

Thursday Thoughts
February 25, 2010
Carlton Rider
Principal

A few months ago our Advisory Board started making plans for an Open House that would showcase all the good things that take place here at St. Mary School in hopes of sharing with our own parents what they are getting for their tuition dollars as well as trying to attract new families to our school. As you know, that Open House took place this past Sunday and in talking to many people I can say that the hard work was well worth the effort. Exactly how many new families we will realize is yet to be seen, but we do have a number of people who expressed an interest in our school and took the information packets that were made available. It is hard to name all those involved, but I would like to thank in a special way the members of our advisory board, our Home and School Association, our students who conducted tours of the building in a very informative and professional manner, and our teachers and staff who worked to put together the various displays. Most of these people gave up portions of both Saturday and Sunday in order to make everything come together. As I mentioned to our board members, faculty, and staff, what I also saw happening during the Open House was an opportunity for our faculty to talk to members of our board and to have the opportunity to get to know each other a little bit better. Communication is the key to success and I saw a lot of good communication this past Sunday.

This Thursday our St. Mary Home and School Association presented the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio's pARTnership program to our entire student body and faculty. This pARTnership program is a new program that brings art experiences to our school. The program began with a brief visual presentation where students have the opportunity to learn about an artist or theme from the museum's current exhibition. Then each grade of students explored the world of paper as art and created a paper sculpture piece based on the exhibition's presentation. Trisha Clifford-Sprouse was the instructor from the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio.

Speaking of artistic opportunities, Gary Sheldon, artistic director of the Lancaster Festival and conductor of the Lancaster Festival Orchestra will be visiting our school next Wednesday, March 3rd to share some of the events that will be taking place during the Lancaster Festival in July and will be bringing a musician who will perform during the concert to share music with us. I would like to thank the Lancaster Festival organization for making this visit possible. Except for last year, Mr. Sheldon has visited our school for the past several years to share with us some of the events that take place during the Festival.

This past Tuesday, our students in grades 3 – 6 were given the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Those in grades 7 – 8 will have the same opportunity on March 4th. Our 2nd graders received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at our parish penance service on Thursday, February 25th. Many thanks to our parents and Mrs. Probasco for helping prepare our students for the reception of this sacrament.

Bishop Frederick Campbell will be here on Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. to confirm our eighth grade students from our parish. I believe that he will confirm those students from St. Bernadette and St. Mark at later dates. This is an important step in Christian initiation and, in addition to Baptism and Eucharist, completes the journey of full membership in the Catholic faith.

Please check with your child to make sure that he/she brought home the information packet for registration. Registration will continue through Friday, March 12th. Subsidy forms can be picked up in our school office for those who are members of St. Mary parish. All other parents will need to check with your pastor as regards subsidy. For those applying for diocesan assistance and some forms of local assistance, don't forget that FACTS needs to be completed on-line by March 15th.