Dear St. Rita Parent,

Please join us for our annual celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, beginning on Sunday, January 31 at the 9:30 A.M. Mass. The theme —“Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service”— highlights our focus on faith development, academic excellence and dedication to community service. We’ve planned a variety of events to show how we’re doing this as a community at St. Rita School.

Sunday, January 31—Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Parish – Students (in uniform) and their families are invited to the 9:30 Mass where St. Rita students will serve as lectors, altar servers, greeters and chorus members. Following the Mass, the school community will sponsor a Thank You “Coffee and” in the DPC for the parishioners.

Monday, February 1—Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Families – We will be having a CSW Prayer Service beginning at 8:40 in the gym. Please join us. Following the Prayer Service parents are invited to stay for refreshments and then visit our classrooms and see all the great learning that is going on here at St. Rita School.

Tuesday, February 2—Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Nation— All classes will create Valentines for Veterans to be distributed at the WH Veterans Hospital and students in grades 1-3 will play Bingo.

Wednesday, February 3—Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Students— Pre-K students will participate in a bowling activity in the gym. Students in grades K-3 will go on a field trip to Duck Pin Bowling in Hamden and students in grades 4-8 will go to Colony Lanes in Wallingford. Please return the signed permission slip for your child to participate. The permission slip is in today’s Tuesday Envelope. The cost of the field trip will be added to your Smart Tuition Account. All students are asked to wear their gym uniform to school on Wednesday.

Mission Statement

Saint Rita School is a Catholic parish elementary school that provides the opportunity for students to achieve academic excellence in a nurturing faith-filled environment. We prepare our students to be responsible Christian citizens who can make sound moral choices and think critically to meet the challenges of today’s rapidly changing society and those they will face in the future.
Thursday, February 4—Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Community—“Souper” Bowl Day. All students and teachers may dress down in honor of their favorite sports team. The cost to participate is a can of soup which will be donated to the parish food pantry. We will have a “surprise” guest speaker in the afternoon.

Friday, February 5—Faith, Knowledge and Service: In Our Faculty, Staff, and Priests—We will be attending 9:00 First Friday Mass to close out CSW. Grades kindergarten and 8 will be leading us in prayer. It is also crazy sock day. Wear a pair of crazy socks and bring new men’s socks for the NJHS Sock Collection. Fr. Sharkey and Mrs. Tiezzi will also be honoring our teachers with an appreciation luncheon. In appreciation of our teachers, I am asking each student and/or parent to write the teachers a simple note of thanks for all that they do.

Please join us as we celebrate our special school-St. Rita—“the place to be where the love of Christ is lived and shared.” Thank you for entrusting your child to our care. Have a great week.

God Bless,

Mrs. Tiezzi

Prayer Corner  Let us remember to hold the following people and intentions in our prayer:

St. Rita Parishioners
All those who pass our school on Whitney Avenue
For all those who serve us in the Armed Forces
For peace in the world
For those who are unemployed
For those who suffer with addiction
For vocations to the priesthood and religious life
For Sr. Maureen Fitzgerald
For Sr. Elaine Lattanzi
For a special intention
For Caroline, a young girl battling a serious illness
For a Friend who has cancer
Janet Hanson, Danny and Piper Fedak’s grandmother
Pete & Heather Ross – their Aunt & Uncle
NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY CLOSING (including INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS)

Notifications of school closings due to inclement weather prior to the school day’s start will be on local TV stations. (Under normal circumstances if HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED due to inclement weather ST. RITA SCHOOL will be closed unless a phone call/email is sent changing the message). It is suggested to watch WTNH or other local TV stations for information regarding school closings.

If it is necessary to close school due to unforeseen circumstances parents/guardians will be notified using the designated primary email address and primary cell phone numbers indicated by parents on their emergency information. It is important that parents/guardians keep these numbers and email addresses current at all times. Parents may update their personal information at anytime by logging on to the Edu-connect parent portal.

SCHOOL NEWS

Over the weekend a St Rita school family suffered a terrible tragedy when three of their relatives lost their home and possessions due to a house fire in Branford.

The Fedak family, who have two children at St Rita school, were notified when their relatives (the students’ grandmother, aunt and uncle) were rescued from their home. Thankfully their lives were saved and they are currently recovering in the hospital.

We are reaching out to the St Rita school community to consider helping this family with monetary donations to restart their lives by going to their go fund me page at the link below.  
https://de.gofund.me/rhx5dep5&rcid=12c5e4a0bcb44458bd40adf81d711b23

Another way to help is to consider dropping off gift cards for groceries, clothing and furniture to the school office which will be forwarded to the Fedak family. Any donation amount will help.

Thank you for this consideration and we ask that you keep the Fedak family members in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
WELCOME DAYS: For Prospective Families every Monday from 9am-11am when school is in session.

Stay Connected with SRS!
Visit us on Facebook and Twitter!
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintRitaSchool
Twitter: @stritaschoolct

PARENTS: Mrs. Tiezzi welcomes parents to stop by the 1st Wed. of each month (Feb. 3rd) during regular school hours to discuss any concerns or share any ideas that you may have.

“Get your Spirit on” for St. Rita School – Catholic Schools Week! Please see attached flyer and order form!!

GYM EXCUSES: Students will be excused from gym class only if they have a note from their doctor. Gym is a required subject and therefore all students are required to participate in gym class.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING TOURNAMENT GAMES

Thurs: Jan. 28 – 8:00pm St. Rita GJV vs St. Mary-Milford at SRS
Fri. – Jan. 29 – 8:00pm St. Rita BJV 6 vs St. Rita BJV 5 at SRS
Sat. Jan. 30 – 7:30pm St. Rita BV vs TBA at Joseph Melillo Middle School
8:30pm St. Rita GV vs St. John Old Saybrook at Joseph Melillo Middle School

St. Rita Church Bake Sale this Sunday, Jan. 31st after all Masses.

Home and School Association

The "Spring Festival 2016" fundraising event will bring together the St. Rita School community as well as patrons from ALL of the surrounding towns! The event is scheduled for Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. "Spring Festival 2016" will feature:

• (25) Booths Showcasing Local Artisans, Crafters & Vendors
• A Giant Tag Sale (flyer with details going home 2.2.16)
• Food Trucks Serving-up Various Types of Delicious Food
• On-line Silent Auction (more details to follow)
• Raffle Baskets
Know Your Faith Series Topic 2: The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist  
**Wednesday, February 3, 7:00-9:00 pm**
On Wednesday, February 3 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Caritas Christi Center, Catherine Brodersen will lead the second session of the Know Your Faith series. This session will seek to explain, in a clear and concise manner, the Catholic understanding of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Special attention will be given to Scripture passages upon which the Church’s teaching is based. The donation for this program is $15. To register please call 203-281-2569. [www.caritaschristicenter.org](http://www.caritaschristicenter.org)

Reflective Book Sharing: Finding Your Hidden Treasure  
**Three Wednesdays, February 10, 17, and 24 - 7:00-8:15 p.m.**
A contemplative discussion on “Finding Your Hidden Treasure,” by Benigus O’Rourke, OSA, who has both rediscovered and modernized the lost art of the monastic chapter as a literary form. In this three week series we will come to see that the most important journey in life is the journey inward, taking us beyond words and images into silence—centering prayer. Requirement: Centering Prayer practitioner. **Facilitator: Sr. Carolyn Severino, ASCJ, Adult Faith Formation, St. Mary Parish, Branford.** The donation is $20 for the series. If book is needed, please add $15. To register please call 203-281-2569. [www.caritaschristicenter.org](http://www.caritaschristicenter.org)

Living out of Mercy - Giving and Receiving Mercy  
**Thursday, February 11, 7:00-9:00 pm**
Why is mercy so important that Pope Francis has dedicated an entire year to it? In this workshop we will explore the meaning of mercy in our lives and reflect on how mercy happens in our personal spirituality, in the life of our church and in the world around us. **Facilitator: Kathleen Duffy**, a nurse with experience in many areas of clinical and managerial nursing. She has also worked as a Pastoral Associate in a Catholic parish and as director of pastoral care at a NYC hospital. She is a spiritual director and retreat director and has given presentations and workshops on various areas of spirituality. The donation for this program is $15. To register please call 203-281-2569. [www.caritaschristicenter.org](http://www.caritaschristicenter.org)

Kids Night Out (ages 4-12)  
**Friday, February 12 - 6:00-9:00 pm**
Drop off the kids and enjoy an evening out! A safe evening out which will provide a movie, crafts, snacks and fun for the kids. **Facilitator: Sister Jeanne Marie Vonder Haar, ASCJ.** The donation is $10 per child, $25 for families of 3 or more children. To register please call 203-281-2569. [www.caritaschristicenter.org](http://www.caritaschristicenter.org)
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Principal List

Grade 6

Brendan Barnett
Ryan Cotjanle
Elisa Cruz
Ava DeBrizzi
Madisyn D'Errico
Daniel Fedak
Alyvia Foster
Isabelle Giaquinto
Akira Hippolyte
Georgia Kirkendall
Juliana Mascia
Zachary McCarthy
Noel Roldan
Isabella Zambory

Grade 7

Ava Andreoli
Matthew Battipaglia
Jack Bowery
Dominik DeLane
Paula Fappiano
Sofia Fappiano
Jack Jannitto
Kyra Sette
Hayden Tomlin

Grade 8

Molly Cotjanle
Elisabeth Crosby
Kristina Crowell
Delilah Tuttle
Marla Zikaras
First Honors

Grade 6

Christian Bruno
Trinity Bullock
Connor Cahill
Michele Chacko
Nicholas Emerson
Mark Joseph Hally
Ian Lamb
Mackenzie Ledford
Gianna Mele
Jonathon Ngame
Luke Nugent
Ana Rodriguez
Nathan Venditto

Grade 7

Sydney Beaton
Jack Bouvier
Jacob Doyle
Margaret Egan
Mary Kathryn Hewitt
Lauren Jerram
Patrick Schreck
Andriana Torlish
Bryce Vitale
Brooke Wresien

Grade 8

Lauren Anderson
Timothy Boor
Jaclyn Faggio
Chloe Falls
Francesco Ferro
Samantha Gilbert
Jack Hamling
Allyson Kirck
Isabella Mazzucco
Mia Sandillo
Second Honors

Grade 6
Alexis Aybar
Ryan Lapolt
Amelia Lopez
Annalise Moulis

Grade 7
Gillian Benowitz
Britney Cardenas
Ryan Cannon
Francine Corpus
Ava- Louise Griffin
Nicholas Kelly

Grade 8
Anthony Cappasso
Alexa Gallicchio

Merit

Grade 6
Stephen DiCristina
Kieran Kelly
David McGroary
Natalia Sorenson

Grade 7
Joe Filardi
Georgianna Migliozzi

Grade 8
Andrew Cappasso
Jonathon Crowell
Morgan Dubay
Jean Pierre Giguere
Michael Iasalvatore
Elizabeth Landolfi