Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me show love.  

Virtue of the Month: Charity

The celebration of Thanksgiving invites us to reflect on the Lord’s boundless goodness to us and to celebrate our blessings by offering thanks and grateful prayer to our heavenly Father.  The Saint Cecilia School Community would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to our parents and the many friends who support us throughout the year by sharing the gifts of their time and talent.  You are a special blessing to us!

Peacemaker of the Month

This year we are using the Prayer for Peace attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi as the basis for our efforts at peacemaking.  Each month we will highlight a virtue that we can learn about from this beautiful prayer.  During October, we learned about the virtue of COURAGE and the many ways we can live this virtue in our daily lives.  We congratulate the following students who received the Peacemaker of the Month Award:

Kindergarten: Matthew Linso, Savannah Gidaro,  
Kira Serratore  
Grade 1: Rose Klepesky, Jayden Bennin,  
Penelope Mullin  
Grade 2: Jonathan Messina, Caitlin Titus,  
Ruby Gara

Grade 3: Johnny Carver, Fiona Donnelly,  
Keira Kilpatrick  
Grade 4: Edward Prescott, Leah O’Neill  
Elizabeth Felice  
Grade 5: Daley Black, Solange Noel,  
Mary Clark  
Grade 6: Addyson Maddalo, Alyssa DiNezza,  
Emma Ryan  
Grade 7: Ann Phan, Jeanette Piloto,  
Kathryn Haughney  
Grade 8: Niomi Trumbauer-Cross, Emily White  
Cierra Piedra

Confirmation at St. William Parish

On Saturday, October 25th, Bishop Michael Fitzgerald presided at the noon Mass where 25 children of St. William Parish received the Sacrament of Confirmation.  This number included the following five students from Saint Cecilia School: Angelica Arenas, Kathryn Haughney, Jones Hilaire, Nicholas Kraczkowski, and Jeannette Piloto.  Congratulations to the new Confirmandi, their sponsors, parents and catechists.
Safe Environment Lesson

Our teachers at each grade level will be presenting the first of two Save Environment Lessons on Wednesday, November 13. Parents may find information regarding these lessons on the Archdiocesan website www.catholicschools-phl.org. If you chose not to have your child participate in these lessons, please put your request in writing to the attention of Sister Jane Mary. Thank you!

Neumann Scholarship Exam

We are delighted to report that fourteen of our students qualified to sit for the Neumann Scholarship Exam on Sunday, September 29. We applaud the following students for this wonderful achievement: Sean Abarca, Odina Achike, Daniel Brady, Nicholas Carey, Giavany Castro, Brennan Dillenbeck, Clare Hyorecky, Aditya Lynch, Tatum McHugh, Brian Raskauskas, Gianna Rivera, Joseph Sheridan III, Regan Welsh and Emily White.

Of the fourteen students who qualified, eleven elected to take the Scholarship Exam. These students are competing with students from elementary schools across the Archdiocese. Recipients of this prestigious award will receive a four-year tuition scholarship to an Archdiocesan high school of their choice.

Since the initiation of the Neumann Scholars Program in 1995, Saint Cecilia School has had 36 Neumann Scholars over the years. This is quite an accomplishment and it reflects the commitment of the school community to academic excellence.

Fall Fundraiser

The first school fundraiser was a success! Thanks to the many families who contributed by purchasing items and renewing magazine subscriptions we earned a profit of approximately $8,000.

Here are the stats:

- 132 students will be invited to the BINGO party on Friday, November 22. These students sold at least five items and will now have the chance for more prizes!
- 88 students will be able to bring siblings to the BINGO party! For seven items sold all of the siblings are invited to attend.
- 48 students will be invited to the Wells Fargo Tour on Tuesday, January 7. These students sold 12 items by the first Turn-In Tuesday on October 1 or 15 items by October 8.
- 12 siblings will be able to join the Wells Fargo Tour. This is the prize for selling 20 items.
- 35 students earned a full set of COWABUNGAS for selling 15 items.
- 1 student, Lia Bailey in Room 31, earned the Device Enhancement Package for selling over 30 items!

At the gathering, our students shared with the veterans the essays they had written for the VFW Patriot Pen Contest this year. The veterans were impressed with the sentiments expressed by our students.

Although we received rave reviews about our students and their interactions at PPH, we believe that the students themselves received the greatest gift in sharing with those who protected and served our country. We thank Mrs. Kathy McDonough, Ms. Kelly Roney, Ms. Megan Dutill and Mr. Robert Henry for preparing our students for this special tribute.

Eighth Graders Visit Veterans

Several of our eighth grade students visited the Philadelphia Protestant Home on Monday, November 11, to express their gratitude to residents and community members who served in the military. The students helped to serve a special luncheon prepared for the veterans and presented each veteran with a thank you card and gift.
**Cookie Dough Pick-Up**

Anyone who ordered Cookie Dough as part of our Fall Fundraiser is asked to please pick up your order on Tuesday, November 19, between 3—7 PM, in the school auditorium. The cookie dough will be delivered to the school earlier in the day. Thank you and happy baking!

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**...for your SUPPORT of the Share-A-Treat Program**

The generosity of our students and their families was again very much in evidence as students shared their Halloween treats with the Kiwanis Club who will distribute them to those in need.

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**Terra Nova Testing in March**

Although our third through seventh grade students will not take the Terra Nova test until March, there are a few things that parents can do to help their child prepare remotely for this or any standardized test which can include high school entrance or scholarship tests.

- **Read daily.** Encourage reading for enjoyment and model the behavior.
- **Enhance thinking.** Challenge your child to go beyond basic thinking. Go deeper.
- **Promote responsibility.** Allow your child to make mistakes and learn to correct them.
- **Encourage independence.**
- **Check work regularly.** Let your child work independently and then show your child how to check their work.
- **Model.** Reading, persistence, and a positive attitude.
- **Affirm always.** Enough said!

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**Parent Conferences**

Our teachers are in the process of setting up parent conferences for November. You will be receiving a note from your child’s teacher regarding dates and times when a conference can be scheduled. This is an opportunity for you to connect personally with your child’s teacher or teachers and discuss your child’s progress throughout the First Trimester. To make the most of your conferences, come prepared with your own questions. Here are some examples of questions that you might consider during your conference.

- Is my child working up to his/her potential?
- Is my child’s homework completed thoroughly, correctly and on time?
- Does my child participate in class?
- Does my child have everything he/she needs in class?
- Is my child respectful and courteous?
- Do you have any advice or suggestions for me or my child?

We look forward to sharing this time with you. We believe that students are most successful when they see parents and teachers working together as a team to provide the best education possible for them.

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**First Penance at St. Cecilia School**

The students from Saint Cecilia School will receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Friday, December 6, at 9:30 AM, in church. After receiving the sacrament, the students will return to school for a small celebration in the school cafeteria.

In preparation for the reception of First Penance and First Holy Communion there will be a parent meeting on Thursday evening, November 21, at 7 PM in the school auditorium. Sister Barbara Jude Gentry, IHM will be the guest speaker. The second grade teachers will also share important information about these two special celebrations. We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

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**Reminders**

- **Mon., Nov. 18:** Parent Conferences for grades 5 through 8. NO SCHOOL for students in these grades.
- **Tues., Nov. 19:** Parent Conferences for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 4. NO SCHOOL for students in these grades.
**Franklin Institute Visits SCS**

On Friday, November 15, the Franklin Institute’s Traveling Science Team will visit Saint Cecilia School to present the show, *Life in Space*. In this special assembly the students in grades 3 through 8 will embark on a trip through space and explore the scientific and engineering challenges of getting to space, living and working in orbit, and safely returning to earth. Who knows? Our students might be traveling to the Moon before long.

**Wells Fargo Tour**

The Wells Fargo Tour is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, January 7**, for all those who qualified from our Fall Fundraiser. You can expect to receive parent permission forms when we return from the Thanksgiving holidays.

**Santa Secret Shop**

Santa’s elves are busy preparing for our Santa Secret Shop on **Thursday and Friday, December 12 and 13** in our school auditorium. Students will be shopping with their buddies on the day assigned. Gifts can be purchased for the whole family. Parents of our younger students are asked to provide a list of names that your children want to purchase something for at the sale. The buddies will help the younger students make their purchases. Please be reasonable with the amount of money the students will be spending. Be assured that we try to discourage any purchasing of gifts for ourselves. This is a time for us to center our thoughts on others.

**Toys for Tots**

As we approach the season of giving, our Saint Cecilia Family will reach out to others in our annual **Toys for Tots** collection. Toys will be collected during the first two weeks of December beginning with the day we return from the Thanksgiving holiday, December 2. The toys will be picked up for distribution on Saturday, December 14. Special thanks to Ms. Roney and our Student Council for coordinating this event.

**Option C Information**

While checking that our data base (Option C) has the correct information, we noticed that a number of parents have not yet logged in to see all of the features that are available on Option C.

When you open your Option C page, you will see the welcome page and the new files available to you. You can click on them to find new information. Other forms will be populated through the year so that we can gradually decrease the amount of paper sent home in the communication envelope.

Don’t forget to check on your child’s grades at least once a week. This will help you to keep on top of your child’s progress.

**First in Math**

How is your child doing in **First in Math**? Ten minutes each night on this online program will help your child maintain math skills at his/her grade level. Let’s get behind this effort.

**Mark Your Calendars**

- Mon., Dec. 16, 7 PM—**Saint Cecilia School Strings Christmas Concert** *(Auditorium)*
- Wed., Dec. 18, 7 PM—**Saint Cecilia School Band Christmas Concert** *(Auditorium)*
- Thurs., Dec. 19—**Student Council Tableau**
- Fri., Dec. 20—**Kindergarten Christmas Play**