

Ascension School Family Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 14

Nov, 19, 2010

*"For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy."
Ecclesiastes 2:26*

www.ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/ Ph: 254-5411

We Give Thanks!

Ascension School has much to be thankful for...wonderful parents, awesome students and dedicated teachers. We are a blessed school community.



Thank you Lord!!

Teachers & Principal for the Day – Tues, Nov. 23

A number of activities are going on in the classrooms and in the school on our Teachers & Principal of the Day reward for students who earned the most walkathon pledges. Principal Elect - Mr. **John Mosher** (from the 1st grade) is proclaiming Tuesday as an **Ascension Spirit Day**. This is an opportunity to wear those walkathon t-shirts again or any other shirts that have Ascension school or parish logos on them such as the 50th anniversary shirts, parish festival shirts, Ascension sports shirts, and Ascension CYO jerseys. (This is also a reminder that these shirts including the walkathon shirts are not for uniform wear on regular physical education days.) With those shirts students may wear out of uniform jeans or Ascension athletic sweats.

All students in Grades 1 & 4 who won the pizza party will be having that on Monday so they do not miss the Thanksgiving style menu on Tuesday.

Mr. Mosher is also encouraging any students to bring an item for the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry that serves the Ascension and Greenmont Oakpark communities. He will offer a bonus point for every student Gr. 4 and up who brings in a canned food item and a small token to students in the younger grades.

Upcoming Food Pantry Collections

Thank you for your generous support of our recent Food Pantry collections. Our next two collections will be held on the weekends of Nov, 20 & 21 and Dec, 11 & 12. The number of families in need remains high, so please continue to think of them as you shop over the next few weeks. It is also time to begin collecting donations for the holiday baskets that will be distributed to over 150 families in our area. Special needs for these holiday baskets include canned cranberry sauce, fruit, soup, peas, corn, green beans, mixed beans, and tuna. Boxed foods such as stuffing mixes, minute rice, cake mixes, and icing are also needed. Gloves, knit hats, and scarves are also highly valued as winter sets in. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need; if you miss our collection weekends, there are always marked boxes for your donations in the Bride's Room.

Zoomerang Surveys...

Thank you parents and teachers for your feedback on the RTI survey. Feedback was positive, yet it is clear that more continuous communication is necessary about this new Response to Instruction initiative.

Over the next week Mr. Devitt will be sending out the annual "Ultimate Question" survey. There is but one question on the survey and an opportunity to comment. It was a very successful way last year to get constructive feedback about the school and we will run it again. Thank you for your participation in advance.

New Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Superintendent

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has a new Superintendent – Dr. James Rigg. Mr. Devitt has had the opportunity on a few occasions to meet Dr. Rigg and sometime within the school year he will be visiting Ascension School. Here are excerpts from his letter of introduction last spring.

"I am extremely pleased to introduce myself to you as the new Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. As I look ahead to beginning my duties ... I find myself filled with excitement and anticipation for the future. I have already been deeply impressed with the quality of the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese....

I am a passionate believer in Catholic education. I have served most recently as the Director of Curriculum in the Diocese of Colorado Springs, Colorado as well as the principal of Divine Redeemer Catholic School. In addition to these duties, I have overseen school marketing, and have worked with our schools in researching and establishing new funding models for Catholic schools. In prior years, I worked as a teacher, dean, and principal in the Catholic schools in Memphis, Tennessee. I have taught university and graduate-level classes in education at various locations. I believe in the power of teaching children in the faith; the children of today are the future of our Church, and it is critical that we cultivate their minds and hearts to receive the light of Christ."

This past Wednesday Mr. Devitt joined over 100 other administrators from the Cincinnati Archdiocese right here in Kettering at the Presidential Center to participate in vision setting sessions that will help the Superintendent and the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools office develop a new vision for Catholic Schools in our Archdiocese.

Book Fair Thanks!

We thank all students and families who supported the PTO Book Fair. Total books sold amounted to \$7,529.14. Approximately 50% of that is profit to support the purchase of more media center materials. We thank our Media Center Coordinator **Ms. Sherry Smith** who serves as our school staff liaison/ coordinator for the Book Fair. Special thanks also goes to the PTO Parent Organizers: **Carrie Dirksen, Paula Kreinbrink** and the many volunteers:

Gisela Melvin

Nancy Blatt
Elizabeth McDonald
Diana Schultz
Mary Miller
Jennifer Lockhart
Brenda Kosir
Laura Vulgamore
Mary Jo Mykytka
Jill Neargarder
Laura Hale
Susan Draper
Shaunna Preston
Laura Burdick
Lisa McDaniel
Jason King

Pauline Drerup

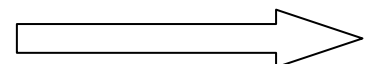
Janet Eilerman
Rosalie Koesel
Jenny Meyer
Lorie Cassity
Marianne Barbaro
Maureen Hemmert
Dorothy Speyrer
Linda Mead
Vanessa Roysdon
Amy Green
Sherry Callahan
Lauren Boyd
Melissa Cormier
Ann McManus
Kristin & Sophia Sparaco

Ohio Advocates of Catholic Schools

An enclosed flyer outlines how Catholic School Parents are being encouraged to maximize advocacy efforts on behalf of Catholic schools, their students and teachers. It is estimated that our Ascension School alone saves taxpayers over \$3.5 million dollars per year.

Please read the flyer and let Mr. Devitt know if you are willing to participate in a non partisan leadership way to help our Ascension parents advocate for our Catholic schools.

Over Please...



State of the School Address

Mr. Devitt has prepared a power point show filled with facts showing some of the changes in the school in just the last 10 years. Over the next several weeks slides from the show will be reproduced here in the Newsletter. To see the full state of the School Address Slide show go to the school website home page and click on the link for **2010 State of the School Address**.

• Students

2000 *424 Students
*Largest enrollment since 1974

2010 367 Students

Ave. Enrollment past 25 yrs is 376
9th in Miami Valley of 16 schools

• Infant Baptisms At Ascension

2000 100 children
*Annual Average over past 25 years =
91 children

2009 44 children

Infants born and baptized in 2009 will be in the kindergarten class of 2014.

• Academic Performance

	2001	2009
Gr. 2	71.3%	86.0%
Gr. 4	82.0%	79.5%
Gr. 6	80.5%	85.0%
Gr. 8	80.5%	80.8%

Total Performance on Terra Nova Standardized Tests in Reading, Language & Math where 50 percentile is the national average.

JOOI

Our Junior Optimists club wishes to thank all students who participated in two recent events that helped support JOOI activities. \$169.48 was raised in the sports uniform jersey day to benefit our Twin Parish friends in Peru and \$119.83 for the Scoops of JOOI to support cards and notes to the homebound of the parish.

Playground Aide(s) Needed

We have need of other qualified recess monitors to assist with recess supervision. These are paid positions and Child Protection Orientation and fingerprinting are necessary. State licensure as an Educational Aide is obtained and necessary in the process of becoming a recess monitor at Ascension. The job is rewarding work with children from approximately 11:00 to 12:45 each school day. If interested please call Mr. Devitt at 254-5411.



Media Center Volunteer Needed

A regular Media Center volunteer is needed on Tuesday mornings, from 8:30-11:30. Training is available. Please contact the school if interested.

Calendar Update

Nov. 20-21	S-SU	Ascension Food Pantry Drive, All Masses
21	SU	Rite of Invitation for Gr. 8 Confirmands, 8:30am
23	TU	Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm
23	TU	PTO Skating Party, Skateworld, 4-6pm
24-26	W-F	Thanksgiving Break, No School
30	TU	Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm

Enclosures

Gr. 1 Ed Outing Permission
Gr. 7 & 8 Dance flyer
Ohio Advocates of Catholic Schools Flyer
PTO Minutes
Dec. Calendar
Dec. Jan. Menu
Fall Extra-curricular News
Skating Party flyer
Youth Theater flyer

Return Date

Mon. Nov. 22
See Details
None
None
None
None
None
None
None

Quotation

"The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving."

H. U. Westermayer



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