



Holy Name

July, 2010
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Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends,

As my first year as Principal of Holy Name School draws to a close I can state that there is good news to report. My first Kindergarten graduation was a well-organized event with the children providing song and dance while receiving a good number of awards and certificates. If you view the class picture on this website you will understand my pride on graduation day. The 8th grade graduated on June 19th and most of them will be going on to Catholic High Schools. Without the support and continued dedication of our teaching staff, none of these successes would have been possible. I commend them and the office staff while wishing them a well-deserved rest over the summer.

Alumni, through the Catholic Alumni Partnership program, have stepped up and donated money for scholarships and needed educational equipment. I am thankful for their efforts and hope that they can continue to support their alma mater. This year we received 4 more smart boards through public funding and a grant for a Math coach who worked with our Math teachers during the second semester. Our lower school students benefited from an art program offered by Creative Class Rooms, which introduced teachers and students to various types of art media.

During the course of the summer, we will be sanding and finishing the classroom floors, the funds for which were acquired through The Endowment for Inner-City Education, an agency of the New York Archdiocese. We will also be painting and sprucing up hallways and classrooms over the summer break as we prepare for a fresh start in September. Students will return on September 8th.

A small group of parents and I have laid the foundation for a Parent Association which will have its first meeting on September 23rd. In the meanwhile, some of this formative group will help in sprucing up the



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building over the summer. We look forward to working with all parents in the year to come to help improve our building, share in fundraising activities and build a community of support.

There will be a change in the educational program for 6th, 7th and 8th graders next year as we move into a departmental model. Teachers will be teaching their subjects across grade levels allowing them to assess needs and develop curricula beyond a single grade level. Junior High students will also be introduced to the Holy Name School Code of Conduct, which will highlight behaviors that are expected in the school community. Generally speaking, these are responsibilities to oneself and others.

While we look forward to the summer and an exciting new school year ahead, the work of our students should not come to a halt. They should continue to read, read, read since that is truly the key to academic success. A book on my short list is The Red Blazer Girls: The Rings of Racamadour by Michael D. Beil. This is a great book for middle schoolers.

Enjoy the summer and see you in September!