



"...where the love of Christ is lived and shared"

NEWS AND NOTES

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John Fitzgerald Kennedy

November 10, 2015

Dear Parents,

This week is a very busy but short week. The Book Fair opened yesterday and is doing a very brisk business. Report Cards for the first marking period will be going home in today's Tuesday envelope for those students in grades 1-8. Tomorrow is a day off from school in honor of Veteran's Day and Thursday and Friday are Parent-Teacher conferences for all students. Friday is also an early dismissal day.

Tomorrow, Veteran's Day, we honor those who have so bravely served this country. Our country is founded on the principles of freedom, justice, and liberty for all. Our nation's soldiers serve every day to protect our country and its ideals. I have asked each student to take some time tomorrow, Veteran's Day, to remember and thank those who sacrifice their lives to achieve peace and democracy in our country. Please have your child make a phone call or pay a visit to someone they know (grandpa, grandma, aunt, uncle, neighbor, or friends) who is currently serving or has served in the armed forces. All they need to do is say thank you.

The students have worked very hard this first semester and I congratulate them all. Beginning in middle school we recognize academic achievement with an honor roll program based on the following criteria: Principal's List – overall average A or A+, First Honors-overall average A-; Second Honors-overall average B+ and Merit-overall average B or B-. It is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate the following students:

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.



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Principal's List

Grade 6- Brendan Barnett , Elisa Cruz, Ryan Cotjanle, Ava DeBrizzi , Madisyn D'Errico, Alyvia Foster, Isabelle Giaquinto , Georgia Kirkendall, Juliana Mascia, Zachary McCarthy, Noel Roldan , and Isabella Zambory.

Grade 7- Matthew Battipaglia, Jack Bowery, Dominick Delaney, Jacob Doyle, Sofia Fappiano, Jonathan Jannitto, Lauren Jerram , Kyra Sette ,Hayden Tomlin, and Adriana Torlish.

Grade 8- Lauren Anderson ,Elisabeth Crosby, Kristina Crowell , Chloe Falls, Jaclyn Faggio, Samantha Gilbert, John Hamling, Delilah Tuttle and Marla Zikaras.

First Honors

Grade 6- Alexis Aybar, Christian Bruno , Trinity Bullock, Michelle Chacko, , Daniel Fedak, Nicholas Emerson, Mark Hally, Aikira Hippolyte , Ian Lamb, Mackenzie Ledford, Gianna Mele, Jonathan Ngame, Luke Nugent, Natalia Sorensen, Ana Rodriquez, and Nathan Venditto.

Grade 7- Ava Andreoli , Sydney Beaton , John Bouvier , Ryan Cannon, Britney Cardenas, Paula Fappiano, Mary Kate Hewitt, Patrick Schreck, Bryce Vitale, and Brooke Wresien.

Grade 8- Timothy Boor, Molly Cotjanle, , Francisco Ferro, Alexa Gallicchio, Michael Iasalvatore, Allyson Krick, Isabella Mazzucco, and Mia Sadillo.

Second Honors

Grade 6- Connor Cahill, Stephen DiCristina, Kieran Kelly, Ryan LaPolt, David McGroary, and Annalise Moulis.

Grade 7- Francine Corpus, Margaret Egan and Joseph Filardi.

Grade 8-Anthony Capasso

Merit

Grade 6- Juliana Colonis and Amelia Lopez.

Grade 7- David Ayala, Ryan Brady, Gillian Benowitz, Ava-Louise Griffin, Nicholas Kelly and Georgianna Migliozi.

Grade 8- Andrew Capasso, Morgan Dubay, Jean Pierre Giguere, and Elizabeth Landolfi..

Thank you for entrusting your children to our care. Have a great week.

God Bless,

Mrs. Tiezzi



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Parent–Teacher Conferences: A Tip Sheet for Parents

This tip sheet suggests ways that you can make the most of parent-teacher conferences so that everyone wins, especially your child.

What should you expect?

- **A two-way conversation.** Like all good conversations, parent–teacher conferences are best when both people talk and listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child’s progress in school: Ask to see data about your child’s attendance, grades, and test scores. Find out whether your child is meeting school expectations and academic standards. This is also a time for the teacher to learn about what your child is like at home. When you tell the teacher about your child’s skills, interests, needs, and dreams, the teacher can help your child more.
- **Emphasis on learning.** Good parent–teacher conferences focus on how well the child is doing in school. They also talk about how the child can do even better. To get ready for the conversation, look at your child’s homework, tests, and notices before the conference. Be sure to bring a list of questions that you would like to ask the teacher.
- **Opportunities and challenges.** Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child’s progress and areas for improvement. Be prepared by thinking about your child’s strengths and challenges beforehand. Be ready to ask questions about the ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

What should you talk to the teacher about?

- **Progress.** Find out how your child is doing by asking questions like: Is my child performing at grade level? How he or she is doing compared to the rest of the class? What do you see as his or her strengths? How could he or she improve?
- **Assignments and assessments.** Ask to see examples of your child’s work. Ask how the teacher gives grades.
- **Your thoughts about your child.** Be sure to share your thoughts and feelings about your child. Tell the teacher what you think your child is good at. Explain what he or she needs more help with.
- **Support learning at home.** Ask what you can do at home to help your child learn. Ask if the teacher knows of other programs or services in the community that could also help your child.
- **Support learning at school.** Find out what services are available at the school to help your child. Ask how the teacher will both challenge your child and support your child when he or she needs it.



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How should you follow up?

- **Make a plan.** Write down the things that you and the teacher will each do to support your child. You can do this during the conference or after. Write down what you will do, when, and how often. Make plans to check in with the teacher in the coming months.
- **Schedule another time to talk.** Communication should go both ways. Ask how you can contact the teacher. And don't forget to ask how the teacher will contact you too. There are many ways to communicate—in person, by phone, notes, email. Make a plan that works for both of you. Be sure to schedule at least one more time to talk in the next few months.
- **Talk to your child.** The parent–teacher conference is all about your child, so don't forget to include him or her. Share with your child what you learned. Show him or her how you will help with learning at home. Ask for his or her suggestions.

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*



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Home and School Association

Working together to build community

Check the HSA link on our website at ... www.stritaschool.org for forms and other information.

- Spring Fundraiser -
 - *Spring Fundraiser 2016: Have your vote counted!! We received some fun, clever and interesting ideas from the SRS community for possible fundraising concepts. Below please find the (9) ideas that were sent into the HSA. Please send an email to hsasrs.stritaschool@gmail.com with your favorite. All votes that have been received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, will be tallied and a winner will be selected. In keeping with the annual budget objectives, the Spring Fundraiser is expected to raise between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00.*
- 1. Food Truck Festival: Various food trucks, open to the public, perhaps some other forms of entertainment (magic show) or even a massage corner (like the ones that they have in the malls).
- 2. Comedy Night: Bring in a comic or two, charge \$25 - \$30/head, have hors d'oeuvre and drinks.
- 3. Schwan's Cares Fundraiser: Schwan's Cares is an easy way to earn \$\$ with (350) foods delivered right to the person's house that orders it. We don't touch money or food. 40% profit. People I know have done it and it was a big success - food is great from main course to dessert.
- 4. International Pot-Luck: Food from different countries since our school has different nationalities. Just hot trays, charge \$10-\$15 per person.
- 5. Spring Craft Fair/Tag Sale: The Spring Craft Fair/Tag Sale would be held on a Sunday in April at St. Rita School. We will advertise in the local newspapers as well as hang a banner on the school fence on Whitney Avenue with information on the event inviting all to come. Depending on the weather, we could hold it outside in the parking lot or in the gym and hallway. A \$1.00 entrance fee would be collected at both entrances to the parking lot. The Craft Fair would consist of vendors that pre-purchased (fee for vendor TBD) a table to sell their wares. These vendors could be selling a product or service. The Tag Sale area would comprise of gently used items (not clothing) that were donated by the school families. These items would be collected from November thru March (specific drop-off days scheduled), stored, logged & organized in the bunker and priced accordingly. We would sell hot dogs and popcorn and possibly have a couple of food trucks. We would have a predetermined percentage that SRS would receive from the food trucks.
- 6. Raffle Tuition: This raffle would not just be made available to the SRS community, but, to everyone. The tickets would be sold for \$100.00. The tuition could be used for any school of your choosing. If we wanted to raise \$8,000,00 for SRS and have a \$10,000.00 tuition prize, we would need to sell at least(180) tickets. The winner will be announced during a Wine Tasting Event held at St. Rita School.
- 7. Yankee Candle: My idea for the Fundraiser is Yankee Candle, the link is provided below for the information. The School has never done this fundraiser in the past and I think it would be an interest to a lot of people. <https://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/>
- 8. Personal Information Journal: This Personal Information Journal is an easy-to-use booklet that guides you through the process of collecting, organizing, recording and safely storing all your personal and financial information in one place. There are over (50) categories of important information. Every credit



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card, insurance policy, retirement plan and personal property item can be documented. Each Personal Information Journal costs \$25.00. St. Rita School earns 45% of sales.

9. Chocolate Extravaganza: I previously co-chaired this event for a local red cross chapter several years ago (we did it for a few years until they closed local chapters and Red Cross became statewide) the fundraiser netted \$10K. Local restaurants and culinary people or just people who wanted to participate create a dish, appetizer, drink with the main ingredient being chocolate and provide samples for the tasting. People purchased tickets at 25.00 in advance and 30.00 at the door. Audience votes for people's choice award, most creative and celebrity judges vote for best tasting, etc. There was also a silent auction table. We had chocolate martini's, truffles, pizza, chocolate covered bacon, soup – all different items. It could easily be hosted in a school gym / classrooms. One judge was from a news station, another was a chocolatier from a chocolate company in either Woodbridge or Woodbury. I liked it because it was very different, it appealed to all ages, and was fun!

SPIRIT WEAR - Santa Claus is coming your way with your Spirit Wear goodies packed on his sleigh! This fun-raiser kicks off today! We have something for everyone ... students, parents and grandparents, too. We have NEW apparel for our Crusaders, Alumni and our Class of 2016! Christmas only comes once a year so if you love it buy it! Look for your catalog and order form on our website this week or see attachments! Questions? Contact Joanne Bruno at joannebruno@ymail.com HO HO HO!

ST. RITA SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Calling all volunteers! Our annual book fair is in the planning stage and we need YOUR help to make it a success. This year our book fair will run from Monday, November 9th through Friday, November 13th (excluding Wednesday, November 11th-Veterans Day). Please contact any one of the following if you are interested in volunteering for this wonderful event:

Kris Kirck -- kristinkirck@sbcglobal.net

Lena Sorenson -- stellagirl627@snet.net

Sandy Mascia – sandramascia@att.net

Trisha Kozloski -- trisha.gilbert@yahoo.com

Danielle Natale -- danielle.natale@gmail.com

Come to the St. Rita Scholastic Book Fair. You can find a wide variety of books from holiday classics, children's favorites, popular teen selections to the latest best sellers. There is something for everyone.



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Monday, November 9th—8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Tuesday, November 10th—8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Thursday, November 12th—8:30 AM-6:00 PM

Friday, November 13th—8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Spread the word! Bring your family and friends. We'd like to make this the best book fair ever!

***Teacher Conferences** will run Thursday 3:30-7:00 PM and Friday 12:30-4:00 PM*

PIE FUNDRAISER: Yummy Yummy! Our Fall Fundraiser has been extended!! We will be taking orders up until this Thursday November 12th. **GET YOUR ORDERS IN!**

SCHOOL NEWS

CHANGE IN STUDENT PICK UP PLANS – Please do not email your child's teacher during the school day if there is a change in how your child will be going home. Teachers are not continually checking their emails. You must call the office before 2:00pm. Thank You.

Adopt Our Library: Help us start a new chapter!
Makes a great Christmas gift. Please see attachment!

OPEN HOUSE: For Prospective Families every Monday from 9am-11am when school is in session.

Help us Spread The Word about our NEW Welcome Days!
If you are interested in displaying a Lawn Sign for a month, please email Carissa Civitello
ccivitello.stritaschool@gmail.com

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



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REFUSAL TO PERMIT ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE FOR EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Connecticut law requires the school nurse and other qualified school personnel in all public schools to maintain epinephrine in cartridge injectors (EpiPens) for the purpose of administering emergency care to students who experience allergic reactions and do not have a prior written authorization of a parent or guardian or a prior written order of a qualified medical professional for the administration of epinephrine. State law permits the parent or guardian of a student to submit written notice to the school nurse and to the Director of Pupil Personnel Services that epinephrine shall not be administered by qualified school personnel to such student in emergency situations.

A form is available from the school nurse for those parents/guardians who refuse to have epinephrine administered to their child. The refusal is valid for only the 2015-2016 school year.

You must come to school and sign the form in the presence of the school nurse.

If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Planas

Kimberly A. Planas
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

LUNCH PORTAL is now open for the weeks remaining in November and all of December.

SRS CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY: “The Promise” will be on Friday Dec. 4th @ 10:15am at St. Rita Church.

PARENTS: Mrs. Tiezzi welcomes parents to stop by the 1st Wed. of each month during regular school hours to discuss any concerns or share any ideas that you may have. Next month will be on **Wednesday**, December, 2nd.



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ST. RITA SCHOOL was featured in News channel WTNH clip. Please see attachment <http://wtnh.com/2015/10/23/report-it-recap-october-23-2015/>

VIRTUS TRAINING SESSIONS: All parents or grandparents who want to volunteer in the school for any activity must complete a 3 hour Virtus Training session. To register for a session you must go online to Virtus.org. Below please find some upcoming classes.

Where: St. Elizabeth Seton (Rocky Hill)
280 Brook Street

When: Thursday, November 12, 2015
6:00 PM

Where: St. John the Evangelist (Watertown)
21 Academy Hill

When: Saturday, November 21, 2015
8:30 AM

Where: St. Vincent Ferrer (Naugatuck)
1006 New Haven Road

When: Saturday, November 21, 2015
9:00 AM

Where: Immaculate Conception
(Plantsville)
130 Summer Street

When: Tuesday, December 1, 2015
6:00 PM



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St Rita School

Retake / Absentee Day and Sibling Portraits Monday, November 16

Who Should Go on Absentee/Retake Day:

- Any student not satisfied with original portrait - Return your complete package to the photographer on retake day.
- Any student who was absent on the original day whether you are purchasing a package or not. Order forms are available in the school office one week prior to retake day.
- Any student who did not purchase on the original day and would like to purchase a package. Order forms are available in the school office one week prior to retake day.

Sibling Portraits:

- If you would like to have your children photographed together, please request an order form from the office. Order forms are available in the school office one week prior to picture day.
- Fill out order envelope with your package choice and in the first name box put “Sibling” and in the last name box , last name.
- Very Important for Sibling Look Selection – please select from Look 4, 5 or 6 only.

Any questions, please call Lifetouch at 203-735-5933



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***AN INVITATION TO THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH
TO BECOME ALTAR SERVERS***

There will be an introductory training session during the school day for students (grades 4 and up) who wish to become an Altar Server.

We hope you will consider this important ministry and join the existing servers who serve God and the parish in this special ministry.

Please notify Sr. Anne by Nov. 12th if you are interested.

SHRED DAY: Worthington Hooker School
691 Whitney Ave.
New Haven, CT

Date: 11/21/15
Time – 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

\$25 a box up to 3 boxes - \$5.00 a box thereafter - \$10.00 a bag

Hot Chocolate and Baked Goods for Sale



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Caritas Christi Center

295 Benham St., Hamden, CT 06514 Phone: 203-281-2569 Fax 203-407-8965

Film Study: *The Way*

On Wednesday, November 18 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the Caritas Christi Center, Jim Pepitone will screen and lead a discussion of the movie *The Way*. In this film, Tom (Martin Sheen), an American doctor goes to France to retrieve the body of his son who was killed in a storm while walking the Camino de Santiago, also known as The Way of St. James. Tom decides to honor the memory of his deceased son by finishing the journey. Having only one objective, he did not expect to be profoundly changed by meeting and bonding with other pilgrims, who like his son, were searching for meaning in their lives. The donation for this program is \$8 (snack included). To register please call 203-281-2569. www.caritaschristicenter.org

Kids Night Out!

Friday, December 4

Friday, December 11

6:00 – 9:00 pm

The Caritas Christi Center will host a fun evening for kids (ages 4-12). Drop off your children and enjoy an evening out. Your children will enjoy a Christmas movie (12/4 - *Nativity!*; 12/11 - *Danger in the Manger*), craft project and snacks in a safe environment. The cost per night is \$10 per child (\$25 for families of 3 or more.) To register please call 203-281-2569. www.caritaschristicenter.org

Day of Reflection

Advent: Preparing Spiritually for Christmas

On Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Caritas Christi Center, Father Vincent DeLucia, OP, Prior of St. Mary's and Administrator of St. Joseph Parish, New Haven, will lead an Advent Day of Reflection. In the midst of all the frenzy of this season, take time to prepare your heart and mind for experiencing the true meaning of this graced filled Advent Season. This day of prayer and reflection will allow the participants to prepare spiritually for the feast of Christmas. The day includes presentations, celebration of the Eucharist, and time for quiet reflection. The donation for this program is \$40 (includes lunch.) To register please call 203-281-2569.

www.caritaschristicenter.org



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Evening of Reflection - Exploring the Infancy Narratives

On Tuesday, December 8 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Caritas Christi Center, Sr. Mary Ellen Burns, ASCJ, Director of Apostle Immigrant Services, will present an evening of reflection. The Infancy Narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke have been called "Gospels in miniature." As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, we will explore what these stories tell us about Jesus and how they challenge us as His disciples. Bring your Bible. Snack is included. The donation for this program is \$15. To register please call 203-281-2569. www.caritaschristicenter.org

Holly Berry Festival

The annual Holly Berry Festival, a juried arts & crafts fair benefitting the Retirement Fund for the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, will take place Fri. November 20 (3-8 pm) & Sat. November 21 (10 am – 3 pm) at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden. There is a Pasta Dinner on Friday from 5 – 7 pm (\$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under) and a Food Court on Saturday starting at 11:30. Please call 203-288-9408 ext. 447 for more information.