

Principal's Weekly Bulletin  
March 30, 2010

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Dear Parents,

*This email will serve as a combo for last week and this one, as we leave for Easter Vacation on Thursday at 1:00.*

What a month! I feel like I have been living out a Shakespearean tragedy. The surreal feeling I have been enduring is only cured by coming to school and hanging out with the kids. They are the best. Their innocence is so encouraging (I know some of you are saying, "innocent? My kid?")...But seriously, a big Thank You to all of you who have been keeping my family in your thoughts and prayers, as well as those who have emailed or sent cards. All of the kids made me these beautiful cards with advice and love. We have been overwhelmed by the heartfelt sympathy you all have given us. I am blessed to be in such a caring community. My mom was the strongest person I have ever known, to have endured all she has been through with such grace and dignity. She obviously was done enduring her captivity and was ready to join my dad. For that, I am happy. I am proud to have had her as my mom and be lucky to have known her in her prime.

PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) is one the most insidious diseases out there, and there is no cure or real treatment. Research is starting to show that avoiding things like mercury, aluminum, and those endocrine inhibitors (in some sunscreens, shampoos and the like) can help in the prevention of these neurological disorders, as well as some childhood learning disabilities, so I, for one, will start paying more attention to what I consume, or put on my body....

Here is a link to my mom's obit from Sunday's Chronicle...

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?n=edith-vukicevich&pid=141185942>

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Now for some good news! A **HUGE CONGRATULATIONS** goes out to **Grace Cutting** for winning **FIRST PLACE** in last night's Sonoma County Elementary Spelling Bee!!!

The competition was fierce!! Grace was challenged round after round with words like...language, fluid, restaurant, patriarch, phoenix, gondolier, nemesis and Venezuela. After two hours of competition, it was down to the last two spellers, who went several rounds. In order to win, the last speller had to correctly spell a word that her competitor misspelled, and then spell one additional word correctly. Grace's last two winning words were **blasphemy** and **shenanigans**! After hearing the spell master say "That is correct." the audience burst into applause (with the help of five of Grace's fifth grade friends who attended!)

There are over sixteen thousand 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Sonoma County. That's a lot of competition! Hooray for Grace Cutting! Grace will compete in the CALIFORNIA STATE ELEMENTARY SPELLING CHAMPIONSHIP on May 15, 2010 at Sonoma State University. We wish her luck and are VERY proud of her!

(See picture attached)

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Meanwhile, St Francis students, **DANIELLE MAILLARD and BRIANA LEHANE** went to the San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair this week. They were invited to attend because they both received Blue Ribbons at the Sonoma County Science Fair last month. The SFBASF had a couple hundred students from all over the larger Bay Area with very impressive studies! Brianna received a certificate of participation, and Danielle received two awards: 4<sup>th</sup> Place with a ribbon (they awarded 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> place) and a Special Recognition Award from the American Association of Cereal Chemists J which included a first-place certificate, a book, and a \$50 check! Congratulations ladies! (You can see pictures of them on our website)

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Attention ! The date for the **Spring Concert** has been changed from April 28th to **Thursday, April 29th in FRH at 1:30- 2:20**. Mark your calendars.

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Yesterday, we were treated to the 8th graders and the 2nd graders doing their rendition of the **Stations of the Cross** in the Church. The readers did a great job and everyone was respectful for this long ceremony. I was impressed by the attention given by the kids. The teachers have done a masterful job in prepping the students for these types of things. We are truly lucky to have such great teachers here at St Francis ! Afterward, I asked the kids to use Jesus' suffering and sacrifice as a example over Easter in that maybe they could help someone out who is in need and possibly sacrifice something in the process (a TV show, doing something with friends, etc.) in order to help someone else out. I encourage all the parents out there to look for opportunities such as that for their kids if they can't seem to find it themselves...

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A big congratulatory high five goes out to our Athletic director **Mike Boles**, who was named coach of the year in MCAL Girls Hoops! The team had a fantastic season, winning the league and going all the way to NorCals ! Way to go Mike !

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**Parents who use Children's Center** should go to our website and check out the latest CC newsletter. You can find it under the "Community" tab....Also, a reminder that since we have a **minimum day with a 1:00 release on Thursday, there will be NO Children's Center available**.

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Are you a good planner of activities? Organized? Good with people? We have a job for you ! We are looking for a coordinator for this year's **FIELD DAY** (June 15th, at Depot Park). If you are interested and have the time, please contact Joanne Lely in the main office.

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We are also looking for some **coaches for Track and Field** to get the kids ready for the big Track Meet in May. If you can help out even once a week, please contact Mike Boles.

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We will clearing out the **Lost and Found** boxes to the Church Mouse on Thursday, so if anyone has missing clothing, come and check it out on Wednesday !! We have some **See's Easter Candy** left for sale in the office. Come by and check it out. Blow out prices!

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I hope everyone has a great Easter Break. I know many of us need it right now. With any luck, we will all come back rested and fired up about school on the 12th ! By the way, there is a great series on the Discovery Channel on Sunday nights (7, 8 and 9pm) called "Life." I highly recommend it for the kids (and parents), it has incredible photography and is all about the various life forms on Earth. Check it out. God Bless you all in this Easter season.

Matt

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Matt Vukicevich  
Principal