

## Principal's Page



Dear St. Rita Family,

*Blessings for the new year of our Lord, 2017. I hope that you had time for family and friends. We had the grace of good weather for travel.*

*Surely, we will see winter days ahead. While we hope to remain open for school each day, it is sometimes necessary to close for safety reasons. Please read the weather box in this newsletter with important reminders about school emergency closing information.*

*The end of first half of the year is coming soon. Our second quarter will end on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. As we get closer to the end of the quarter we need to turn off parent access to the grades while we transfer to the report card format.*

*This quarter, we will issue report cards electronically on line only. You will be sent a reminder note with instructions on how to view your child's end of quarter grades online. This is the new direction of education to use technology as a communication tool.*

*Many parents access the student's grades on a regular basis. It would be good to watch your student's progress weekly to encourage good study habits and homework habits. We post the gradebook for grades 3-8. Because of the grading system for K-2 we do not post those grades on a regular basis. The end of quarter grade gives you a more complete picture of student progress for the younger students.*

Sincerely,  
Bette Faxon

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## A Prayer for the New Year

Come Holy Spirit  
Spirit of the Risen Christ,  
Be with me today and always.  
Be our Light, Our Guide, and our Comforter.  
Be our Strength, our Courage and our Sanctifier.

May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,  
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,  
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,  
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.

Come Holy Spirit,  
Be with us today and always. Amen

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### TAX CREDIT LETTERS:

Since 1999, the State of Illinois has permitted individuals to get a tax credit for educational expenses up to 25% of tuition, books and lab fees that exceed \$250.00. The maximum credit is \$500.00 per family. Our office will send you a statement within the next few weeks to prove your costs for the calendar year 2016. **Please keep this copy to use when filing your State tax return. This is the ONLY copy you will receive.** It is costly and time consuming for us to re-issue letters. Please make sure you check the family envelope and put it with your other tax documents. This tax credit is a direct benefit to you.



### EMERGENCY CLOSINGS:

Listen to School Messenger announcements. PLEASE listen to your voice message instead of calling school when you see the phone number. We are not always at school when those messages are posted. You can go also go online to the Emergency Closing Center by visiting:

[www.emergencyclosingcenter.com](http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com)



*A little help goes a long way.....we could use donations of Xerox copy paper again as we go into the second half of the year. It is amazing how helpful this is to us for the classroom worksheets and tests. God bless you for your generosity.*



On behalf of the faculty and staff, we wish to extend our gratitude for the generous gifts each of us received through the Home & School Staff Gift Collection for Christmas. At St. Rita, we are very blessed to have the support and encouragement each day from our school families.

### **Evelyn and Elden Rackmyer Catholic**

**Schools Endowment:** A number of years ago, one of our parishioners established this endowment for St. Rita School. It was started as the country entered the financial crisis. I am pleased to report that this year the endowment had a contribution of seventeen hundred dollars (\$1,700.00) for our school. We were able to use the monies to renew the license of a program, BrainPOP which provides many supplemental videos and curriculum support to enrich the learning program We are so grateful that our parishioners want to continue to invest in the education of the children of St. Rita of Cascia Catholic School. Please pray for our faithful supporters.

During the month of January we will have the sessions for the Rockford Diocese Christian Chastity and Safe Environment programs as part of our Religion classes. This is the same program we have had for a number of years. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Faxon.

### Week of January 28- February 3



Catholic Schools Week will begin on the weekend of Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. There are a number of special activities that will be planned for that week. Please see next week's envelope for more information. The School Faculty and the Home and School Association work very hard to make this a fun week for everyone.