



# A "Spook-tacular" Evening

On the brisk, damp Friday evening of October 16 many of our families joined together for an enjoyable night of fun, games, crafts, food, and good spirited company at Saint Martin de Porres School's annual Family Fun Night. This is always a fun evening for our students as well as their parents and this year was no exception. While the children played games, talked and "hung-out" with their friends, ate fun foods, made crafts and danced, our parents were free to also enjoy the festivities of the evening and the company of many friends that they do not see daily.

This year we were blessed to have Mr. Thomas Forgette, grandfather of Taylor and Jordan Zolzer, who built new games for us and the Knights of Columbus who cooked the hot dogs, donated and made the much enjoyed cotton candy. The decorations were festive and were displayed throughout the lobby, halls, and gymnasium and the haunted house prepared by our eighth grade students was a frightful experience for all to enjoy.

Friday night. I'm sure everyone agrees that this was a thrilling and enjoyable evening for all who attended. Special thanks to Mrs. Kristen Casey and Mrs. Mary Zolzer our co-chairs of this event. Thank you also goes to all of the bakers, the set up and clean up crews, greeters, cooks, Mr. Forgette, the Knights of Columbus, and those who donated items to help make this evening such a "boo-tiful" event.

A very big thank you to all of our families who participated in our Family Fun Night held on



## Let the Music Play



Beginning October 5, under the direction of Paul Effrman Band Services, Saint Martin de Porres School began band lessons for the 2009/2010 school year. What is amazing and different this year from in the past is that Saint Martin de Porres School currently has the largest elementary school band in the Archdiocese of New York.

Paul Effrman Band Services began in 1979 and came to St. Martin de Porres School in 1985. Over the past thirty years this company has grown to become a national company that now services thousands of elementary schools across our country with an average elementary school band size of 40-50 students. Saint Martin de Porres School is also proud to place within the top ten in size nation wide.

Here at Saint Martin de Porres School our school band helps to enrich our already high academic program and allows our students to express their musical and God-given talents. Band is available for children in grades 3-8 for those who are interested. It is also important to note that most of our graduates continue their musical endeavors upon graduation from our school.

### Dates to Remember:

Art Show-Nativity Center	Oct. 25
Picture Make-Up Day & Graduation Pictures	Oct. 28
Full Winter Uniform Begins	Nov. 2
End of the First Quarter	Nov. 2
No School -Teacher Conference Day	Nov. 3
Story Teller Visits Saint Martin's School	Nov. 6
Veteran's Day Celebration	Nov. 9

**Storyteller Lorraine Hartin will be visiting Saint Martin de Porres School on Friday evening, November 6th at 6:30 PM. Ms. Hartin will share many stories with our children. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring their favorite bedtime friend.**

*Delicious cookies and juice will be served for this free event.*

- **Make reservations now** by calling 452-4428

# Getting Organized

At times, after the first progress report and/or report card goes home our teachers are asked by frustrated parents how they can help their children to get organized. Disorganization is a problem that can, and often times does, plague children. They may forget about homework, lose assignments, leave their lunch or band instrument at home, or neglect to tell you about the day's field trip. Left unchecked, childhood disorganization could develop into a lifelong ailment. The key is to start now and help your children develop good organizational skills that will benefit them forever. Listed below are a few suggestions to help your child develop good organizational skills that will benefit them forever.

- Get an early start by having your



child or children pack their backpacks, pack their snacks for lunches, get their uniform, socks and shoes,

ready, and get “must haves” together before they go to bed.

- Every day, have your child empty his or her backpack, blue folder, and classroom folder of schoolwork and notes from the teacher and school.
- Give your child his or her own calendar in which they can write project deadlines, school events, lesson and practice times. Go through the calendar with them noting what is coming up daily.

- Together, set a small incentive or reward for staying organized for longer periods and for achieving major goals, like getting a project done the day before.
- Have a special spot set aside to keep long-term projects that your son or daughter may be working on so that they are ready for easy access and not misplaced.

I am sure that if these few suggestions are applied to your child's daily routine, along with your own suggestions, your son or daughter will become more organized and your mornings will go much more smoothly as you get your child off to school and you off to your busy day.

## Dutchess/Ulster Grade 8 Students Join Together



On Tuesday, October 13 more than 300 students from Dutchess and Ulster Catholic Schools joined together for a day of prayer and reflection here at Saint Martin de Porres School. The topic was Respect Life and our day began with the Celebration of the Eucharist joined by eight priests from local parishes and lead by our own pastor, Monsignor Sullivan. All eyes and ears were on Monsignor as he engaged these teens in the message of

self respect and how valuable they and their lives are. The day followed by a touching presentation done by Peter Lyons from Our Lady of Lourdes High School and a talented magician, Father “Magic.” Both presenters used their individual gifts to get the message of Respect Life to these young adults. It was an absolutely wonderful day and the learning and sharing that took place is priceless.

Given to each eighth grader upon their departure from Saint Martin's was a set of Rosary made with love by the Senior Citizens from Saint Martin de Porres Parish and Rosary Cards from our Knights of Columbus. These gifts were very much appreciated and valued by our visitors. Special thanks to our Knights and Seniors from our parish for helping to make this day such a special and valuable learning experience.

## Thank you, Thank you, Thank you



A special **thank you** to Mrs. De Bellis for coordinating our wrapping paper sale and to you and your families for helping to make this project a success. Please know that the efforts and hard work of Mrs. DeBellis and her crew of helpers and the efforts done by your family to make this fundraiser a success are very much appreciated.

Books, books, and more books! That

was what was going on in the parish lounge last week and during Family fun Night. Special **thanks** to Mrs. Berchtold for coordinating our annual fall book fair and to you, the parents, for supporting this event as well as for encouraging your children to read.

Mr. Peter Kelly and his crew of cooks and servers did a fantastic job with our pancake breakfast this past Sunday.

A huge **thank you** goes out to all the workers, parents and friends of Saint Martin's that supported this breakfast.

**Thank you** also goes to the Schlottmann family for their donation of soccer balls to our physical education and lunch programs. Your donation scored “goals” with our students!