

October 24, 2016

Dear St. Columbanus Family,

I hope this beautiful weather finds all of you outside enjoying this spectacular Fall Season. We are so busy with the many great things going on here at the school with all of our children. Firstly, October is the month of the Rosary, and we are praying a decade daily together for morning prayer because Mary our Mother promises special protection and the greatest graces to all those who recite the rosary. If you are dropping off your child, please come in and join us any time for morning prayer!

Secondly, we now have a complete up-and-running Home School Association Board, and every position has been filled! They have several events on their agenda; some are just-for-fun events, some are fundraisers, and one initiative is helping our troops. You should have all received the Wreath Fundraiser which is due back on November 4. The “Believe” Fundraiser will be sent home today, and there are a lot a great Christmas gifts to purchase for loved ones. For fun, our HSA will be offering a Halloween Fun Day for our students in the gymnasium on October 31. The classes will come in at scheduled times after lunch to play games and win prizes. Finally, on the week after Halloween, we are asking the children to sacrifice their uneaten Halloween candy for our troops overseas. The HSA will be collecting all the candy, weighing it by grade, and the winning class will celebrate with a pizza party!

Thirdly, there are so many great things happening in the classrooms. Kindergarten through eighth grade is now teaching Eureka Math which is a rigorous program that has been proven to show substantial growth in math scores throughout New York State. Our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science classes are experiencing project-based learning by hands-on activities such as building and labeling a human heart, an atom, and a volcano. They are all amazing, and I personally cannot wait to see the heart pumping and the volcano erupting! The second grade will be hosting the annual bake sale in the gymnasium on Thursday of this week. All students will be able to purchase a “goodie” for fifty cents. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be held on Tuesday and Thursday, November 7 and 9. Students will be given a tour and then be given a chance to go back and purchase books. Mr. DiPierro will be coming into the classrooms for his annual pumpkin-carving visit. I am so anxious to witness this, as I have heard that it is amazing and the kids love it. Finally, below is the October 31 Halloween schedule:

- Pre-K Trunk-or-Treat at 9 a.m. (student come dressed in Halloween costumes)
- K-2 Halloween Parade in the afternoon (students dressed in Halloween costumes)
- 3-8 Dress-Down Day (refer to parent handbook for rules [*no* Halloween costumes])

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the school. Otherwise, please have a safe Halloween and blessed All Saints Day!

Peace to everyone,
Bernadette Frohm