

November 19, 2009

Brothers & Sisters in Catholic Education,

Each morning I set foot in this wonderful place I get a feeling a peace and comfort. And, when I get a chance to visit, individually, with the parents of my students and listen to their dreams, wants, and appreciations for what Our Lady's School is doing for their children I get a sense of satisfaction that I now realize was missing for the past two dozen years from my professional life.

Whenever I go to a Diocese meeting, or any meeting relative to this school, I take pride emphasizing that our name is Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic School. I do this because your children have shown me this is truly who we are. A recent example is as I am writing this to you we are three days from the close of a two week food drive ("Teaming with Jesus to feed the hungry"). To date our children (and of course each of you) have donated over 120 food items to be given to a local food pantry! Not bad for a little school of 60 hearty souls! This is what this school is all about!

At the recent county meeting we were talking about having a countywide Mass during Catholic Schools Week. It was stated in the past this was done with just the Sheboygan city schools. Last year they included Sheboygan Falls St. Mary's. They asked the Principal from St. John the Baptist in Plymouth (Ms Bitkers) and me if we would be interested in joining. Both Ms Bitkers and I answered immediately we would have our schools there! So, on February 3, 2010 at 9:30 am, with Bishop Callahan saying the Mass, we will join over 800 other Catholic School students at a very special countywide Mass. In addition to the clear values of having our students attend a Mass like this, I (egotistically) see it as a chance for the students from Our Lady's little school in Random Lake to shine! I'll write more about this in January. I really want our children to be noticed!

I have been attempting to meet with as many 6th and 5th grade parents as I can during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. I know I did not make contact with everybody. I will be sending out a survey, just to the 6th & 5th grade parents (because they are the group most immediately effected by any decision I make), shortly after the Holiday. I need to make a final decision soon as to whether I believe we can offer a 7th grade next year. I admit at this point I'm still uncertain. I want to be sure if we do this it will be what is in the best interests of the students. Right now if I were to guess I'd say the chances of us doing it are about 50-50.

Once again I remind you to help us in that U.S.Cellular \$100,000 campaign. Remember any adult can obtain one of those codes, no matter where they live in America. So don't forget to tell that uncle in Oregon, aunt in Kentucky, cousin in Vermont about how they could help!

One last note. Last week after Mass I kept the students in the church and gave them a quick little history about Armistice/Veterans day. Don't be surprised if they extend a hand to a former military relative over the holidays and say "Thank You!" And from me, I extend my hand to everyone who has in any way worked for the many blessing our country offers us, *Thank You for all you did or are doing!*

May our patroness, Mother Mary, keep each of you in her heart.

Your Servant,

Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator