

The Peacemaker



January, 2018

Dear St. Rita Family,

Blessings for the new year, 2018. I hope that you had time for family and friends during this holiday season. It was a chilly vacation for sure.

Today it is a welcome relief of degrees in the 40s. Surely, we will see more wintery days ahead. While we hope to remain open for school each day, it is necessary at times to close for safety reasons. Please read the weather box in this newsletter with important reminders about school emergency closing information.

Report Card information:

The end of first half of the year is coming soon. Our second quarter will end on Friday, January 12th. 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.

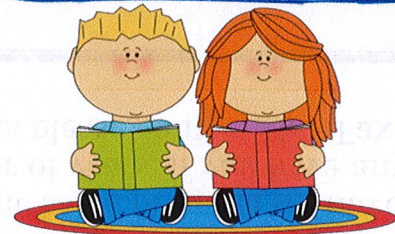
This quarter, we will issue report cards electronically on line only. You will be sent a reminder note with instructions on how to view your child's end of quarter grades online. This is the new direction of education to use technology as a communication tool.

Many parents look at 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

REGISTRATION 2018-19

REGISTER NOW



Many thanks to all the families who have returned your new 2018-19 Early Registration Form.

Reminder: All forms and registration fees are due by Thursday, Jan. 18th to save your place for next year.

We have enrolled 5 new families for next year! Remember to complete the form by Jan. 18th.

If you know that you are planning to return for the next school year please let us know so that we can register new students as they tour.

When we have received approval on our budget for next year from Finance Council we will let you know. At that time, we would like you to come in and complete the registration forms.

Thank you so much for entrusting your children to us. Parents share with us that they are very grateful for the wonderful education their children are receiving at St. Rita School.

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 by the end of January to prove your costs for the calendar year 2017. We receive those statements from SMART TUITION.

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



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.

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 1,822.00 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.



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.

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

Week of January 27- February 2



Catholic Schools

Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Catholic Schools Week will begin on the
weekend of Jan. 27th & 28th. 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.

NO SCHOOL – Monday, Jan. 15th
Martin Luther King Day