

MQPCS News Notes

November 3, 2009

Principal's News

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Dear MQPCS Family,

With the holy season of Christmas quickly approaching, I have been reflecting on the awesome responsibility we, the parish, have in helping you, the primary teacher of your child's faith, see that your child grows spiritually in the Catholic faith. The school, one of the many parish ministries, works diligently in our mission. I must say I am very pleased as I walk through our school. Our faculty truly sees their role in your child's life as a calling: bringing every child closer to God through our faith. I am also impressed with the respectfulness our teachers show the children. It is obvious to me that our faculty see each child as the sacred being God has created.

During this Christmas season, our school emphasis will be on Advent and the birth of Christ. All classes will have Advent wreaths, and we will discuss the meaning of daily devotionals as well as the lighting the Advent wreath at Mass every Sunday.

All of the parish ministries come together to help you raise your child to be the best person possible, embedded in the teachings of Jesus Christ. As parents, you are the primary religious educators of your child. I often see parents involved in the various ministries of the parish and for that, I thank you. Your child seeing you involved is the best way to show that your faith comes first.

Several parents have also asked what they can do to bring their child closer to God. Discussing as a family the importance of the Holy Eucharist at Sunday Mass and the meaning of the Mass being the very center of our faith is a wonderful way to begin explaining the importance of faith in your life. Being involved in other parish ministries is another way of showing your child that the church is truly the center of your life.

Once again, I appreciate the trust you place in our school in helping you with your child's faith development, and I thank you in return for showing your child just how important your faith is in your life. After all, if we don't model what we teach, we are teaching something else.

As always, please feel free to call me with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jan Daniel Lancaster
(504) 388-5528

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Christmas Bazaar. - Nov. 6-7
- ◆ Parent/Teacher Conf. - Nov 13
- ◆ Fleur de Fall - Nov. 14
- ◆ Fall Fest - Nov. 20
- ◆ Angel Tree Begins - Nov. 21
- ◆ Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 23-29
- ◆ Christmas Holidays - Dec. 21- Jan. 3

Pre-K3 News - Ms. Beth and Ms. Leanne

We are having so much fun in Pre-K 3!!! We love our beautiful new classrooms with all of the exciting toys, games, and centers! The playground is one of our favorite places we like to play, and we now have new picnic tables so we can eat lunch and snack outside.

The students have done an excellent job with adjusting to their new school routine. They have gotten to know their new Pre-K friends and are learning to share, take turns, and be nice to each other. The students are doing a fantastic job interacting with one another during centers and outside on the playground.

We have done many activities to introduce the letters, numbers, shapes, and themes. Ms.

Beth and Ms. Leanne are always reading books, singing songs and doing finger plays to reinforce skills and to make learning fun for the students!

In religion, we are now learning about the wonderful gifts God has given us so that we can see, hear, taste, smell, and touch. After discussing God's gift of our tongues, the students had a taste testing contest. The students had the opportunity to eat something bitter, sour, sweet, and salty! Their favorite was the sweet. Imagine that!

These are just a few examples of the fun and exciting activities that have been going on in our Pre-K 3 classrooms. We feel so blessed to have the opportunity to teach your children and watch them grow. Until next time...

Pre-K4 News - Ms. Kelly, Ms. Michelle, and Ms. Beth

We are off to a great start in Pre-K! The students have adjusted well to their new school. They are learning their way around the campus and are working on learning how to walk quietly in a line. We are so proud of them!

So far, we have learned the letters A-E and have been introduced to the numbers 1-5. We are even squeezing in some Spanish by learning colors and numbers. The children especially enjoyed learning about apples, bears, caterpillars, dinosaurs, and the importance of exercise. We have had many fun activities that have helped tie together our weekly units. It was fun taste testing different apples and then graphing the class results. The big bear bash was a hit. The kids really worked up a sweat with the fitness instructor during our exercise class after they enjoyed eating their energy mix.

Kindergarten News - Ms. Betsy, Ms. Cindy, and Ms. Leah

October was an incredibly busy and exciting month! Throughout the month we celebrated a few recognized holidays as well as a few MQP holidays! Columbus Day was a great time to discuss the man who discovered our great country. Red Ribbon Week was a huge success. We had crazy sock day, crazy hat day, and of course crazy hair day - what a great way to celebrate saying "NO" to drugs. The kindergarten classes also visited Global Wildlife on a field trip during October that proved to be very enjoyable for all! October is "Fire Prevention Month", and we were quite lucky to receive a visit from the Mandeville Fire Department who put on a wonderful, as well as informative, puppet show for our students. We also, of course, had great Halloween parties in our classes with lots of great treats! Thank you to all the family members who were able to

In religion, we learned about praying to God and started attending school Mass. We learned the Glory Be, Lunch Blessing, and have started practicing the Our Father. The students also enjoyed making their God's Special Gifts to Me Book.

Enrichment classes have been wonderful! They look forward to P.E., music, library, computer, and art. Every student has had much time on the computers, and they are using the Smart Boards daily.

It was nice to see so many parents and students for Curriculum Night. The students did an awesome job with the fall tree paintings, spider estimation, and charting acorns activities.

We are looking forward to a great 2nd nine weeks with our Pre-K 4 students!

attend our festivities; we could not do it without you!!!

As you can see, we were very busy, but our academics were never far from our eager minds. In language arts we focused on the letters, Dd, Ss, Ll, Ii, and Tt. We also began to blend words and took home our first few word lists. Math lessons were centered around patterns, sorting, left/right, recognizing numbers and number words, more than, fewer than, and before and after on a number line. In religion we talked about God's gifts of land, water, and animals. We discussed the lives of saints and read bible stories. In science and social living we learned about pumpkins and how they grow, and we talked about seasons and the different things we may see in each. We also studied several nocturnal animals such as bats, owls, and raccoons and the things they do at night. We have a great time in kindergarten and can't wait to do much more!!!

First Grade News - Ms. Paige, Ms. Julie, and Ms. MaryBeth

The school year is off to a great start in first grade! Everyone has come so far in such a short time. We have been busily reading our Accelerated Reader books, and for the first nine weeks everyone in first grade made their goal and got to go to the AR party! In reading, we have also been working on sharpening our skills on sequencing, main idea and detail, and other reading strategies. We have some wonderful writers in first grade; come and check out their work that is displayed on the Write On! bulletin board in the cafeteria. Our

journals and Writer's Workshop have really produced some outstanding writing. In math we have been working on our addition and subtraction facts, and now everyone can add to 10. It is so exciting to see! We have been learning so much in social studies about our community and our world. It is really fun to see how people's lives have changed. Finally, we took a field trip to the Lynn Meadow's Discovery Center where we had so much fun we forgot we were learning. So much has happened in first grade already, and we have only just begun the year!

Second Grade News - Mrs. Stiller and Mrs. Collett

For most students, the first semester in school is always full of new challenges as it takes time to transition into a new grade level. As we continue to journey on into second grade, we're sure you will experience a big growth spurt in your child's maturity and witness a very responsible child developing. After all, they are even entering their own assignments into their planners for the first time!

We have an excellent reading program in progress along with our AR program. Thank you, parents, for supporting our efforts to encourage your children to read. The children are very excited to share with each other details of their stories, and they even make recommendations to one another.

In our math classes we have been learning about number patterns, along with comparing and ordering numbers. We have worked at understanding tables and graphs along with some new addition strategies. The students are very excited to be learning algebra, too! We also reinforced our prediction and understanding skills during Curriculum Night using the M&M and Skittles math problem games.

In our science class, to better understand the process of a plant's

development, we grew plants and witnessed the root system as it developed. We also integrated math into our lesson as we measured and charted how tall the plants were growing over a 28-day period.

In social studies and reading, we have been learning about communities. We learned that our own classrooms are also considered a community. Our students are learning more about different cultures and types of communities. Second graders respect each other's differences and are beginning to realize that we are alike in many ways, too.

October was Fire Safety Month, and we spoke to the children about fire safety. We discussed the importance of having a safety plan in place should you have a fire at your home. Ask the children what they learned.

On October 15th our entire second grade, along with chaperones, made a trip to the Audubon Zoo. It was a beautiful day, and we really appreciated all of our parent volunteers. Since we were studying animals in our science unit this past semester, we were able to classify the animals as well as observe them in their habitats.

Second Grade News - continued

Our students have been learning about four of the seven sacraments so far (Baptism, Penance, Communion, and Confirmation). Thank you for sharing with your children any stories

about what happened on their Baptism Day. They love hearing stories about their Catholic faith as they prepare to receive two very important sacraments this year.

Third Grade News - Ms. Hebert and Mrs. Rhodes

Third grade has had a great Fall! We had an exciting day with our St. Rita friends here at MQP. We made some new friends and saw our old ones from our field trips together last year. We shared songs and played games. What an awesome day! We can't wait to visit them at St. Rita's in the springtime.

In class we have been very busy working on our cursive handwriting. Soon we will be writing in cursive all the time! Subtracting across zeros is a challenging skill that we are working on in math class, and we are still working on our addition and subtraction math facts. Before you know it, we will be beginning our

multiplication facts!

In English, we are learning the writing process with the help of our new writing series. We have just finished writing about our perfect pets. Flat Stanleys hopefully have made it to their destinations, and we look forward to hearing about his adventures!

In social studies, we are finishing a unit on communities and will be learning about celebrations in our next chapter. We are so excited about learning the rosary and its prayers. We look forward to the 7th graders' rosary presentations next week.

Fourth Grade News - Mrs. Wilkinson and Mrs. Waguespack

Fourth grade started the first quarter off at a fast pace, and they haven't slowed down yet. After a week of warming up their brain cells with review activities, they began expanding their knowledge. Social science focused on classifying God's living things, researching their favorite animal and exploring the northeast. They sampled maple syrup, cranberries, and grape jelly - just a few of the resources we enjoy from our neighbors to the north. Math was filled with facts - basic facts, that is! There was lots of competition going on to see who knew their math facts, and the students even have a cool computer web site called "1st in Math" to help them reach their goals.

Reading was filled with many interesting stories. They started the year by mind mapping the summer reading book, The Mouse and the Motorcycle. They also read Skylark and learned what it would be like to live through the harsh times of a drought. In English they used newly acquired skills about nouns and predicates to write beautifully crafted paragraphs about their favorite place. In religion the students learned about the church calendar and had an opportunity to write letters to missionaries. The fourth graders worked so hard during the first quarter and are raring to go as we start the next!



Middle School News

Fifth Grade News - Mrs. LaRocca - Religion, Reading, and Social Studies

Here we are in the second nine weeks, and we are off to a wonderful start! On Tuesday, our students visited the shrine of Father Seelos in New Orleans. We had a very interesting lesson on the history of the beautiful church where Father Seelos inspired so many of the faithful, and a tour of the museum and shrine that contained relics of "The Happy Ascetic" and several other saints. The students had lunch together and visited the gift shop. We concluded our day by saying the rosary together in the church. It was a wonderful, faith-filled experience, and we would like to thank Mrs. Danos for making it possible.

In our religion classes we are learning about the power of the Holy Spirit as we begin our study of the sacrament of Confirmation.

We continue to read the stories and study the skills in our reading

textbook, but we have also begun our first class novel, Maniac Magee. It is the story of an orphaned boy who becomes a legend in the town of Two Mills, Pennsylvania. Through Maniac's eyes we, too, will struggle to understand the issue of prejudice. We can't wait to see how things work out!

In our social studies class we will be looking into the explorers who left the safety and comfort of their European homes and crossed the oceans looking for new trade routes to Asia. In the process, the "westward looking" Christopher Columbus will find a whole "new" land, and North America will be changed forever.

I would like to thank all of the parents who made our Halloween party such a treat! It was wonderful to see so many parents involved, and I thank you all for my birthday treat, as well. Your children bring such joy into my life - I truly thank you for sharing them with me!

Fifth Grade News - Mrs. Kurtz - Math, English, and Science

"Seeing is believing," right? Well, as a new teacher to MQPCS, I am truly seeing that this school is indeed "a special place." Although my own children attended here before, it wasn't until I received the privilege to teach here that I have been able to learn firsthand what all goes on here on a daily basis. Lots of loving and learning! The faculty, students, and parents are ALL warm, welcoming, and extremely caring. The environment in this school is so much more than I could have ever hoped for as an academic, as well as spiritual, home for my family. I would like to thank everyone for my gracious welcome as a new faculty member.

In this first quarter, fifth grade students have learned that math can be

tremendously fun. They have shot off like rockets using their new "First in Math" online program. Each morning they are so excited to learn who will be named "The Player of the Day" by having earned the most virtual stickers from the games and drills performed the day before. The friendly competition is not only on a school level, but state and nationally as well. Currently, MQPCS ranks third out of all the schools in the archdiocese that use the program. In addition to honing their skills in multiplication and division of larger numbers, they have learned new concepts in comparing numbers by using place values of decimals, using divisibility rules, and doing prime factorization.

In English, they have studied nouns and adjectives and are putting them

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Fifth Grade News - continued

into their descriptive writing topics. I have learned how deeply they care about many of the individuals in their lives by reading descriptive paragraphs of their chosen individuals. They are beginning to incorporate the seven traits of good writing techniques into longer essay assignments such as the things they are most thankful for.

In science, Fifth Grade has learned how to use the Scientific Method to test and explore a hypothesis. "The Great Tomato Race" was a winner in helping them to apply the method and in most cases affirm their

hypothesis that the temperature of ketchup does indeed affect the rate that it will pour. Learning about the building block of all living things, the cell, proved more interesting than they initially thought it could be. Using all edible (and sugary) components, they constructed an animal cell after learning about all its parts and functions. The mild upset tummies that occurred after that lesson have long since passed, but hopefully the knowledge they learned about the incredible cell will remain with them for all their future endeavors in science.

Middle School - Mrs. Maurin - 6th & 7th grade Religion and 6th grade Reading

In 6th grade reading I hope everyone took their sea sick medicine for our next adventure on the high seas aboard the *Seahawk*. We have begun our next novel, The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi. We are making ourselves familiar with new nautical terms. Our story happens in 1832 aboard a ship on its way to the Americas. Our main character is thirteen year old Charlotte Doyle, and we follow her adventures aboard the *Seahawk*.

So far this year in 6th grade religion, we have studied the story of creation to the time of Joseph, the King of Dreams. Our next chapter is all about Moses and the Exodus of the Israelites. Our discussions of modern-day birthrights have been very lively, especially since we have so many twins in sixth grade this year.

Our sixth graders will be leading the school at our Living

Rosary on Tuesday, November 10th, 2009.

We will be going on retreat on Thursday, November 19th, 2009. Hopefully our sixth graders will be looking forward to our day of fun and reflection.

In 7th grade religion, we have just finished our chapter of the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Please ask a seventh grader what the symbols on the ambo in church represent. We have studied the meanings behind them. If you remember Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's television show, please let a seventh grader know. We have been studying the canonization process, and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is in the canonization process to become a saint. Also the seventh graders ask for your prayers in helping them make their high school choices in the coming weeks.

Middle School - - Mrs. Mares - 6th & 7th grade Social Studies and 6th grade Science

The sixth graders were quite busy the first quarter in science. They learned about the Scientific Method and how science is all around us to learning about matter and minerals. In Chapter 2 on matter, the students adopted an element. They learned many interesting facts on their element as well as developed an advertisement for the element. In Chapter 3 on minerals, the students did labs on indentifying minerals, and they also studied about the uses of minerals. As we move on this quarter, the students will learn about the rock cycle, Earth's energy and mineral resources, and views of Earth.

In sixth grade social studies, the students started off the year learning about the early gatherers and hunters. They then moved on to early civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Babylonia, and Assyria. The third topic the students studied was Ancient Egypt and Nubia. During the second quarter the students will learn about Ancient

China, Ancient India and Persia, and about the Mesoamerican Civilization. Also during the second quarter the students will begin working on their social studies projects. They will pick their topics and begin researching and creating a display for the social studies fair that will be held during the third quarter.

The seventh grade started their year learning about the colonies taking root in America. They learned how the colonies developed and who developed them. The next topic studied colonial life. The students learned about how the colonies were governed, colonial society, and slavery. They also studied about the road to the Revolution, what exactly led to the war. They also did an in class project to better understand all the events that led to the Revolution. In the second quarter the students will study about the Revolution and what happened after the Revolution. They will study about the creation of the constitution, and then study a citizenship handbook.

Middle School - - Mrs. Bertel - 6th & 7th grade Language Arts and 7th grade Reading

In 7th grade reading, students are reading from their outside reading novel as well as reading selected passages from the reading/literature textbook and studying vocabulary words from Vocabulary Workshop. In the outside reading novel, we are exploring the wilderness of the turn-of-the-century Klondike gold rush as told in Jack London's, White Fang. The story shows that through love and kindness, a wild creature's spirit can be tamed. White Fang learns this love and commitment to the man who saves him. We are studying theme and character development as well as personification. Additionally, we will continue examining other literary elements by reading selections from Units 3 and 4 of the reading/literature book. We will hone reading skills by making inferences, comparing and contrasting, and determining cause and effect. If students are interested in earning AR points for the outside reading novels, they may do so. Wednesday Wars (summer reading), Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, and White Fang are all AR books.

In the first quarter, 6th grade students gained an overview of the 6 Traits of Writing. Students then wrote a three paragraph essay relating a biographical incident.

In the second quarter, students are sharpening their grammar/usage and writing skills. Students have identified what constitutes a sentence—subject/predicate in a complete thought—as well what constitutes poor or incorrect sentences, such as run on sentences and

fragments. We also reviewed types of sentences and their respective punctuation. As the quarter progresses, we will examine four parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives. In writing good paragraphs, we have examined the structure of paragraphs—topic sentence, supporting details, and clincher sentence. We will conclude the quarter by writing different types of paragraphs such as descriptive and persuasive. Students are learning that correct grammar/usage go hand-in-hand with effective writing!

In the first quarter, 7th grade students gained an overview of the 6 Traits of Writing. Students then wrote a five paragraph essay describing a process applying chronological order.

In the second quarter, students are sharpening their grammar/usage and writing skills. Students have identified what constitutes a sentence—subject/predicate in a complete thought—as well what constitutes poor or incorrect sentences, such as run on sentences and fragments. We also reviewed types of sentences and their respective punctuation. As the quarter progresses, we will examine four parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives. In writing good paragraphs, we have examined the structure of paragraphs—topic sentence, supporting details, and clincher sentence. We will conclude the quarter by writing different types of paragraphs such as narrative and expository. Students are learning that correct grammar/usage go hand in hand with effective writing!

Middle School - - Mrs. Roussel - 6th & 7th grade Math and 7th grade Science

Integers, equations, decimals, OH MY! Our Middle School students have been super busy so far this year in math. 7th graders have been working diligently to get ready for high school. We have covered such skills as order of operations, integers, graphing linear equations, and solving one and two step equations. We will continue our work this quarter with equations and begin working with inequalities, fractions, decimals, and percents—whew!

6th graders have also been working very hard. During the first quarter we covered such skills as order of operations, positive and negative integers, statistics, and coordinate graphing. We will begin

working on solving one and two step equations and continue this throughout the quarter. We will also continue to master our computations skills with decimals and percents.

7th graders have been preparing for the upcoming Science Fair in February. They have generated some very interesting and exciting ideas. They will begin performing their experiments in November and December. I am looking forward to their final products. It seems as though we may have some future engineers and biologists in our class! Good luck to all of you!

Enrichment News



Art - Mrs. Amy Spain

In Art class we are learning the 7 art elements—line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space. As we learn about each element, students have the opportunity to experiment with the element as well as view fine art examples to see how famous artists used the basic elements to express themselves.

The early childhood students at MQPCS have had the chance to work on art projects to help them improve their fine motor skills. We have been cutting, pasting, tearing paper, and painting. Some of their favorite projects include Clifford the big red dog, “magic” apples, murals, sticker pictures, ice cube paintings, primary color straw paintings, shape robots, and ghosts for Halloween. We have also done some drawing instruction. The students have drawn Fall trees, silly skeletons, and completed a still life of pumpkins, gourds, and haystacks.

The elementary and middle school students have completed portfolios to store all of their wonderful work. We worked on the element line by studying Op Artists Bridget Riley and M.C. Escher, who

use line to create the illusion of movement. We looked at many different kinds of optical illusions and then created our own Op-Art using curvy and straight lines. We used shapes to create shape creatures, made positive and negative space with post it notes, and completed blind contour drawings. In October, we discussed form and made three dimensional pumpkins. We also used line to create silly skeletons and dot monsters. Like the younger children, we used line, shape, color, texture, form, and space to draw a still life of pumpkins, gourds, and haystacks. We discussed fire safety and created posters to help kids stay safe. We discussed the town we live in and entered the Christmas in Mandeville poster contest. We are getting into the fall season by creating contour leaf drawings.

It's been very busy back in the Art Room. We look forward to the rest of the year when we will be experimenting with more art elements, enjoying the art process, and enhancing our creativity!

Computer - Mr. Michael Messenger

This year in computer class I have had the pleasure of teaching a wide spectrum of age levels. With the younger children we focus mainly on the parts of the computer and what function each part serves. We also make learning the computer fun and interactive with educational games. As the children get a little older we concentrate on typing techniques and finger placement on the keyboard with typing software and games. There are many fun, safe, and educational games found online that we implement during class. I feel that learning proper typing is a strong foundation and starting young will further benefit them as they get older.

As the children progress in their knowledge and competency on the computer, we will delve into such programs as Microsoft Word and

Microsoft PowerPoint, which are valuable tools in preparation for future projects and assignments. Learning internet safety is another important teaching topic I constantly focus on especially with the higher grade levels. With the ever popular social-networking internet sites such as Facebook and MySpace where one can see personal information, it is very important to stay safe and know what is appropriate and what is considered inappropriate to put online for all to see.

As always, I keep computer class fun and light-hearted, teaching the kids that learning the computer will prove very valuable in their later studies when they attend both high school and study at the college level. I am excited and look forward to furthering my students' knowledge of computers in class this year.

Enrichment – Mrs. Kelly Hightower

Groups of students from grades 2-7 have been meeting for Enrichment on Mondays.

Every week the students have journaling questions to answer for creative writing, for example, “What if dinosaurs had NOT become extinct?” or “Would you rather live in a teepee or a tree house? Why?” Enrichment students also love to solve logic puzzles.

A highlight for seventh graders was building solar ovens and cooking apple slices in them.

Grades 2-7 completed a unit on compass directions. The students made primitive compasses and mapped the school grounds. Then, the students learned how to travel in specific degrees using compasses, and created a scavenger hunt for their fellow classmates using these coordinates to find the prize at the end.

Second graders, will be discovering friction. We will discuss our

favorite sports and how friction helps and hinders our movement. The students are experimenting with Hot Wheels cars to see how different surfaces would affect the speed of their cars on the ramp.

Third and fourth graders are beginning a unit on chance and probability. Together, we will read the novel by Ronald Dahl, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Through mathematical problem-solving, penny-flip calculations, and the use of spinners and dice, students will learn how to determine the likelihood of an event.

Fifth graders will be reading biographies they have selected. Using the strongest traits of the person they are studying, the students will write a 5 paragraph character analysis to focus on specific qualities of famous people.

Sixth and seventh graders are beginning a unit on Ancient Egypt and will make their own note in hieroglyphics to leave for future generations.

Library - Mrs. Maria Dum

In the Library, the 7th graders have begun the first processes of creating their own illustrated books. It will take us the course of the year for them to complete the entire project. Our goal is for each child to end the year with a book that they have authored, illustrated, and published.

We can't wait for them to read their books to the younger students. And of course, we will display them for all to see at the end of the year.

Our Scholastic Book Fair was such a success! Thank you to all of the parent volunteers that helped us out to make it turn out so well. Remember that we will have a second Scholastic Book Fair in the Spring.

Physical Education - Mr. Shane Douglas

This year in Physical Education I have stressed learning new sports and playing old sports with new twists. In my experiences, I have had the pleasure to play with people from all over the world. I learned to play many sports that are not common in the United States but popular around the world. We started the school year playing a game of Kickball Cricket that the children seemed to really enjoy. I taught the boys the basics of Rugby and how it is completely different from American Football. The girls learned to play Soccer, Volleyball, and a mix of both, called Soccer Volleyball. I took a game from the Olympics and converted it to fit our cafeteria called Handball. We haven't forgot the regulars and still play games like Medic Ball, Cabbage Ball, etc.

The little ones are trying to develop hand-eye coordination and their motor skills. Running, jumping, dribbling balls, soccer, and running an obstacle course are all activities we do in Physical Education for Pre-k and Kindergarten.

I want the children to have an avenue to release some steam and live active lives. I want them exposed to as many different sports and activities as I can provide. Hopefully they will learn to run and play instead of choosing to sit and watch television. Overall it has been my pleasure to coach your children in Physical Education this year.

Spanish - Mrs. Claudia Amaya and Mrs. Elizabeth Ryan

In Spanish in the lower school, for the 2nd nine week period we will continue our lessons to introduce learning components. They will be followed by appropriate activities, visually cued and communicative. Students thus gain a feeling of accomplishment and success by making their own discoveries and formulating their own conclusions.

We will also sing songs, spell words, read books, and play games according to the themes presented in our series of books.

During the 2nd Quarter: Los estudiantes de (Middle School) estarán practicando más diálogos, al igual que utilizando los artículos de definición y verbos como: Ser, gustar, tener y querer, dándoles así más seguridad al comunicarse en español.

Technology - Mrs. Shannon Hudson

We are blessed to have such wonderful technology equipment at our school. Our teachers work hard at incorporating this technology throughout your children's school days. We have had some challenges, as we do at the beginning of every school year, but we have persevered!

The students are succeeding and having fun getting used to their laptops and tablets in Middle School. Math students of all ages are enjoying "First in Math" online math program. The "competitions" and "stickers" really motivate the children! Many teachers are using BrainPop and BrainPopJr to enhance their curricula on a daily basis. The students love using the SmartBoards in the classrooms. The SmartBoards really engage the children with hands-on activities.

Did you know that many of our textbooks are online? Many books are online or have extra activities for the students to use at home.

During the week of October 6, 2009, letters were sent to all parents/guardians of students introducing a web-based technology called EdLine. The letter contained an activation code along with instructions on how to use the program. This program will allow parents/guardians to

access information about their child's academic performance – specifically up-to-date grades and assignments. Students were also sent activation codes so that they could setup their own account to access grades and assignments. The student codes are completely independent of the parent codes. Parent activation codes can combine several children's accounts, even if they attend different schools! Please remember to keep your username and password confidential.

If you did not receive a letter and/or are having trouble with the program, please send an email to school@maryqueenofpeace.org.

When it comes to technology, sometimes, the teachers have to become the students. Before school began, teachers attended school-run workshops, learning about EdLine. At the beginning of next month, several teachers will attend the LACUE (Louisiana Computer Using Educators) conference in Baton Rouge. Those teachers will then come back to school and teach other teachers all the fun and new technology techniques they learn.

