

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. LEAHY

Important Upcoming Items

ITBS Testing Begins	3/16
Parish Mission Begins	3/28
Pancake Breakfast	3/29
Primary Science Fair	4/1
School Mass 9:00 am	4/3
Early Dismissal 11:30 am	4/3
Dutchess County Re- gional Science Fair	4/4

PRIMARY STUDENTS WILL FURTHER EXPLORE THE WORLD OF HANDS-ON SCIENCE

Saint Martin de Porres School is excited to announce that we will be converting an available classroom into a primary science lab for our students in grades kindergarten through grade 5. As everyone is aware, we are extremely blessed here at Saint Martin's with a state-of-the-art science lab for our upper house students that is second to none. Building this primary science lab will enhance our science pro-

gram and allow our younger students to engage in more hands-on science experiences.

The majority of the work done in this available classroom to turn it into a lab for our little ones will be done over the Easter break. We are extremely grateful to the "Saint Joseph the Carpenter Volunteers" from Saint Martin de Porres Knights of Columbus and Mr. John Drain who have been already working hard in this room helping to make our lab become a

reality and to Monsignor Sullivan and the entire Saint Martin de Porres Community for supporting our vision to expand the world of hands-on science to the youngest in our school community.

Building this science lab is just another way that we are improving what we know is already the BEST elementary school in all of Dutchess County!

EXPANDING ON OUR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Can you believe that Saint Martin de Porres School is blessed again with three more interactive smart boards? Well, it is true, we are excited to have the opportunity to further develop our educational program here at Saint Martin's with three more smart boards. These smart boards were recently purchased with various funds, including those raised from our dinner dance that was held in the

fall of 2008. The three new smart boards are in the process of being added into our grade 7, grade 5, and grade 2 classrooms. Our teachers are excited to have these smart boards made available to them and as a result, the teachers and students are already using the boards and incorporating them into their daily lessons. We are extremely grateful for these three additional

smart boards giving us a total of five and it is wonderful to see more technology in use in our classrooms. How blessed we are here at Saint Martin's as the use of technology continues to grow in our school of excellence!



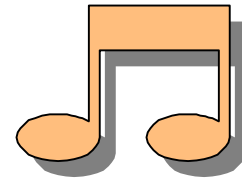
"CREAM OF THE CROP" MUSICIANS PERFORMED

The following students were selected and participated in the 2009 Mid Hudson Valley Catholic School Honor Band Concert. This concert was held on Sunday, March 8th at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. The concert was fantastic as these young musicians performed more than nine musical pieces for approximately one hour to a gymnasium full of adults. Our students were joined with other students from other Catholic schools in this area and represented the "cream of the crop" musicians. Please join me in congratulating the following students as they repre-

sented Saint Martin de Porres School at the concert.

- Olivia Davida
- David Fadden
- Steven Farrell
- Catlynn Frank
- Christina Fratto
- Sam Ingerman
- Megan Mantaro
- Tyler Meluch
- Juliana Neves
- Megan O'Halloran
- Victoria Russell
- Maggie Ryan

- Erin Ryan
- Michaela Ryan
- Emily Venuto
- Stephanie Venuto
- Libby Volkman
- Stephanie Zeleznik



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNOUNCES POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest was held in January of 2009. In keeping with the theme of giving our people the opportunity to develop their own solution to the challenges they face in our world, it was important to involve the students in our school in this contest. With more than 250 entries, the following

students from Saint Martin de Porres School were selected as winners in the various divisions. Congratulations to these students as well as all of our students that took part in this valuable, educational contest.

- Kathryn Watroba—Grade 8 - Drug Awareness—Age 12-14 Division

- Mary Mai Berchtold—Grade 6- Alcohol Awareness and Abuse—Age 12-14 Division
- Hannah Bocker—Grade 5- Alcohol Awareness and Abuse—Age 8-11 Division
- Katrina Decker—Grade 5- Drug Awareness and Abuse—Age 8-11 Division

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS...

- A huge thank you to a very special family from our school for their donation of \$1,000 to our school science program. This donation will be used to purchase a digital microscope as well as more hands-on science equipment for our primary science lab.
- Congratulations to John McGahay, grade 6, for being selected to the Dutchess County Educator's Association (DCMEA) All-County Elementary Band. John was selected to "first chair" playing the saxophone. We are very proud of John and wish him the best of luck in all of his musical endeavors.
- On February 28th our annual spaghetti dinner was held in our school gymnasium. This wonderful event served more than 280 dishes of delicious spaghetti to many. Special thanks to the committee of parent volunteers lead by Mrs. Michelle McCourt for giving freely of their time to help make this event a success and to all who attended, especially those friends of Saint Martin's School from our parish.
- Special thanks to Mrs. Jen Scarpatti and Mrs. Clarissa Burrows for volunteering to coordinate our last Meet and Greet that was held on Friday, March 6th. A good time was had by all who attended!