



ST. ANN SCHOOL of CAPE ANN

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL WHERE
FAITH AND EDUCATION MEET

Issue: 9

NEWSLETTER October 27, 2011

www.stannsschool.com

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

I recently attended a celebration of Catholic education for administrators in the Archdiocese of Boston. This event featured presentations by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap.; Superintendent Mary Grassa O'Neill; Vicar General, Msgr. Robert Deeley; and Rev. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ from Boston College. Fr. O'Keefe's talk focused on sharing the joy of a Catholic way of life with our children, which he considers one of the most important reasons for the existence of Catholic education.

Please join us for Mass on **Tuesday, November 1 at 12:00 pm** when we gather with the Holy Family Parish Community to celebrate All Saints' Day.

BREAKING NEWS...

Due to the performer's illness, The NED Show has been postponed until **Monday, October 31**. Yo-yo orders will be taken in the office all next week.

AUCTION NEWS...

Congratulations to the **Gibbs Family** (PK I) who won the \$100 raffle. The last call for ticket sales is **Monday, October 31** so we can give the caterer a final count.

PTO NEWS...

There will be an organizational meeting on **Tuesday, November 1** for anyone interested in helping out with Comedy Night. Please contact Amanda Kesterson at kestersona@yahoo.com for details.

GRADE 8 REMINDERS...

High School Placement Test dates are **Saturday, November 12** and **Saturday, December 10**.

All high school application paperwork must be given to Mrs. Parsons by **Tuesday, November 15**.

FIRST QUARTER REPORT CARDS...

The first term ends on Friday, November 4. Report cards will be sent home on **Thursday, November 10**, and conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 15, which is an early dismissal day.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES...

Glazed "Paint Your Own Pottery" starts on Thursday, November 3, and the registration deadline is Monday, October 31. Limited to 15 students, K – 8.

St. Ann School Drama Troupe will start rehearsals for "A Little Vaudeville Revue" on Wednesday, November 9. Registration forms are due by Monday, November 7. Limited to 20 students, grades 4 – 8.

CLASSROOM NEWS...

This week's classroom news comes from Señora Gallo, our Spanish teacher for grades 3 – 8. Students have recently completed a cultural unit exploring the origins of the Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos), which is celebrated from October 31 to November 2. Although this celebration originated with the indigenous people of Mexico, it was adapted at the time of the Spanish conquistadores to coincide with the Catholic observances of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Señora Gallo encourages students to use their imagination and visit a small *pueblo* (home) in Mexico where a family is preparing an *ofrenda* (altar) to honor a dear departed relative. In the upper elementary grades, the children discussed the differences between Halloween and the Day of the Dead, while the middle school students explored the religious parallels with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Students created a variety of traditional art projects at the end of the unit. Grades 3 and 4 made skeleton puppets; grade 5 made skull mobiles; grade 6 made skeleton masks; grade 7 made reverse glass paintings; and grade 8 made sugar skulls. All of the students also watched an educational video about the history of the holiday.

It is wonderful how Señora Gallo is able to blend culture, history, religion, and art into her language lessons. Muchas gracias, Señora!

SAVE THE DATE... Please join us for an evening Open House on Thursday, November 17 to celebrate our first quarter work. Details to follow.