

# CONN-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## “Centered in Christ”

April 2016

*At the Holy Thursday Mass, the Gospel tells of how Jesus says to the disciples (after washing their feet), “Do you realize what I have done for you?” This statement hit strong for me. As we move from the Lenten season and into the Easter Season, we can ask ourselves that question. Do we really understand what He has done for us in so many aspects of His time on Earth? Take some time this Easter Season to talk with your children about Jesus’ statement and how it relates, not only to the washing of the feet, but for His greatest sacrifice. Taking time to think about Jesus’ words brings us into a greater relationship with Him. Together, we can teach our children to reflect on what they hear and learn about His goodness. May the blessing of the Easter Season bring you closer to Jesus.*

### **Family Liturgy/Sixth Grade Appreciation**

Our Family Liturgy is a time when our entire school family can gather to celebrate God’s goodness. All of the children take part in the Mass through song and prayer. Additionally, we recognize our sixth grade students, as they prepare to move on from Conn-Area Catholic School and into the junior high schools. The Mass will be held on Wednesday evening, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s church, across from Sheetz in Connellsville. Please do your best to be a part of this celebration. We will gather in the social hall immediately following the Mass for light refreshments. This gathering counts as one of our five PTG meetings.

### **Benefactors’ Appreciation Mass**

Our school prides itself on developing programming that affords our kids opportunities to engage in various activities that will enhance their educational experiences. We could not do such programming without the financial assistance of our great benefactors. Each year we show our appreciation to these people through a Benefactors’ Appreciation Mass. It will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 children’s Mass. We thank all those who have made a difference in the lives of our young students.

## **ACT Aspire**

The students in third through sixth grade have been taking practice tests in preparation for the ACT Aspire standardized test we are using to assess their abilities. This will occur during the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please make sure your children are in school during this week, unless they are sick.

## **Spring Music Program**

Our Spring Music Program promises to be a great event. The theme is “God Bless America”. The children in each grade are singing a song and our instrumental program will showcase their talents. The children are asked to wear blue jeans and a solid white shirt or top. Please do your best to have your child here, as we want all the children to be a part of this program. The date is April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Geibel gymnasium.

## **Fab Lab**

Good news! – The Fab Lab is coming to the Geibel campus. The Fab Lab is a mobile unit that contains a large CNC Router, 3D mill, vinyl cutter, laser engravers, and 3D printers. Students will use the specially designed software to create a project and then ‘bring it to life’ through the various machinery. Each child in fourth through sixth grade will be involved. This Mobile unit is available through the Intermediate Unit. We are fortunate to have the funds to bring this to our students during the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Welcome to Fr. Dan**

By now I hope you have met Fr. Dan Ulishney. He joins our school family as one of the priests teaching our students about the faith and celebrating our Masses with us. We want to extend our greatest welcome to Fr. Dan. He has already made his way into the classrooms to share his knowledge of the faith. We are grateful for his service to the school. We are also blessed to have Fr. Bob and Fr. Micah and all the support they also provide to our school and its mission. Their parishes are assessed a financial amount that in turn is used to help fund our tuition assistance programs. If you are receiving tuition assistance, please express your gratitude to Fr. Bob and Fr. Micah.

## **Marathon**

Marathon information is in this packet. It is very important that we get that back from you as soon as possible so that we can get the t-shirts ordered in time for the marathon. The event will occur on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 2:00. If you would like to join us, you are more than welcome. There are forms within the packet that will allow those with clearances to sign up as volunteers. We hope that you will, as we are in great need of volunteers.

### **Volleyball Season**

Our volleyball teams are bursting at the seams with 27 students involved. They are learning a great deal about the skills and techniques needed for a good base in the game. Thank you to Emily Solan, Caitlin Solan, and Melinda Smith for volunteering their time to work with our kids. For the season schedule, please access the website.

### **Soccer Season**

We are so very excited to be introducing soccer for the first time this year with our own school team. Unfortunately, we did not have enough interest in fifth and sixth grade to have a team, but we do have a third and fourth grade team. Mr. Ewing has graciously volunteered his time to coach the kids. We are looking forward to a fun season. If you are interested in attending any of the games, please see the schedule on the school website. Thank you, Mr. Ewing, for helping to get this program off the ground.

### **Bricks4Kidz**

For the second session this year, we are offering Bricks4Kidz, a great STEM program that engages children in creating ideas that teach various science concepts. The children in grades K-6 are loving the experience. Thank you to Mrs. Gretz for conducting the program.

### **Grandbuddy Breakfast**

Our third graders traditionally host a Grandbuddy Breakfast for their grandparents or a representative of such. The program is being held on April 13. The children do a wonderful job entertaining their grandbuddies with a few songs. The event also provides an opportunity for a few of our sixth graders to serve our guests. It is a wonderful experience. Thank you to Mrs. Hlebechuk for organizing this.

### **Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Due to the large number of preschoolers, it is necessary that we have two days of conferences. Therefore, the preschool will not have school on both April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> for this reason.

### **K – 6<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Conferences**

It is very important for a parent and their child's teacher to take some time to discuss the educational status of their child. For this reason, we hope you make every attempt to attend the scheduled time of your child's conference. Please know that the children do not have school on April 15<sup>th</sup> because of the conferences.

### **Preschool Program**

We are always so excited to see the many talents our preschool children learn over the school year. The children put on a program for their families, showcasing these talents through song, poems, and motions. This is an exciting time in our little ones' lives! The event will be held on April 19. Thank you to Mrs. Spotts and assisted by Mrs. Scarry and Mrs. Knapp, for all their great work with the children.

### **Student treasures**

Our children in kindergarten through sixth grade have been very busy this year working on their published hardbound books. In the kindergarten through second grade, the children made a 'classroom' book and in third through sixth, the children made their very own publication. It is a wonderful way for them to display their writing and drawing talents. It is a keepsake that they will always cherish.

### **Chess Tournament**

Our annual Chess Tournament is open to our fourth through sixth grade students. This year's event will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to 8:00. If your child is interested in participating, they should have completed the form that was sent home in March. If another form is needed, please contact Mrs. Zimmermann.

### **Kennywood Day**

Please know that our snow make-up day is on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, as originally we had that scheduled as a day off. However, Connellsville School District move Kennywood Day to June 13. The tickets will be on sale at our school on April 13<sup>th</sup> for \$26.00 – cash only. Bus tickets are \$5.00 and will also be on sale at that time. If you plan on purchasing them from the school, the representatives will be here at 10:00 a.m. They do not stay long, so please be on time.

***Have a wonderful, life-fulfilling Easter Season!***