

M A R C H 2 0 1 9

Cardinal News

A Letter from Our Principal

Dear Parents,

As the Lenten season is a time for reflection, I look back on the school year thus far and am incredibly proud of the kindness of our students. Through our Kindness Awards Program, we have recognized and rewarded countless acts of kindness each week. Through student council sponsored dress down days, our students have raised and donated over \$2,000 to Misericordia, a residential community operated by the Sisters of Mercy that cares for over 600 residents with developmental disabilities. My proudest moment came as I witnessed our students “clap out” a former teacher’s son who hopes to reside at Misericordia in the near future.

I also am proud of our commitment to Catholic identity. I view Catholic education as a ministry, which is why I am proud of the course work and training our teachers have attended and will continue to attend this year to become certified catechists.

Lent is also a time to reflect on what we want to continue to grow and enhance. As we begin this final trimester, I will continue to grow and enhance my relationship and communication with all of you, and will continue to develop a warm and welcoming culture that reaches out to all. I humbly ask you to reach out and invite new families to attend our events and I also ask that you invite prospective families to tour and learn more about our great school.

Thank you to all who have volunteered your time, donated money, or attended one of our events this year. As a school community, we are a family made up of teams of people supporting St. Cletus School. There is no “I” in team, but when we work together there is always an “us” in St. Cletus.

God Bless,
Thomas Chinske

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Technology and S.T.R.E.A.M. News



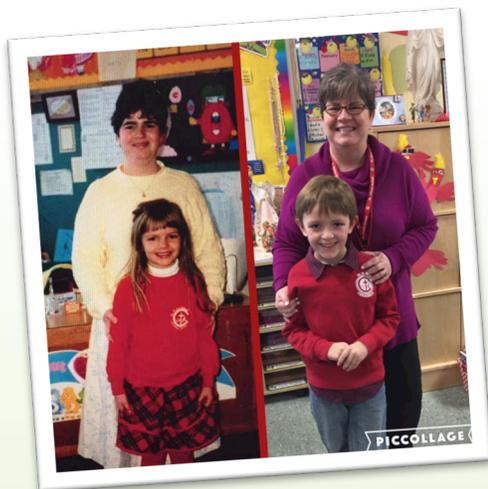
Because of your generosity during the call-for-cash at last year's auction, we have purchased robotics kits, 3D printers, and supporting curriculum. It is through your generosity and our amazing faculty's hard work that we are able to integrate this emerging technology into our curriculum so our students can explore new concepts and solve problems in a collaborative environment.

During the third trimester, we will integrate our S.T.R.E.A.M. (science, technology, religion, engineering, art, mathematics) curriculum across all grade levels in our Noah's Ark project in the TLC Lab. Using the new 3D printers, students will design and create the animals on

the ark. The use of 3D printing in this way positions students as creators and inventors who can identify needs and create solutions.

Students also will program our new robots to act as the ark's animals and move in sync with music. Teaching robotics to students in this manner allows them to merge their creativity with engineering and technology, and challenges them to work through complex and difficult processes.

For regular posts regarding the progress of this project, be sure to follow us on Facebook or on the parent page of the school website at www.stcletusschool.com/parents.



Like mother, like son. Margaret Bentley with Sara Hamilton Hodak (1991) and Lucas Hodak (2015).

Teacher Spotlight

At St. Cletus, we work hard at building relationships with each and every student in our classrooms. It is a joy to share the responsibility with our Kindergarten Team! I love the team we have built. It makes coming to school so much fun!

Kindergarten has been my life for almost 40 years, with most of those years spent here at St. Cletus. My husband and I have been parishioners our whole married life. Our son Matthew went to school here too.

How do you explain the connection, commitment and love of St. Cletus? I just can't put it into words; just look at our faces, the faces of our students, and you will see it and know it. It's a GREAT day to be a CARDINAL!! ~ Margaret Bentley

CARDINAL PROUD



2019 ST. CLETUS SPRING AUCTION

We are Cardinal Proud! On March 30, we will come together as a community and celebrate the reasons we all chose to become a part of the St. Cletus School family.

Why do we have an auction? The auction first and foremost is our most critical fundraiser of the year. All the money we raise will be used to cover our budgeted expenses, including faculty and staff salaries, utilities, and curriculum needs. For our school to meet its expenses, we must raise \$80,000 at the auction.

Why come to the auction? To support St. Cletus and our school community! It is an opportunity to celebrate relationships, visit with old friends, and meet new friends as well.

What can I expect if this is my first St. Cletus auction? There will be many opportunities to visit with other families and connect with our teachers and staff. The bags tournament will be an additional opportunity to meet new people as entrants will randomly be assigned a partner. Even if you do not plan on bidding, we encourage you to buy a ticket and spend the evening visiting with your fellow school parents.

What if I've been coming to the St. Cletus auction for years? Then you know it is a fabulous night not to be missed and we look forward to seeing you as always. And if you have been around for years, then you certainly will have something appropriate to wear as this year's dress is spirit wear. Feel free to have multiple wardrobe changes throughout the night.

What will be new this year? Our auctioneer this year will be Mark Bentley, a.k.a. Mr. Margaret Bentley, a.k.a. Queen of Hearts announcer extraordinaire. This year's penultimate auction item is a 5-night trip to WALT DISNEY WORLD! We cannot wait to see who the lucky bidder will be.

We would like to extend many thanks to Kyla and Tom Pedergrana, who are this year's auction chairpersons, as well as to all of our fourth grade families who have worked tirelessly to organize and plan this fun-filled night. Your hard work and dedication are what make St. Cletus a truly amazing community.

For more information regarding the auction, including ticket purchases, please go to: www.stcletusschool.com/fundraising/auction.

Congratulations!

Science Fair

Congratulations to 8th grade students Gabriella Estrada, Serena Garza, Grace Koziol, Jacob Santiago, Sara Schinker, and Kaelyn Sloan who this past weekend competed in the Illinois Junior Academy of Science's ("IJAS") regional science fair competition. Good luck to Gabriella, Serena, Grace, and Jacob who are advancing to the state competition.



The IJAS provides students with a wonderful opportunity to engage in and develop an understanding of scientific literacy. Each student conducts an original research project utilizing either the scientific method or the engineering design process. Students must additionally gather background research on their particular area of study and compose a document that functions as a survey of relevant literature. This intensive project is then judged at the school, regional, and state levels. Participation in IJAS fosters not only an ability to develop a scientific mind crucial for civic life and cultural affairs later in life, but instills grit and perseverance, important for any future challenge.

Boys' Basketball

Congratulations to our 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Team who won the conference regular season. Great job, boys!

All of our sports teams have played well this year and have proudly represented our school. Our athletics program is a wonderful way for our students to build friendships, learn team and leadership skills, and simply have fun.

Thank you to all our coaches for volunteering your time!



Fundraising Update



As we set forth in our Fall newsletter, the proceeds we raise through fundraising this year are not used as extra spending money. All the money we raise is used to cover our current expenses, which primarily are comprised of faculty and staff salaries, utilities, and curriculum needs. The alternative to fundraising is to raise tuition, but it is our mission to make Catholic education accessible to as many families as possible.

Fundraising, therefore, gives us an opportunity to actively help one another give our children the Catholic education we all value.

To date, we have achieved the following:

Fundraiser	Goal	Raised to Date
Fall Fest	\$30,000	\$30,00
Annual Fund	\$45,000	\$20,185
Auction	\$80,000	March 30, 2019
Golf Outing	\$9,000	June 2019
Dance-a-thon	\$13,000	May 2019
Misc. (Box Tops, Shop with Scrip, etc.)	\$23,000	\$6,620

These numbers point to the critical need of all school families to contribute to the financial support of St. Cletus School to the best of their ability.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to achieving our 2018-2019 fundraising goals. We can do this together!

