Mr. Stocks and his crew for moving my room to its new location upstairs. It was no small feat what they accomplished over the summer. My move was miniscule in the scope of the tremendous amount of work they completed.

I looked out upon the faces of my scared new 6th graders on the first day of school and I felt another sense of familiarity. I knew many of the students when I worked with them in 3rd grade not too long ago; I hope some of their fears were calmed as well. We also welcomed six new students this year into 6B. A hearty welcome was exchanged to their families on Back to School night.

What a fantastic year to be teaching Social Studies. In 6th grade, we are focusing on the world outside of the United States. We started with a review of the five themes of geography and really focused on latitude and longitude. The 6th graders created some wonderful physical maps and a unique culture quilt, which is still located outside of my classroom. We are currently learning about my favorite, the wonderful region of Latin America. They just finished a lesson on the Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas. It is such a great opportunity to offer cross curricular activities between Social Studies and Spanish class and I get to show off my accent!

In 7th grade we are learning about Ancient Civilizations. We began with the Early Humans in the Paleolithic Age and journeyed with our ancestors through the Great Migration. We have just completed Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent where the students created a lovely project on inventions from the area. It was so nice to see how much information the 7th graders retained from last year's religion class on the Old Testament and the struggles of the ancient Israelites. We also compared Hammurabi's Codes to laws today. We are beginning our unit on Egypt where they will create a physical map of the country as well as a trading card on a pharaoh of their choice.

I love teaching US History, especially during election session! The 8th graders began this semester with an assignment to interview someone about 9/11 in honor of the 10th anniversary. They prepared extremely well written and very personal accounts of that day; I thank them for sharing their stories. We also traveled back in time in the United States to the times of our fore fathers; little did we know that we would meet Ben Franklin, thanks to the Historical Perspectives enrichment program. The students created their own declarations of freedom and debated them Lincoln-Douglas style. I think I have created some future lawyers! You could stop any one of the 8th graders and they could recite the preamble to the Constitution (or maybe even sing it, thanks to Schoolhouse Rock). Currently on display outside of my classroom are their interpretations of the Bill of Rights. We will continue to

analyze political, economic, and domestic current events every Friday throughout the year.

6B continues to amaze me with their accomplishments. They have transitioned nicely into the Middle School environment. And, let's not forget those wonderful Kindergarten buddies of ours! This class opened their hearts and serve as wonderful models of faith to their buddies in KB with whom they have attended monthly Mass. I have no worries that the class will continue their journey through 6th grade in the words we recite daily: to act justly, to love and serve one another and to walk humbly with God. God bless.

Grade 7A

Mr. Topham

November again and how quickly it has come upon us. Thankfully, Mother Nature seems to be calmer than the summer events of Hurricane Irene and this autumn's power outages that partially crippled many citizens of New England. Those events are fading now as light and power are restored to our homes once more.

Since September, Grade Seven students have been very active as they work on their writing skills. Students practice using different sentence constructions such as a simple sentence, a compound sentence and a compound/complex sentence, all of which are important and represent a variety of structures from which a writer can choose. Students again entered again the VFW Patriot's Pen program. open to our students and all students across this great country of ours. This year's theme is "Are you proud of your Country?" and I was thrilled at the responses written by the students. One stays in my mind: "There are many reasons why I am proud of my country. Even though our country has some ups and downs, just like in my own life, I get back up and keep trying, I try until I get it right. If another country had a major tsunami or earthquake, our country is there to help, just like we help people in our own life. So that's a yes I am very proud of my country."

Grade Seven students have three major writing assignments in the first term. Their first involved a reading of a multi-cultural book. Students had to make choices about cultures that are different from our own. Their writing had to compare and contrast our culture in America and the other culture represented in the novel. This is a valuable assignment because many of the cultures on this planet are so different from our own. Many of the girls were appalled to find out that some cultures, and families within these cultures, marry off their daughters before they turn fifteen. The simple reason is that girls are not as valued as males. China for years has had a one child per family policy. If the child is a girl she is often sold off. Sadly, over one million girls go missing each year in China or they are murdered at birth. It is called "gendercide" by the world community.

The second reading/writing assignment is a science fiction/fantasy book project. Students must determine how time is measured in their novel. Is time fluid? A student must also imagine he or she is a reporter sent to the world depicted in the book. Students must write about the world's inhabitants, social or political structure. What is the physical setting of the story? What forms of government are there? What rules govern this place? For those students who are more ambitious, I've given them an imaginary budget of one hundred million dollars for making their story into a feature film. Students must discuss scenes, settings, costumes and music.

Their last major writing assignment for the fall is "The Story of My Life." This 13 chapter assignment is one that students like the best and it is the most work for them. It is part autobiography and part family history. It becomes a student's favorite project for they need to reflect about their past and their family. Chapter 1, The Old Days, starts right off: "Please write about anything you might know about the history of your family. Where did your great-grandparents live on your paternal and maternal side? Try to go back 3 generations if you can." Students develop a fresh perspective, learning what it must have been like for families who had to leave one country behind for the dream of a better life in America. The self-reflection of this assignment helps them to appreciate their concept of family, faith, and a sense of belonging through the years. My students do talk about their families and I can tell you they are most appreciative and thankful for your love and caring as parents. They may not tell you how appreciative they are, but, they do feel blessed for all you do for them.

Soon it will be Thanksgiving and I can't help but think about all the wonderful families and parishioners of St. Patrick Church and School. As the students are writing, they come to me for a writing conference and I am amazed at the diversity of this school. Many grandparents have come from Ireland, as did my grandmother, leaving Tipperary for a better life. Others from Italy or Greece came here for the same reasons.

As it will soon be Thanksgiving, I refer you all to a book I mentioned a year ago at this time, **Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War** by Nathaniel Philbrick. The quote speaks for itself: "For sixty-five days, the *Mayflower* had blundered her way through storms and headwinds, her bottom a shaggy pelt of seaweed and barnacles, her leaky deck spewing salt water onto her passengers' devoted heads. There were 102 of them - 104, if you counted the two dogs: a spaniel and a giant slobbery mastiff. Most of their provisions and equipment were beneath them in the hold, the primary storage area of the vessel. The passengers were in the between, or 'tween decks - a dank airless space about seventy-five feet long and not even five feet high that separated the hold from the upper deck. The 'tween decks was more of a crawlspace than a place to live, made even more claustrophobic by the passengers' attempts to provide themselves with some privacy. A series of thin-walled cabins had been built, creating a crowded warren of rooms that overflowed with people and their possessions.... They were nearly ten weeks into a voyage that was supposed to have been completed during the balmy days of summer. But they had started late, and it was now November, and winter was coming on. They had long since run out of firewood, and they were reaching the slimy bottoms of their water casks. Of even greater concern, they were down to their last casks of beer.... And sure enough, with the rationing of their beer came the unmistakable signs of scurvy: bleeding gums, loosening teeth, and foul-smelling breath. So far only two had died - a sailor and a young servant - but if they didn't reach land soon many more would follow."

Finally, I urge students to keep up the solid effort as we head into the last few weeks of the marking quarter. You can do it!!

As I mentioned before, my grandmother came from Ireland years ago and I would like to pass along to you a book recommendation written by a wonderful Irish priest, John O'Donahue, who also was an Irish poet, author, and Hegelian philosopher and a native Irish speaker. Sadly he died at age 52 in 2008. His book, **Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom**, includes poetry. Let me leave you with one of his poems, written in lines, not verse, to save space: "On the day when the weight deadens on

your shoulders and you stumble, may the clay dance to balance you... And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window and the ghost of loss gets in to you, may a flock of colours, indigo, red, green and azure blue come to awaken in you a meadow of delight. When the canvas frays in the currach of thought and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you, may there come across the waters a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home. May the nourishment of the earth be yours, may the clarity of light be yours, may the fluency of the ocean be yours, may the protection of the ancestors be yours. And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you, an invisible cloak, to mind your life.”

Grade 7B

Ms. Golden

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is mere days away and the holidays are right around the corner. The first fleeting months of seventh grade have been busy and productive. Classes are now in full swing and we are totally immersed in all subjects. We have written memoirs, shared a wealth of knowledge through informational speeches, and explored non-fiction. Currently we are expanding our creative writing abilities as we study and read works of fiction. Social Studies has seventh grade working through ancient civilizations and in Science students are exploring the human body and its various systems. Math has them wrapping their minds around integers and pre-algebra equations. Spanish, Art, Religion and P.E. fill the rest of their time with phrases, colors, faith and activity!

October had the seventh grade leading Mass. Students did a fantastic job lecturing, altar serving, greeting, writing and sharing the Prayer of the Faithful, all while guiding their first grade buddies. Their work was mature, faith-filled and helped the St. Patrick community participate fully in the Mass.

We have recently taken part in the Patriot's Pen writing competition. Students delved into the idea of patriotism and explored their own understanding of the pros and cons of our nation. They expounded on the challenging question, “Are you proud of your country?” I was impressed by thoughtfulness of their responses; the depth of their love and respect for the United States, all that it stands for, and those who work to uphold our freedoms was very moving. My congratulations go out to Emily M, the winner from the seventh grade!

Ballroom dance has come to St. Patrick School! I have had the great pleasure of sharing one of my passions with the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Over the past few weeks, we have mastered the basic steps to swing and rumba and we have added turns and styling to both dances. In the coming weeks, we look forward to exploring the waltz, tango, foxtrot, and cha cha. It is a joy to see the students having so much fun in this physical and creative outlet.

This has been a wonderful start to what promises to be an amazing year. As I have become more familiar with the students, faculty, staff and families of St. Patrick I am reassured in my belief that this is a very special place. I am blessed to work with such incredible students, encouraging and knowledgeable colleagues, and supportive families. I look forward to all the adventures the rest of the year has for me and the students. On behalf of 7B, I wish everyone a blessed, safe, and enjoyable holiday season!

Grade 8

Ms. Andries

The summer of 2011 has flown, and the doors of a polished, expanded St. Patrick School open to embrace another school year. Youngsters file in with crisp new uniforms; middle school students assert their independence with untucked shirts and missing belts. Teachers smile and sigh. The buildings are, once again, humming with life. For the students in Grade 8, it is the beginning of their final year with us, and their expressions convey their awareness.

In religion classes, students are studying the history of the Church. They are learning that the rites that are so familiar to us were not present in the gatherings of Jesus' early followers. The apostles followed customs and practices that were rooted in the Hebrew faith. They had not yet become a religion that was distinctly Christian. This year marks the introduction of the revised Mass texts. Students will be part of history in the making.

In keeping with our Catholic identity as a school community, students and teacher have formulated a pledge to one another and the school. Class members have offered ways to make social and academic experiences better and happier for all. This pledge was written down and everyone signed it. It hangs on our wall, and is periodically reviewed so that we may not stray far from the path. We also worked on another unifying activity. Using individual links of paper, we wrote our names and the talents, interests, and accomplishments we have brought to the group. The links became parts of the one chain signifying that the whole is stronger because of its parts.

In composition classes this year, the emphasis will be on writing and creativity as a process. The skills that they are building in grammar and vocabulary classes should be evident in the variety of their sentence structures and vibrancy of word choices. Students are learning as well that the spoken word informs the written one.

Literature classes offer students the opportunity to improve their analytical skills. Using selections from their anthology, the Great Books Series, and works of various authors, students will, hopefully, improve their comprehension levels. This class has already been demonstrating an eagerness to discuss reading selections.

This fall eighth grade students will take the Archdiocesan High School Placement Test. Some have taken advantage of an earlier scheduled test and are relieved to have one less task. Students and parents are sorting through the multiplicity of forms and requirements. All concerned will be pleased to have papers and the Archdiocesan test a part of their past. Our prayers are offered for the latest group of applicants.

Science

Mrs. Hoff

It is hard to believe that the summer weather is coming to a close shortly and it will be cold and snowy soon! The fall has been fabulous and the classes in science have been equally wonderful. There have

been several changes in science because of the increase of enrollment this year. First, I no longer see the 4th graders, which is sad news, but that leaves me time to focus on the 5th through 8th grades. With the exception of 8th grade, there are two of each grade, so we are busy in the science classes! Another change is that I only see the 5th grade twice a week. The other time is spent doing activities with their homeroom teacher. Grades 6-8 are also keeping a binder with all of their work so that we can have a central point to go to when we prepare for mid-terms and finals. Most of the students have become more organized because of this, and I hope it continues throughout all of their academics.

Some of the topics 5th grade are studying include our Earth, weathering, erosion, and how the tectonic plates keep moving. We learned a lot about Earth, and we are continuing to learn about our resources. We know we only have a limited amount of resources, so we need to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as we can so we will have them for a long time!

Grade 6 has been discovering what science is and some of the work that scientists do. We spent a lot of time learning some of the math formulas that scientists use to collect and analyze their data. We can calculate density, find the slope of a line, and calculate the percent error. The students are probably glad that section is over because they were concerned about having all of that math in one day! All of this will come in handy when we begin the Science Fair project after Christmas break.

Grade 7 is actively learning about something they will always have with them...their bodies! In 7th grade, we spend a good portion of the year focusing on all of the organ systems in our bodies. So far, we have covered bones, muscles and skin; food and digestion; and circulation. There is so much to remember, but it all fits together and they are having fun. We have many spirited discussion as we learn, and sometimes I need to remind them that I am not their doctor. Some of their questions are more in-depth and could be answered better by their doctors.

Grade 8, as always, has been reaching for the stars both figuratively and intellectually. We are studying astronomy. We have learned about the Earth, moon, and stars; exploring space; and are now studying the solar system. Our first unit gave us the opportunity to observe the moon phases (even though the weather was not always cooperative). We watched *Apollo 13* in class when we were focused on space exploration. It was very interesting to see the astronauts' reactions to the problems they encountered in space and how they found solutions. Our most recent unit, the solar system, will bring us to a field trip to Framingham State University for a "Voyage to Mars". I am very eager to have this class work together as a team to complete a mission to Mars. I know they will have a great trip and will come home as more experienced astronauts and scientists.

All of the upper school grades from 6th-8th will be participating in the Science Fair in May. This is an incredibly big part of science class for the latter part of the school year, and we will begin shortly after Christmas break. The hardest part is choosing a topic, so they can begin thinking now.

I know the classes are having a great start to the year, are working hard, and have been terrific about participating in class. I am so thankful that I have the opportunity to share your children during school, and get the chance to know them. I look forward to continuing a wonderful science year with them!!

Guidance

Mrs. Liwo

It has been such a pleasure to serve as Guidance Counselor here at Saint Patrick School! I've been very busy working with the 8th graders who are currently applying to high schools. We had a very successful High School Information Night on September 15th. Fifteen area Catholic High Schools sent representatives to Our Lady of Providence Hall to meet our 8th graders and their families. Every admissions representative I spoke to raved about how well-spoken and respectful our students are. Saint Patrick School has much to be proud of in the class of 2012!

In addition to handling the high school admission procedures, I have been in classrooms talking to students in grade 6 through 8 about bullying, cyber-bullying, and on-line safety. We are working very hard to have students understand how important it is to be respectful to one another. We are all striving to "act justly, love and serve one another, and walk humbly with God." I will be continuing this conversation with students throughout the year.

I've also had a wonderful time meeting with students in Pre-K through Grade 3. Together we have explored "how to be a good friend." Pre-K watched a Clifford the Big Red Dog video and talked about how friends act with one another. They then colored a Clifford page and wrote the name of one of their good friends in Pre-K on the front of the page. We made a big poster which is on display at the entrance of the Pre-K classroom. Kindergarten classes also watched the Clifford video. We had very lively discussion on what qualities you should look for in a friend. A large poster with friendship qualities was created and is hanging on the stairway in front of the Kindergarten classrooms. Grades 1-3 helped create a "recipe" for making friends and decorated paper friends with words and phrases about friendship. These posters can be seen hanging around their respective classrooms. The children in the lower grades are VERY knowledgeable about how to be a good friend!

I will be visiting more classes in the coming months to continue discussions about making good choices, being respectful, bullying and other life lessons. I'm looking forward to continuing to serve the students and faculty of Saint Patrick School.

Physical Education

Ms. Johnston

Physical Education classes are off to a great start. The weather has been somewhat of a challenge, but we are adjusting. It is my hope that we will be able to be outside until the Christmas break. I encourage the children to dress appropriately.

Physical Education provides opportunities to be physically active while not compromising safety.

Physical Education grades are based on a PE rubric. Grades 3-8 are graded on conduct and effort. Grades 1 and 2 receive a conduct grade only. The rubric is explained to each class and classroom teachers receive a copy of the rubric when grades are due.

The children understand that the goal of PE is to prepare them for the future. Fitness and emotional

well being are stressed as are social skills such as cooperation, good sportsmanship, and respect.

It is my pleasure working with the children and staff at St. Patrick School. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

After School Program

Mrs. Monti

The After School Program has been very busy this fall. The children have been participating in a variety of engaging, enriching activities such as art, cooking, dance, games, and crafts.

With the spring-like weather in September and October, the children enjoyed outdoor play and walking field trips to the local town park. Throughout autumn, the children have had fun partaking in a variety of activities. There are so many to choose from, we will list just a few! They enjoyed making caramel candy apples, creating turkey centerpieces, designing Thanksgiving placemats, playing candy bingo, and making Native American costumes.

The children really enjoyed the Halloween party. They loved dressing in orange and black, dancing to spooky music, playing games, and winning prizes. We want to thank all of the After School parents for their generous donations towards the party. It was a great success!

During the winter months, we are looking forward to utilizing the computer lab and centers in Mrs. Riley's classroom. It will be a nice change of scenery for us! We also look forward to December and the fun activities to come, including ornament making, nativity crafts, and more!

We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Mothers' Club

Renee Keegan

Saint Patrick Mothers' Club has been busy this fall. We, along with the entire school community, were excited to welcome our many new families at our Pre-K and Kindergarten orientations. Meeting so many new faces has been a joy. We have welcomed new members to Mothers' Club and have enjoyed their company at Girls' Night Out and our first Mothers' Club meeting. The block party was a really fun way to kick off the school year. As well as the back-to-school breakfast co-hosted by PTO, Mothers' Club was also happy to offer coffee and refreshments at the high school fair for our students and at the Installation of the new Student Council. A big congratulations to Student Council on their successful campaigns!

Mothers' Club is not only involved in the many social events for the Saint Patrick Community, but also charged with raising the funds that help keep the cost of our tuition down. Being there is only minimal mandatory fund-raising, we make a strong effort to pair our voluntary fund-raising with everyday needs. The SCRIP Program is a prime example of this. SCRIP allows you to purchase gift cards for most major stores and restaurants, which can be used not only for your everyday needs like groceries and gas, but also becomes an especially convenient option during the holidays! The Magazine Drive

was very successful and remains an ongoing fundraiser, so if you have a subscription that may be expiring soon, you can still place an order. We had a great response to the Bag-2-School Program where we all were able to clean out our closets to benefit our school! Shopping night was a great opportunity to get an early start on Christmas gift shopping with the great variety of vendors. The Halloween Parties were well attended and enjoyed. Our Polcari’s fund-raiser was a lot of fun and many familiar faces were seen picking up their pizzas! The Saint Patrick Annual Christmas Fair, a well anticipated event by the Saint Patrick Community, was a big success enjoyed by all. The Mike’s Pastry Thanksgiving pie sale, was both successful and convenient and will be back again in time for Easter! A BIG THANK YOU to all those involved in our fund-raising events and to those that support them by attending. It is a large undertaking and everyone is so grateful for all your efforts!!

Currently “Spirit Wear” orders are being collected and our Wreath Sale is well underway for another successful year. Also, there will be additional cash calendars available for purchase in the school office and rectory, and 1000 Club memberships always make a great gift for the person that has everything!

Be sure to be on the lookout for information about our very fun Trivia Night coming up in January, as well as our annual Auction on March 10, 2012.

We hope everyone has had a wonderful start to the school year, and we at Mothers’ Club wish you Happy Thanksgiving and many blessings for a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Saint Patrick Mothers’ Club Officers 2010-2012

- Renee’ Keegan
- Peg Moynihan
- Michelle Ross-Nuzzo
- Angela Leo
- Laurie Hayes

PTO
Kiara Keohane

PTO would like to extend a warm welcome to the many new members of the St. Patrick School family, including our new staff members:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mrs. Liwo | Guidance |
| Ms. Fillion | Grade 3B |
| Ms. Golden | Grade 7B |
| Mr. Anderson | Art |
| Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Mello | School Nurses |

At the beginning of the school year, our first task was to find volunteers to be PTO representatives and room parents. Thank you very much to all who were willing and able to help. As the school continues to grow, it is important to maintain communications between staff and parents so that new and returning members of the St. Patrick community feel welcome and included.

The Back to School breakfast, co-hosted with the Mothers' Club, was well attended.

There are now approximately 380 students and 250 families in the school. After Back to School Night this year, the PTO representatives sent out introductory letters/emails to the new families in each grade, in case there were any additional questions about the school. The PTO tab on the school web page was also updated to include the PTO Information Sheet, which describes some of the more common events at the school.

At the end of September, the redesigned school directories were available. Thanks to Denise Kelly for the redesign to a more user friendly format. Thank you to all who purchased a directory. Copies are still available in the school office at a cost of \$1.00.

Our current projects are the Fall Newsletter and the Christmas Wish List for the teachers. We hope to grant the wishes of all the teachers and faculty this Christmas season. Remember, this is a terrific way to express your thanks and show your appreciation and assistance for the year-long efforts put forth by all of the staff. Please help us in supporting this drive.

Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday, January 29 with Mass at noon, immediately followed by Open House and Creativity Afternoon. This event allows prospective students an opportunity to visit the classrooms, meet the staff and learn more about our school. It also allows the current students to display their wonderful art work for their families and friends to see. The festivities will continue throughout the week. Tuesday, PTO will host an Ice Cream Social for all of the students. Friday, the half-day, will be the Teachers' Appreciation Lunch. This event allows us to recognize our teachers for their commitment and contributions to St. Patrick School, and to the entire Catholic School community.

We are eager to continue our service in the upcoming months. Please feel free to share your ideas with us for any future events and consider volunteering for one of the many PTO positions available for the next school year. Most of them are not a huge time commitment and it is a rewarding experience.

The PTO wishes all our school families and faculty a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous and blessed Christmas.

Pre-K	Yarisie Yopez	4A	Kelly MacDonald
KA	Elisa Coons	4B	Lucy Costello
KB	Renee Burke	5A	Tania Walsh
1A	Tisha Scourletis	5B	Kim Vachon
1B	Kerri Donahue	6A	Kiara Keohane
2A	Lynn Winans	6B	Denise Kelly
2B	Kerri Donahue	7A	Angela DiBlasi
3A	Ann Hueston	7B	Kristen Faro
3B	Mary Connell	8	Mary Connell