

ST. AMELIA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 6

February, 2012

“INSPIRING EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK:

Dear Parents:

How can we best prepare today’s young students to thrive in the future they face? With new discoveries in areas such as medicine and technology being made all the time, today’s children will be part of a world that we can’t really imagine. We hear about the need for teaching children 21st century skills. What are they?

Children must become lifelong learners. They need to “learn how to learn”. Since many of the jobs today’s children will hold have not even been developed yet, children must learn how to deal with uncertainty and change. The basic skills of reading, writing, and mathematics will still be essential. Science will also play an important role. In addition, creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking will be key. Since our children will grow up in a global economy, they will benefit from knowing other languages as well as being skilled in information, media, and technology skills. Finally, communication and collaboration skills will be critical in a world in which we all must work together in order to make a positive difference.

This appears to be a very long list; yet your children have the benefit of being part of a Catholic school. The strong school community — grounded in a shared faith and the support and high expectations of parents, teachers, and the larger community — offers your children a foundation for facing the rapidly changing world around them.

By sharing this belief in God’s goodness and living out their faith every day, your children are blessed with a clear advantage in living and growing in our ever-changing world. Faith provides an anchor whose value can never be overestimated. It provides a compass and a touchstone that will serve your children well into the future.

May God continue to bless you and your family each day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

James Mulé
Principal

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*St Amelia School, where your child will
Strive to reach new heights,
Achieve great things and
Succeed for life.*

* * * *



**ST. AMELIA SCHOOL:
FAITH, ACADEMICS, SERVICE**

RE-ENROLLMENT ~ 2012-2013:

Re-enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year is now open to the parish community. If you have not re-enrolled your children yet, please do so in the school office as soon as possible. On February 1, we will open registration to new and transfer students, all children will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.



If you register a younger sibling of current St. Amelia School students, you will need a first-time student enrollment form, as well as copies of your child's birth and baptismal certificates (first-time students, only). In order to validate your child's registration, the fee of \$150 PER FAMILY must accompany the forms.

We have had many phone inquiries about registration, and your spot is only being held until January 31. If your registration fee is not paid by January 31, remember there is an additional fee of \$150, which is NOT deducted from the tuition.

PARISH VERIFICATION FORM:

Part of my responsibility as your child's principal is to communicate with you our efforts to give your child the best education possible, combined with a strong Catholic faith background. Part of that strong background is the requirement to attend Mass regularly, to be a part of our faith community supporting one another in physical presence, joining our prayers into one and offering financial support. Therefore, Mass attendance is very important to each member of our community, young and not so young.

I realize for each family there are many demands that could raise a challenge to attend Mass. However, God, in the context of Sunday worship, should be the highest item on our list of priorities.

I humbly issue a challenge for your consideration to make an effort to attend Mass at St. Amelia Church and to use our parish envelopes. This helps the church and the pastoral staff to better minister to you and your family needs.

Families who are active in and contributing to any Catholic parish in the Diocese of Buffalo may request the parishioner rate of tuition. This is checked quarterly by the parish and school. The Diocese of Buffalo defines "active parishioners" as those who are registered and worshipping members who contribute of their time, talent and financial resources to support the parish. Active membership, in accordance to the criteria set by the Diocese of Buffalo, means you must be registered in a parish, attend weekly Mass, and contribute regularly through the use of Church envelopes. All families must have a completed Parishioner Verification Form on file in the school office. Forms are available at the school office.

**FINANCIAL AID FOR PUPILS ATTENDING
ST. AMELIA SCHOOL**

Basically, there are two main sources of financial aid for students at our school in Kindergarten and Grades 1 – 8: the school itself and the **BISON Fund**.

St. Amelia School provides about \$40,000 in financial aid to students each year. This money comes from fundraising endeavors by parents and gifts from friends of the school. A committee reviews applications confidentially and determines the amount of assistance to be granted.

The BISON Fund provides tuition awards for families living in Buffalo and in the first-ring suburbs, enabling them to attend non-public schools. The fund makes about 1400 grants each year, and the average grant is \$800. If a child is approved for assistance for one school year, the fund will continue that assistance through Grade 8, provided there is no change in the family financial situation.

Applications for both sources of financial aid are available from our school office, and the deadline for BISON is April 30, 2012. The deadline for St. Amelia School aid is June 1, 2012. For the two sources, the family must provide accurate financial information. Each source will notify you, in a timely manner, of the amount of assistance being granted.

In addition to these two sources, the school is willing to work with parents who encounter unexpected financial problems, even after the deadlines. Parents can call the principal, James Mule, directly at the school (836-2230). Your call will be confidential.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S WEEK

The theme for Catholic Schools' Week 2012 is "**Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service.**" The annual observance starts Sunday, January 29 and goes to February 3.

The theme focuses on three priorities that St. Amelia Catholic School establishes that make them stand out from other educational institutions.

Children are taught **Faith** – not just the basics of Christianity – but how to have a relationship with God.

Academics, which in Catholic schools are held to very high standards, help each child reach his or her potential.

Service, the giving of one's time and effort to help others, is taught both as an expression of faith and good citizenship.



Celebrations at St. Amelia School "Uncover the Wonders of Western New York"

SUNDAY, Jan. 29:

Faith. Academics. Service: PARISH

9:00 am ~ Mass at St. Amelia Church,
Breakfast to follow

10:00 am -12:00 noon ~ St. Amelia School Tours

MONDAY, Jan. 30:

Faith. Academics. Service: COMMUNITY

Service project of personal care items for St. Vincent de Paul Society due today.

Activity: Student fitness quest . . .

Movin' and Groovin' & Zumba

Dress (Color Day): Gr. 1, 4, 5 wear Red

Gr. PK, K, 2, 3 wear Green

Jr. High wear Blue

TUESDAY, Jan. 31:

Faith. Academics. Service: STUDENT DAY

No homework/tests – recess; fabulous, fantastic,
fun day for students

Activity: Extended Recess

Concert (9:00 am for PK-Gr. 4 and

10:00 am for Gr. 5-8)

Dress: Western Day

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1:

Faith. Academics. Service: SPORTS DAY

Activity: Tailgate Party

Dress: Buffalo Sports Team

Thursday, Feb. 2:

Faith. Academics. Service: IN OUR PARENTS

6:00-8:00 pm - Open House,

Made in USA store

Art Auction

Activity: Patriotic music sing along

Dress: Wear red, white & blue

Friday, Feb. 3: Faith. Academics. Service:

IN OUR GRANDPARENTS

Dress: Penguin dress (black and white)

Activity: Mass, Feast of St. Blaise

Movie day

Grandparents / Grandfriend Day . . .

-Reception as stated below, followed
by school tour and classroom visitation.

Grades K - 8: 8:00 – A-E

8:30 – F-K

9:00 – L-P

9:30 – R-Z

Pre-K (in classrooms): 10:00 a.m.

LET'S GET READY TO CELEBRATE!!!

ST. AMELIA SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:

On **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., we will hold our annual **OPEN HOUSE**.



This is a perfect time for you to visit your child's classes and learn about our thematic unit.

Please spread the word about our **OPEN HOUSE**. We are seeking new students, and you can benefit at the same time with our referral program. New families are welcome to visit us at any time, but space for our classes is limited.

Remember to mark your calendar for **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – OPEN HOUSE** at St. Amelia School!

EASTER CANDY SALE:

Just a reminder: The orders for the Easter Candy Fundraiser through Niagara Chocolates are due by **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**, along with the payment. If needed, there are extra order forms in the school office. If you have any questions regarding the candy sale, please call Kathie Secchiaroli, 694-4344



SCHOOL LITURGIES:

All are welcome to join us at our all-school Liturgies:



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 at 10:30 a.m.

- Feast of St. Blaise

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 at 10:30 a.m.

- Feast of St. Valentine

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Students will participate in the Stations of the Cross beginning in March. All are welcome to join us at that time.

REPORT CARDS:

Report cards will be distributed on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3** to students in Grades PK-8.

GRADE 2 RETREAT:

Retreat for our First Penance candidates in 2nd Grade will take place on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, beginning in the Church.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

"Today and every day, let the quiet, tender moments of our Lord's own family touch our hearts and change our lives...."

Rev. Paul J. Keller, CMF

Thank you to all of the families who participated in Adoration during the month of January. We hope you found peace in the time you generously offered. Please plan on attending each month. Grade 4 is scheduled for **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**.

SCIENCE FAIRS:



This year we will be hosting two Science Fairs: the first one will be held on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**, for 5th & 6th graders. Our second one will be held on **THURSDAY, MARCH 8**, for students in Grades 7 & 8. They will both be held in the Don Miller Hall from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

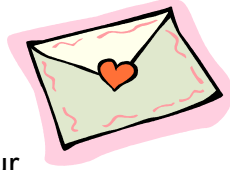
The students will be on hand during that hour to showcase their work and answer any questions. Please stop by and see the scientific methods in action.

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE:

Fathers and daughters will enjoy an evening of dance and socializing, "A Knight to Remember," on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10**, from 7 pm to 9:30 pm in the Don Miller Hall. Information was sent home before break, but if you need another invitation, stop by the office.

VALENTINE PARTIES:

PK-3 - Grade 5 will be celebrating our next holiday with parties and valentines on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.**



WEE DELIVER:

Please remember to use our WEE DELIVER mail service as a means of sending valentines to your children for Valentine's Day. The mailbox is located in the front hall across from the office door. Our children LOVE to receive mail!!! You don't have to wait for a holiday to send them something.

100th DAY OF SCHOOL:

FEBRUARY 14 is the day we also celebrate being in school this year for 100 days!!

GRADE 2-BREAKFAST WITH PARENTS:

Parents of students in Grade 2 are invited to enjoy breakfast with their children on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16,** at 8:00 a.m. Please mark your calendar.

CALENDAR REMINDERS:

There will be **NO SCHOOL** in **FEBRUARY** on the following days:

- **FEBRUARY 20-24 - Winter Break**

HOME SCHOOL MEETING:

We continue to offer you (parents) an opportunity to learn at our meetings. Mark your calendar for the next meeting, **THURSDAY, MARCH 1,** at 6:30 p.m.

H S A Elections: The St. Amelia Home School Association is accepting nominations for 2012-2013 Officers. Anyone interested in running for **Vice-President/President Elect** or **Secretary** should contact Mr. Mulé. Nominations will be made at the HSA Meeting on March 1.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, is the birthday of Dr. Seuss, and we will be celebrating reading and having a pajama party at the same time. More details will be sent home soon.

VOLUNTEER BREAKFAST:

We will honor our volunteers at a special breakfast in the school cafeteria on **SUNDAY, MARCH 4,** following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

POT O' GOLD TICKETS:

We have a supply of Pot O'Gold tickets available in the school office for anyone who would like to sell them.



Remember, your Home School Association obligation calls for you to do \$300 in fundraising, and this is the final opportunity to participate. The Grand Prize drawing for POG will be held on **SUNDAY, MARCH 11.** Call the office for more information.

FAMILY SERVICE COMMITMENT:

*Attention, ALL Families....
The Pot of Gold is your last chance to fulfill your Family Service Commitment for the 2011-2012 school year!*

WINNERS:

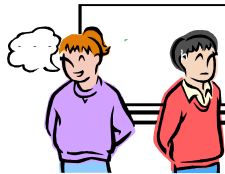
Congratulations to the following December Box Top Winners:

NOAH RIDDLE, Grade 3 / Room 23

ANDREW KOPRA, Grade 2 / Room 22

SPELLING BEE:

Congratulations to our Junior High Spelling Bee champions!



VINEETA CHAUHAN, a seventh grader, is our champion, and **ANNA BOTTICELLO**, a sixth grader, is our first runner-up.

Twenty-four junior high students competed in this year's Bee on Thursday, January 12th, in the Don Miller Hall:

Grade 6 – Anna Botticello, Camryn Clune, Sarah Coupal, Autumn Kelleher, Joanna Long, Julia Murphy.

Grade 7 – Dean Adams, Kelly Burns, Vineeta Chauhan, Paige Freer, Natalie Gaulin, Emily Kelleher, Madi Jo Jansen, Maria Pardo, Nicholas Taboni.

Grade 8 – Daniel Barry, Raechel Campisi, Thomas Chameli, Brianna Constantino, RoniJoy Laudan, Kelli O'Donnell, Hannah Ososki, Marissa Saber, Elena Slawson.

It was a very challenging experience for all participants, and we are so very proud of each one of them.

Vineeta will represent St. Amelia School by participating in the next level of *The Buffalo News* Spelling Bee, which will take place online on February 1st.

We wish her luck and again extend our congratulations to all who participated!

GEOGRAPHY BEE:

We are happy to announce the winners of our school's Geography Bee. Congratulations to **SHANNON GILMARTIN** in Grade 7, who finished in first place, and to **MARISSA SABER**, Grade 8, our second place winner.

Twelve students in Grades 7 & 8 competed in this year's Geography Bee on Monday, January 9:

Grade 8 – Skyler Bogdan, Cameron Caputi, Devlin Marino, Gabriella Phillips, Marissa Saber, Elena Slawson.

Grade 7 – Elizabeth Forsyth, Shannon Gilmartin, Christine Hanratty, Benjamin Laudan, Hannah Laski, Michael Secchiaroli.

Our winners, Shannon and Marissa, will take a written test in the next part of the 2012 National Geography Bee.

Again, congratulations to all those who participated and good luck to our winners!



REMINDERS:

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you:

- Do NOT park in the fire lane, especially when dropping off your children for school.
- Plan your morning so that your child arrives at school **on time**.
- Students in grades K through 8 should use the entrance near the gym in the morning.



“There are two ways of spreading light; to be a candle, or the mirror that reflects it.”

Edith Newbold Wharton

The 2011-2012 school year has been a very positive Blue Ribbon year in so many ways. I continue to be impressed by the dedication of our teachers and the abilities of our students. The **Light the World** service projects have provided the opportunity for our students to spread their gifts, talents, and light with those people who have been the beneficiaries of their service. I think that they have also had the opportunity to learn a great deal and to be blessed by those with whom they have shared their time, talent, and treasure. This is a program that continues to evolve and is growing and developing. I thank you for your efforts to **light the world**.

Your generosity is outstanding on all accounts. Below you will find two of many correspondences from the beneficiaries of our collections. For Catholic Schools Week we are collecting personal health care items for our St. Vincent DePaul Society. In February we will have our annual Collect your Favorite State (Quarters) for Catholic Charities, and, for Lent, a new family project, Operation Rice Bowl for Catholic Relief Services. Please note that 25% of the money raised for Project Rice Bowl stays in the United States.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you and your family.

A NOTE FROM JAMMIES FOR GI'S:

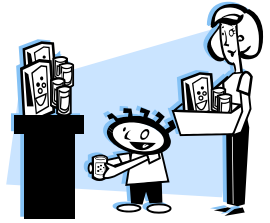


On behalf of our sick and injured troops I would like to take the time to thank you for your generous donation of candy to our troops. It was very generous of you to give up your goodies but please know our troops overseas really enjoyed receiving all of them. It isn't often they receive goodies like that. Also please remember our Injured Troops in the future. Jammies For GI's tries to help 365 days a year so it is crucial we spread the word. Please pass on our website www.jammiesforgis.org.

Thank you and God Bless You,

Cheryl Lepsch

A NOTE FROM THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:



On behalf of all our conference members and the needy families we serve, we wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and donated to your collection, which totaled \$617 and many boxes of food. This past Christmas we provided baskets of food to needy families in the parish community. Your generous support will allow us to restock our pantry for the rest of the winter season and for our Easter basket deliveries.

Thanks again for your continued support to the Society and our mission to seek, find and comfort the less fortunate families in our parish community.

To all we extend a very happy New Year and good health, happiness and success. May God bless St. Amelia School.

Very truly yours,

Jim Biesinger, Secretary
And all the Conference Members

NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENT 2012:

This year the state testing program is going to be more comprehensive because of the need to better determine students learning and to improve future assessments. Both the ELA and Math will be administered over the course of three days. Testing will be administered in April as follows:

- ELA – April 17 – 19
- Math – April 25 – 27



Please mark your calendar and make sure your child is present during the assessment period.

CALENDAR CHANGES:

Please note the following calendar updates . . .

TUESDAY, May 1 – NO SCHOOL due to scoring of assessments.

FRIDAY, May 4 – FULL DAY of school