

It's Elementary

A Publication of St. Walter School



Fall 2015

From The Principal's Desk

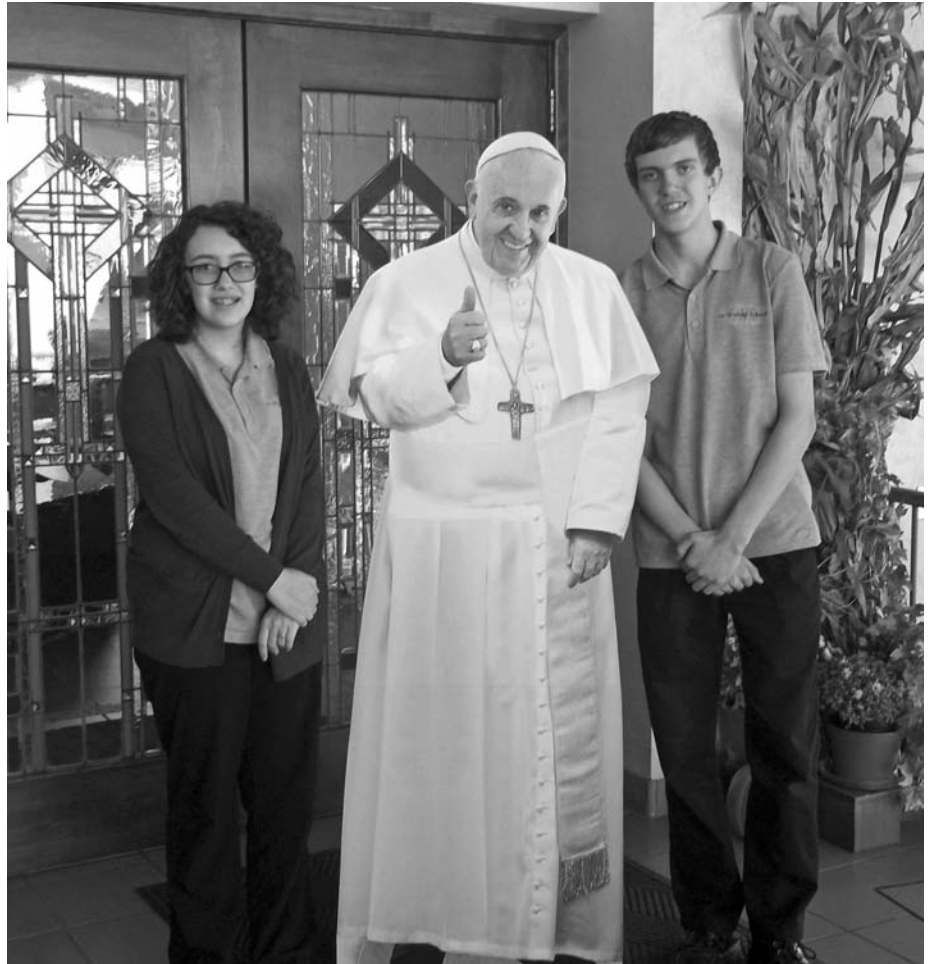
Dear St. Walter School Families,

We hope you enjoy this edition of *It's Elementary*. As we continue our journey through the fall season, we are very proud of how well our students have adapted to the new school year. They had a very good first quarter, have shown good academic progress and are continuing to be *Joyful Disciples* by modeling the Gospel in word and action. We are already deeply engaged in our commitment to serve others as we partner with our parish and the many projects sponsored by our Student Council.

The St. Walter School community continues to be focused on mission, service and academic excellence in Catholic education. We are very grateful to you, our families, for the gift of your children and your support of the mission of our school and parish.

May the beauty of this fall season and the blessings of Thanksgiving bring joy to you and your families .

Mrs. Mary Lloyd
Principal



A Holy Year of Mercy

In September, eighth grade students David Anderson and Barbara Mann traveled to the Blanchette Catholic Center in Joliet, along with religion teacher, Mrs. Claire Adachi, to participate in the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Joliet's devotional project entitled *Immersed in Saving Grace*. This diocesan-wide project celebrates Pope Francis' announcement of the extraordinary jubilee, *A Holy Year of Mercy*, aimed to highlight the Catholic Church's "mission to be a witness of mercy." The jubilee will begin on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

In combination with the *Immersed in Saving Grace* and *A Holy Year of Mercy*, each school family (grades 1-8) has or will have an opportunity to pray at home with their family members. The Prayer Bag, containing a *Guide to Praying as a Family*, offers different devotions and prayers for families, and is shared with each family for a week. Through this devotional project, we hope to lead our students and families into a deeper prayer life.

Inside This Issue

Early Childhood Fall Activities	2
Guiding Hands Award Nominations	2
Lyric Opera Backstage Tour	3
The Saints Come Marching In	3
School Board News	3
News & Notes	4

Early Childhood Students Enjoy Fall Activities!



Pumpkin Patch

The 4 Year Old Preschool and Kindergarten classes enjoyed a field trip to Sonny Acres Farm in West Chicago.

Sonny Acres provided the young learners with some memorable activities including a fun corn maze and a bumpy hayride. Students had a great time exploring the old farm. Kindergarteners were given a tour where they learned the history of the pumpkin farm, its buildings, and equipment. They also learned about the different types of pumpkins and corn that is grown on the farm. As they left, each student picked a small pumpkin to take home to remember the special outing.



Pumpkin Painting

Painting pumpkins provided the 3 Year Old Preschool students with a fun Fall activity. This has been a long-time fall tradition enjoyed by the preschoolers and their parents. The day included pumpkin painting, special Halloween games, a good Halloween tale and a ghostly treat at snack time.



Trick or Treat

We all love parades any time of year, but there is something about adding costumes that makes a Halloween parade special. The preschool and kindergarten classrooms stopped by the 'big school' donned in their favorite Halloween costumes. The superheroes, princesses and story book characters were enjoyed by all.

Fire Prevention Week Observed

Fire Prevention Week is celebrated every October. In observance of the week, the kindergarten classes visited the Roselle Fire Department. The fire-fighters presented an essential lesson in fire safety. Students learned the importance of not playing with fire and practiced the Stop, Drop and Roll technique. The highlight of their visit was going out to see the big red trucks and hearing the very loud emergency sirens.



Guiding Hands Award Nominations

Nominations for St. Walter School's 2016 Guiding Hands Award are being accepted through the close of school **Wednesday, December 2**. This annual School Board award recognizes a person or married couple who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the growth and philosophy of St. Walter School. It is the highest honor given by the school and will be presented at the school's Endowment Gala on Saturday, February 20, 2016.

Application forms are available online via SchoolSpeak, through the school office or by calling Mrs. Wojda at 630-529-1721.

Please Note: St. Walter School's current administration, faculty, staff, School Board members and spouses of School Board members are not eligible for the Guiding Hands Award.

Lyric Opera Backstage Tour

Eighth graders had a once in a lifetime experience to go behind the curtain of the Chicago Lyric Opera. This unique field trip enabled students to get a glimpse into how an opera performance is brought to life onstage for audiences. Guided by professional staff members, the students journeyed into the recesses of the opera house. From makeup and wardrobe, to props and scenery, the eighth graders had an opportunity to witness the inner workings of the historic theater. They were also able to see in the depths of the orchestra pit and walk on a catwalk six stories above the stage.

“The unique experience provided the students with an insight into what it takes to prep and manage a large-scale production and will help them prepare for their own upcoming Spring Musical”, states teachers Ms. Joan Figley and Mrs. Claire Adachi.



The Saints Come Marching In...

The first of November brings a day of honoring Catholic Saints. St. Walter fourth graders donned haloes, wings, beards and saintly garb at the liturgy commemorating the Feast of All Saints, also known as All Saints' Day.

The annual event is part of the school's faith formation program. Students are encouraged to research their patron saint or a saint that has a particular significance in their lives. In this way, the project becomes meaningful and memorable. We congratulate the fourth grade students and their teachers and aides, Mrs. Liz Mazza, Mrs. Meghan Hanika, Mrs. Rachel Cipriano, Mrs. Julie Olzen, Mrs. Jane Malouf and Ms. Joan Figley, for leading us in liturgy in this exceptional way.



School Board News

The Golden Raffle is back and has been sent home to all school families. Tickets are only \$20.00 each. Purchase or sell all 5 tickets and you will be eligible for the bonus drawing and a chance to win \$1000!

Grand Prize: \$20,000 CASH!

1st Prize: \$1000

2nd Prize: \$500

Early Bird – Purchase at least 1 ticket by Thursday, December 17 and you will be eligible for the 2nd Early Bird Drawing and a chance to win to \$500. The Early Bird Drawing will be held at the Christmas Concert on December 17.

The Golden Raffle and the Endowment Gala benefit St. Walter School and the St. Walter School Endowment Fund. If you would like more raffle tickets to sell to co-workers, friends or family members, please contact the school office. To find out how you can help with this year's Endowment Gala or to donate an item to the auction, please contact Kris Campton at 630-251-4272 or email her at campton01@att.net.

St. Walter School 2015-2016 School Board

Rob Burns – President
Catie VanValkenburg – Vice-President
Kris Campton – Secretary
Michael Butz
George Menard
Carl Olofson
Beth Sommers

News & Notes

Find Your Textbook at the Roselle Library!

The Roselle Library has copies of all non-consumable textbooks for **Grades 3 - 8 at the reference desk.**

If your child forgets a book, the Roselle Library can come to the rescue!

Asbestos Management Plan

Please be advised that the Asbestos Management Plan for St. Walter School required by 40 CFR 763.93 and the Illinois Asbestos Abatement Act is available for inspection during normal business hours by representatives of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Illinois, the public, including teachers, other school personnel, and their representatives, and parents at the following location:
201 W. Maple Avenue, Roselle, IL 60172.

During 2015, St. Walter School underwent the required asbestos re-inspection process. The results of that are included in a document available from the school office. If our school conducted an asbestos removal project, that information is also contained in the asbestos management plan.

If you would like a copy of the asbestos management plan or other asbestos management documentation, please contact the school office at 201 W. Maple Avenue, Roselle, IL 60172. We will provide a copy within 5 working days after receipt of a written request for inspection. The school may charge the reasonable cost of making any copies requested.

If you have any questions about the school asbestos management plan or its contents, please contact the principal, Mrs. Mary Lloyd, at 630-529-1721 or Richard Kaffka, the Diocese of Joliet asbestos designated person, at 815-722-6606.

After Hours Building Access

We ask our families and students to please **not return to the building on Tuesdays after 3:30 pm.** Religious Education classes are in session, and students may not interrupt these classes for forgotten books or materials.

We also ask that students and parents not enter the school building after our main office has been closed. This includes the late afternoon, on weekends and before and after Masses on Saturday and Sunday.

All staff, maintenance personnel and parish volunteers have been instructed to deny access to the school building when regular staff is not present. Thank you for your cooperation.

Save on Your Tuition Bill Through Our Shopping Certificate Program

St. Walter School offers you the ability to purchase gift certificates from a number of popular retailers through the Shopping Certificate Program.

A percentage of the savings earned by purchasing gift certificates through this program is passed along to St. Walter School. As a participant, you decide where the savings go. . . Your Family's Tuition or SWS Endowment Fund.

A list of participating retailers, along with an order form, can be found on SchoolSpeak. Just click on the 'Forms' tab located on the homepage. You can also order Shopping Certificates directly online. Online logon information was sent home. Please feel free to call us if you are in need of assistance.

Orders sent through school can be placed by 3:00 PM on Fridays most weeks. You will receive your gift cards the following Thursday.

Weekly Grocery Shopping – Caputo's, Meijer, and Walmart gift cards are in stock and available for purchase in the Main Office.

Save the Date!

The St. Walter School Board is busy preparing for this year's Endowment Gala. We hope that you join us at our 23rd Annual Endowment Gala.



Ticket to Broadway

Saturday, February 20
The Belvedere
Elk Grove Village

School Speak – Parents Take Note

Parents, be sure to logon to SchoolSpeak, with your parent logon, for all the latest St. Walter School information!

Emergency Closing notices will now be sent via email and text messages. We will no longer be making individual phone calls for emergency school closings. **Please be sure to have updated email addresses and cell phone information in SchoolSpeak.**

The school's general calendar, and special classroom announcements will be posted on SchoolSpeak for your convenience. Our Virtual Backpack, containing many copies of the flyers that have been sent home and the special school forms, can now be found on the SchoolSpeak homepage.

If you have not activated your SchoolSpeak parent account and need assistance, please email or call the Mrs. Wojda at devap@stwalterschool.com or 630-529-1721.