

DID YOU KNOW?

Math Club is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays from 3:15 to 4:30 pm in room 215. If students need more help please let me know and I can make arrangements to stay later. Students can come in to work on homework, correct math tests, play math games, finish tests, or get help on any material covered. If you have a 6th or 7th grader and you think your child needs additional math problems look in the back of your child's book and do the Supplemental Practice problems. In addition students can go online to www.saxonpublishers.com or www.aaamath.com to do sample problems, quizzes, and games.

6th graders are flying through their lessons and doing really well. On several tests the entire class has scored above an 83% and had class averages of 92%. have been working on the coordinate plane, area and volume of geometric shapes, and more on order of operation problems, and Pascal's Triangle. We are looking forward working probability, volume, and unit multipliers, integers, ratios, rate problems, and surface area.

7th grade, by far have the most concepts to learn of all junior high. Their rigorous curriculum is stacked full of all the general math concepts as well as getting into the pre-algebra concepts after the 1st trimester. The goal is to have students master their basic math concepts and take that knowledge and apply those skills in algebra in 8th grade. We are well on our way to reaching our goal. Students have learned balancing and solving one step equations, graphing inequalities, advanced order of operations, addition subtraction multiplication and division of signed numbers, area of complex shapes, scientific notation, constructing angle and perpendicular bisectors, advanced ratio problems, unit multipliers, and transformations.

This year all **8th graders** are taking Algebra 1. So far students have reviewed adding, subtracting, and multiplying polynomials, and solving equations in two steps. Currently, we are practicing area, perimeter, volume, and surface area of geometric solids of cylinders, pyramids, and rectangular prisms, grade will master multi-variable equations, adding rational expressions with unequal denominators, factoring trinomials, advanced probability, and elimination and substitution methods. We are about to study the quadratic formula, completing the square, mixture and distance problems. Ask your 8th grader about the locker problem, it is a fantastic critical thinking word problem. God Bless!



Cybercitizen Spotlight: In our sexed-up society, can a new pro-girl movement help your daughter resist the call to be too sexy, too soon?

They're spray tanned. They're body waxed. They're wearing high heels in kindergarten. And increasingly in the online world, girls are choosing to represent themselves with [sexy photos and videos](#). Everyone knows that marketers will do anything to get people to [spend money](#) -- especially impressionable young kids. But in our always-on media environment -- in which girls not only consume media but [create it](#) -- there's growing concern that these sexed-up messages are seriously impacting girls' lives. "Increasingly over the past 10 years, we've seen an escalation in the sexualization of young girls," says Deborah Tolman, professor of social welfare and psychology and founding director of the ASAP Initiative, which does research and analysis of sexuality for action and policy. "There's an inappropriate imposition of sexuality on young girls, and, as girls enter adolescence, they're learning to sexualize themselves," she says.

Tips for Parents of Young Kids Don't buy in. Help your kids stay kids by not buying outfits, makeup, and other "grown up" accessories. Stay away from clothing that reinforces the message that looking "sexy" is a way to get noticed. **Seek out positive role models.** Lots of little girls love to dress up as princesses. Help expand their horizons by [finding role models](#) in books, on TV, in movies, and in real life that show kids how they can be recognized for their talents and brains rather than their looks or behavior. **Watch out for stereotypes.** Our kids look to their favorite actors and musicians for cues on how to act. Point out when the media rewards girls for being sexy and boys for being strong. **Resist consumerist messages.** On mother-daughter days, do something outside the mall, like crafts, hiking, or biking. Not all mothers and daughters have to bond by shopping. **Challenge the status quo.** Reinforce behaviors that don't involve kids' looks. Kids develop self-esteem by doing things they feel proud of. If your kids are getting their self-worth from attention-getting behavior, they'll have sold themselves short.

Important Dates to Remember

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---|
| February | 1-28 | | Reading Challenge - our goal: 175,000 pages |
| | 13 | Sun | Open House - 8:30am-12:30 St Benedict Hall San Benito County Community Volunteer Fair 12:00-4:00pm @ SHPS |
| | 14 | Mon | Girls Soccer vs. Tres Pinos @ Vets Park @ 4:00pm |
| | 15 | Tues | Boys 6th Gr. BB vs. Oakwood @ SH @ 4:00pm Boys 7th Gr. BB vs. Oakwood @ SH @ 5:00pm Boys 8th Gr. BB vs. Oakwood @ SH @ 6:00pm |
| | 16 | Wed | Min Day/Faculty meeting Jr. High dance |
| | 17 | Thur | Mass grades 3-5: 9:00am Reading Info Night @ 6:30pm in the Library |
| | 21-25 | | Winter Break - No School |
| | 28 | Mon | Girls Soccer vs. Southside @ Vets Park @ 4:00pm |
| March | 2 | Wed | Dr Seuss's birthday celebration |
| | 2-8 | | Spirit Week begins |
| | 3 | Thur | Faith Partners Mass: 9:00am Reading Challenge Celebration |
| | 4 | Fri | End of 2nd trimester |

Food Drive Winners!!

Last week was a busy week with 497 canned food items donated to Fishes & Loaves from our Spartans. The following classes won a free dress day (TBD) for bringing in the most food items in their grade category:

- Mrs. Sanchez (PK)
- Mrs. Mottau (4th Gr.)
- Mr. Strnad (7th Gr.)



8th Grade Corner (Upcoming Dates)

8th Grade placemats are due April 15

Slideshow pictures (3) are due to Mindy Scherr on a CD by March 4.

Next 8th grade meeting on Wednesday, March 2 @ 6:00pm.

Safety, Safety, Safety

Please remember not to park in undesignated parking spots which includes the crosswalk in front of the school. We have had many near misses! Please be considerate of others. Thank you.



Why do Catholics Do That? Why Do Catholics use holy water?

The use of holy water has several purposes. When we bless ourselves with holy water before and after entering the church, for example, it calls to mind our souls were washed clean of original sin.

When we use it to bless items, it consecrates them to God and reminds us to use them in his service. And, using holy water helps to drive away evil spirits and calls to mind the purity required of followers of Christ.

Children learn about God from a parent's love

Our children's relationship with God depends on what we as parents are doing in our homes every day, right now. Here are the most important things we can do to help strengthen that relationship:

Communicate love. The steady loving attention we give our children now teaches them to turn to people, not things, in times of need. And, by showing them love, they learn to accept love. So, they first learn to accept God's love by the way we love them now.

Celebrate each child. One simple way to do this is to regularly spend one-on-one time with each one. You can run errands, go for lunch, or just talk. Singling out your child for time together tells him that he is valued.

Earn honor. The Fourth Commandment directs children to honor us as parents but it implies that we have earned that respect. Modeling the behavior we want our children to adapt tells them that we can be trusted and helps them understand that God is trustworthy, too.

Thoughtful Moments—Telling is not tattling

At times of stress, we want our children to come to us for help but they hesitate to "tattle." Remind children periodically that as a parent, you are on the same team. Telling isn't the same as tattling. Everyone needs help sometimes. *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence"* (2 Peter 1:3).

Feasts & Celebrations—

February 22—St. Peter's Chair. We celebrate St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See and pray for the preservation of God's Church.

February 23—St. Polycarp (156).

Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.

Prayer Corner

For those who are ill or injured especially, **Nettie Le Duc, all those who are ill at our school.**

For the **Anzar student** who was killed in a car accident.

For those who are in crisis especially, **Egypt.**

For the needs of our parish and school community and all our friends and benefactors.

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for February 2011 is "That all may respect the family and recognize it for its unmatched contribution to the advancement of society." Christians have always believed that all truth is God's truth. We should not fear those who search for the truth but welcome them, because we know that, if they are sincere, their search for the truth will lead them to Christ.



Parent TALK— As children we never missed Mass. That's why I was shocked when my brother recently declared that he doesn't take his children to Mass. "It's enough that I bring them to religious education class every week," he said. "We're too busy for Mass too."

Why would anyone teach children a religion but prevent them from practicing it? In class children learn about a Catholic's serious obligation to attend Mass and the wonderful graces we get from the Eucharist. At home, they learn that soccer practice or birthday parties come before Mass. How confusing.

I decided to send my brother a copy of *Follow the Way of Love*, a message to families from the U.S. bishops. It's about how God's love is experienced in a family and how it is supported by the whole Church. Hopefully it will help him see being Catholic as a gift and not a burden.

Call to Service

Serving from the heart is at the core of the Sacred Heart Parish School Volunteer Program. While Sacred Heart is a community of believers, it is also a high commitment school. It is our hope when we serve the school, whether it's cleaning up from lunch or chairing a major fundraiser, we give it our all and serve "heartily as unto the Lord".

Paint circles in playground area

Anchor pots at front entrance of school. We would like to place two large planter pots at the entrance of the school.

Install metal runners *under stage* for folding chair caddy.

Install enclosing doors in Gym for Athletic equipment in Gym hallway.

A large wooden/metal cross on the exterior front entrance of the main school building.

Install decorative film on upper windows in classroom.



Thank you to everyone who brought **desserts** for our annual school fundraiser *An Evening in Tuscany*. Many, many thanks to the families that provided food for our **Food Drive** during Catholic School week. Each week, **Fishes and Loaves** feeds at least 17 families in San Benito County. Your donations help them to continue to serve the need, **Thank you to all who brought cookies and treats for the Community Volunteer Fair.**

LOST AND FOUND

The office has bowls and platters that were left from recent events. If you brought one and left it, please stop by the office, otherwise, they will be sent to St. Vincent DePaul. Thank you.



Results of **Community Vision San Benito County's** first youth survey are open to public and can be viewed online at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/6egwxme>

Students may ask, "What Next?" and "What will we do with this information?" Community Vision San Benito County will hold a number of town hall style meetings in coming months, which we hope will include San Benito County's teenagers. Please see the attached summary report for more details on **Next Steps**, and stay tuned for information on engaging youth in our visioning process! If you have any questions or suggestions as we move forward, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to future collaborations between you and Community Vision San Benito County. Everyone's voice matters.

Memories from the Class of 2010



"When Danny and I were four, we did gymnastics together before we met at Sacred Heart. He was the first person I knew when I came here. In the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade I won the speech contest and went to the semi-finals. I never did make it to the finals, though. In eighth grade I was sucking on the end of my black pen. Alex made me laugh, all of the ink went into my mouth, and I spit it out on my hand. My whole mouth was black and Andrew was afraid I might die." **-Chris Manderson**

Community Volunteer Fair!

Sunday, February 13, 2011

Sacred Heart School Gymnasium

670 College Street, Hollister

Noon to 4:00 P.M.

Admission is FREE!

**Don't miss this fun way to learn about our local non-profits
and volunteer opportunities in San Benito County!**

Come meet some of the participating organizations:

- Advocacy, Inc
- Baler Education Foundation
- CASA of San Benito County
- Central Coast Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice
- Chamberlain's Children Center
- Community Food Bank of San Benito County
- Community Media Access Partnership (CMAP)
- Community Solutions
- Compassion Pregnancy Services
- Dreams & Visions Community Development Inc.
- El Teatro Campesino
- Emmaus House (women and children's shelter)
- Fishes and Loaves
- Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
- Heritage Foundation
- Hollister Angels Youth Ministry
- Hollister Downtown Association
- Hollister Youth Alliance
- Homeless Coalition of San Benito County
- Hope For A Cure Memorial Education Scholarship
- HOPE Services
- Janet Graham Memorial Fund
- Junior Achievement of Northern CA
- Pat's Place Thrift Shop
- Pet Friends
- Sacred Heart Parish School
- San Benito County Arts Council
- San Benito County Free Library
- San Benito County Historical Society
- San Benito County Oriana Chorale
- San Benito Fire Safe Council
- San Benito Health Foundation WIC Program
- San Benito LULAC Council #2890
- San Juan Bautista Fire Fighters Association
- San Juan Bautista State Historic Park
- Seniors Council Foster Grandparent Program
- Si Se Puede Learning Center
- St. Francis Retreat Center
- Women's Club of Hollister
- YMCA of San Benito County

**Get Involved!
Become a Volunteer Today
Opportunities For All Ages!**



The Community Foundation for San Benito County

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For more information, contact The Community Foundation at 831-630-1924, www.cffsbc.org



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For any questions contacts Barb Montag... (916) 956-7506 or Bmontag22@gmail.com

Educating Our Children: Catholic Schools Doing More With Less

By Anne Marie Riha
Published February 08, 2011 | FoxNews.com

Earlier this month, President Obama challenged high schools across the country to compete against each other in the second annual "Race to the Top" educational success program for the chance to have him give the commencement address at their graduation. Not included in the contest, though, are the more than 2 million students in America's Catholic schools.

If they could participate, the nation's parochial schools would be fearsome competitors. A 2009 comparison between public and Catholic school SAT scores show that public school students had an overall average of 496 points on the critical reading portion of the test while Catholic school students scored 533 points on the same portion. Catholic school students outscored their public school counterparts by an average of 23 points.

What makes the numbers more impressive is that Catholic high schools spend more than \$2,000 less per pupil than public schools.

Explanations for the differences in achievement vary. Students who attended Catholic schools say they were more disciplined and the approach to academics was more regimented. Bridget Ledford, who is a science major at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., says she doesn't think she would have gotten the grades she got in high school if she had attended a public school.

Ledford explained that her Catholic elementary school had a grading system where students received an A-plus or an A-minus and not just an A, subtle differences generally not applied in public schools until later years. "There was a big focus on academics," Ledford said in an interview, emphasizing that she enjoyed the smaller classes.

But educators who have taught in both public and Catholic education systems say a Catholic school students' achievements are the result of more than just discipline, they begin with their parents' choice to pay extra for education.

Karen Ristau, who is the President of the National Catholic Educational Association, says that parental choice sets the tone for the student because it "gives a child a real sense of security knowing that the adults are taking responsibility of the child's education."

And Ristau says, that sense of responsibility continues with teachers. Ristau, who began her career as a public school teacher, says teachers are "choosing to teach [at Catholic institutions] instead of belonging to some big pool of applicants in a large district where people are just assigned to a school."

Another advantage that Catholic schools enjoy is flexibility. Very few parochial school teachers are members of the powerful education unions at the center of so many of the fights to reform the public education system. "When unions get involved in having contracts in schools, they tend to control everything from the operations, to who gets hired... and even the curriculum for that matter," Jeanne Allen who heads the Center for Education Reform told FOX News.

Education experts say the absence of teachers' unions means Catholic schools can address problems related to curriculum or even class size immediately instead of getting permission from union leaders or renegotiating contracts. Ristau explains that teachers and principals in Catholic schools can address these issues by simply sitting around a table instead of waiting for "five committees downtown" to reach a decision.

Gone are the days when Catholic schools relied mainly on priests and nuns to teach children. There just aren't enough clergy members to shoulder the burden anymore. But, the dioceses that run the schools still have control of their own personnel decisions.

Catholic school teachers are less likely to have advanced degrees than their public school counterparts and generally don't get the same levels of pay and benefits. But teachers still compete for Catholic teaching slots, a fact experts attribute to the chance to work in a more disciplined atmosphere with families that have made a the choice to seek a better education for their children. Plus, Catholics in the teaching field feel the spiritual tug of serving their church's mission in the classroom.

Allen explains that Catholic school leaders are keenly aware that if parents don't think they're getting what they paid for, then they'll "vote with their feet" and leave the school. That, in turn, encourages careful hiring.

"If you know that at the end of the day that your job is to educate students and you have to educate within a certain mission that actually has a moral basis then you're going to make sure the people you hire are not only on board with your mission, but are effectively serving those kids," Allen said.

Public school proponents argue that statistics showing Catholic school achievement don't tell the whole story.

Jack Jennings, who runs The Center on Education Policy, admits public schools lack higher test scores but he also says public schools have more disadvantages when it comes to the students in their care because Catholic or private school can be selective in the applications process.

"Catholic schools do not have to accept every student like the public school does. And Catholic schools don't generally provide services for children who are disabled," Jennings said. He says there is no difference in test scores when it comes to comparing "comparable kids" in both schools systems.

"The results are the same. There's no private school advantage," Jennings insists.

While Catholic schools generally don't have the same kind of admissions requirements that elite private schools, do, the cost of a Catholic education can be a barrier for many families despite generous scholarship programs.

Despite the economic woes of the past couple of years, the cost of Catholic schools has not diminished. The average cost of tuition per pupil in a catholic elementary school is \$3,383 while secondary education costs \$8,182. Parents who choose to send their children to Catholic school still pay for a public school education with their state and local taxes. In 2010, the public education system spent approximately \$10,614 per pupil.

This report is part of a FOX News continuing series on educational alternatives.