

EPIPHANY TIMES

Volume I – April 2008



Wildcat Water Cooler

This edition of the newspaper has met with significant delays in publication. I would like to say that it is due to the fact that I am a CPA and April 15th is a day that lives in infamy each year for my profession, but that would only be half of the story. We had an interviewee who declined to be interviewed. We had a teacher who could not be tracked down in time to go to publication. Finally, we had sick staff reporters. In any event, we are back in business and happy to be bringing you all the EOL news that's fit to print.

On the third page of this paper, you will see the names of the honors recipients for the second trimester. The response to the survey that was sent out several weeks ago was overwhelmingly in favor of publishing this information (75% of respondents wanted names, an additional 15% wanted statistics). As with the first trimester, we will not put that information on the school webpage (where you will find past issues of the Epiphany Times) so that our students' names and grades are not available to the general public.

Editorial: Whether you agree or disagree with publishing the list, it is important to understand why 10% of respondents thought that names should not be published so that we can be sensitive to the students who may struggle in school and never make the honor roll. It is also important to be able to celebrate the academic achievements of our students in a collaborative environment, not a competitive one, where students can be proud of their accomplishments and those of their peers. Parents can help keep the behavior of their honor students honorable. Finally, please do not sell short the efforts of those students who do make the list. To my knowledge, they have all worked very hard to get there and have not made the list merely because they are smart and school comes easy. The assumption would refute the fact that we offer a challenging curriculum in our classrooms. I welcome e-mails in response to this editorial.

Yours truly,
Erin Friday, EOL H&S President

Q: What did EOL parents have to say about this issue?

A: "There is always the child who was missed in error (Editor's note: this happened last trimester and was corrected in Ms. Havey's subsequent weekly letter home) or the child who missed honors by a small percentage. Grandstanding is vanity and unbecoming."

"Schools should recognize students for their academic efforts as well as athletic accomplishments."

Wildcat Water Cooler Continued...

"The kids know who the smartest kids in the class are. Keep the competitiveness on the ball field. As I parent, I don't need to know this."

"It is a nice pat on the back. They have worked for it. I think it encourages my child to work harder to get it."

"Because Epiphany School has always been inclusive, not exclusive, and publishing excludes some children without any real substantive value for those who do get honors."

"They deserve to be acknowledged for their achievements."

"There is enough competition among children already. At the elementary level, children have enough competition through sports. If names are published, some children may feel left out or ashamed if they didn't make the honor roll."

"It makes no sense to ignore the students who have achieved a level of success through hard work because some may feel hurt. It may make those who did not receive honors work harder to achieve this goal. There should be no apologies for achievement."



Altar Serving by Casey McBride

I couldn't wait for 5th grade for lots of different reasons; changing classes, having several different teachers, CYO sports and becoming an altar server. It's a great feeling to be giving more responsibility, but it's also a little scary. Changing classes and having different teachers turned out to be really cool. It wasn't as nerve racking as I thought it would be. I also played j.v. volleyball and field hockey with the guidance and patience of great coaches. And finally, about 4 weeks ago I got to serve my first Friday mass. I was anxious, nervous and terrified that I would make a mistake, but as the recessional song began, I remembered feeling so proud that I had served my first mass. Father Kelly did a super job preparing all the new 5th grade recruits. Will I be nervous the next time I serve? Probably, but I know with each mass I serve, my confidence will build. After mass last Sunday, Father Kelly stopped me. I didn't serve that mass, but he remembered that I'm in training. He gave me reassurance that I will be fine serving mass and that he was proud of me for having an interest in growing more in my faith. It's nice to know I have teachers, coaches and parish family members guiding me through these new adventures.

Editor: Erin Friday EOLHSPRES@aol.com

Reporters: Casey McBride, Colin Friday,
Katie Comber

EPIPHANY TIMES

Volume I – April 2008



EOL Upcoming Events

April 16th – Reading Olympics (grades 7&8)

April 21st – Reading Olympics (grades 4 to 6)

April 26th – Family Bingo

May 1st & 2nd – No School

May 9th – Coffee with Kids

May 14th – H&S General Meeting

May 22th – Field Day

Are You Ready For Football Mania?

By Katie Comber

Attention all Epiphany School Families! Football Mania is coming soon!

Football Mania is a major fundraiser for our school. In the 2007-08 season we raised over \$17,000.00! Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000.00!

How does it work? Tickets are sold with pre-selected NFL teams. The tickets are good for the entire football season (17 weeks). Based on total scores, highest and lowest scores, you can win anywhere from \$50 to \$500! The tickets are \$20 each.

Each school family is asked to sell 10 tickets. Those tickets will be sent home in the family envelope before the end of the school year. All families are asked to sell the tickets over the summer months and return the ticket stubs and money to either the rectory or school. You can even put the envelope in the collection basket at mass! Just make sure it is marked 2008-09 Football Mania so that it gets to the coordinator.

The coordinator for this year's Football Mania is Diana Comber. If you would like to volunteer to help with this year's fundraiser, please contact her at 484-213-7668 or send a note through school or the family envelope. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets at all masses from August through October. Please consider giving a few minutes of your time after mass to help our school raise money!



Sacraments at EOL

By Colin Friday

Penance

First Penance was held on Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm at Epiphany of Our Lord Church. Father McAndrews presided at the ceremony. Fifty-one parish second graders and their families gathered together. Penitents were asked very important questions before receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Some of these questions helped the second graders examine their conscience. There were several priests stationed across the altar for the penitents to choose from for the sacrament. Father Kelly seemed to have the longest line. Parents accompanied their children up to waiting chair and then stood back while the priests talked with the penitents. Guests of the children were also able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation at the end of all the penitents.

Confirmation

Confirmation was held on Monday, March 3rd at 4:00 pm at Epiphany of Our Lord Church. The mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, D.D. Sixty-four parish sixth graders and their families gathered together. Ms. Havey, Ms. Sutcliffe, and Mrs. Klein attended the mass, as well. The bishop talked for a very long time at the homily about the history of the church from the story of Adam and Eve through the first Pentecost. At the end of the homily, the sixth graders were asked very important questions about their faith to renew their baptismal vows. All of the Confirmandi and their sponsors lined up to be confirmed by the bishop and priests. At the end of the ceremony, the altar was incensed. Six new altar servers served as torchbearers.



EOL Classifieds

Are you looking for a way to get involved at Epiphany? Come join our dedicated group of volunteer parents. The following positions are available for you and a friend:
Home & School Treasurer – elected for a two year term
Home & School Vice-President – elected for a two year term
Pancake Breakfast Chairpeople – annual January event
Science Committee Chairpeople – see Maureen Anderson
Scrip Sellers – 15 minutes after mass on weekends

Editor: Erin Friday EOLHSPRES@aol.com

Reporters: Casey McBride, Colin Friday,
Katie Comber