



Principal Bryk's News October 18, 2017

Dear Parents,

Parent/ Teacher Conferences take place tomorrow for the First Trimester Progress Reports. If we take a closer look at "Progress Report" we realize that it is a report on the progress thus far, in this case of our students. It is a snap shot or picture if you will, of our students' growth and development from September to mid- October. It is NOT a Report Card. (Report Cards for the First Trimester will be issued on December 6.) It is a teaching/learning tool for students, teachers and parents... to gain an understanding of what has taken place and how to move forward; whether that takes place in the forms of study habits, completing assignments, more attention to detail, better focus in class, changes in behavior and attitude, extra practice at sight words and math facts, extra help, etc.

Please, parents, remember that our students (as well as all of us) are creations of God and are works in progress. After reviewing all Progress Reports, I would say about 96% look good at this time. The 4% (as the teachers will discuss during conferences) are cause for a definite improvement, the issues that may contribute to this and how to help the students take responsibility to change. An 88% may be perceived as a low grade in Science, but for an 8th grade student taking the 9th grade Regents Living Environment after 7 weeks is not bad at all. Again, it may be a jumping off point for a student to say, "Hey, I did a good job so far!" "I am ok with this, but if I work harder, I can raise my grade."

If students have found school to be easy, don't forget, with every grade comes new material and a chance to challenge students on many levels. A student may have always been a 98% student (Wonderful!) and now has a 94%... (Way To Go!) and once again... a report of progress thus far, NOT a Report Card.

Praise your students for what they have achieved and discuss with them what needs to be done. I am proud of their progress thus far! May God continue to hold them close to His Heart as we do.

Sister Carol Cimino, Superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Buffalo, came to St. Christopher last week for a short visit. She toured our great school and had a few minutes to visit each class. She remarked on the friendly, respectful and cheery feeling she felt as she entered our school and when she was greeted by each class. She was very pleased with the visible evidence of our Catholic Identity throughout the building and praised our efforts and commitment to the safety, faith and education on all levels for our students. She left with kudos to the changes we have put in place and the goals and vision we have for the future.

SMILE! Picture Day is this Friday, October 20. This is a NO UNIFORM day. Please: acceptable/appropriate dress for all students.

Halloween Celebration on October 31.

All students in Pre-Kdg through 8th grade may dress in costume. *****NO** masks, violent, bloody, really scary costumes, or risqué costumes please.

- Limited face make-up is permitted. Nail polish is permitted. No hair dyes... ***All have to be washed off because we are attending Mass on Nov. 1.
- There will be STREAM activities planned with our Peer Ministry Partners throughout the day.
- We will have a school wide parade at 9am. Parents, Grandparents, family and friends are welcome to line the parade route in the school parking lot. ***Please park in the church parking lot near Niagara Falls Blvd.
- Teachers will have their Homeroom Angels contact parents for needs for their own classroom parties.
- Student Council and the 8th Grade Officers will be judging: Best Costume, Best Door Decorations, Best Teacher Costume.

Grade 8 is selling Save Around Buffalo Coupon Books for \$25.00 to help fund their trip to Washington, D.C. Please consider purchasing a book. There are many coupons inside for Dairy Queen, Burger King, Barnes and Noble, and Aeropostale to name a few places.

Tuesday, October 24 at the 8am Mass, our 8th grade students will be receiving their St. Christopher Medals as part of their final journey here at St. Christopher School. Please join us to celebrate and pray together if you are able.

Friday, October 27 NO SCHOOL. We will be at the Buffalo Museum of Science for our STREAM Professional Development Day.

VIRTUS TRAINING

Parish and Catholic school employees and volunteers, 18 years of age or older, who work with children and young people in the Diocese of Buffalo, are required to attend a sexual abuse awareness session. The three and one half hour workshops are scheduled at the following times and locations:

October 21 Good Shepherd (Pendleton) 9 AM

October 26 SS. Peter and Paul (Williamsville) 6 PM

October 28 St. Vincent de Paul (Niagara Falls) 9 AM

NOVEMBER 2 HERE at St. Christopher 6PM

Register online at www.buffalodiocese.org.

Grade 8 Information

Cardinal O'Hara High School is offering two class options for its scholarship and entrance exam preparation course. The course is designed to help students raise their scores on the November 18 exam, which could lead to possibly earning a higher scholarship from Cardinal O'Hara.

The first option will be offered from 5 to 7:15 PM on October 24 and 31 or November 7 and 14 at the school, located at 39 O'Hara Road in Tonawanda. The cost is \$100. A one-day intensive class from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM on November 4 will cost \$70. For more information and course details, call Tammy Huber at (716) 695-2600, ext. 357 or email thuber@cardinalohara.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

God's Blessings,
Principal Bryk

St. Luke

St. Luke the Evangelist (1st c.) was a well-educated Greek physician and a native of Antioch in Syria. He was one of the earliest converts to Christianity, believed to have been one of Jesus' seventy disciples. He was a follower of St. Paul the Apostle and spent most of his life evangelizing with him in Asia Minor up until the time of Paul's martyrdom in Rome. Luke wrote a canonical account of his apostolic journeys with Paul (the Book of Acts) as well as a biography on the life of Christ (the Gospel of Luke). The two books of Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles were originally a single work. The intimate accounts contained in Luke's gospel of the early years of Christ's life (the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation, etc.) lead many scholars to believe that one of the eyewitnesses he interviewed was the Blessed Virgin Mary herself. According to tradition he was also a skilled artist and painted the first icons of Our Lady with the Child Jesus. Several of these icons are still venerated today, the most famous of which hangs in the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome. St. Luke is the patron saint of many trades including artists, painters, doctors, surgeons, and bachelors. His feast day is October 18th.

