

# Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School

605 Stratfield Road • Fairfield, CT 06825 • 203-334-6271

# Bulldog Gazette

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School strives to provide a Catholic education of academic excellence that fosters the spiritual, moral, physical and intellectual development of our students. Through the coordinated efforts of the home, school and parish, students are empowered to reach their full potential as responsible, caring and contributing citizens of the world community.

## 2008-09 School Year Off to a Great Start!

Dear Assumption Parents,

Another great year of school has begun here at Assumption. I was so happy to welcome new students and greet returning students on the first day of school. This year our PreK and Kindergarten classes are wearing uniforms. They not only look adorable, but truly complete our school community.

So much has happened already this year ... our first annual Beach Party and Bonfire, Walk-a-Thon, Bishop Lori's visit. It's already November and we're getting ready for Thanksgiving!

Thank you for all you do for Assumption School. Our school would not be complete without the help of our wonderful parents. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas Season.

*May God Bless Our School Family Always,  
Ms. Gerrie Desio*

## Strings Program funded by the Noreen Decker Trust Fund



**REMEMBER:**  
*Grocery Gift Cards  
from Stop & Shop and  
Shaw's make great  
Christmas Presents!*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Welcome Back to School Beach Bonfire

On September 20, 2008 Our Lady of the Assumption School enjoyed its 1st "Welcome Back to School Beach Bonfire" at Jennings Beach in Fairfield, CT.

It was a very big success with over 135 children, family and staff members attending. Food and fun was had by all that attended. The children enjoyed the beach and warm weather and the parents enjoyed getting to meet one another or just catching up from the long summer break.



Ms. Andrade organized a spirited game of wiffle ball for all the children and Mr. Pikor organized a great game of Tug of War with both children and adults all participating.

Many thanks to Mr. Al Kelly who organized the entire event as well as Mr. & Mrs. Bob Karosy and Mr. Pond who all worked so hard to make

this event such a huge success for all our children and families to enjoy.

Kudos to Mr. Karosy and his superior skills at building one of the largest bonfires I have ever had the pleasure to witness, I am sure it was seen for miles across to Long Island, NY.

The fire warmed us all as the cool weather set in during the evening hours and sleepy children were carried off with s'more covered faces.

If you missed this special evening, be sure to mark your calendars for the fun and excitement next year. This is sure to be a popular event that will become a long lasting tradition for the Our Lady of the Assumption School.

In loving memory to Mr. Pikor and all our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends, May God Bless you Mr. Pikor.

*Donnajean A. Pond  
H.S.A. President*



## Bishop Lori Visits Assumption School

On October 28, 2008 the Most Reverend William Lori, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport visited Our Lady of the Assumption School and Church. The bishop celebrated mass prepared by our middle school students with the school community and then proceeded to the school to bless a new computer room and early childhood playground.

The new state-of-the-art computer room (equipped with 30 laptop computers) was completed over the summer and funded from the proceeds of the Assumption School Annual Golf Tournament. The early childhood playground was completed through the efforts of a grant written by Caroline Feeney.

The children lined the hallways and greeted the bishop as he entered the school. The PreK-3 and PreK-4 classes sang "He's Got the Whole

World in His Hands" and shared a banner of their footprints made for the Bishop's visit. Students prayed with Bishop Lori as he blessed the new computer room and playground.

"It was a great honor that Bishop



Lori took time out of his very busy schedule to visit our School and bless our new classroom and playground. I am extremely proud of our students and faculty here at Assumption today", stated Ms. Desio.



# 2008 Walk-a-Thon in Memory of Mr. Pikor

The 2008 Assumption School Walk-a-Thon, chaired by Mrs. Salomoni and Mrs. Gibson, was held on Sunday, October 14, and what a day it was! We had a great turnout of students, families, and teachers. This year's event was held in memory of Mr. Pikor and the sun was shining bright in his honor. We were delighted to have Mr. Pikor's family join us for the blessing ... and they walked with us too.

We started with a prayer and blessing from Monsignor Gintoli and the dedication of the



Walk to Mr. Pikor. Spike our Bulldog Mascot got everyone revved up to walk. Officer Mack led the way on his beautiful horse and kept us safe from the traffic along the way. Mr. Sam Rizzitelli

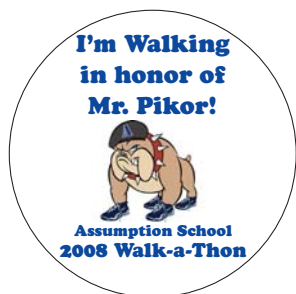


from the Knights of Columbus also started off the walk, making us all feel very special.

Over \$7,200 was profited from the

Walk-a-Thon. The third grade is the class who brought in the most money; Mrs. Kozlowski is the teacher whose class brought in the most money; and Shaye DeLaurentis is the student who raised the most money -- all winning special prizes -- congratulations!

If you missed it, you missed a great time ... great music (thanks to DJ Rick Orosz), pizza, popcorn, lemonade, candy, baked goods ... raffles and prizes ... fun with family and friends! Hope to see you all next year!



## Meet Mrs. Stone

Hello, I am Mrs. Mary Beth Stone, 7th grade homeroom teacher and Language Arts teacher for grades 6-8. I have taught in Catholic schools for the past 24 years ... St. Thomas, St. Ambrose, and now at Assumption. I am extremely happy to be here at Assumption. Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly. The students are great!

## Class Charity Projects

**PreK-3 & PreK-4:** Mrs. Riehl and Mrs. DePiano's classes are collecting Cans of Soup for the Thomas Merton Center ... Soup to the Souper Bowl!

**Kindergarten:** Mrs. Sobolewski's class is selling Cookies for CURE (Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy).

**1st Grade:** Mrs. Keough's class will soon be collecting boxes of cereal for the Thomas Merton Center.

**2nd Grade:** Ms. Andrade's class is collecting soda can tabs to be donated to a hospital. For every 1000 tabs collected, a patient battling cancer will receive a free chemotherapy treatment.

**6th Grade:** Mrs. McNally's class is sending care packages to an Army Co. (see below).

## Grade Six Update

The transition into Junior High was very well done by the 21 sixth graders ... locker combinations are memorized, adjustments to several new teachers and moving from class to class is now down packed. We have two new students in our class: Camisha Vilme and Ariel Legensky. This year our class charity project will be to send care packages to a specific Army Co. which is stationed in Afganistan. The soldier receiving our GOODIES is Christopher Lowerson (Mrs. McNally's neighbor). The representatives from grade six to Student Council are Marleena Reed, Alexandra Moleski, Tara Oliver, and Alex Rosado. Grade Six read the most books in the month of September!

Don't forget to clip "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education"

... a quick and easy way to raise money for Assumption School. For more information, visit "www.boxtops4education.com" and "www.labelsforeducation.com"



## PreK Classes Have Been Very Busy!

PreK-3 and PreK-4 students have adjusted well in their new classroom environments. They've been busy making friends and getting used to their daily routines. They are enjoying wearing their uniforms and feel "so grown up".

In September, the PreK classes received a very special and generous gift of outdoor play toys from Assumption's Knights of Columbus



who purchased the toys at the church's annual SeptemberFest.

We have already been on two field trips ... to Silverman's Farm for pumpkin picking, a



hayride, and to the petting zoo. We also walked to the Fire Department on Jackman Avenue for Fire Prevention Week. The firefighters were very informative and talked to students about fire prevention and safety ... until they had to go out on a call! We then walked to the park for fun at the playground and a picnic lunch.

Mrs. DePiano and Mrs. Riehl are looking forward to a great year.

## Mrs. DiFederico Returns to Assumption

Hello Assumption Families, my name is Mrs. DiFederico. I am the "new" fourth grade teacher. For those of you who have older brothers or sisters who remember me, I taught first grade here a few years ago! I left Assumption to be home with my family. Now I am happy to be back at the school that I love, teaching fourth grade! Fourth graders are awesome ... my daughter Gina is now in fourth grade; my son Anthony is 5 and in Kindergarten, and my youngest, Dominic is 4 and in PreK.

Fourth grade is off to a great start! We completed a unit in Science on The River Basins of North America. We also went on a trip to Mill River for a great tour and lesson on the Underground Water System. In Social Studies we learned about the historical Presidential election and how Democracy and

our government works. We even held a mock election, which was sent to Scholastic Books to be published in an upcoming issue.

In Religion, we are learning about the Ten Commandments and how children can follow them every day. We will have some very interesting projects coming up in many of our content areas, so stay tuned!

We will be taking a trip to the Pequot Mashantucket Museum with the fifth grade to learn about their Native American tribe. We will be participating in two great programs there and making a traditional Pequot craft.

Every day our terrific class works hard to promote cooperation, helpfulness, kindness, patience, trying our best in all that we do, and smiling as much as we can! We are looking forward to a great year!



## Everyone Enjoyed "Lunch With Your Child Day"

Wherever lunch took place ... either in the cafeteria or in the classrooms ... everyone thoroughly enjoyed their lunch on this special day. Some chose lunch from Chef Mary Ellen's menu: Turkey BLTs or Sausage &

Pepper Grinders. Others "brown-bagged" lunch, or brought McDonald's, Pizza, and even rack of lamb!

