



From the Desk of Mr. Epplen

Excitement was prevalent everywhere in Washington D.C. as Mrs. H. and I represented our school in the Blue Ribbon celebration on November 14th and 15th.

With a sense of pride we listened to the accolades expressed by members of the United States Department of Education and various panel members from elementary and secondary principals and teachers' organizations. We also had an opportunity to listen to the National Teacher of the Year who gave a very dynamic presentation.

We waited with anticipation on Tuesday afternoon as each school was called to the podium by state and presented with our plaque and the appropriate pictures. We were thankful to be in the middle of the pack as I know it had to be a long wait for people from Wyoming!!

Our return assembly on Friday, the 19th, was an equally important celebration and, in many respects, more meaningful because we had active participation from a number of students, parents and staff and a student body and staff attired in a sea of blue shirts.

We will continue our celebration throughout the year by encouraging the wearing of our blue shirts on Fridays and the planning of other activities on a monthly to six weeks basis.

Being recognized as a Blue Ribbon School does not happen on a regular basis, so we savor in

the success we have accomplished and look forward to maintaining the tradition of excellence for which we always strive.

We are appreciative of the parental support and the willingness of children to be active participants in their learning.

Strive for Excellence Always



Dates to Remember:

December 23 - Christmas vacation begins

January 3 -- Classes resume

January 12 - PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 17 - NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Day)

January 31—Catholic Schools Week Begins

February 2 - Open House 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

February 3 - All School Mass St. John 9:30 a.m.

February 14 - Everybody Counts Begins

February 21 - NO SCHOOL (President's Day)

February 28 - Book Fair Begins

Letter From the PTO President

Dear Parents: Thank you to all who organized, volunteered for, or participated in the highly successful candy sale. Tori A., Jen D. and Karen S. led a hardworking team of volunteers in a hugely successful fundraising effort, raising more than \$12,000 for the PTO. Among other things, the PTO uses these funds to provide in-school enrichment opportunities, field trips, and the school plays. Thank you for your efforts!

Your support of the on-going PTO fundraising efforts allows the PTO to support the children, teachers and staff as they strive for and achieve excellence. On-going fundraisers include Scrip, Market Day and label collections (Boxtops for Education, Tyson's labels, and Campbell's soup). We appreciate your participation in these programs.

Scrip plays a substantial role in the PTO budget. Scrip are cash value cards from various national and local vendors. Although sometimes referred to as gift cards, scrip can be used as a form of payment for your own purchases. Scrip order forms are available online and can be sent to school anytime. Scrip orders are placed on Friday, and scrip cards are sent

home the following Thursday.

Expert scrip users have provided tips for novice, intermediate and advanced scrip users. Reloadable Kroger cards are used by many families and are often people's first introduction to the scrip program. Novice tip 1: Encourage extended family members to use the rechargeable Kroger cards. This is a great way for grandparents and others to support education without additional cost to them. Tip 2: Rechargeable Kroger cards can also be used to purchase gift cards from companies that may not participate in the scrip program. Intermediate level participants occasionally place scrip orders. Intermediate Tip 1: Help budget for home improvements by purchasing scrip in advance of the project. Tip 2: At sports registration time, check your child's gear to make sure it still fits. If you will need more equipment, consider using scrip to make the purchases. Advanced level participants routinely utilize scrip. Advanced tip 1: Share your tips with others. Advanced tip 2: Keep frequently used scrip cards on hand.

This year the PTO will be offering special commemorative



Blue Ribbon ornaments for \$4.00. Please place your order soon as supplies are limited. Proceeds from these beautiful ornaments will benefit the PTO. Ornaments can be ordered through Rita A. (via Sheridan 7W).

If you volunteer with St. Gabriel's, thank you. Your involvement means a lot to your children. There are so many great volunteers that it is difficult to recognize them all. Please know that the work you do is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Adelaide K. Leitzel

Catholic Schools Week
January 30 - February 5, 2011



BLUE RIBBON AWARD CELEBRATION CONTINUES



The National Blue Ribbon award is considered the highest honor an American school can achieve and on November 15 and November 16, St. Gabriel Consolidated School was honored in Washington D.C, along with other schools who were named 2010 National Blue Ribbon schools by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Mr. Epplen and Mrs. H., representing St. Gabriel, were able to meet with representatives from other 2010 National Blue Ribbon schools and while there, receive St. Gabriel's 2010 National Blue Ribbon Award. Parents, students and teachers were able to see this plaque at the November 19th assemblies held in St. Mary's Hall.



Each assembly began with a prayer by Father Fay, pastor of St. Gabriel Church. Mrs. S., who put together the paperwork for the Blue Ribbon Award, introduced the various segments of the program:

- 8th grader Lydia H. played a piece on the piano to highlight the many talents at St. Gabriel
- Parent volunteer Aimee D. gave her thoughts on what being a Blue Ribbon School means
- Teacher Mrs. H. talked about what it means to a teacher to receive the National Blue Ribbon award
- 8th grader Caroline H. gave a speech on consistency of purpose at SGCS
- The Kindergarteners stood up and shared what they've learned at SGCS so far this year
- A large illuminated Blue Ribbon was unveiled by Mr. Chuck.
- A representative from each grade each placed an 8x11 picture (taken in their classroom) on a giant blue ribbon that was created by Mrs. B. and Mrs. O..

The assemblies ended with a few remarks from Mr. Epplen, where he energized the kids with 'I am Blue Ribbon', talked about his time in Washington D.C and shared a few thoughts on earning the Blue Ribbon Award. "This award is not about me, about parents, about staff, or about teachers. It's about everybody doing their part." said Mr. Epplen.

SGCS will be celebrating this Blue Ribbon Award throughout the 2010-2011 school year. A Blue Ribbon



committee has been formed to plan celebrations each month. In October, the kids were able to wear blue hats, scarves etc one day. In November, the kids were given blue ribbon t-shirts that they wore the day of the assemblies. And in December, ornaments with the sketch of St. Gabriel by Jack H. are available for purchase.

As Mr. Epplen said during the assemblies "This Blue Ribbon Award is only a beginning".

WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE SALE EXCEEDS GOAL



This year's Candy Sale Fundraiser exceeded our goal of \$10,000. SGCS made \$12,000 in profit from the candy sale this year, compared to \$10,800 from last year. In addition to the \$12,000, SGCS will be receiving a bonus of \$1,000 from World's Finest Chocolate for selling all boxes ordered. SGCS ordered 550 boxes of candy and thanks to the efforts of so many of the

SGCS family, all 550 boxes were sold.

Participation in this only major fundraiser for the 2010-2011 school year was high. There were 269 students that received an SGCS lanyard for selling at least one box of

Drawing prize winners

Gift card to the Web

6th grader Selena C.

Laser Tag passes at the Web

2nd grader Zoi E.

iTunes gift card

7th grader Liam D.

Best Buy gift card

5th grader Nick K.

Camcorder

2nd grader Tre M.

candy. 133 students sold at least two boxes of candy and were entered into a drawing for additional prizes (see box at left for winners). Students in grades kindergarten through five who sold four or more boxes of candy were awarded a pizza lunch at school. Twenty five qualified for this. Students in grades six through eight who sold four or more boxes were awarded a "Limo Lunch". The 23 students who qualified for this were picked up at school in a limo and taken to CiCi's for lunch.



A special thank you goes to our World's Finest Chocolate co-chairs Jen D., Tori A. and Karen S.. Their hard work helped ensure the success of this major fundraiser.

Top 3 sellers in the school

1st place (winner of \$100.00)

7th grader Liam D.

Sold 17 boxes.

2nd place (winner of \$75.00)

7th grader Claire J.

Sold 16 boxes

3rd place (winner of \$50.00)

3rd grader Alexis D.

Sold 10 boxes



Pictured with Mr. Epplen are the top 3 sellers (l-r): Liam D.(1st place), Claire J.(2nd place) and Alexis D. (3rd place)

SGCS PARENT SOCIAL UPDATE

The Vinoklet Winery venue for the SGCS Parent Social was quite nice. It was an excellent opportunity to meet so many new faces! We had 70 parents and teachers attend the event! We would like to thank several people for donating raffle prizes: Lynda G. and Thad K. (Bengals tickets and Big Boy coupons), Adelaide and Lance L. (wooden Glendale buildings), Joan V. and Mike H. (Jim Beam gift basket), Doug G. (STIHL gift bags), Glendale Florist (\$20 gift certificate), Tara M. and Kevin N. (\$40 SGCS spirit wear gift certificate), and the PTO (pumpkin-flower arrangements).

- Tiffany G.



2010/2011 PTO Board

- President: Adelaide Leitzel
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- Vice-President: Rebecca Ludwig
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- Treasurer: Martha DaSilva
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- Secretary: Paula Baxter
777-7405/PaulaMBaxter@hotmail.com

Next PTO meeting is January 12 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS



"Every Knee Shall Bow"