

Ascension School Family Newsletter

Vol. 9, Issue 30

April 9, 2009

"For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy."

Ecclesiastes 2:26

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

Secretary/Assistants Day - April 22

We will take some time in April to recognize our Secretary/Administrative Assistants Connie Wahle & Sr. Maureen Heavey for their tireless efforts to keep us organized, facilitate communication and to assist all our students and families in our educational mission at Ascension School. Thank you Connie and Sr. Maureen.

Tuition and Assistance Opportunities

After our Easter Break we will begin a process of entering tuition data into the FACTS Management System's eCashier online program. For all families who indicated interest in Tuition Assistance you must complete a PSAS application. Applications have been sent to all who requested them in the tuition commitment forms. You may pick up additional copies of the PSAS forms over at the Parish office during the break during regular office hours from 9am to 7:15pm M-TH and Friday 9-4:00. Reproducible and online applications are available from the school website. The deadline for PSAS applications was extended this year from March 1 to April 15.

All families requesting tuition assistance must also register for PACE scholarships at the PACE office at 40 S. Perry St. Suite 120 (downtown Dayton next to Sinclair Community College) between 9 am-5 pm. Contact the PACE office at (937) 228-PACE (7223) for any assistance and/or concerns or visit the website - www.pacedayton.org/index.html During the break would be a good time to arrange a visit to the PACE office and begin this process. PACE scholarship can carry through Catholic HS as well.

Additional packets will also be left in the Parish Office from the Partnerships for Success with leads on part time jobs for Catholic Families - parents and teens to help pay for Catholic Education.

The school office will be closed during Easter Break and the answering machine has been disabled for some time. We are looking at getting a new phone system soon with built in answering capability.

Legislative Action Needed

Your assistance in contacting our legislators is vital to let them know how important their support of State funding of non-public education. State Auxiliary funding, Administrative Cost Reimbursement, and other state programs all combine to provide over \$450,000 per year of aid to our school alone. We have been cut more substantially than other areas of education support in the state and our legislators are urged to reinstate full and fair funding. **Mr. Devitt has written letters to state representatives and senators and urges you to do the same. See Attached Letter from the Ohio Catholic Conference.**

CYO/SAY Soccer

Soccer (current K-7) and Golf (current 5-7) sign ups for next fall will be held after Mass on the weekend of April 18 & 19 in the Witzman Center. The CYO Coordinator is Kelly Collins and the SAY Coordinator is Jeff McManus. Early Bird Participation fee is \$30 for soccer and \$25 for golf if paid by April 24, 2009.

Confirmation Practice Conflict?

For those 8th Gr. students who have a confirmation sponsor involved in the Carroll H.S. prom the same night as practice it is best if an adult proxy is present with the student for practice if the sponsor is unable to attend. The proxy does not have to be a parent or sponsor, just a responsible adult who can be sure to relay info to the sponsor.

Bingo Workers Needed

Interested in raising money for the Education Ascension? Education Ascension provides needed tuition assistance to Ascension families with children attending Ascension School or Religious Education programs. Volunteer one Thursday a month. For more info call Bingo Ralph at 299-2416.

Remember - the PTO offers one tuition prize of \$350 available to parents who volunteer as BINGO workers at the end of the school year.



Calendar for 2009-10

The Ascension School Calendar for 2009-10 is attached to this document.

Fr. Rudy Award

Nominations for the Fr. Rudy Award are now being accepted. The nominee must be an eighth grade student attending Ascension School or enrolled in the Religious Education Program. Recipients of this award should exemplify the aspects of the Ascension athletic philosophy. To nominate an 8th grader, please submit the answers to the 4 questions found in the Ascension Athletic Handbook (p 19 - available online as well.) Nominations may be turned in to any Athletic Board member or turned in to the school office. Nominations must be received by May 1.

Food Pantry - April 18 & 19

The next Food Pantry collection will be held next weekend, April 18 & 19. Your help is sorely needed as pantry stocks are LOW. Especially needed this month are macaroni & cheese, spaghetti and spaghetti sauces, canned soup, Jell-O & pudding mixes, toilet paper, bar soap, dish soap, and laundry soap. Although our collections are routinely held on the third Sunday of the month, there are always marked boxes for the Food Pantry in the Brides' Room, located off the Narthex, for your donations any time. Thank you for helping your neighbors in need.

Youth Football Sign-Ups Scheduled

The St Helen Booster club is sponsoring a sign up for boys in Gr. 3-6, interested in playing youth football in the Fall of 2009. We are having sign-ups on Sun, April 26, at St. Helen's school gym, 5086 Burkhardt Rd, from 9am-12pm. Also sign-ups will occur on the April 27, 6-7pm. Players are welcomed from St. Helen, IC, Ascension, St Brigid, St. Anthony, St. Peter, and St. Luke. We play a full slate of games against feeder programs from surrounding parochial and public schools in the Greater Miami Valley Football Assoc. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend the sign-ups. If you are unable to attend the April 26 & 27 dates, mail-in registrations are accepted. Currently the per child registration fee is \$40 with a one-time family booster fee of \$40. Any questions prior to the sign ups, please contact Chris Draper at 509-7223.

Calendar

April 10	F	Good Friday, No School
12	SU	Easter
13-17	M-F	Easter Break, No School

Enclosures

Extracurricular News
2009-10 Ascension School Calendar
PTO Movie Party Flyer (on reverse)
Legislative Letter

Return Date

None
None
None
See details



Quotation

"Everything that seems empty is full of the Angels of God"
St. Hilary

SPRING BREAK MOVIE PARTY!!

When: Thurs, April 16, 2009

Where: Beaver Valley Movie Theater
3255 Seajay Drive
Beavercreek, Oh 45430



Times: All Three movies will be
Showing at 1pm and 7pm

Cost: \$5 includes 1 movie, soda, and popcorn

Movies: Mall Cop---- PG
Bedtime Stories---- PG
Hotel For Dogs----PG

**Come join your friends during spring break
and see a movie!!**

A portion of the money goes towards PTO!!

Any questions?

Call Christina Pavliga at 258-0045



ASCENSION EXTRA- CURRICULAR NEWS

Winter 2009

Ascension Students participate in a number of extra-curricular activities that deserve tribute. The school welcomes any news **and pictures** about students' accomplishments in extra-curricular activities of any sort. *Extracurricular News* is a quarterly supplement to the School Newsletter. Submissions should be e-mailed to the school at devittb@ascensionket.org. Thank you.

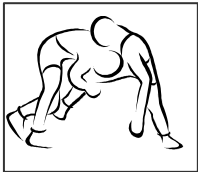
Music

Over 20 Ascension School students participated in the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs Festival held on Sat, March 28. Our local district festival was held at Wright State University with more than 250 students participating in events for piano, strings and voice. Each of these music students spent months and countless hours preparing and memorizing 2 musical selections and performing them before 2 judges. At the Honors Recital that afternoon, a select group of students performed followed by an awards ceremony recognizing students for years of Consecutive Superiors as well as presentations of Gold Cups. The following Ascension students from the piano studio of Mrs. Diane Larochelle participated in the Festival: **Annie and Maria Bete, Hannah Keller, Dana Koesters, Frankie, P.J., and Sonja Kosir, Andrew Olson, Abbey and David Saurine, Anna, Maria and Nicholas Schlegel, Taylor Smith** (daughter of Ms. Smith), **Sarah Sommers, Austin Thayer, and Kaylee Via. Hannah Keller** was awarded a 15 point Gold Cup. **Maria Bete and Abbey Saurine** qualified and played in the Honors Recital. Congratulations to all the students!



Art

Dana Koester's artwork was selected at the Creative Spirit Art Show at the University of Dayton Arena to be displayed at the Archdiocesan Trinity Center. Dana will receive a cash award of \$50 for her artwork.

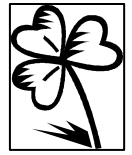


Wrestling

Tyler Pavliga and A.J. Michalo finished their wrestling season earlier this month. Tyler, a first year wrestler, had a very good season with wins in most tournaments. Tyler worked hard all season and greatly improved his wrestling skills. Tyler finished the season with 7 wins, 4 of those wins came from pins.

A.J. Michalo, a fourth year wrestler, finished the season with a 1st place at the Clinton Massie 6 team duals, 2nd at the Catholic Invitational Tournament, 2nd at the Elder Holiday Tournament, 2nd at the GCL Tournament at Carroll and 2nd at Bellbrook Open Tournament. A.J. qualified for the State tournament and will compete in Marion, Ohio against 47 other top wrestlers at his weight class for the state title.

Irish Dance



Eighth-grader **Brian McLaughlin** won the Mid-America Irish Dance Regional Championships held Thanksgiving weekend in Columbus. The Mid-America region, one of only five such regions in the country, encompasses Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, half of Kentucky, and half of Pennsylvania.

As the regional champion, Brian traveled to the World Championships of Irish Dance in Philadelphia this week and placed 11th. In addition to competing in the solo competition against the best in the world, Brian was part of an eight-person dance team and a Celtic-themed dance drama along with his brother, Ascension graduate and Carroll sophomore, Danny.

Brian has been dancing for 11 years and dances with the McGing Irish Dancers in Blue Ash. This is his fourth time qualifying for the World Championships.

Theater



Three Ascension students are involved with Beaver Creek Community Theatre's production of "A Little Princess." **Maria Schlegel (gr. 3)** is making her stage debut as a pupil, **Anna Schlegel (gr. 7)** plays mean and nasty Lavinia, and **Katie Wilhelm (gr. 8)** is sharing her talents as a member of the tech crew. The show runs April 24-May 3. Visit www.bctheatre.org for more information!

Swimming



Matthew Gearing had an awesome winter swim season. He qualified for 6 individual events at the Zone competition in Michigan, as well as 2 relays. His Free Relay came in 3rd and Medley Relay 7th. And he placed 5th overall in his 200 Freestyle. He swam all other events consistently.

Andrew Olson swam for the Beaver Creek YMCA this season where he made it to the Southwest Ohio YMCA League Championships, swimming in 5 individual events (50 yd. Free, 50 yd. Breast, 50yd. Back, 100yd. Free and 100 yd. Individual Medley(IM)) and two relays (200 yd Free Relay and 200 yd Medley Relay). He also made time cuts and swam the 50 yd Back, 100 yd IM, 200 Free Relay and 200 yd Medley Relay in the YMCA Great Lakes Zone Championships at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

Cheerleading



The cheerleaders for 8th Gr. Basketball did a terrific job this year, cheering for both eighth grade teams. The cheerleaders are 7th graders **Morgan Nash, Amanda Kackley, and Emma Sobieski**, 8th graders **Jessi Petrie, Selena Lambert, and Katie Ochs**. We wish to thank Tracy Takach for coordinating the cheerleading program, as well as Karen Barney for organizing the practices with the Carroll cheerleaders. Thanks to the cheerleaders for their hard work, team spirit, and for cheering our teams onto victory!

Gymnastics

Taylor Hill placed 2nd All-Around at the South West District Championship Gymnastics Meet in Greenville this past weekend!

3rd Grade Boys Basketball

The 3rd grade boys consisting of **Kevin Draper, Nathan Nigl, Alex Barbadora, Zachary Westgerdes, Cameron Joly, Bobby Magoto, Josh Miller, Conner Blatt, Mattaus Tracy,** and **Caleb Whitney** participated in the youth basketball program at the Kettering Recreation Complex. The boys guided by their coaches Chris Draper and Pat Nigl had a very successful season. Each of the boys developed proper fundamentals needed to play any position on the court. Congratulations to a job well done!

6th Grade CYO Boys Basketball

The 6th grade CYO Boys basketball team completed a successful season in Division II. The boys practiced hard and continued to improve on the fundamental basketball skills. The overall team record was 5-6, and included a thrilling overtime victory over Mary Queen of Peace at Ascension as well as another win at Mary Queen of Peace. The boys learned to grow in their respect for the game of basketball and the life skills it teaches all of us. The team was coached by Mark Vest and Frank Hemmert, and the season was celebrated by an end-of-the-year pizza party. The boys also got to play their families (Moms, Dads, family members) in a friendly game of basketball. It may have been their toughest game of the season! Team members were **Anthony Pellegrino, Ben Johnson, Alan Vest, Ryan Koesel, Matt Melvin, Patrick Shiner and Patrick Hemmert.** We look forward to next year's season.

6th Grade Carroll Spirit Boys Basketball

The Carroll Boys Spirit 6th grade basketball team posted a strong 2008-2009 season and finished second in the League and the Metro Tournament. The Spirit Team has five players from Ascension: **Paul Bete, Jonah Brun, Patrick Shiner, Patrick Hemmert and Alan Vest.** The team had an overall record (approximately) of 23-7 and battled an undefeated Franklin Team in the Metro Tournament Final. The boys all improved their basketball skills and had a lot of fun in the process! The boys were coached by Mike Austria, Dennis Brun and Jim Baker. Great season and the boys are looking forward to the Spring sports season.

7th Grade Boys CYO Basketball

The Ascension boys 7th Grade CYO basketball team had a very successful season. The team finished the CYO league season with a record of 5 wins and 5 losses. Based on their early play in the season, they earned a bye in the first round of the CYO tournament before losing in the quarterfinals. The team also played in the St. Charles league and had a record of 4 wins and 4 losses. The boys played hard every game and grew a lot during this basketball season. Members of the team were: **Kevin Koesters, David Eichner, Nick Clarkson, Jake Cridge, Shelby Springer, Andy Walker, Tyler Thompson, Tyler Pavliga & Cassidy Stevens.** The team was coached by **Walt Koesters & Eric Eichner.**



Basketball

8th Grade Boys CYO Basketball

The 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team coached by Paul Nash and Steve Keller had a very successful season. Winning the league, they went 9 and 1 during the regular season and 2 and 1 in the Ascension Christmas tournament. The season ended with a very exciting CYO tournament championship game. Ascension was down by 12 points with 3:30 left in the 4th quarter. The team fought back making tough layups and hitting clutch free throws (two with 3 seconds left) to send the game into overtime. Ascension carried the momentum into the overtime and won. It was a real team effort, like all the big wins during the season. They played unselfish offense, making the extra pass to get the open shot. During the season, 7 different players were leading scorers. The team consisted of: **Joey Accrocco, Billy Barbaro, Aaron Haney, Zachary Keller, Richie Koesel, Joseph Minardi, Wesley Nash, Michael Schamel, Salvatore Sparaco, and Zach Zwiesler.**

8th Grade CYO Boys Basketball

The 8th grade CYO Boys basketball team completed a successful season in a very tough Division II. The team improved dramatically over a 3 year timeframe, with the boys competing against the best CYO teams in the City of Dayton. The highlight of the season was winning the Ascension 8th Grade Holiday tournament and competing for a 2nd place finish in the St Helen's Thanksgiving tournament. The boys also reversed a trend in recent years by defeating a tough Bishop Leibold team. The boys overall record including tournaments was 9-10. The boys practiced and played very hard and always impressed our parents, fans, and opposing coaches by our great effort. The season was celebrated with an end of the year pizza party and each young man was recognized for his outstanding achievements at Ascension over the past several years. The players have represented Ascension well and we wish each young man the best as they transition from grade school into high school. The team was coached by Frank Hemmert and Jack Menke. Team members were **Nate Hemmert, Chris Wehner, Kevin Menke, Tom West, Aaron Abbott, Nick Bova, Andrew Eberly and David Saintignon.**

Free Throw Shooting

Zak Keller recently won a Free Throw Shooting contest. This contest was sponsored by the area Knights of Columbus (including St. Helen's, St. Albert, St. Charles, and Holy Angels). Zak successfully made 14 out of 15 attempted free throws. His accomplishment was recognized at a dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus where he was presented a plaque.

These were all the submissions that were received for Winter 2009. Other basketball teams, particularly the girl's teams and individual participants in other activities surely had very successful activities and we salute them as well. However the news reports for those activities have not been sent to the school for this publication. We rely on your submissions for this newsletter. Pictures may be sent too. The next issue of the Ascension Extracurricular News will be in late May 2009.

Catholic Conference of Ohio

9 E. Long St., Suite 201, Columbus, Ohio 43215

April 3, 2009

Dear Principal,

Ohio's elected state officials presently are drafting the state budget (HB1) for the next two years (starting July 1, 2009). While the budget will not be finalized until the end of June, the House of Representatives is expected to vote on it during the week of April 20.

We are pleased that the budget, as proposed by Governor Strickland and introduced in the House, RETAINS the EdChoice Scholarship Program, the Cleveland Scholarship Program, and the Autism Scholarship Program. Together, these 3 tax-supported programs benefit 11,500 students who attend Catholic schools in 2008/2009.

However, **all** students in Catholic schools benefit from two longstanding tax-supported programs: the Auxiliary Services Program and the Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program. For many years, these two programs have been given the same percentage increase in the state budget as the percentage increase given to basic aid for public schools.

In 2008, this tradition of equal treatment was broken. During the past year, the state budget was reduced three times. Basic aid to public schools was never cut, but the Auxiliary Services and Administrative Cost Reimbursement programs were reduced by 4.75 percent in the second reduction of September, 2008.

HB1, as proposed by Governor Strickland and introduced in the House gives these programs increases of 1.9 percent, based on the 4.75 percent budget cut. We ask, instead, that the 4.75 percent that was lost, be restored. We also ask that Ohio law be amended so that schools can access the full amount that the General Assembly appropriates for the Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program. All students attending Catholic and other chartered nonpublic schools rely on these programs for valuable assistance.

Ohio's Catholic schools educate almost 143,000 students. The Auxiliary Services program provides intervention specialists for students with specific learning needs, school nurses, speech and hearing therapists, guidance counselors, and psychologists for our students. It also pays for textbooks, computer hardware and software, standardized testing, and instructional resources. The Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program reimburses schools directly for a portion of the cost they incur in complying with federal, state, and local requirements.

The window for you and others to impact the budget process in the House is small. We need your help in getting the word out to our elected state officials, and we need it quickly. We ask you to do three things:

- (1) Ask parents, teachers, pastor(s), and other supportive members of your parish(es) to contact their respective state representative* by April 20 and request support for restoring money in the Auxiliary Services and Administrative Cost Reimbursement programs to their levels of funding prior to the cut in September 2008.

The message to representatives is simple and straightforward:

Dear Representative _____:

As a member of your district and a person very concerned about students who attend nonpublic schools, I ask you to restore the Auxiliary Services Program (line 511) and the Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program (line 532) to the funding levels budgeted for FY2009. These 2 programs were cut by 4.75 percent during 2008. **All** students attending Catholic and other chartered nonpublic schools rely on these programs for valuable assistance.

We also ask that you support an amendment to state law that permits our schools to access the full amount appropriated for the Administrative Cost Reimbursement Program in the state budget.

I believe in parental choice in education. The Auxiliary Services and Administrative Cost Reimbursement programs support this choice. Programs such as EdChoice, the Cleveland Scholarship Program, and the Autism Scholarship Program make it possible for families to choose the education that best meets their children's needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NAME (Please include your return e-mail AND U.S. mail addresses!)

* **Note:** To find the name and contact information for your state representative, go to: **www.legislature.state.oh.us**, and type your home zip code into the box on the right hand side of the screen

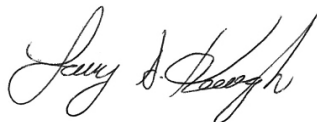
- (2) If you have not done so already, please invite your state representative to visit your school (or a neighboring Catholic school) sometime this spring. Coordinate the visit with principals of other Catholic schools in your district, so that the legislator can get the "good word" on all the Catholic schools in his/her district by making one visit.
- (3) Encourage parents and other supporters of Catholic schools to meet with elected state officials at the Advocacy Day on April 29.

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Jurkowitz
Executive Director



Larry D. Keough
Associate Director, Department on Education

2009-10 Calendar - Ascension School, Kettering, OH

M	T	W	TH	F
AUG. 2009 - 1st Semester				
T 17	T 18	T 19	20	21
24	25	26	27	T 28
31				
SEPT.				
	1	2	3	4
H 7	8	9	10	11
14	E 15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	Oct. Count Week	
OCT.				
			1	2
E 5	6	7	T 8	T 9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23]
26	27	28	29	30
NOV.				
2	3	E C 4	C 5	T 6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	V 25	V 26	V 27
DEC.				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	V 23	V 24	V 25
V 28	V 29	V 30	V 31	
JAN. 2010				
				V 1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	E 14	15]

M	T	W	TH	F
JAN. 2010 - 2nd Semester				
H 18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
FEB.				
	1	2	3	4
E 8	9	10	11	12
H 15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
MARCH				
1	2	3	4	5
8	E 9	10	11	T 12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26]
29	30	31		
APRIL				
			1	V 2
V 5	V 6	V 7	V 8	V 9
12	13	E 14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
MAY				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	E 13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
H 31				
JUNE				
	1	2	3	T 4

QUARTERS			
	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Days</u>
1st	Aug 20	Oct 23	43
2nd	Oct 26	Jan 15	47
3rd	Jan 19	Mar 26	47
4th	Mar 29	Jun 03	42
Student Days			179
CODES			
C - Conference Days (2 sessions @ 4 hrs)			1
I - Staff In-service/Work Days			9
Total Contract Days			189
E - Early Dismissal, In-service (Student Dismissal at 1:00)			8
]- End of Quarter			
H - Holiday			
V - Vacation			
No school on emboldened shaded dates			
Calamity Make-Up Days made up after 5 beginning on June 4 continuing as needed (For Weather, Illness, Facility closures)			
OTHER DATES			
Fall Testing (Gr. 2,4,6,8)		Oct. 1-22	
Catholic Schools Week		Jan. 31-Feb. 6	

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Aug. 17,18,19	M-W In-service, No School
20	TH First Day of School, Gr. 1-8
21	F Kdg Orientation 9-10am
24	M First Full Day for Kdg
28	F Teacher Inservice
Sept. 7	M Labor Day
15	TU Early Dismissal, 1:00
Oct. 5	M Early Dismissal, 1:00
8,9	TH, F OCEA Convention
Nov. 4	W Early Dismissal, 1:00
	Conferences, 3:15-9:15 pm
5	TH Conferences, 11am - 2pm
6	F In-service, No School
25-27	W-F Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 14	TH Early Dismissal, 1:00
18	M No School, MLK Holiday
Feb. 8	M Early Dismissal, 1:00
15	M No School, President's Day
March 9	TU Early Dismissal, 1:00
12	F CEC In-Service, No School
April 2	F Good Friday, No School
5-9	M-F Easter Break
April 14	W Early Dismissal, 1:00
May 13	TH Early Dismissal, 1:00
31	M Memorial Day
June 3	W Last Day of School
4	TH Teacher Work Day