

Thursday Thoughts  
October 29, 2009  
Carlton Rider  
Principal

We were all encouraged by Courtney's progress, slow but nevertheless progress, over the weekend. I know that many people have sent messages to her and have kept updated by reading the information posted by her mother. We had a grub day this past Wednesday with proceeds being given to Courtney's family to help with gas, food, parking, etc. while they spend time at the hospital. Many thanks for your continued support and prayers for Courtney and her family. As I was writing these Thoughts, Mrs. Wilson informed me that Courtney has been taken out of ICU. That, indeed, is good news!

Last week we had nearly 60 students out on Monday, October 19th. That number dropped to around 40 by Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and rose to around 60 on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. On Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> we had 24 students out. We continue to disinfect desks, hand rails, doorknobs, etc and will continue to do so. Students may bring their own water bottles if they choose to do so to avoid using the drinking fountains. As you know, the H1 N1 vaccine will be given here at school on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that you complete the consent form and return it to school as soon as possible if you want your child to receive the vaccine.

Amid all the sickness of last week we were visited by three members of the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools for what is called an internal validation. This will be followed in March with another visit by five other people from around the diocese who will be here as members of what is called the external validation team. These visits are all part of our accreditation process that will involve our faculty in determining Catholicity and student learning goals for the next five years. The internal visit last week included a compliance check on various standards required by the diocese and state in areas such as teacher certification, various inspections such as health and fire, progress reports concerning our goals that were developed five years ago, and staff development as regards our goals to name just a few of the standards. We did very well as regards the internal validation and will be working on our goals that will cover the next five years. I will keep you posted as we continue to work on our accreditation process.

A reminder that next Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a Home and School meeting at 8:10 a.m. in the Spirit Center with a social beginning around 7:45. In the evening on the same day there will be an Advisory Board meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty room in the Main Building. Don't forget that our Holiday Happening is coming up on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

This past Wednesday we held a grub day in order to raise money for the Slay family in order to provide the family with financial support during Courtney's hospitalization. I am proud to share with you that \$866.00 plus a \$25.00 gas card was raised to help the

Slays. God bless each of you for your prayers, sharing, caring, and support for the Slay family during this challenging time in their lives.

In order to allow our teachers more time to schedule parent conferences, the date of the first conference has been changed from Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. This will also avoid a conflict with St. Bernadette's conferences which were scheduled to begin on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Letters concerning conference scheduling will be sent home with the report cards on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

And that's this week's Thursday Thoughts!