

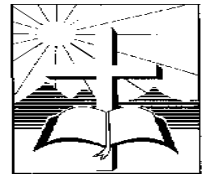
September 23, 2016

Dear Parents,

We are entering the last week of September, and our **Gospel** this weekend reminds us of the care and concern we need to have for the poor. As we continue to live out what it means to be in "right relationship" with the Lord, we remember that we also need to be in "right relationship" with all of humanity. The story of Lazarus is one we know well. As with all parables, Jesus told stories to make the meaning easier to understand. Noticing the needs of others is a key teaching of Jesus. The prophet Amos in our first reading challenges us to be vigilant toward the threat of complacency. Our final union with Christ will be the reward of a life well lived on this earth. Let us work together to notice the needs of others. We are so blessed! Let us never forget the less fortunate. It matters both on this earth and in heaven!



In this **first month of classes**, the children have already been very involved in many experiences. I was invited into Grade 6 Religion to watch the commercials they made to help people understand that reading the Bible is important and easy to do.



In **Pre-k 4**, I have been watching the classroom caterpillars grow into beautiful monarch butterflies. The Fourth Graders went down to see them and were so inspired that they created a lovely psalm in honor of **God's Magnificent Monarchs**. On Wed, this week, Pre-k 3, 4 and Gr.4 all went out to release the first two butterflies. Watching classes interact and blend Science, Writing, Lang Arts, and a host of others skills was education at its best!



We have new arrivals of **SMART TV's** in Pre-K 4, Kdgn. and the Computer room. Part of our three-year plan for technology is to have every classroom equipped with this new technology. The children are already enjoying it. We are in the process of planning an evening for all families to come in and see the programs the students are using and view the technology as we continues to grow and enhance the learning here.



I am sorry to say we have had to cancel our **Tennis Club** due to lack of interest. We only had 4 children register. We really need at least 10 students when we run a team from the school. We will try to offer it again in the Spring. Right now we are still trying to get recruits for soccer. Mr. Mark Scussel is the Athletic Director. If your child is interested, please contact him. ([msscussel@gdeb.com](mailto:msscussel@gdeb.com)) I believe there is also information on Cross Country if your child is interested. Most of these sports opportunities are for the older grades, but anyone can get information if you are interested. We are also looking to add to our Fife and Drum Corps and cheerleading squad. Please see the details on the enclosed flyers. Don't forget we are also hoping to get enough children to take advantage of the Tae-kwon-do Club being offered. There is still time to sign up for that.

The **lunch program** is still in need of a few reminders. For everyone's safety, please do not send the children with glass bottles in their lunch boxes. No Soda at all! We have water and milk available each day. Please remind your children that there is NO sharing of lunches. It is nice of them to want to share, but due to food allergies, it isn't safe. Lastly, all lunches are \$3.50,



including pizza day. **Please remember we do not take cash** for lunch! Payment is due on Monday by check with your orders, unless we have a day off; in that case only, the check and orders would come in on Tuesday. It is really important and easier to keep track of, when we receive all orders on Monday. Keep your lunch order envelope in the large brown envelope when you return it to school on Monday.



**A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** to Mr. Anthony Grammatico, Jr and his dad, Mr. Anthony Grammatico Sr. They are the recipients of this year's St. John Newmann Award for Volunteer Service. Each year, the Office of Catholic Schools honors two volunteers from every school in the Archdiocese. They will be honored at a dinner at the Aqua Turf on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grammatico and his dad have spent countless hours this summer on many projects with Mr. Hall (honoree 2014) and Mr. Colavolpe (honoree from 2013). We appreciate their gift of time and talents for the good of the school.



There is a **logo contest being sponsored by Google** and it is totally optional. Parents are encouraged to invite your child to join especially if they are creative and always looking for something to do! Imagine if one of our students are selected! There is plenty of time to complete the challenge. Check it out!



Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. is Family Science Day at the Energize Connecticut Center, 122 Universal Drive, North Haven. There will be activities to enjoy featuring pumpkin decorating, Sciencetellers shows, Mad Science activities and much more. Just another great way to spend family time with great learning experiences!



If anyone else from Gr.6, 7 and 8 can help out with **Animal Awareness Day** on Oct. 2, please send the permission slip back by Friday Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. I need to give the names of the children and parents who are helping to Mrs. Barnes. Thank you to all who have already signed up!

This weekend in all churches throughout the Archdiocese is the Annual HOPES collection. **HOPES - (Help Our Parish Elementary Schools)** is the collection which grants funds to elementary schools that apply for grants. We received approximately \$5,000.00 this year from this collection.

Lastly, September 26<sup>th</sup> is **Family Day**. On Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> on the Branford Green from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. there is an event for all families. There will be representation from many vendors. Activities for the children like face-painting, games, etc. will be available. Food is provided by the Branford Rotary. Sounds like a fun time for all and it's totally free!



Have a great weekend!

Sr. Annette