



St. Dorothy

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Spiritual, Academic, Moral Preparation for the 21st Century

Principal's Newsletter

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September 22, 2016



Dear Families,

Sisters of Mercy

There were many poor people in Ireland in the 1800s. Many of them were Catholic. At that time Catholic children were not educated and Catholic adults held menial jobs.

Catherine McAuley was a Catholic woman who was very conscious of these facts. She was left an inheritance by a Quaker couple whom she had taken care of. She decided to use that money to help the poor. Some other women joined with her in this project. Some other women joined with her in this project.

In 1831 in Dublin, Ireland, Catherine and a small group of women became the first Sisters of Mercy. Catherine used her inheritance to build the House of Mercy where there was a school for training young women in skills which could be used in procuring a job. As more women joined the Sisters of Mercy, schools for educating poor children were opened. The Sisters also went out to visit the sick and aged.

The number of Sisters of Mercy grew and they spread throughout Ireland and England, and eventually came to the United States.

In 1861 a group of Sisters of Mercy arrived in Philadelphia and began to establish schools, to visit the sick and aged, to visit prisons ----- in other words, to spread the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Today Sisters of Mercy work in parishes, in hospitals. They work with the homeless, run programs for the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalized.

In this Year of Mercy we should be especially conscious of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We need to pray for vocations to the Sisters of Mercy. We need to pray that men and women commit themselves to the practice of the Works of Mercy as Associates in Mercy, or simply as Catholics carrying God's loving mercy to all they meet.

Neumann Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who qualified to take the Neumann Scholarship test: Nicole Bello, Maeve Bieter, Emily Camuti, Ryan Cox, Billy DiRita, Julia Flatley, Julia Funchion, Alaina Gross, Michael Gross, Marikate Kilker, Natalie Liberatore, Ryan Matthews, Kirby Rich, Ryan Sharkey, Daniel Teti. In order to qualify, students had to meet a rigorous standard which was based on their performance on the Terra Nova test and final 7th grade general average.

Mercy Day Prayer Service

If you are available, please join us tomorrow at 9:30 in Church as we celebrate and thank our Sisters of Mercy for their ministry to our school and parish.



Weather-Related Closing

In the event school closes or is opening late because of weather you will receive a telephone call advising you of the status of the call. The call is an electronic one, so there is a slight delay before you hear the message. The school's status will also be posted on the website www.saintdorothy.org and it will be announced on KYW radio.

If you hear any announcements about Archdiocesan schools, disregard them; they are referring to Philadelphia schools only.

If there is an emergency school closing, you will be notified in the same manner and your children will be dismissed according to the directions you gave us on the Emergency Contact form.



Halloween Parade

On Friday, October 28, students in grades K-4 will show off their costumes by parading around the neighborhood. The parade will begin at 1:00 p.m. Following the parade, the students will enter the gym where they will enjoy an assembly presented by the Philadelphia Zoo.

The students are to bring their costumes to school and will change into them after lunch. Since the assembly will run until 2:30, the students will be dismissed wearing their costumes.

On that day, all students may dress down wearing colors of black and orange.

Students in grades 5-8 will attend the assembly at 12:45.

Don't Forget – Meeting Tonight

Two important topics will be presented tonight – Terra Nova and the survey responses. The meeting will begin at 7:00 in the gym. Looking forward to seeing you.

Classroom Spotlight

The 5th and 6th grade science classes have been working diligently learning about the steps of the scientific method as well as certain skills a scientist may use when trying to solve a problem. This past week both grades were asked to put their newly-found knowledge to practice and applied it while working on a STEM challenge. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Mrs. O'Doherty likes to present these challenges in science class twice a month so the students can strengthen their teamwork, collaborate, and apply the concepts they were taught in class.

The 5th grade science classes completed the "Saving Sam" Challenge. Each group of students was given a gummy worm (Sam), a gummy Lifesaver, a 16oz plastic cup (boat), and two paperclips. Their challenge was to use the paperclips to retrieve the Lifesaver from underneath the boat and place it around Sam to save him from drowning. The students were only allowed to use the paperclips to maneuver the cup, worm, and Lifesaver. They had to rely on clear communication, use problem-solving skills, and cooperation to be successful.

The 6th grade science classes were also presented with a STEM challenge. They had to solve the "Cup Challenge". Each group of students was given 6 16oz plastic cups, 4 pieces of string, and one rubber band. The challenge was for each group to build a pyramid with the cups using only the string and rubber band. Each group figured out how to construct a tool with these materials and lift the cups into the correct positions. In this challenge, communication and critical thinking skills were key.

When both grades concluded their challenges, they had to complete a lab report showing the purpose, their predictions, their procedures, and their conclusions. Though each STEM activity posed some challenges to each grade, all groups were successful. The 5th and 6th grade science classes are very eager to continue their adventures with STEM!

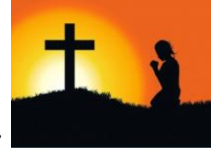
Second Graders took a trip to space this week! To build our background knowledge and enrich our experience of reading our ELA story this week,

Exploring Space with An Astronaut, students participated in simulation stations showing what life is like for astronauts in space. We used a sealed glove box to examine and sort objects like real astronauts. Students simulated writing without gravity by laying beneath their desks, and writing upside down. We pulled research from supplemental nonfiction texts. We even "walked on the moon" by using bucket shoes to imitate the feeling of the change in gravity that's out of this world!



Confession

On Friday, September 30, students in grades 3-8 will be going to confession at 1:15.



Prayer Corner

Please keep Mrs. Meghan Geyer in your prayers as she recovers from surgery.

We will be remembering the following families in our prayers next week:

- 9/26 Bergin, Berrodin, Bieter
- 9/27 Birch, Bosworth, Brady
- 9/28 Breslin, Bright, Brown
- 9/29 Bruce, Burke (Evan), Burke (Meredith)
- 9/30 Burns, Calabrese, Camuti