

EPIPHANY TIMES

Volume II – May 2009



Wildcat Water Cooler

As we rapidly come to the end of another school year, we say farewell to the cold weather, our pastor Father McAndrews, our marketing chairperson Deb Gleeson, and the Class of 2009. A special thanks goes to Deb for her time on the Executive Board of the H&S Association for the last 6 years. The Home & School Association wishes all of the soon-to-be graduates well and encourages them to show their Epiphany Wildcat pride wherever they will be for high school next year. Feel free to come back and visit. Keep us informed of your accomplishments. You will be missed.

This will also be my last month as Home & School President. I want to thank all of the school volunteers (parents, teachers, and administrators) for all of the work they have done in the last two years for the benefit of all of the children in the school. I also would like to thank everyone for the kind words of support and encouragement over the last two years.

With money in the Home & School bank account, updated by-laws, a Blue Ribbon nomination, and a solid incoming class of Kindergarteners, I am able to look back on the last two years as President and feel that it has been time well spent. Please check out the profiles of the new officers in this month's spotlight and give them your support going forward.

All the best,
Erin Friday, EOL H&S President



Important Announcements

Thank you to Donna Koneski and her team of Family Bingo volunteers. A great time was had by all!

Thank you to Stacy O'Malley and her team of Coffee with Kids volunteers. Another successful start to the day!

In this issue, please find a **tentative** calendar for next school year. These dates have not yet been approved by the rectory and are subject to change.

Also in this issue is an updated summary description of our school provided to the Middle States Association.



Spot Light On...

New H&S Executive Board Members

Rob Schratz – Home & School President

I have been a member of EOL parish since 2000. My son, Brett, is a fifth grader at EOL School. I currently appreciate the opportunity to serve the Home & School Association as V.P. I will continue to support EOL in any capacity that is needed to ensure the school continues to provide our children the superior academic foundation in safe surroundings where qualified, dedicated teachers also instill the Catholic values – most importantly a close relationship with Christ.

Eileen Mahady – Marketing/PR Chairperson

Hi All! My name is Eileen Mahady and my husband, Bryan and I are the parents of four children at Epiphany. I have been a member of the parish since 1993 and have served the parish and school in various ministries over the years. In the past 4 years, I have served as the co-chairperson of the Marketing/Public Relations Committee. With respect to this committee, I have been involved with efforts to promote and market our school to boost enrollment, to staff the information hotline and provide all necessary school tours, to run the New Family Orientation Night, to coordinate the Family Mentor Program and to help with our first alumni appeal last spring. Although not part of the very involved application process, I also highly encouraged our administration to apply for the honor of the Blue Ribbon Nomination that Epiphany recently received.

Jen Fuchs – Secretary

My name is Jennifer Fuchs and my husband Mike and I have two children that attend Epiphany. Our son will be going into Kindergarten and our daughter will be in second grade. I am extremely happy with both the environment and education that my children are receiving and I am excited for the coming years!! I am a graduate of West Chester University where I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Prior to having my children I was a teacher and also worked as a Human Resources Staffing Specialist in Orientation and training for a large bank. My passion is teaching and training and working with people! I have been home for seven years and in the past 3 years I have established a home based business that allows me the freedom and flexibility to be home with my kids, volunteer at school and still fulfill my passion and life long dreams!!

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Middle States School Description Update by Jennifer D'Amelio

The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges evaluated Epiphany of Our Lord in March 2002. At the end of three years, an online description was completed for the DOAS (Description of an Accredited School). The DOAS has been recently updated in May 2009.

The faculty has met over the course of the school year to discuss the process to complete the above-mentioned update. The following committees were formed: The Science Teachers Committee was formed to summarize weekly reports and to evaluate the use of hands-on activities conducted with the students; A Communications Committee was formed to report the efforts of the faculty to the school and community. Feedback was also collected from former students and secondary school faculty; A Resources and Replenishment Committee was formed to update and inventory the science materials in the science lab. Lab kits were examined and replenished as needed; A Writing Committee was responsible for drafting the Sixth Year Report and submitting it to the faculty for approval.

This report was placed on the website at <www.eols.org> as well as submitted to the Home and School Association on May 3, 2009. An account was also published in the *EOL Times*, the family newsletter, the Epiphany of Our Lord Church bulletin, and *The Times Herald*.

The overall goal was to create a balance between hands-on science and traditional teaching styles to ensure optimal student comprehension of the Archdiocesan Science Guidelines at each grade level during the course of the school year. In order to meet this goal, we have done the following: incorporated broad science themes for school-wide attention each school year since 2001; all grades are using newly purchased science textbooks that more closely follow the Archdiocesan Guidelines and provide more opportunities for hands-on learning; students from K – 8 participate in hands-on science activities whenever possible; teachers use a modified science curriculum for special needs students that require accommodations; schedules for use of the science lab have been established and implemented; five of the six science teachers have completed science workshops or courses since 2001 and the Grades 5-8 departmental science teacher received a certificate in science from the state of Ohio. The Science Committee has also supported the school in meeting its goals by assisting the faculty in acquiring low cost materials and resources that support the program; increasing their membership by 10%; secondary school faculty was contacted to identify their expectations of incoming freshmen; a survey of Epiphany graduates currently in high school was conducted to evaluate their readiness for secondary school science.

In order to establish a plan of action for a summer science camp, the following objectives were accomplished: Faculty members worked with the Science Committee to establish a summer science camp for students in K-8 as a source of funding for future science expenses and to extend their understanding of the subject area. The summer science camp has operated every year since 2001; Local businesses and institutional resources were contacted to enlist support for the program. They have done so by offering scientific supplies.

To enable the science lab to function as a resource center for the entire school and to increase the utilization of the lab, the following objectives have been met: All useable materials in the science lab have been cataloged; a video library of science tapes has been compiled; classrooms have been furnished with computer projectors in conjunction with the Internet to utilize videos or segments from Discovery Education; all grades have access to the science lab.

Continued...

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Middle States School Description Update continued...

Improved results on Terra Nova testing and participation in local science competitions are objectives that have not been met. This is due to the lack of continuity in the crucial position of departmental Grades 5-8 science. Since 2001, five teachers have held this position. The faculty believes this has hindered our ability to make significant progress in improving Terra Nova scores across 4 grade levels and in making more efforts to broaden offsite science fair completion. Participation in the Montgomery County Envirothon is now contingent on the location of the competition. The bus company no longer provides transportation for longer distances. Students in grades 7 and 8 continue to compete in the National Science League competition.

Resources within the school have expanded significantly as a result of the self-study. These include the following: new wiring in classrooms to improve networking and use of A/V devices; wall mounted televisions, DVD players and VCRs in all classrooms; purchase of overhead projectors; computers placed in all classrooms; teacher training in technology and methods accomplished via a Connelly grant; purchase of new software; computer networking of the school to facilitate communication as well as access to data and the Internet; school website established to improve communication between school and home; interactive smart boards permitting use of educational software and or the Internet; digital video-on-demand and online teaching services of Discovery Education streaming; updating of technology in the library with three computer work stations that are Internet and network ready; collection of Gold Seal lessons in science; collection of *Mailbox* science lesson plans and activities sorted by topic.

Our new goals are as follows: to direct more effort to improving Terra Nova scores; to present a varied approach in understanding how analyze diagrams, graphs, timelines, data tables by incorporating these into ILA, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics; the faculty will utilize the series *Higher Scores on Science Standardized Tests in Grades 2-6* within the ILA program; faculty will make better use of the resources at the MCIU Teacher Center by copying and collecting applicable lesson plans and activities from their extensive files; a list of *Bill Nye the Science Guy* videodiscs available through the county library system as well as Discovery Education streaming will be compiled and distributed to the faculty; we will join NRG to improve the Wellness Plan and provide resources for implementation; this September we begin a study group for grade 7 using *Peterson's Mastering the Catholic High School Entrance Exams* as a test preparation method. This should impact on Terra Nova scores; to take advantage of programs offered by Montgomery County Health Department, we will provide teachers with a list of topics that are presented by the agency.

Diamante by Colin Friday

Math

Fun, Easy

Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying

Numbers, Fractions, Myths, Autobiography

Writing, Reading, Creating

Hard, Work

English



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