

# St. Raphael School Newsletter



*Guiding students in faith and knowledge*

Dear Parents,

September 30, 2011

The sixth week of school is already finished. In this short time we have celebrated our opening school Liturgy, and a Liturgy celebrating the Feast of St. Raphael. We have also hosted three Open Houses, High School Information Night, conducted the magazine drive, had school pictures taken and grade six attended Camp Christopher for their annual camping and outdoor education program. It has been a busy and rewarding start to the school year.

The month of October is often devoted to Mary, the mother of Jesus. During this month, we honor Mary in prayers and rituals for the very special role she played in the history of our salvation. In class, discussions will include Mary's deep faith, her willingness to follow God's will, and her commitment to love and care for her Child.

The school will gather as a community to pray the rosary on Monday, October 24 at 2:30. All are welcome to attend.

Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Yours in Catholic education,  
*Mrs. Ann Miller*



## DATES to REMEMBER

Oct. 6	Grades 2 & 4 go on field trips
Oct. 7	Dress Down Day
Oct. 11	Grade 7 field trip
Oct. 14	No School/Professional Dev. Day
Oct. 16	WEEK of Book Fair
Oct. 20	All School Mass/Fr. Stalla
Oct. 21	Principal Coffee 10:00-11:00
Oct. 24	Rosary at 2:30
Oct. 28	Last day of 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
Oct. 31	Halloween

## SCHOOL THEME

Our school theme this year is “**Be Bold...Celebrate Christ**”. As Mr. Andrachik explained at Open Houses it is easy to be bold within the walls St. Raphael School. We pray as a school. We go to Mass both as classes and as a school community. Your children are taught religion daily. Even when we discipline we ask your children “WWJD”, “What Would Jesus Do?” The real challenge is for students to Be Bold when they are away from school, starting with attending Sunday Mass. For that they need you to Be Bold by setting the example and ensuring that your family attends Mass regularly. Do not be the part of that 70+% of people who say they are Catholic, but do not go to Mass on weekends. Also, shared at Open Houses is the notion of “Kindness and Respect”. We preach it here and we ask you to reinforce it at home. When you send your children off to school remind them to treat everybody and everything with kindness and respect. When they come home, at family dinnertime or when they are saying their evening prayers, ask them if they were kind and respectful today.



First Day of School



## **MAGAZINE DRIVE**

The school magazine drive began on September 7 and ended on September 22. We worked very hard to make the drive more family friendly knowing that it has caused some strife in families in the past.

Our goal was to raise \$35,000 this year. As you are aware tuition does not fully cover the expense to educate your child. The magazine drive helps cover this deficit. Our goal is to keep tuition affordable, but with rising costs we need to look for other avenues, such as the magazine drive. Thank you to all of our families that support the Magazine Drive. Remember, you can continue to support our school by buying magazines throughout the year simply by accessing QSP on our school website.

## **EDLINE**

Edline is an internet web hosting solution designed to increase parental involvement in students' academic progress, save teachers time, enhance parent-teacher communication, improve internal communication, reduce paper-based costs (photocopying, envelopes, etc.), and, above all, improve student achievement. For the first time the program is being implemented in grades four through eight.

Parents can use Edline to check your child's latest grades, receive e-mail alerts when new grades are posted, see what work is not turned in, and receive communications from the school and your child's teachers. Each teacher uses Edline a little differently. Teachers update grades every 7-10 days.

When using Edline, the first person you should discuss any scores or missing work with is your child. Hold your child accountable. Feel free to contact your child's teacher if and when an unacceptable performance pattern develops, not when there is a bad score or single missing assignment. Also, feel free to communicate if grading errors happen. Communicate with your child first! Should you feel a need to communicate with a teacher by e-mail, please allow up to two school days for a response.

Edline is intended to give parents the power of knowledge so that they can effectively monitor and improve student achievement!

## **9/11 Ceremony**



A prayer service was held on Friday, September 9 to honor the victims and heroes of 9/11. Included in the ceremony were personal reflections given by Mr. Andrachik, Mary Vaughn Keohane, Molly Normandin and Michael Mattimore. It was a simple but

very moving prayer service.

## **UNIFORM**

The last day for the uniform short option is Friday, September 30. All students are to be in full dress uniform starting Monday, Oct. 3. The short option resumes on Tuesday, May 1.

## **PRINCIPAL COFFEE**

Please join Mr. Andrachik and myself for an informal hour of conversation on Friday, October 21 from 10:00a.m. -11:00a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Raphael Center. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

I am pleased to announce the Student Council representatives for the 2011-2012 school year. Congratulations to 7<sup>th</sup> graders: Claire Rogozinski, Colleen Woidke, Owen Hearn, Olivia Lang, Shannon Powers, Shannon McIntyre, Patrick Ryan, Ingrid Sullivan, Maggie Malley, and George Ayoub. Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Michael B., Erin Normandin, Mitchell Pallaki, Erin Haas, Matt Castele, Ben Gabanic, Meg Whitford, Paige Rogozinski, and Mark Kody.

Elections of the Student Council officers will be taking place soon.

## BUILDER'S CLUB

Congratulations to the newly elected to the board of Builder's Club.

Co-Presidents: Jack Doyle and Jane Platek

Co-Vice Presidents: Katherine DeSalvo and Adam Bator

Co Secretaries: Allyson Simon and Sara Paponetti

We are looking forward to an outstanding year.

## WEBSITE

Please check the website every week. It is updated every Friday afternoon with the latest information to help keep our families connected to the school. The posted calendar will keep you abreast of all the happenings here at school. The 'Friday Folder' contains all the flyers that would normally be sent home. You will find information on the different co-curriculars offered, school programs, and outside of school offerings. You can also find 'Classroom Connections', where you can find the teacher's web pages. This website offers a wealth of information at a click. All of this information and more can be found at [www.saintraphaelparish.com](http://www.saintraphaelparish.com) along with links to your child's teacher's website.

## LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to the moms and dads who are volunteering their time and talents in the lunchroom. So far the program has been a big success. We appreciate your support! Remember we can always use more parent volunteers. Just check the calendar posted on the website for additional information.

## CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying has escalated as a serious problem for many students of junior high age. Bullying has become extremely sophisticated over the past several years. It does not look like it did 10 years ago. Today anyone can terrorize another person without having to confront them. All a person needs is a computer or cell phone.

Cyberbullying is a problem affecting almost half of all youth in the United States. According to the National Crimes Against Children Research Center, online harassment of youth ages 10-17 increased 50% in the past five years. Cyberbullying can be equally as traumatic as direct bullying if not more damaging to one's self-esteem. Many believe that

cyberbullying is even more destructive than face-to-face bullying because when cyberbullied, children get a sense that the whole world is being exposed to what is being said about and to them. Emails are easily forwarded and Facebook posts are easily shared.

Please encourage your child to:

- Never post or share personal information online
- Never share Internet passwords
- Never meet anyone face-to-face whom you only know online unless accompanied by an adult
- Never share secrets and daily schedules

For the safety of your child, I would urge all parents to know what your child blogs, emails and text messages, and what they post on Facebook and Twitter.

As a school, we will continue to educate our students on Internet Safety and bullying.

## More First Day Pictures

