



St. Gabriel Consolidated School

# PTO Pawprints

Issue 4 2005/2006  
February  
St. Gabriel Consolidated School



## Cougars' Night Out a 'Roaring' Success

We hope you enjoyed CNO. Karin Zuber and her volunteers pulled off an amazing (and profitable) party! Many things went well and as always we found things to improve upon. The checkout process was quicker than last year but not as smooth as we wished and some volunteers worked longer than anticipated. These areas will be improved for next year.

We have been fortunate to have many people work on CNO since its inception three years ago. Angie Elsass, Lee Ann Forte, Heidi and George Keppler, Connie Malone, Nancy Young and Amy Zimmermann have been involved from the beginning. It is time for some to pass the torch. Would you be interested in helping with the raffles or consider the invitation and check-in/out process? Please consider this well-organized, financially successful and fun (!) fund-raiser. It's a great way to give back to the school that is giving your children so much! Everyone involved will tell you it is an incredibly rewarding opportunity.

CSW came and went like a blur! It was a great success thanks to Aimee Davis and her team. The school looked amazing for Open House. The purple cross collages, organization tables and media displays helped show guests the true spirit of our school. The T-shirts were a big hit—maybe it was the fact the kids could wear them instead of the standard white shirt—but I hope you liked them, too! Thanks to all who gave to Reach Out Lakota, we donated 30 boxes of items!

Your PTO Board is turning its attention to next year. We will attempt to create written overviews for all PTO committees. The overview will help new committee chairs understand their responsibilities and new board members come up to speed quickly on all that PTO does. The board will also start looking to fill vacancies. Please consider serving on a committee next year, or better yet ... the PTO Board. Our efforts come back to benefit the school and the children seemingly tenfold. It is a very rewarding job. Thanks for your support of the school and PTO.

— Melinda Yonchak, PTO President

*On behalf of the PTO Board and Cougars' Night Out (CNO) Committees, thanks to all who attended and supported CNO Mardi Gras. We raised over \$14,000 with record attendance of over 225 people.*

*John and Carla Zorowski were tuition raffle winners. Ms. Charron's class won the Steak 'n Shake party with the highest number of parents attending. Class baskets were fantastic - thanks to all involved!*

*We are putting together next year's team. Contact the PTO Board if you're interested in chairing a committee or would like to become involved in some capacity.*

*Please join me in supporting Nancy Young as the CNO Chairman for CNO 2007. She co-chaired our silent auction for two years before accepting this new role.*

—Karin (Olkes) Zuber, 2006 CNO Chair

## A fantastic Catholic Schools Week highlighting 'Character, Compassion and Values'

Catholic Schools Week was a wonderful variety of activities focused around our theme!

- Doug Hennig, Magician with a Mission, kicked things off Monday with a message focused on Character, introducing our Reach Out Lakota service project. Students collected over 30 boxes of items for Reach Out Lakota!
- Tuesday, students received commemora-

tive t-shirts they wore all week. Oh, the laundry!

- Wednesday, February 1, was St. Gabriel Day in Glendale and the date of our Open House.
- Thursday we celebrated All School Mass at St. Max. The mass was followed by a staff appreciation luncheon.

- Friday, we recognized community helpers including bus drivers, crossing guard, Glendale Fire Department and parish staff.

Thanks to our volunteers for creating this very special week! The team included Karen Agricola, Ann Everly, Karen Silvieux, Maureen Bucher, Angie Charron, Jeff Bossman and Nancy Young.

--- Aimee Davis, 2006 CSW Chair

## 7th Graders Perform!

Our 7th grade students are rehearsing the Spring Play, titled "?????". Mike and Diane Breen return to direct this tongue-twisting farce in which the students at Bitter Batter School compete to attain a tongue-twisting triumph and regain a trophy lost years before. There are twists and turns in this comedy, set for March 9 and 10 at Glendale Elementary. Watch the Thursday envelope for details.



## SGCS In The News

It's been hard to miss St. Gabriel Consolidated School lately—we're all over the newspapers and parish bulletins! Thanks to volunteers and teachers who are providing story ideas, writing press releases and taking photos. This kind of FREE publicity is INVALUABLE, particularly right now as prospective families are making their schooling decisions. Keep thinking of us when you know of something GOOD happening at our school!

— Nancy Young and Laura Hendy

## **Boosters Seeking Candidates**

St. Gabriel Boosters are accepting nominations for all offices (except President) for the coming school year. Nomination forms went home in the Thursday envelope, or you can submit a nomination (name of volunteer and office being sought) to any Booster officer. Please give consideration to those people you think would be good leaders of the Booster organization. Nominations are due no later than February 24. Ballots will be distributed and due back no later than March 24.

## Catholic Identity

Sister Elizabeth Boyer from the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur recently made a presentation to 7th and 8th students. Sister Elizabeth's presentation, Discipleship in the Global World/The Student's Nun and the Amazon, teaches Catholic Social Values by sharing with students the importance of sustained development, interdependence and other aspects of respecting and caring for the environment. In addition, students saw a 2003 film produced by a British student chronicling the life and work of Sister Dorothy Stang. Sister Dorothy of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur was murdered on a rural street in Brazil last February while trying to help displaced peasants. She was known as the Angel of the Amazon. Talk to your kids about this presentation! — Diane Breen



## **CSW Lunch a Treat**

The Catholic Schools Week staff luncheon was a great success thanks to all who donated food. Everything was delicious! We could not have done it without the help of Connie Malone, Caroline Remke and Yvonne Krekeler who were a tremendous help with set up and clean up. Thank you!  
— Michelle Danhoff, Kathy Chennell & Lee Ann Forte



## BOXTOPS For Education

The last call is past for BoxTops collection for this school year, so start saving for next year! If you can save them at home that's great - otherwise send them in and we'll keep them until next year's collection begins. Please let Teri Dean know if you are aware of anyone who saves Betty Crocker points, as we always get a few in with the BoxTops and we'd like to share our wealth. We'll report in the next PawPrints how much we earned from this easy fundraiser.

# Volunteer!

Planning activities for the 2006 – 2007 school year have begun. There will be lots of activity over the next few months as we prepare to welcome new volunteers and nominations for PTO officers. Look for these events coming soon:

- In late March we will solicit PTO Board Nominations ~ while this does require a bit more of a time commitment than other volunteer positions, it is not all-consuming! All officers receive training and a full set of documentation for their new position. We are looking for enthusiastic, committed people who want to make a difference for the students. What better way to do this than by serving on the PTO board as an officer!
- In April, sign up sheets for volunteer opportunities will come via the Thursday envelope. These opportunities include Mentor Program, Book Covers & Pencil Bag sale, Community Relations, Pawprints, Cafeteria, M&M Sale and Market Day Volunteers and Everybody Counts.
- There are plenty of options for getting involved and there is something for everyone! Volunteer opportunities range from a few hours per quarter to once per week. There are volunteer tasks done during the school day and others that can be done from home on your schedule.
- We are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas. If you have been thinking about getting more involved, this is a great way to meet new people and make a difference. Your contributions will be much appreciated!

~ Ann Everly, PTO Vice President

## ? A note from our principal, Joe Epplen ?

We were exceedingly pleased with the number of people who attended our Open House. There was a nice blend of current families along with new families interested in what our school has to offer. We also noticed an interest in upper grade classes as well as the more usual Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade inquiries. St. Gabriel Consolidated School continues to attract interest because of the supportive nature of families who have chosen to send their children to us. Often we hear that the school is like family, has a positive comfort level, and people feel welcome. We appreciate what everybody does to make this school a quality learning place, steeped in tradition and a place where the love of God and each other is paramount to our mission.

Thanks to all of you who in any way continue to “market” our school. Thanks also to those who led Catholic Schools Week activities, Cougars’ Night Out and scouting, drama and athletic programs. Our school continues to grow because of volunteers who give of themselves to help our children succeed. God Bless All of You.

### Somebody’s doing things right at SGCS!

Eighth grade students at St. Gabriel Consolidated School have received multiple honors for their excellent performance on the Catholic high school entrance exams. St. Gabriel eighth grade teachers are Mary Lou Bea and Mary Lou Huth.

- Kara Pierson earned a full scholarship to St. Ursula Academy.
- Five students scored among the top forty on Roger Bacon’s placement test: Kelly and Bailey Uetrecht, Kara Pierson, Christian VanRafelghem and Sara Vice. Kelly earned a \$20,000 Scholarship. Roger Bacon also awarded Leadership Scholarships to Sara Vice and Clare Gray.
- Sam Beyer, Jonathon Hau, Spencer Hidy and Michael Montour have been admitted with Academic Distinction to Moeller High School.
- Kelsey Carter, Megan Heimbuch, Theresa Lingardo, Mary Malloy , Rebecca Knue, Kara Pierson, Bailey and Kelly Uetrecht and Sara Vice have been recognized as Julie Billiard distinguished honorees by Mt. Notre Dame High School
- Christian VanRafelghem has been admitted to St. Xavier High School with the honor of being named a St. Francis Xavier Scholar.
- Michael Montour received a scholarship to Fenwick High School based on his placement test grades.



### Scouting Adventures

Daisy Scout Troop #945: We’ve been earning petals. We sang Christmas Carols at Cottingham Nursing home and participated in “Petite Kids in the Kitchen” program at East Butler County YMCA. The girls learned kitchen safety and cooking tips. In February we participated in an obstacle course and held a mock Olympic ceremony.  
— Sally Kolks

1st grade Brownies #1831: We attended a performance of "The Elephant's Child" at Raymond Walters, where we learned African phrases and songs and saw a wonderful fable about curiosity and learning. —Teri Dean

4th grade Juniors #6480 : We’ve adopted Ronald McDonald House as a theme for our service project. We are saving pop tabs, contributing Girl Scout cookies, and planning a visit to the House to learn more and share our contributions. The Juniors counted General Mills BoxTops for the PTO, and made a troop library we will be donating when we complete our Books badge. — Teri Dean

5th Grade Junior Troop 479: We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon hike at Caldwell Nature Center searching for fossils, examined soils and studied the effects of water on the earth. The girls studied Jamaica for World Thinking Day. Important facts about the country, their culture, food, and music along with information about scouting in Jamaica will be displayed at the event. The troop “Slept with the Manatees” at a zoo overnight in. We took a night hike and viewed animals in their morning routines.  
—Kathy Uetrecht and Phyllis Cowan

8th Grade troop 5380: Six Cadettes are working toward their Silver Award: Emily Green, Emily Snyder, Bailey Uetrecht, Kelly Uetrecht, Meg Riesenberg and Karen Hatfield. The girls worked together to hold a winter festival at the Glenmary Knights of Columbus Hall for the annual children's Christmas Party. The Silver Award is the highest Cadette Girl Scout honor, recognizing a commitment to working to better her life and that of others. A minimum of 30 hours is required earn this award, it is a great accomplishment! —Linda Hatfield

## EVERYBODY COUNTS

The Everybody Counts! program takes place in March. Each grade learns about a disability through classroom activities and discussions. Our wonderful parent volunteers help students explore the aspects of visual and hearing impairments, mental and other physical impairments, learning disabilities and serious illness. In many grades, guest speakers also come to talk about their lives and answer questions. Discussions highlight the differences in *all of our abilities* and the need to accept diversities in bodies, skills and talents and remind students we all share similarities, disabled or not. Remember to talk with your children about what they learned during 'Everybody Counts!' Month and reemphasize that everyone has differences and Everybody Counts!

—Teresa Kraimer and Maureen Kaneps

**Birthday Book Update ...** Our Adopt-a-Book Birthday Club has resulted in hundreds of new books (worth thousands of dollars) being placed in our school library. Here is how the program works:

During your child's birthday month (or half-birthday for June and July babies), you will be sent a special birthday card inviting you to purchase a book (or books) in honor of your child's birthday.

You return the birthday card to your child's teacher, along with a check or cash in the amount of your choice.

Your child selects books from our birthday cart, which will be donated in his or her name to our school library. Books start at \$5, with most books in the \$10 - \$15 range. Please take this into consideration when making your donation.

Your child's name will be stamped in the books, and he or she will be the first one to take the new books home to read before they are placed in the school library.

**Drum Roll Please ...** Second Quarter Statistics: 91 new birthday books have been adopted since the beginning of second quarter. Thanks to all of you who have participated or plan to participate in this program.

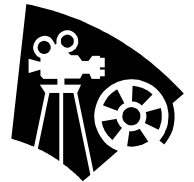


—Maureen Bucher

## Assemblies keep kids entertained

Did your kids tell you about the assemblies recently presented by the Magician with a Mission and Young Authors? What a treat! We have two more assemblies planned for this year, thanks to Karen Agricola:

3-13-06 *LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!* Mobile Ed. Productions will visit SGCS and teach students how to create a TV show! In the morning, students will be divided into groups for 45 minute assemblies to create video clips. At the end of the day, Mobile Ed. and some older students will compile the video clips to create the "SGCS TV Show". The final video production is ours to keep and watch on a different school day.



4-28-06 *LIGHT OF THE WORLD.* Cincinnati's own Tom Sparough will visit SGCS to juggle while telling stories of courage, wisdom and compassion in order to highlight Jesus' challenge to us to be light for the world.

## St. Gabriel 2005/2006 PTO Board

- **President:** Melinda Yonchak  
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- **Vice President:** Ann Everly  
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- **Secretary:** Patty Klaus  
phone: 772-8789/e-mail: pat.klaus@aecmagnetics.com
- **Treasurer:** Larry White  
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**MARK IT: NEXT PTO MEETING IS May 10 AT 7 PM IN ST. MARY'S HALL. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE AND GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION!**