

Thursday Thoughts  
May 27, 2010  
Carlton Rider  
Principal

As I reflect back on this soon-to-be past school year, we can take pride in the accomplishments of many of our students in several areas. A review of past *Thursday Thoughts* shows that our students performed extremely well at our local spelling bee, our science fair, which sent one person to the state competition, various art contests, and the Invention Convention, to name just a few things. Many of our students grew in reading comprehension, as pointed out by Mrs. Lindsey, our librarian, in providing our teachers with the final print out of student Accelerated Reading points. Growth in reading comprehension was found across every grade level. Our students also were involved in the Great Books program and after school Spanish in addition to various E2 opportunities including art, photography, mystery club to name just a few things. Most of these programs were partially or fully funded by our Home and School Association. This, coupled with results from the A.C.R.E. test of religious knowledge taken by our fifth and eighth grade students and the recent results from our achievement test all show growth academically and in students' understanding of their Catholic faith.

Faith is more than just knowing the meaning of religious terms and concepts. It is putting that faith into action. All of our students were involved in service projects throughout the year. These aren't just dress down days where money is brought in and nobody knows what happens to the money. True service is reaching out to those in need by providing food, clothing, and other services to the poor in our community. It's putting the corporal works of mercy into action and that's what we try to do each and every day.

If you read last week's *Thursday Thoughts* you are aware that we will be addressing the issue of bullying from the outset of the new school year. Don't forget that there will be a mandatory parent meeting on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> for our parents as regards bullying. Special speaker for the evening will be Mr. Jim Bisenius.

At our last advisory board meeting I shared with the board our latest enrollment figures. To date, the following are our current enrollment figures: K – 14; 1 – 26; 2 – 29; 3 – 27; 4 – 35; 5 – 30; 6 – 49; 7 – 51; 8 – 52 for a total of 313 students. At the current time there are 22 families representing 33 students who still have outstanding tuition accounts totaling over \$20,000. Five of those families have two or more children in our school. All tuition must be paid in full before a family can register for the 2010/2011 school year. If a decision had to be made today, which does not have to be made at this time as regards the number of classrooms per grade level, we would be looking at one classroom of K, 1, 2, 3, and 5 with aides being placed in each of the single classrooms. Obviously, the number of outstanding students will impact how many classrooms we are able to maintain at each grade level. To meet budget, we need 330 students and to maintain two classrooms at each grade level we will need a minimum of 17 students per classroom or a total of 34 students per grade level.

On a related topic, over the past 15 years there have been 51 teachers who have come and gone at our school. There were years when we lost 3/5 teachers during the summer. Obviously, at the present time, it is difficult to say who will be teaching what grade level since changes have been made during the summer for the past several years with teachers being moved to different grade levels. Please check our website during the summer for updates.