

St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



April 12- 16, 2021

Shine Like the Stars



UPCOMING REPORT CARDS

The EDUCATE Parent Portal will be opened this Tuesday afternoon, April 13th so that you can review your children's third quarter report cards. Please be sure your Tuition and Lunch fees are up to date! **All your financial requirements, including tuition payments, lunch tickets, and all school fees need to be current before student report cards are released.**

Staff Announcements

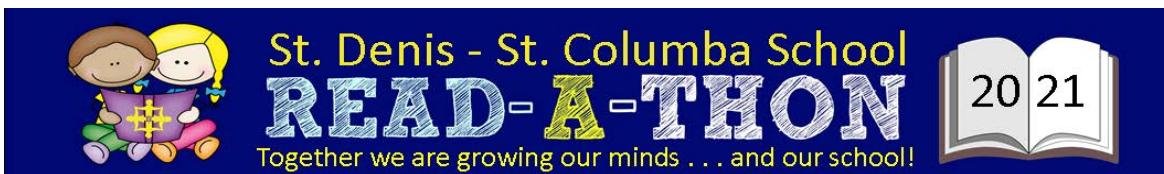
Sr. Cherree Ann Powers, C.R. recently transitioned to the role of Reading Intervention Specialist, providing Reading Resource services to students in Grades K-4. Through our regular assessments we have identified students who need extra support in reading to attain grade level proficiency. This new "in-house" program will supplement any other resources provided to our students through Wappingers Central School District and is also available to students who do not receive outside services. We are very excited that Sr. Cherree, who has experience in teaching reading to young children, will be able to assist our students!

Ms. Lauren Schifini has joined the SDSC staff full time as an Administrative Assistant. She is an SDSC mom (Jimmy, grade 7) as well as an alumnae. She has volunteered at SDSC for many years, most recently as co-president of the SDSC Parent School Association. Prior to joining SDSC, Lauren worked for Macy's for 20 years. In addition to her passion for SDSC, she brings with her a wealth of experience in technology, communication and customer service. Welcome Lauren! Lauren can be reached at lschifini@stcolumba.net and at 845-227-7777.

Upcoming NYS English Language Arts and Math Tests

As it is stated in our school handbook, SDSC students "take part in the Archdiocesan testing program, which includes New York State Education Department assessments. These tests measure academic growth over a period of time." Students in the Archdiocese of New York are **not** permitted to "opt-out" of NYS standardized tests. **During the week of April 19th students in Grades 3-8 will be taking the NYS ELA Tests. Please be sure that your children are in school on time on these days.** We thank you for your support and cooperation in this educational process. Included below are some important points about test-taking:

- Test-taking helps build mental stamina in children, preparing them for higher education.
- Data gleaned from state exams helps teachers create individualized instruction and provide support in specific areas as needed.
- State exam scores do not determine promotion or retention.
- Elementary-level state exams prepare students for future "standardized testing" such as the high school TACHS exam, SATs, ACTs, driver's licenses, GREs, Bar exams and more.
- Performance and personal data is carefully protected by the school and state, and is not shared with outside vendors or organization.



THANK YOU to ALL of YOU!

Thank you to all those who have collected or contributed donations on behalf of our first ever SDSC Read-a-thon! The results have **exceeded** our expectations by a LOT. Together we have raised \$30,500 for SDSC! These much needed funds support all of the programs and resources used daily to educate our students. Thank you to all who contributed!

The Read-a-thon was an extraordinarily successful event, but it was coordinated entirely by only four people whom we would like to acknowledge: **Charis Courtemanche, Lauren Schifini, Mr. Krebs** and of course, **Sr. Kathleen**. Thank you!

Thank you to all of the **SDSC Faculty** for their efforts and planning in making the Read-a-thon an engaging and enjoyable academic event that included DEAR times (Drop Everything and Read), book presentations, dress-up days and more! Thank you also to **Mrs. Lemieux** for integrating Dr. Seuss into her Art lessons!

Many of our SDSC Families and supporters very generously donated books, gift cards and other reading related gift for our prize baskets. These baskets were awarded to our students who were the top fundraisers in each grade, as well as “star” readers. We are grateful to all of the following families for their donations:

Allgaier Family	Gescheidle Family	Laski Family
Bei Family	Grade 2 Brownies Troop 10282	Mackey Family
Burke Family	Horan Family	Markowitz Family
Courtemanche Family	Horan Family	McGillycuddy Family
Craft Family	Irwin Family	McNeill Family
Dineen Family	Janos Family	Rickard Family
DiRienzo Family	Kakavas Family	Rodrigues Family
Eagan Family	Kennedy Family	Russo Family
Fakhouri Family	Kirk Family	Santiago Family
Falcone Family	Kline Family	Schifini Family
Farber Family	Krebs Family	Scocozza Family
Fernandez Family	Lanzetta Family	Sulca Family

Amazon Kindle Raffle Basket Winner: Harper Grassick

Classroom Contest Winners:



Highest Avg. Donation per Student	First Place	Runner Up
Lower Hall	Grade 3	Kindergarten
Upper Hall	Grade 7	Grade 6

Top Fundraisers Per Grade

Congratulations, and thank you to the following students and their families who were the top fundraisers per grade.

Grade	First Place	Second Place
Grade K	Luca Casey	Brooke Tarabokija
Grade 1	Harper Grassick	Austin Alexander
Grade 2	Isabelle Santiago	Olivia Rodrigues
Grade 3	Kaitlyn Burke	Jackson Reis
Grade 4	Liliana Centrone	Gavin Martin
Grade 5	Anastasia Walsh	Adriana Dusaj
Grade 6	Devin Zerbo	Michael Horan
Grade 7	Kyra&Rory Courtemanche (tie)	Karolina Bei
Grade 8	Gabriel Schraml	John Urbanowicz

Star Readers Per Grade

Our Read-a-thon was not just about fundraising, but also about fostering a love for reading. Congratulations to the following students for their commendable efforts and for “putting in the time” to read – over 1000 plus minutes!

Grade K	Danica Kirk	Rose Scampoli
Grade 1	Evan Hynes	Mila Fernandez
Grade 2	Maggie Rickard	Mae Scampoli
Grade 3	Kathryn Cassidy	Xavier Polanco
Grade 4	Norah Greer	Robbie Minotti
Grade 5	Kosta Kakavas	Landon Tompkins
Grade 6	Evie Winogradoff	
Grade 7	Avery Stokosa	John Cassidy
Grade 8	Sarah Linder	Jack Rickard

NUTTY Fridays!

Since we surpassed our \$15k school fundraising goal, the students have earned 6 schoolwide no uniform days! As such we will have 6 NUTTY Days (No Uniform Today – Thank You Fridays!)

All students at home and in school will be permitted to attend classes without their school uniform on these NUTTY days. The dates will be as follows and placed on school calendar: April 23rd, April 30th, May 14th, May 21st, May 28th and June 4th.

Afternoon of Play Parties/Classroom Awards

These prizes will be scheduled in late May and/or early June. Announcements will be forthcoming.



Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL: Kathleen Alvarez (*Grandmother of Tristan Alvarez-Vasquez*), Mrs. Boulton, Colleen Carey (*aunt of Landon and Braeden Tompkins, Joseph Troy*), Mrs. Dillon, Deron Jump (*friend of Mr. Krebs*), Tonjia Minotti (*Mother of Robbie, Gr. 4*), Debbie Sauerhoff (*Mrs. Spera’s sister-in-law*), and for the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit in this year.