

From the Desk of Mrs. Leahy

Volume 2, Issue 4

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Special points of interest:

- **Wacky Hair Day**—Friday October 30 (Jeans and sneakers are also allowed)
- **Full Winter Uniform** begins on Monday, November 2
- **No School**—Conference Day - Tuesday, November 3
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- **Story Teller** visits Saint Martin's—Friday, November 6



Read All About It

Newspapers keep us informed and engaged about our surroundings. Millions of citizens reach for the newspaper every day to find out what is going on in their community and in the world. A student newspaper works much the same way. In our student newspaper students, parents, and staff can reach for a copy and find out what is going on in Saint Martin de Porres School from a student's view. There are many benefits to having a school newspaper written by our students here at Saint Martin de Porres School, not the least of which is helping our students improve their writing skills.

Here at Saint Martin's, we believe that

our school newspaper is an excellent way for our students to practice their writing and critical thinking skills, and writing the newspaper also helps our students to alleviate some of the anxiety they feel when they are given a writing assignment. Our newspaper is a real way of teaching writing that allows our students to become better writers and as a result, writing often becomes fun. Our newspaper allows our students to develop a broader sense of news events and teaches them how to write about current school or community events. Plus, you never know, we may have a future Bob Woodward or Carl Bernstein on staff waiting for some encouragement and the chance

to be published. Most importantly, let us remember that because our school newspaper is written by our students under the guidance and direction of Mrs. Paggi, it means a lot to the students in our school, their parents, and our teachers and staff.

So, future readers of the *Saint Martin Times* look for our first issue to be coming hot off the press very soon.



Students and Seniors Share Artistic Talents

On Sunday, October 25 students from Saint Martin de Porres School joined Saint Martin de Porres Seniors in their annual art show. This art show was held in our parish Nativity Center and provided others with an opportunity to

view the outstanding works of art done by our seniors and children from Saint Martin de Porres School. Many lovely works of art were displayed for all to view and enjoy. Our students were excited and thrilled to be asked to join our seniors

in their annual art show and be part of this special event. By viewing the works it was obvious to the viewer's eye that we have many "master artist" among us.



Having A Successful Parent-Teacher Conference

With parent-teacher conferences coming in November it does not matter if you are the student, the teacher, or the parent, parent-teacher conferences are bound to cause some anxiety. Yet, these meetings are priceless opportunities for families to get a better understanding of their child's progress in school. By preparing well for your conference with your child's teacher and following up with both your child and teach afterward, you can strengthen your child's school success. Below are a few items to help you to have a successful parent-teacher conference.

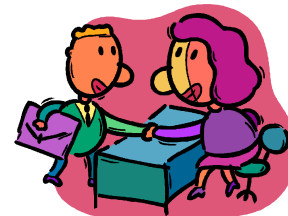
Before arriving for your conference write down questions

you want to address with the teacher. Gather and bring copies of any assignments you have questions about. Make sure that you show up at least a few minutes early so you know you will be set to begin your conference when it is your turn.

While in your conference make sure that you take notes about what the teacher is telling you about your child. Be sure to address these important areas: strengths, weaknesses, and social skills. Remember to always keep your cool and bear in mind that the teacher is offering constructive criticism.

After the conference sit

down with your child and tell him or her what you and the teacher discussed. Emphasize the positive things the teacher said. If there were important issues that need to be dealt with, make sure to follow up with the teacher soon after the conference. Once you know what you can do at home to help your child succeed in school, make sure you actually do it. It is understandable that finding the time might be difficult, but remember...your child needs you.



Grandparents Visit Saint Martin de Porres School

For the past two Fridays pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grade 1 students had the opportunity to spend part of their day with very special people. It is only right and fitting that every October our students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grade 1 honor their grandparents and thank them for what they have done to support their grandchildren in their education.

These two days were a time to celebrate those special people who are always there with a hug, a kiss, a smile and kind and loving words. These two days included activities such as joining their grandchildren in grades kindergarten and grade 1 in the Celebration of the Eucharist. All three grades joined with their grandparents in the school gymnasium for a performance done by our students, a little re-

ception with juice and baked goods and good conversations with those who mean so much to our children. Grandparents' Day is one of our favorite activities all year, because you can really see the pride, and the excitement in the eyes of our younger students. How blessed we were to have more than 150 grandparents join us to celebrate Grandparents' Day.

Just Few More Items of Interest...

Saint Martin de Porres students and staff are extremely grateful to the **Class of 2009** for their donation of a picnic table to our school. This new picnic table allows additional students the opportunity to eat their lunch together outside and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.



Pre-kindergarten **story time** will be held on Thursday, November 12 at 10:00 AM in our school library for young children not in our pre-kindergarten program. Stories, songs, dancing, finger-plays, snacks, crafts, and meeting new friends are all part of this fun and exciting hour. For reservations kindly call 452-4428. Feel free to join us and bring a friend.

Veterans' Day Celebration will be held on Monday, November 9th at 10:00 AM in the school gymnasium.

All Veterans are welcomed to attend and may register by calling the school office at 452-4428.

