



SVS STUDENTS EXCEL

SVS 1st PLACE AT ST. ROSE ACADEMIC BOWL

On Tuesday, October 27, 2009, eight students competed in the St. Rose High School Sixth Invitational Scholastic Bowl. Little did they know that they would be bringing home the First Place Team Trophy for their efforts, on top of three First Place medals in their subject areas. The team competed against ten other area schools. This is the second year in a row that St. Veronica has won first place. Along with the trophy and honor, St. Veronica School also received a two thousand dollar tuition voucher to award at graduation.

The team (pictured at right, from top left) consisted of: Vanessa Konzelmann for Religion, Catie Clayton for Spelling, Justin Alicea for Language Arts, Michael Wong for Math, Jessica Madeira for Sci-

ence, Thomas DiBella for Social Studies, E.J. Paras for Geography and Steven Jacobson for Current Events. The team took their three First Place medals in Religion, Science, and Current Events. Along with the first place medals, each student in their subject area who won received a five hundred dollar voucher towards their tuition at St. Rose.

The students wasted little time in preparing for the event. As soon as the team was announced, they got to work, studying whatever they could in their subject area. That preparation came from textbooks, note cards, flash cards, websites and any information they could get their hands on. And that preparation continued as they arrived at St. Rose High School Tuesday after-

noon with their textbooks and study guides in hand.

"This was truly a team win. I am proud of every member of our Academic Team because they all contributed to that first place trophy!" said Sr. Cherree, who was at the competition cheering on the students and accepting the trophy with the team. *-L Groh*



SVS WINS AT RUMSON FORENSICS COMPETITION

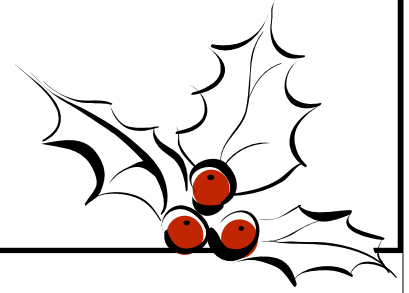
On Saturday, November 21, SVS competed in the Rumson Country Day School Forensics Competition, where area schools gathered to compete in this event. Forensics is the art of public speaking, and students compete in separate categories as individuals or with a partner. St. Veronica was represented by teams from the sixth, seventh and eighth grade in the Dramatic Pairs and Declamation categories and came away victorious in two separate categories and divisions.

Eighth graders Gia Weber and Thomas DiBella took First Place for Eighth Grade Dramatic Pairs. Steven Jacobson was awarded first place honors in the 8th Grade Declamation Category. The Seventh grade took home first and third place wins in their Dramatic Pairs Category as well. Grace Groh and Stephanie Hay finished in First Place and Alex Oleck and Joe Ventura were awarded Third Place. *-L Groh*



From the desk of.....

Sister Cherree



January 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I'm wondering if your son or daughter gave you the best present in the world – the one thing your heart needed the most? A big warm hug. That's the way our Christmas story ended this year. The little boy, Eddie, in the **Christmas Sweater**, found such a present with his name on it, that said "What your heart needs most for Christmas". Ultimately, Eddie learned to appreciate the simple things in life: family and love.

During Christmas vacation it gave me cause, and I had the time, to ponder "what my heart needs most". I remembered that we can't get everything we "want", and the fact that sometimes our wants can consume us; yes? We really don't even think about living a "simple lifestyle". It seems we are always longing for something more. The key question, however, is what is the "more" for which our hearts long? What is it that would truly make us happy, content, fulfilled? It takes courage to answer these questions, and for each one of us the answers will be different.

Of course, even the kids in various classes DID come up with the fact that God's love and the love of our family is what we need most, and so we have everything we need! Profound; aren't they? Deep in my being I know God has many wonderful surprises for me – if I could only open my heart and rely on Him.

As we begin this New Year 2010, may we all come before God, and believe in His love and mercy, and allow Him to touch us. Perhaps that's what our hearts need most. What a gift- it's always there and ready for us – if we just BELIEVE! We need to believe that God wants the same for us! He will always give us what our hearts need most!

Sister Cherree Ann Power, CR

A SURPRISE VISIT WITH SISTER ROSARIA

At the end of November, the Lanier family was able to visit with Sr. Rosaria in Castleton, New York. According to the Lanier's, she was very surprised and happy to see familiar faces.

The boys report that "It touched her that her students paid her a visit! We visited her room and then took a tour of the convent. The grounds are beautiful. Sister was doing very well and looked happy at her new home in Castleton."

They also said that Sr. Rosaria had received all the letters and pictures that had been sent from the SVS families. She even had them hanging on her wall. She said that the school came to her since she was unable to go to them!

"Sr. Rosaria did emphasize that, though she's not there, the school still needs to keep up on the mission money collections as though she was still there!! She is looking forward to hearing from the school families at SVS. Please keep sending her school news, updates, and pictures!"



Pictured above with Sister Rosaria are Nicholas-7A and Alexander-3A

History Comes Alive at SVS

On Thursday, December 10th, the sixth and eighth grade students participated in the annual National History Day Exposition. The Theme this year was *Innovation In History: Impact and Change*. The students did a remarkable job researching and presenting their topics.

The innovations presented by the students ranged from the *Discovery of Fire* and the *Invention of the Wheel* to the *Invention of Video Games, Satellite Radio* and "*Green Energy*". Sixth and eighth graders were asked to choose a topic which interested them. The students were then asked to research the

topic chosen, upon approval by Mrs. Groh and Mrs. Konzelmann. Each student kept a logbook of their research including references. Then the student prepared a tri-board and an exhibit on their topic. Many students also composed powerpoint presentations on their topic, and dressed in costume. The results were outstanding.

National History Day provides an opportunity for history to come alive for the students. This hands-on experience allows students to firmly grip the past in order that they may shape our future. "The knowledge and enthusiasm of the students was amazing. In many instances, I think the students surprised themselves by how much they actually enjoyed the entire process. I know that I learned so much from my students," remarked Mrs. Konzelmann. "It was Mrs. Groh's idea to get SVS involved in National History Day four years ago. I cannot think of a better way for students to get excited about history!"

"I wish I had been able to participate in National History Day when I

was in school. What a great way to get kids excited about history, research and the mechanics of composing a story. Students today are so sophisticated about their work. I might just have to snag a few of these young documentary experts for my next production!" - Ken Burns

The exposition took place in our gymnasium at SVS. All SVS students were given time to view and learn. Some pictures of the exhibits are featured here. We can't wait for next year. National History Day is one more way in which our children are inspired, and in turn, they inspire us.

-D. Konzelmann



CRUSADER BOYS FINISH 2ND IN SOCCER

The St. Veronica's Crusaders boys soccer team had another fun, exciting, and successful year. The season had a rocky start, losing our home opener to a talented St. Peter's team 3-2. Inexperience and some injuries hit the team for the second game, causing a loss to Holy Innocents.

We made some adjustments for the third game and everyone started to understand their position. This resulted in the team's first win of the year, a 2-1 victory over a very talented St. Dominic's team. This win gave the team all of the confidence and momentum it needed. We went on a 7 game win streak, beating St. Denis, Holy Family (twice), St. Aloysius, St. Paul's and All Saints.

We took a small step back our last game of the year, with a loss visiting St. Peter's. We finished the regular season in second place with a record of 7-3. We won our first playoff game against our cross town rival, St. Al's. In the semi-finals, we came up a little short, losing to eventual champion, St. Dominic's. Overall, the boys and coaches enjoyed a successful season, learned a great deal about soccer and most importantly, had fun.

- W.Lynch

The Team Roster: Mike Abbazia - Forward, Tom Brady - Goalie, Steve DelCastillo - Mid Field, Tom DiBella - Mid Field, Brendan Griffin - Mid Field, Kevin Kelly - Mid Field, Colin Kneucker - Forward, Julian Koch - Forward, Justin Koch - Forward, Tom Lynch - Defense, Nick Mack - Defense, Anthony Maiorino - Defense, Brandon Medici - Mid Field, Alex Oleck - Defense, Gio Urena - Mid Field, Chris Wong - Forward

Led by Coach Lynch and Asst. Coach Kelly



FALL FESTIVITIES



The Great Pumpkin Movie Night, held October 30th was a great success. Children decorated pumpkins, enjoyed the make-your-own-sundae bar and watched the movie **It's A Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown**.



On November 7th, families dusted off their boots and kicked up their heels at the Fall Family Dance. With direction from the professional Square Dance Callers, folks learned to promenade, allemande, dosado and right arm turn all while having lots of laughs. It was a great time and a great cause.

'TIS THE SEASON...



Everyone could feel the excitement in the air as Rainbow Patch started the Christmas Season with their Show on December 16th. Led by Mrs. Worman and Mrs. Hanson, the children sang and danced to several Christmas songs and ended the show with a special nativity scene.

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"We Need A Little Christmas" was the theme for this year's Christmas Concert held December 17th. Once again it was a huge success. Opened by the band led by Mr. Franca, there was more than a little Christmas in the air. An impressive performance by the liturgical dancers followed the band. Then students in 1st through 4th, led by Mrs. Boyle, performed Christmas carols with highlights by several soloists. The show closed with a beautiful nativity scene starring 1st grade students. It was a fantastic concert and special thanks go out to Mr. Franca and Mrs. Boyle for giving us a wonderful start to the Christmas Season.

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HELPING HANDS

8TH GRADE PITCHES IN FOR FALL CLEANUP

Armed with rakes, the 8th grade students assist in keeping the SVS grounds clean. Their hard work was evident by the many bags they filled. Thanks for lending a helping hand!



SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP GIVES TO FAMILY IN NEED

During this season of giving, the Social Justice Group generously decided to help a parish family who had fallen on hard times. The students divided into groups and bought gifts for each of the four children, the parents, and some family gifts. They also held a Bake Sale and all of the proceeds went to help this family who is struggling through a very difficult time. In addition to the Bake Sale donations, they also received cash donations, visa gift cards, as well as food store gift certificates for the family to use. The kids threw themselves into this project with compassion, enthusiasm and the true spirit of the season. Great Job!



7B DONATES TO GIVING TREE

Mrs. Groh is proud to report that her homeroom raised over \$100 for gifts for the Giving Tree here at St. Veronica Church. "With the donation of a gently used PSP, we were able to purchase a variety of games, a case and extra accessories for that PSP that was requested by a young boy from that list. We also used the extra money to purchase additional gifts for other recipients."



1B SHARES STORIES

Mrs. Accomando is proud that the boy's and girl's in 1B have been sharing their favorite Bible stories with their classmates throughout the year. On this day, Brian Silva is pictured sharing one of his favorites, **Joseph and His Coat of Many Colors**. The First Graders were very glad that there was such a happy ending!



Grazie Thanks Danke Merci

YOU Performed A Miracle – Thanks!

In the middle of September I was struck with a horrible disease, Guillain Barre Syndrome, GBS. What started as a bad back ache became horrifying pain and eventually paralysis from the neck down. I went from home, to Kimball Hospital in Lakewood, to Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia. I was put on life support and into a medically induced coma. While this was going on my wife (Mrs. Rienzi, Class 4A) reached out and asked for prayers, AND YOU PRAYED.

I had many severe complications. The doctors said that I was one of the worst cases that they had ever seen. AND YOU PRAYED. At one point the doctors thought that I may not make it. Your prayers were stronger than their thoughts. I made it. They also said that I may not be able to speak for months, if ever, and one doctor said I would not walk for three hundred days. As I started to respond they said that I could possibly be transferred to the Rehabilitation unit by January. That would make my homecoming around Spring 2010. AND YOU PRAYED.

My improvements were better than they thought possible and I entered the Rehabilitation unit November 1. My responding to therapy made it possible to come home December 1. The doctors said that my improvements and responding to therapy was the fastest that they ever saw.

While all this was going on, many of you cooked for my family. Teachers gave up their time off to enable my wife to be with me at the hospital and when I returned home. There was a prayer service for me that many of you attended. You raked my leaves in the fall and put up railings in my home. You helped with carpooling of my children. The PTA organized a fundraiser and your generosity overwhelmed me. My wife's classes, past and present, and many others, were so kind with their gracious gifts for which I am so thankful. The Sisters also had a beautiful Mass said for my intention in the convent. It was ALL very much appreciated, as I will continue to be out of work for months to come. I cannot thank you enough for all of these things. You became part of my family for which I will be forever grateful.

I'm walking (with the help of a walker or a cane), and having in home physical and occupational therapy. I have a long road ahead but I have a lot to be thankful for- God, my wonderful children, wife, family and my SVS family. When I tell people all that has been done for us, they now understand what we've been saying for years- why my children attend St. Veronica School.

You prayed and God answered. I received a miracle because of your prayers.

My family had a great and blessed Christmas. I hope yours did too.

Thank you, and God Bless You.

Len Rienzi



Students and faculty gather in the gymnasium on November 19th to show their gratitude to Sr. Cherree and Mrs. Nelson for Principal / Vice Principal Appreciation Day. How fortunate we are to have such excellent leadership at St. Veronica School!



LEADERSHIP AMBASSADOR AWARDS

	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
KA	Kate Bryant Christopher Madeira	Gabe Podsvirow	Christina Benedon
KB	Katherine Ebreo Nicholas Monti	Nicolette Scarlotta	Jenna Dacquel
1A	Erin O'Brien Luke Valencia	Alyssa Bannach	John Morreale
1B	Kasey Keshecki Ryan Tierney	Matthew Broderick	Christina Arata
2A	Lexi Podsvirow Mark Skrincoosky	Max Bailey	Ava Ossowski
2B	Nicholas Ford Bailey Morte	Alexandra Konczyk	Emily Madeira
3A	Christopher Clayton Maria Wong	Joseph Blaes	Gabriela Abbazia
3B	Julia Campbell Kevin Ralph	Dillon Groh	Patrick Callahan
4A	Isabella Palumbo David Schuld	Jocelyn Dacquel	Mateo Malek
4B	Brian Broderick Elizabeth Demian	Shannon Tierney	Matthew Carrigy
5A	Anthony Bove Jadamarie Covington	Hunter Blair	Brian DiPasquale
5B	Daniel Clayton Heavenly Medina	Kristopher Kulick	Rebecca Madeira
6A	Krystin Batta Nicholas Verardi	Ryan Palmer	Jonathan Alicea
6B	Teresa Holl Laurance Lambauch	Christine Vadakara	Joseph Santanello
7A	John Espinos Joseph Ventura	Sophia Zampardi	Martin Vadakara
7B	Nicholas Lanier Alex Morte	Nicole Sivetz	Rebecca Franey
8A	Julian Koch Jessica Madeira	Steven Jacobson	Giovanni Urena
8B	EJ Paras Clare Sullivan	Michael Wong	Mary O'Sullivan