



At Saint Jerome School, these are some of the ways we lived our Mission this week...December 16, 2011

Academic excellence

I offer my congratulations to our eighth grade students who took the high school entrance exam for the Catholic high schools. I have heard from the principals at two of those schools about the outstanding results from our kids. I am very proud of the efforts they, their parents and our teachers have made to make this great news possible.

I was very impressed with the number of papers hanging on the Math Wall of Fame outside Miss Kreckie's door and especially pleased to see names that have not been on it before. Always reaching higher is our goal for all of you!

The work all of you have done to bring the sounds of Christmas music into our halls has been tremendous. Yesterday, watching the performances that were filmed for cable I saw your talent, effort and teamwork on display. I thank you and your teachers, especially Ms. Nowell, for helping you to bring the spirit and joy of the Christmas season to your families and our community. I'll let you know when you can watch yourselves on Weymouth cable. We'll also be receiving a DVD of the show to share on the SMART boards.

Faith at the center of what we do

I have enjoyed seeing the beautiful demonstrations of your faith in the hallways and in your classrooms this Advent. This week I read the 4th grade Advent calendars sharing their conscious efforts to do good deeds each day. Many of you are being very consistent listing some act of service every day. I saw the beautiful stained glass windows being done by Grade 5 and enjoyed sharing the original faith-related meanings of so many of our beautiful Christmas customs in a class with Grade 3. Again, we thank K-2 for keeping our Advent calendar display current on the first floor. It is a visible reminder of this wonderful season of anticipation.

Thank you to all of you for being so generous in your prayers for people we have been asked to pray for. This week we were especially mindful of Charlotte Kelly's family and we received many thanks from them for the love, prayers, cards, letters and small gifts we shared. Please continue to pray for the Kelly as they adjust to life without this beautiful little girl.



Service as a way to build community

Talk about a warm feeling!...Collectively, you brought in 124 pairs of pajamas and Scholastic donated 118 books to go with them to keep lots of people from infants to adults wrapped up in your generosity. I am so proud of the way you took this month's service project to heart. We are so grateful to Miss Morrissey for organizing this important project again this year.

Next Friday, you will all have the chance to wear your own warm pajamas to school. I hope you will think of the goodness you showed in making others know that someone cared enough to make it possible for people you don't even know to have that same warm feeling.

I had the privilege of writing several recommendations for many of our eighth graders who are hoping to attend Catholic high schools. In writing those letters I was so proud to be able to share the many, many ways and the many, many hours our students are committing to service. These hours are being shared with our own school, camps for special needs, working with animals, encouraging young athletes and other important groups. I hope this practice is something you will continue to model for our younger students and embrace as a life-practice long after your time at Saint Jerome School.

Shout-outs this week go to... Mrs. MacCurtain and the Enrichment group for the impressive candy houses you created. They reflect the culmination of your efforts studying the towns under the Quabbin Reservoir and the thoughts on what your own community design might look like. I know much thought and effort went into your designs and we are delighted you had this experience. New students will be selected for the next enrichment experience after we come back from our Christmas vacation.

... Mr. Peruzzi for his work making pizza with Grade 5 as the wrap-up activity for your study of wheat as the food capable of feeding the world. Thank you for your respect and attentiveness and for sharing your gratitude with Mr. and Mrs. Peruzzi



Service as a way to build community, continued

... Mr. Sheehan for the time and effort he puts into making Grade 5's French classes so interesting and challenging. I know Grade 5 will work hard on the assignment Mr. Sheehan has left for you to complete while he is in Florida this winter.

Final shout-out goes to our weekend winners... the Drama group who will participate in the production of ANNIE, Jr. tonight and tomorrow night and we know will WOW us all with their talent

... and to the Lego Lions who will take their talent to Worcester to compete in the state finals tomorrow. They have earned their place through hard work and teamwork and know they will give their very best on Saturday.

Thank you all for the wonderful things you do to make our school shine!

God bless you all as we enter our fourth and final week of Advent.