

February 11, 2010

Brothers & Sisters in Catholic Education,

As we look fondly at the recent celebration of Catholic Schools Week in our rearview mirror, we must re-establish our focus on many things to yet be accomplished.

Parents of some 6th and all 5th graders will have a chance to discuss with their student the option of applying to become a “Laker Leader”. Student leadership groups earn membership into by having good grades, behavior and a supportive attitude toward Our Lady’s School.

Fifth and third grade parents you might have heard your student talking about the strange aptitude questions I have been showing them (and will continue to show them for a couple of weeks). These ‘practice’ questions are my attempt to better prepare the students in these two grades to take a portion of the *Iowa Basics* beginning on March 1st. Mrs. Chipman and Ms Brown are spending time helping the students prepare for the academic portion of the tests. The items I am showing them are the logic portions of the test that may appear foreign to the students at this point in their educations. (e.g. ‘A is to B as C is to D’ or solve an equation with 3 or 4 possible correct answers but only one of those correct answers is listed among the choices). I am trying to show them how to *patiently* look at all possibilities and find the answer that best fits the question. The 5th graders have some recognition of this from their previous experience. The 3rd graders are still ‘head scratching’ trying to see the logic.

The *Iowa* will be given over a 2 week period. I need your assistance to remind the students to just relax, not to worry, but to take them seriously. A more detailed letter will be arriving shortly.

The ‘Laker Leaders’ continue to grow in taking responsibility for more things around the school. They continue with the “Greening” of the school, they just finished a Super Bowl food drive in which the Saints also won. I don’t have the final total but I do know this one week drive garnered over 100 items for our local food pantry. They are acting as hall and playground monitors, and learning to problem solve issues that affect the everyday events of our school. They are further along than I expected and I am very proud of them.

One final comment about Catholic Schools week. I have received several ‘phone calls from folks who identified themselves to me as grandparents or aunts of students currently in the building extolling the wonderful time they had at ‘Shake the Flakes’ last Saturday evening. My wife Juliet and I also enjoyed the social (although we may have been a little over dressed!). I want to offer a great big ‘thank you’ and a loud ‘ooo-rah’ to the husband and wife teams who made it all happen (you all know who you are!).

Your servant in Catholic Education,
Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator