



CONN-AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“Centered in Christ”

March 2024

At Conn-Area Catholic School we encourage the children to reflect on what they learn. This helps to solidify understanding. Reflection is a powerful tool. During Lent, reflection is an opportunity to consider our actions and reaction to the world around us. It causes us to judge our own self and our end goal. Hopefully, our goal is to live the way Jesus taught us. This Lent, I am challenging the students to consider what results they hope to achieve by acting the way they do. Perhaps it is positive. Perhaps it is negative. We all know people who live and breathe drama and negativity, who become offended over little things, who cannot find it in their hearts to forgive. Our focus needs to be on developing our own positive Christ-like attitudes, in hopes that we impact those around us. Our job is not to call out the faults of others but to act in such a way that our goodness will encourage similar behaviors. So why do we do the things that we do? If we can answer that we are hoping to achieve God's will, then we certainly are living the life God intended. Taking the time during Lent to reflect on our actions provides us with focus that can lead to a life of peace. God bless you on your Lenten journey.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 24th marks the beginning of Holy Week. This is the most holy time of the year. Students will dismiss from school at 11:15 on Wednesday, March 27th, as we begin our Easter break. Please be sure to take your children to church for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course Easter. These special days leading up to Easter can greatly impact your child's holiness. Students will return to school on April 3.

Stations of the Cross

Our students lead us in the Stations of the Cross each week during Lent, providing an opportunity to truly reflect on what suffering Jesus incurred for us. It is meaningful to be able to put yourself in that time and place to appreciate how deeply he values each of us. We hope you and your family take advantage of the many opportunities around the diocese, where Stations of the Cross are being held.





Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our second Parent/Teacher Conferences are held this month. On Friday, March 22nd, students will not be in school. You received a 'sign-up' form in last month's packet. Your child's homeroom teacher will send you your assigned conference time, with consideration of your preferences to the best of our ability. Please be prompt to not delay the schedule. Together we can work together to encourage a successful academic journey for your child.

Our preschool conferences are held on two days. Preschoolers will not have school on March 12th and on March 22nd. All other grades – kindergarten through sixth – will report to school on March 12.



Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast

Each year, all the schools in the Diocese of Greensburg celebrate our schools with a special breakfast. During this event, three teachers in the diocese are recognized with the Golden Apple Award. A few years ago, our own Mrs. Colvin was the recipient of this great honor. It is also at this breakfast that grants are awarded to three schools for capital improvements. This is how we had the financial means to support the purchases of our greenhouse and our aquaponics system – two different awards in two different years. We hope to continue to improve our school facilities through such innovative ideas. Finally, each school awards one student the Student Spotlight Award. This award goes to students who show themselves to be excellent examples of what it means to be dedicated to the role of a student centered in Christ. A group of us will be attending this event on March 14th at Stratigos in Irwin.



Student Spotlight Recipient - Addison Casini

I am pleased to share that Addison Casini, a sixth-grade student, has been awarded this great honor for Conn-Area Catholic School. Addison exemplifies what it means to be a star student. The title Student Spotlight fits her well since her leadership demeanor and positive attitude are obvious to those around her. She is conscientious about her work, goes above and beyond with the quality of her academics. She is organized and prompt with assignments. Addison has been known to offer assistance to her peers when they struggle with learning. From a very early age, Addison has greeted the faculty and staff by name when she sees them and continues to show that respect every day. She enjoys helping others and never refrains from offering her assistance to anyone in need. She has been tasked with greater

responsibilities, as she has proven herself to be reliable. She takes leadership responsibilities seriously and wants to do her best. Addison has been taking dance lessons since she was three years of age and has been dancing competitively for the past four years. She also is active in basketball, as a member of the Conn-Area Catholic team, third through sixth grade. She is a viable member of her church, Holy Cross in Youngwood. She is the lector at the church, weekly. She is actively involved in the church's Youth ministry, attending all the meetings and activities offered through this program. These activities have included putting together care packages for the Navy, helping with making and serving food at the Knights of Columbus Santa breakfast, and making cards for the church's homebound. She has also assisted the kindergarten teacher with CCD classes at Holy Cross Church. Addison and a friend organized and executed a program they named Blessing Bags, where they collected donations and created bags for those in need in Fayette County. Throughout these activities, Addison maintains straight-A's. She is an inspiration to all who know her.



The show was a great success. With only seven weeks of rehearsal time, these kids truly put their hearts and souls into their parts. It was amazingly fun to see these kids share their talents of singing, dancing, acting, and the handling of the props by our crew members. Also impressive was the talent that came from our volunteers. This was Mr. Edwin Robbins' first time as director of a Conn-Area Catholic production. He did an amazing job, pulling this together in such a short time. Thank you to Jenn Gray, our volunteer coordinator and to Mary Sampey, our choreographer. Thank you to Mrs. Schnorr who managed all the costumes and to Mr. Colvin who did scenery and lighting. Mrs. Baker created the program book and a whole host of other volunteers helped with supervision of students, providing meals/snacks/drinks, working lights, sound, microphones, sales, backstage supervision, etc. Every member played an important part in making this happen. For those of you who attended, thank you for supporting our kids. Thank you for the non-perishable food items you donated for our local food banks and thank you for sharing in our vision to provide such opportunities for our students. A special note of gratitude to those who sponsored the program. It helps us to continue to finance this program. You are a blessing.



Boys JV Team Champions



We are so proud of our JV Boys Basketball Team. They ended the season undefeated and brought home the First Place Trophy! If you did not get to see them play together, you missed amazing talent. What they have learned over the year has been remarkable. Their coaches, Mr. Eric Deal and Dr. Justin Stevenson, did a great job teaching them the sport and instilling in them a love for the game. Congratulations on their success!



Marathon Packet

One of our most enjoyable events is our school Marathon Day. This Marathon Event is mandatory for our students, except for preschoolers. Preschool parents have the option of signing out their child from school, to head up to the field. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 3. Families are welcome to attend, however, all those attending **MUST** have their clearances, even if you are not there as a volunteer. Read your Marathon packet over carefully. There are important dates in the packet leading up to May 3rd, such as our t-shirt slogan contest, due March 13. For all details, please refer to the packet. Do not hesitate to ask questions. We hope you will join us.



Last Day of the Third Nine Weeks

It is hard to believe that on March 21st, we will finish up our third nine weeks and move into the final stretch. Report cards will be sent out shortly thereafter through document delivery.



Girls Volleyball Season

With our first game scheduled for March 2nd, our girls' volleyball teams are excited to get started. We were fortunate enough to have a Junior JV team and a JV team. We thank our coaching staff: Mrs. Brooke Allen, Mr. Matt Schnorr, and Mrs. Jenn Gray. Check the website for the game schedule. Go, girls!

Mark Your Calendar – Upcoming Events

- April 4th – Wax Museum – grades 4, 5, and 6
- April 17th – Family Liturgy/Sixth Grade Graduation
- April 22nd to the 26th – IOWA Testing Week – grades 3rd through 6th
- April 29th – Crazy Hat Day
- May 3rd – Marathon Day
- May 8th – Spring Music Program
- May 15th – Final PTG Meeting/May Crowning
- May 16th – Marathon Award Assembly
- May 24th – Sixth Graders' Last Day
- May 28th – Preschoolers' Last Day
- May 29th – K – 5th – Last Day
- June 2nd – Golf Outing

Wishing you and your families a spiritual Holy Week and a blessed Easter!