

## 2018-2019 Monthly Newsletter - April

Dear Families,

I'm sure many of you are asking the same question I am... Where is spring? March 20 came and went, many ate free Rita's Water Ice, yet the temperature does not necessarily reflect what we expect spring to be. As we look over the months of February and March, we saw our school participate in Read Across America Day. Everyone dressed in our favorite characters from our books to celebrate how important reading is to learning and literacy. Some classes had formal and informal discussions about the characters and some ate green eggs and ham, but everyone in the school had focused time to read. A parade of characters and a snack sponsored by our Parents' Association completed our fun-filled day.

The month of March saw our cafeteria transform into an Italian Restaurant for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spaghetti dinner complete with our graduates performing their rendition of "That's Amore". This event that has been a part of our school community for 25-30 years, could not have been possible without our 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and sponsors. We thank everyone who donated a basket and participated in the event.

Liturgically, we began our season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday liturgy. We are focusing on Prayer, Fasting and Giving over these 40 days, so we have talked about bettering ourselves by looking inward. Giving of ourselves to better other people is the type of theme we re-visit every so often during Lent. Another way our school comes together to pray during this time is through the Stations of the Cross. Our Middle School grades take turns leading this prayer as we remember Christ's love for us. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade read the stations a few weeks ago, our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will present the Shadow Stations on Friday March 29 and our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will perform the Living Stations on April 17.

We did have a few events later in the month as many of our students celebrated Pi Day on 3/14. Pi(e) lessons filled our classrooms, our minds and even some of our stomachs. And yes, I will be pried in the face later in the year because one of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders memorized over 150 digits of Pi! Congrats, Delaney! With all of that pie, we then needed to exercise so we gladly partnered with the American Heart Association (AHA) to have our Kids Heart Challenge/Jump Rope for Heart. Our gym was full of different activities designed to promote exercise and keep ourselves healthy. From your generosity, we were able to raise over \$2000 for the AHA and because of that, the AHA will provide some new gym equipment for our school. Congratulations to Mrs. Coulehan and our volunteers that helped that day for a job very well done.

Hopefully we will experience a slight warm-up as we turn the calendar to April. Please see the guidelines sent home in the folders for the Optional Summer Uniform that will go into effect on April 1. From now until the end of this year, we will pilot all black sneakers with the summer and gym uniform as an option instead of the white sneakers. If our IOWA scores return to us before we leave for Easter Break, they will be distributed. I look forward to seeing the excellent work our students and teachers did for these National Tests. Please note the time of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Awards Assembly on Wednesday April, 17. We will be having the assembly at 8:15 after our morning prayer. All parents interested in attending our assembly, you may enter, sign in and proceed to the cafeteria for prayer and the assembly.

Lastly, please see the upcoming dates section below to mark some important dates on your calendar.

May God richly bless you and your family,



Ray Bonnette, Principal

## **Upcoming Dates:**

- 3/29 – Shadow Stations of the Cross
- 4/1 – Optional Summer Uniform goes into effect
- 4/4 – Rescheduled 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Liturgy + 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Ends
- 4/5 – No School for Students – Diocesan In-Service
- 4/10 – Report Cards Distributed
- 4/11 – Penance Service (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades) + Individual Picture Day (Dress Clothes)
- 4/13 – Mother-Son Game Night
- 4/15 – Signed Report Cards Due
- 4/17 – Awards Assembly, Living Stations of the Cross, Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 5/3 – Noon Dismissal and Faculty Meeting
- 5/9 – Spring Show at Paul VI Auditorium (all students have a part in the show)
- 5/14 – Race for Education
- 5/21 – Evening of the Arts

## **Update on the Catholic Schools Week Penny Wars**

We knew that our 4<sup>th</sup> grade won the Penny War competition, but we did not know how much we actually raised until now. Through your continued generosity in our works of charity, we gathered just under \$1300! Since this was far and away above what the expectation was for this charitable fundraiser, we will be distributing this money to a few different hunger relief organizations from some of our sending/supporting parishes coupled with Operation Rice Bowl. As small as a penny's value is, when many are gathered, it can make a huge impact. Isn't that just like a small action towards others?

## **Safety - Visits to School as communicated on 3/21/19**

All visitors (including clergy, non-school parish staff, contractors and parents) to Good Shepherd School must follow these procedures: Visitors must enter through the Main Entrance on Atlantic Avenue and proceed immediately to the Main Office to sign in and explain the reason for the visit. Visitors proceeding beyond the Main Office must prominently wear the visitor's pass and must be accompanied by a school employee. Visitors are not permitted to go to a classroom without the principal's permission and visitors are not permitted to remove a student from a classroom without the principal's permission. Items dropped off during the day, such as articles of clothing or lunches, must be left in the Main Office. If you escort a student into the building, you must bring the student to the Main Office.

## **Athletics**

Congratulations to our Basketball teams finishing the year strong. We hope all had a great experience, not only learning the skills of the sport, but also the positive traits of athletic competition. Thank you to the St. Teresa Men's Club for sponsoring our Athletic Program and the coaches for volunteering their time for the betterment of Good Shepherd.

Spring Track meets begin this week. Please remember that all Athletic Clearances must be up to date **before** participating in practices or meets. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the medical requirements.

## **Teacher websites**

Please check your child's teacher page found on our website to see the upcoming information that your child will be learning in the coming week. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the direct link. To alleviate checking four different sites, the Middle School teachers are now combined onto one page. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) page. You may need to scroll to see each class. All information should be current by the first school day of the week. On the websites, our Teachers should be providing informational blurbs about what the students are learning about in the coming week.

## **“Eagle Eye”**

The Eagle Eye showcases a class each week on a rotating basis. If you are unable to see the St. Teresa bulletin, we have the inserts at the bottom of our school's homepage [www.goodshepherdcollingswood.org](http://www.goodshepherdcollingswood.org). Please check it out!

## **Parent Volunteers**

Thank you to those individuals who have been able to go through our volunteer process and are cleared from the Diocese. If you are interested in volunteering (room parent, chaperone, assistant coach, chaperone) please visit our Parent Volunteer Center ([CLICK HERE](#)) to find out the process. Thank you in advance for going through this process to provide opportunities for our students. If you are interested in getting involved in the Parents' Association, please email [GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org](mailto:GSSParAssoc@goodshepherdcollingswood.org).

## **FACTS SIS (formally RenWeb)**

Parents who are not signed up to see grades (K-8<sup>th</sup>) are encouraged to do so. Please go to <https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx> to sign up for an account by clicking “Create New ParentsWeb Account” our district code is DCAM-NJ. Your email address that receives the Wednesday Communication emails should be used. You will receive an email to set up a password where you can log in to see all grades. After logging in, please click “Student Information” and “Student Home” to see all grades from each subject. Grades 3-8<sup>th</sup> will see numeric grades. If you click the numeric grade, it will take you to all assignments that make up the grade. Grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> you will need to click the specific class to see the letter grades of the assignments. If you have any questions regarding this system or you cannot get on, please contact Mrs. Bowker at [ebowker@goodshepherdcollingswood.org](mailto:ebowker@goodshepherdcollingswood.org) or 856-858-1562.

## **Social Media**

Please follow our Facebook and/or Twitter Pages to keep current with school activities, events and announcements. Let the GSS light shine on the web so that our family, friends and others in the community will know what we are about. Hide it under a bushel? No! We're going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine! Please like, share and retweet.

- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdCollingswood.org/>
- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GSSCollingswood?lang=en>

