

**Principal Sister Therese Gutting,
F.S.E.**
102 4th Street
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: 218.879.8516
E-mail:
qop6@familink.com
Website:
<http://www.queenofpeaceschool.org>

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A LITTLE PEACE OF NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 3 January 2010



Principal ponders:

Why do we and so many others continue to support Catholic Schools in the face of so many obstacles and burdens.....? The reasons are compelling. Generally these schools are notably successful educational institutions which offer not only high quality academic programs but also instruction and formation in the beliefs, values, and traditions of the Catholic Faith. They are significantly effective in preparing students for life in today's Church and society. They instill in children and young people indispensable discipline of mind and heart.

As educators we strive to recognize the special gifts and talents of each person and to help each person stretch to his/her potential. As educators we strive to build a Faith community and impart a value system that will be a Christian Witness to society. Queen of Peace School is committed to reach out, and bring Jesus to everyone we meet.

Queen of Peace's spirit and pride is created through the involvement of parents, alumni and friends. Sharing their gifts and talents and truly making a difference. Through these individuals the faith community is strengthened and expanded.

We invite you to come explore our school, enroll your child – you will not be sorry. Take advantage of an excellent education - an education that is faith-based.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to you, for without your support of prayer and financial resources, we would be unable to continue to fulfill our ministry and goals. May God Bless you in return! He will not be out done in return. Many, many thanks for you and all you do for Queen of Peace School. Know of the prayers of all of us for you and yours!



The fourth and fifth graders at Queen of Peace helped organize a school-wide toy drive this Christmas (2009). Toys were collected and two boxes were donated to the Salvation Army. The children walked to the Salvation Army and delivered the toys. What an excellent way for the children to support those less fortunate. Thank you to all who donated!



The Queen of Peace School Store (The Petrich Pack) has been up and running for four weeks. The fourth and fifth graders have been busy with their jobs as cashiers, bankers, helpers, managers, and security. There has been lots of excitement from students coming into the store to make purchases. Each week we try to have new products for students to purchase. So far, the children have made a profit of over \$200.00! We hope to continue this trend so we can go on a field trip (to be determined) at the end of the school year. We are always looking for donations for the school store! Thank you to all who have donated.

Schedule of Events:

January 30

☛9:00 Mass centered around Catholic Schools

January 31

☛9:30 Mass centered around Catholic Schools

☛Pancake Breakfast - 8:00am – 12:00 noon all are welcome sponsored by Knights of Columbus and Queen of Peace School Parents.

☛Kick-off for new school logo contest

February 1

☛12:15 Diocesan Spelling Bee, St. James School

☛9:00-10:00 Preschool interactive storytelling with Liz Boutang

☛9:30-11:00 Service project with Salvation Army Grades 1-5,

February 2

☛K-5 attend Hartley Nature Center presentation

☛9:00-10:00 Preschool interactive storytelling with Liz Boutang

February 3

☛9:00-10:00 Preschool Fun with Wool lead by Kathy Alberio

☛10:30-11:30 – Grades 4th & 5th Service Project Clearing Snow with Mr. Hill and Friends.

☛2:00-3:00- Flute Violin duo (Fun with Science) Mask making for Mardi Gras

February 4

☛9:00-10:00 Preschool Fun with Wool lead by Kathy Alberio

☛1:00 **Stream Tables** Kelly Smith and Mask making for Mardi Gras

February 5

☛9:30 Children's Mass, followed by Open House

☛1:00 Dance and Sing with Terrance Smith



Voted Most Entertaining

2010 Capital Campaign

Several years ago under the direction of Mother Colleen Kimbro, F.S.E. Queen of Peace School began a Development Fund. This program was developed to ensure Queen of Peace's continued success into the future. We have a strong curriculum, excellent faculty and incredibly caring and supportive parents that make Queen of Peace School truly unique. Our school is ALIVE AND WELL!!! During the upcoming weeks information will be coming to your home explaining the campaign. We are grateful for the participation and support given in the past. Now we must ask again for your prayers and support. We realize that you are asked by many to help. We also realize that some of you are on fixed incomes and have little to spare. However, if you harken back to the "widow's mite" and the fact that God is never outdone in generosity, your reward will be great in heaven. In the near future we will be sending out information, pledge cards and envelopes for your contribution.

We continue to have the scholarship fund, and the special fund used for upgrading technology, Smart Boards, Accreditation expense and other expenses incurred that have not been budgeted. We ask that ALL join us in these efforts through:

PRAYER, A PHILANTHROPIC, TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT, and/or BOTH.



Our New Bishop

Students sang songs for Bishop Paul Sirba at the Annual Knights of Columbus Wild Game Feed.



Many Thanks

At Queen of Peace School, we are fortunate to have wonderful volunteers who have taken the time to help with fundraising, supervision of children and also teaching students.

A couple of new volunteers this year, helping out in our noon recess are **Mr. Steve Langenbrunner** and **Mr. John Skansgaard**. Both men are studying to become deacons for our Catholic Church. Thank you very much for supervising our students and being here! You are greatly appreciated.

For a number of years, **Mary Marquis** has taken our children for Library time. We thank her very much for taking the time and sharing with our students. As the renovation of the school is underway, we are not able to have a formal library time. Classes are having reading/quiet time and enjoying books in their classrooms. Next year, a new library will be enjoyed by all!

We also would like to thank **Celia Daniels** for all of her wonderful and enriching work with Queen of Peace students. She is a retired Reading teacher and shares great knowledge and concepts to help students learn to read and enjoy reading. She is a strong addition to our staff in reinforcing the Language Arts that is taught in the classroom. Thank you very much, Mrs. Daniels.

Thank you, also to all the adults who supervise our after school program. The program began last year and it has really taken off. Thank you for taking care of our children. Your work is appreciated!

We are successful in our fundraisers and thank all who lead the events, volunteer time and contribute to them. To all who take the extra time to make our school great, thank you and God Bless you!

Fundraising Update: Did you help out with our wreath distribution day? If you did, you know that we had a good time. Lot's of fun, that is the fun in

FUNdraising. Speaking of wreath sales, we had another good year. We raised over \$8,800.00 this year. Thank you to all that sold wreaths, helped with the distribution and delivering. With your help, that's what makes us successful. **Cookie Dough** sales are going now. **Mardi Gras** is right around the corner on **February 6th**. Watch for more details. Tickets are only \$15.00 per person, including refreshments and beverages, DJ dancing and FUN. We hope to see you there. Another fundraiser that will be happening in March is our **Pasty Bake**. The dates for the pasty bake are **March 18th – 20th**. We want to thank each and every person that has helped in achieving our fundraising goals so far this year. With out you, we would not be able to do it. So we say "Thank You".

Submitted by: Len Robinson.



Facilities Update: We finally have the airhandler in the lower level school working. Both the air exchange and heat are working great. The school is very comfortable and the air quality is excellent. Work continues to progress with clearing out the classrooms, bathrooms, removal of the lights, wiring, carpets and tile. Currently all the asbestos is being abated in the school. The next step will be to remove the old wooden truss roof and begin work on the brick walls and support columns. There is a lot of work to do and complete over the next few months. Completion date should be near the end of June. Thank you for all your patience as we continue to complete this important task.

Submitted by: Dick Daniels

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!!

Calling all parents, students, grandparents, alumni, and parishioners! Queen of Peace Catholic School is looking for a new **LOGO!** We would love to have several creative ideas submitted for consideration, so a **CONTEST** has been planned. Show how the "new life" of our school has inspired you! Get your creative "juices" flowing and turn in your drawings to the school office **before February 28, 2010**. The winner will receive a prize and the honor of representing our wonderful school in print for publication.

School Borad Update: Your school board has welcomed **Beth Quaas** as a new member to the board. Beth and her husband, Darren, have two children in the school. We thank them for their continued support of our mission. The board consists of school parents, parishioners and local business leaders. In the last few months the school board has been actively involved in the accreditation process. We will continue with the next step in the process which is developing our long-range goals and strategic planning that will look at the future of our school. The accreditation process should be completed by next school year when the accreditation team comes to visit our school as the last step in the process. Please keep in mind, if you have any questions of the board, call anyone of us and we will listen. Thank you. Submitted by: Len Robinson

History Day Come to Queen of Peace School

History Day is like a science fair, but with history projects. Each year, there is a regional, state, and national competition. Duluth holds the northeast Minnesota regional event, for two years while at St. Scholastica Mrs. Petrich organized it. Students in grades six-twelve are able to complete and can create a poster, perform a skit, or create a DVD to show their research along with writing a 3-page paper explaining their overall process of their project. At regions in Duluth hundreds of students competed as did more than half a million students around the United States every year.

On a local level, fourth and fifth graders at Queen of Peace School have each chosen a topic relating to this year's theme, *"Innovation in History. Impact and Change."* Research has begun, collected materials will be applied to a poster board or tri-fold board in an organized manner. Accompanying their visual will be a typed 2-3 page paper sharing their knowledge. The students have picked a wide array of topics ranging from Abraham Lincoln to Benjamin Franklin to Theodore Roosevelt and the National Parks. This project will highlight most of their fourth quarter social studies grade while incorporating research skills, typing, grammar into this area of study.

They would love to showcase their projects and invite parents in to view the finished products. Mrs. Petrich will be sure to send home more information as completion becomes closer.



When Sister Therese asked me to write an article for her, I knew I couldn't say no to her, but I also didn't quite know what to write about. What does having attended Queen of Peace School (or Our Lady of the Sacred Heart-OLSH-when I was there) mean for me? How do I feel my life and career have been impacted by attending a Catholic school? Those are some pretty tough questions and after some reflection, here are some things I thought about.

Alumni Moment
Becky Bills (Blascyjk) OLSH class of 1988

A sense of belonging. Because of the smaller class sizes at Queen of Peace, a student got to know the classmates and the teachers really well. Everyone knew your name, knew who your parents were, and everyone looked out for each other. I met one of my best friends during our first day at Kindergarten when we were on a tour of the school, and we have stayed close in good times and hard times, through college, getting married, and having children.

Being well rounded. Not only did we study all of the usual subjects, but we were also given other opportunities such as winter and summer camps, volunteering in the school office, and participating in Odyssey of the Mind (now called DI). Being a Lutheran girl at the Catholic school, one might think that I would sometimes feel left out, but that was never the case. The teachers recognized the differences of the two faiths, but also allowed me to learn about the Catholic faith along side my friends.

Learning Responsibility. We were taught responsibility, and it was reinforced by those around us. With projects like hatching chicks in the first grade, to being a school patrol, we were encouraged to be responsible, hard working and accountable in our actions and were given guidance and instruction by our teachers when needed.

Being a good Christian and a good citizen. We were surrounded by teachers who encouraged us to be good stewards of the gifts we had been given. We were taught the importance of Mass, and participated in it by reading the lessons, acting out skits, and by being altar servers. We learned of the importance and the symbolism of advent and lent, and participated in annual traditions such as singing around the advent wreath in the mornings. Our classes visited the local nursing homes, and made and sent cards to the nursing home residents. We were also taught to be patriotic and to respect those who served in the military by participating in VFW sponsored events.

Having fun. I remember looking forward to many events throughout the year. A few that stick out in my mind are the week long events of Catholic schools week, the school carnival with Sister Therese as "the pocket lady", the competition of selling hundreds of bags of Jelly Beans (the secret: have your parents bring them to their office), the school Marathon with the high fund raisers going out for ice cream with Mother Colleen, fun field trips, end of the year picnic at Pinehurst park, and getting to show our theatrical abilities in the unique Christmas programs and Wednesday Masses.

I am not sure what differences my life and career would have if I hadn't gone to Queen of Peace, but I do know that I am better for having had the experience. I may not have noticed or been appreciative of that when I was younger, but I have grown to understand that this experience was important. Being brought up with Christian values instilled in me by my parents and by the teachers at Queen of Peace school has led me to choose a positive path in life that I can be proud of.

It was hard to reminisce about all of these events and not remember Mother Colleen. She was always there for her students whether they were sick, needed someone to talk to, or needed someone to support and advocate for them. I am glad to know that the school now has a principle, Sister Therese, who has the same values, and like Mother Colleen, is such a strong advocate for the school so it can be around for many more graduating classes.



I Wouldn't Be Who I Am Today If It Wasn't For My Catholic Education

By Fr. Rick Banker

Some of you have heard me mention this before, but as we celebrate this year's Catholic Schools Week, I'd like to say it again: I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for my Catholic Education. Although I had good parents and a nice home growing up, I know it was my years in Catholic school that encouraged a love for the tradition of our Church and fostered what would become my vocation to the priesthood. To this day I

am grateful for the sisters and lay teachers who taught me and for the parish I grew up in that provided for the positive Catholic environment that not only nurtured my soul, but prepared me so well to be a productive member of the larger community.

As pastor of Queen of Peace, I am so proud to see the same strong Catholic environment being fostered by our principal Sister Therese and our dedicated faculty. I am so grateful to our parish community and our parents for their support in what I believe is one of the most important missions a parish can undertake – sharing the light of our Catholic faith with our children and preparing them well (academically, morally and spiritually) to be productive, responsible and caring members of our Church and world.

With a soon to be renovated building, an increase in the number of students, the continued leadership of Sister Therese and the dedication of our faculty, parents and community, I know the mission of Catholic education will continue stronger than ever here at Queen of Peace. Because of that, I know there will be many more in the future who will say: "I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for my Catholic education!"

