



HOLY CHILD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Good News



March 2013

Latin American Influence on Church: A Holy Child Subject of Inquiry via Father Granito

In 2010, our 7th graders at the time did a report on the future influences of the Church from Latin America. Father Granito was a guest lecturer and told us that Latin American influence could be summed up in one word: vital. Now that our new Pope has been announced (and that Father Granito was able to participate in the ceremonies in Rome—see picture below), we can look forward to preparing our current students for the role they will play in the future of the Church. We know one thing for sure: it will be vital.

One of our students, Jacob Figge, presented an extemporaneous speech at Family Gathering on “Religious Liberty”. The intensive apologetics and philosophical research involved reminds me that our goal for our students in teaching them how to evangelize the world requires a very sophisticated set of skills. The research paper he got his speech from is on this email (main page).



Father Granito offering Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran—while not being named Pope on his pilgrimage to Rome, Father was able to celebrate Mass at the Altar dedicated to Pope Leo the Great and distribute the Eucharist at the Papal Installation Mass. Our students recognized him on TV at this the historic event.

Needs List: Basketball Goals, summer school scholarships, more Kindergarteners, matching grants for Science/Art Labs.

Family Gathering a Success

Pre-K through 8th Grade demonstrated to their parents and other guests some pretty cool skills on March 7th. We hope that all enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship that took place. Congratulations students and teachers: your hard work in the classroom is paying off. Pictured at right are the Pre-k-4 students performing their poetry and songs.



Latin League, Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Geography Bee and Math Counts Results

Jacob Figge led the way at Latin League, receiving 3rd Place in the JCL Latin 1 Exam. Joseph Grogan and Erin Grogan received 1st and 3rd place for Dramatic Interpretation, respectively. Thank you coach Beverly Spindle and all the students who gave up their Saturday to participate. At Science Regionals, Liam Fogarty received the Diane Vigerust Memorial Award (and \$50) while Joseph Grogan earned a first place recognition from the United States Navy and Marine Corps for engineering excellence. Thank you coach Lisa Sanchez and Andy Rutkiewicz. Math Counts results are in and the highest finisher was Stephan Plass, at 63rd place, one short of the school record from last year. Thank you coach Pat McDaniel. Abby Valdez, who earned a top 100 score in the State Geography Bee, competes at state on April 5th.

Dial-3 Readiness Screening

On April 5th, our 2013-14 Kindergarten class will be the beneficiaries of Dial-3 screening service, offered now for the 3rd year in a row. One of the interesting trends that I am seeing in classical education is the adoption of curriculum which advocates teaching every child as if he/she is gifted (Riggs Phonics, Singapore Math). While this idea has often been broached in the context of giving students the creative vision that goes into gifted instruction, I am surprised that it is now used in early childhood phonics and math core curricula. The last thing I would advocate is a high-pressure, fast-tracked requirement for Kindergarteners, 1st graders and below. However, if my 24 years of experience in Pre-K through 8 education have taught me one thing, it is that it is a disservice to children to deny them the opportunity for immersion in the kind of learning that allows them to thrive. The Dial-3 Readiness Screening is another of these necessary tools that allow optimal formation to take place.

Fine Arts Night April 22nd at 6:30

San Jose Hall will turn into a museum on Monday, April 22nd. There will be chamber music (K-2 Violin recitals), sacred music (Mid-school choir), and light rock (all-school ensembles) to accompany admirers of our school children’s art work. Cheese, fruit, and desserts will be served. All are welcome to stop by!

Other Important Dates:

Iowa Basic Tests: April 15-25th

Faith Bowl: 4th/5th & Mid-school Apr. 19th