



St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School
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Mary M. McKiernan, Principal

May 1, 2009

Dear Parents:

What a year this has turned out to be for St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School. One might even say that it is "the best of times." Let me share some of this great news:

- Our Iowa test scores were among the top in the nation;
- Approximately ten students have been awarded top prizes in several art contests in the diocese and in the local community;
- A seventh grade group of students have been invited to represent our school in a national competition in the Sally Ride Toy Challenge;
- Two teams of seventh and eighth graders represented our school at the state level in the Odyssey of the Mind competition;
- Two fourth grade students placed first and second in the fourth grade essay contest sponsored by the Altamonte Springs Library;
- Three middle school students and one fifth grade student received honorable mentions in the Orlando Sentinel Writing contest;
- Students grades kindergarten through 8 participated in 12 service projects, sharing with those who are in need;
- Students who participate in our music program represented the school at Disney performing Orff instruments/show choir;
- Ten seventh grade students will be recognized by Duke University for their high achievement on the SAT college entrance exam in May at the University of Florida;
- Twenty-eight fourth and fifth grade students qualify to participate in the Duke University fourth and fifth grade Talent Search;
- Two seventh grade students received honorable mentions for poetry writing which will be published in *A Celebration of Poets*, sponsored by Creative Communications; and
- Our school parents sponsored two very successful fundraisers for our school.

This list is very impressive and could go on and on. If you consider the economic crisis in our own community, our state and nation, we could also say this is "the worst of times."

At St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School, we believe that we have a responsibility to continue to educate the whole child. In this effort we partner with you as parents. We are called by our school mission to educate students in a Christ-centered environment, which is academically challenging and at the same time meets the needs of each student. Therefore, unlike other school systems, we will not cut educational programs for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

The year ahead will undoubtedly be a time of economic uncertainty, but rest assured, at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School we will remain student-centered.

We will keep you and your family in our prayers as we walk together through these difficult economic times. If you need any proof of inspiration that these are the "best of times" at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic School, just look at the successes of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the support of our parents and parish community.

Sincerely,
Mary M. McKiernan, Principal
Fr. Charles Mitchell, Pastor

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