



## FROM THE DESK OF MRS. LEAHY, PRINCIPAL

Saint Martin de Porres School

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# Saint Martin's Scores Top All

In October of 2011, all students in grades 1 through 8 took the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. The ITBS Test is a standardized test that measures a student's ability at their grade level and compares them to others locally and nationally. The results of this test also provides our school with individual results that allow us to develop an individual instructional plan for all students that helps us to meet their individual needs.

For the 2011 school year Saint Martin's results showed again an overall increase and all classes again are all above average and in the top 7, 8, or 9 stanines in both reading and math. This is an outstanding accom-

plishment! With the national and local averages at the 50th percentile, with a stanine average of 5, Saint Martin's students and faculty have much to be proud of.

A recent call from the Archdiocese of New York informed me that Saint Martin de Porres School test scores in both the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills as well as our New York State Test Scores from the spring of 2011 **ranked Saint Martin de Porres School at the top of all elementary schools in the Archdiocese of New York.**

Because our test scores in both the ITBS last year and our New York State Tests scores were both fantastic and well above average, this year,

**Saint Martin de Porres School is the ONLY Catholic school in the Archdiocese of New York to qualify to compete for a National Blue Ribbon** with other top elementary schools across our country.

All of our test results validate that Saint Martin's is a school of academic excellence. Our school is a school that continues to challenge ourselves to be the best we can be.

Congratulations to our students and their teachers for working so hard and reaching new heights as well as for setting goals that will challenge our school to continue to improve each year while keeping our faith and children first.

## Archbishop Dolan Visits Saint Martin's

On Saturday, December 10, Archbishop Timothy Dolan visited Saint Martin de Porres Parish. The purpose of this visit was to bless our new cafeteria and begin the 50th Anniversary of Saint Martin's Parish. The evening began with the Archbishop celebrating the 5:00pm Mass full of parishioners, many of whom were from our parish school.

Immediately follow-

ing the Celebration of the Eucharist, Archbishop Dolan joined Monsignor Sullivan, the Drain Family, parents, and parishioners in the new cafeteria for the blessing of our new cafeteria in honor of our late beloved finance director, John Drain and his wife Patricia.

Following the blessing, approximately 150 of our students joined in the gymnasium to thank

Archbishop Dolan for visiting our parish by singing a few special songs to him and Mrs. Drain and presenting the Archbishop with a Saint Martin's cap and sweatshirt.

A huge thank you goes to all students and parents who attended, as well as our grade 8 students who were servers and helped to clean-up after the event.

Please feel free to view photos on my web page.

### Special points of interest:

- *Pre-Kindergarten 3 and 4 re-registration forms were due back to school yesterday, December 19 for the 2012-2013 school year.*
- *Re-registration packets for children in grades K through 7 will be sent home today. Please look for this timely information as it needs to be returned by January 13.*
- *Christmas Break begins on Friday, December 23. School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.*
- *Early dismissal—Friday, January 13, 2012 due to a faculty meeting. Afterschool care is available for those who need these services.*
- *No school on January 16, 2012, in honor of Martin Luther King' Jr.'s Birthday*
- *PSA Family Breakfast to kick-off Catholic School's Week 2012 will be held on Sunday, January 29 following all Masses. Please join us for this event.)*



## God Bless Mrs. Kopa

As we approach the mid point of the current school year, I wish to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Donna Kopa for the many years of service she has made to Saint Martin de Porres School as our wonderful art teacher. After more than 15 dedicated years of teaching art to all of our students in grades kindergarten through grade 8, Mrs. Donna Kopa will be joining her husband in Texas where he currently works. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Kopa for all she has done, and we wish her much happiness as she

begins a new phase in her life down South.

Mrs. Kopa has truly made a difference in the lives of our students, both past and present. She is an outstanding art teacher, and as you walk the halls of our school, you can easily see the quality of the work she encourages our students, at all grade levels, to produce.

Mrs. Kopa is truly a gifted and talented educator. Her dedication to her profession has made her a valuable member of our staff, and we are sure to truly miss her as she was

an absolute pleasure to work with.

I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Mrs. Kopa all the best as she prepares for her move to Texas. It is my sincere hope that this move will bring both her and her husband joy, excitement, happiness, and good health. May Mrs. Kopa always know that wherever life takes her, she will always be in our hearts and prayers. May God bless both Mrs. and Mr. Kopa today and always!

## Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

On Wednesday, December 14, the seventh and eighth students from Saint Martin de Porres School joined together with students from Saint Mary's School, Fishkill, seventh and eighth grades to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

At approximately 9:45am a large bus, carrying three students per seat, arrived outside of our church with our soon to be friends from our visiting school. With Monsignor Sullivan and Father Robert Re-

penning leading us in prayer, this special day began by both schools joining in the Celebration of the Eucharist. This Mass was very unique and special because all parts of the Mass were spoken in Spanish and all songs were sung together in Spanish. This part of the day was a wonderful opportunity for our children to use their Spanish skills in what is truly the center of our school, the Eucharist.

Following the Celebration of the Eucharist, both schools joined in

our school gymnasium for a luncheon, good conversation, and an informative power-point presentation on Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Special thanks to Seniorita Smalia for being the bridge that brought our two schools together to celebrate this wonderful feast day. I am sure that all students who attended would agree that it was a very special day, one that they will always remember.

## Thank you, Mrs. Hourani

At this time it is very important to take a quick moment and thank Mrs. Jackie Hourani for coordinating three very unique and special Christmas concerts this year.

With the school growing and the ability of the students at various grade levels, we felt that it was important to break the school into three groups for three concerts. This was

planned in the spring of the last school year, and Mrs. Hourani welcomed the challenge. Putting her creative mind and musical talents to the task, Mrs. Hourani planned each concert and made each one special for parents and all who attended. Mrs. Hourani's gifts and talents shined through in each concert and her love for our students and dedica-

tion to our school was visible for all to see. We are grateful for all Mrs. Hourani's efforts and for her helping to make this Christmas special for all. It is our hope that the joy she has brought to others will be blessed upon her this Christmas and always.

