

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

What a transformation the past week has been! The first day of spring break was cold, dreary, and gray; now, it seems that everything is warm, sunny, and ablaze with color: the grass is turning green again; dogwood blossoms are giving way to green leaves; azaleas are bursting forth in brilliant shades; tulips are blooming. It is a true reflection of the season of Lent. Our Church recognizes the same need for renewal in our hearts and spirits. Lent provides that time for us, for although we are baptized, we are still on a journey of faith, one that seeks renewal and affirmation.

On Tuesday afternoon, our students, faculty and staff will participate in a reconciliation service. It's a time for all of us to examine our consciences and call to mind those times when we haven't lived out our call to holiness. There will also be a time for those who wish to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

During this Friday's activity period, we will recognize third nine weeks honor roll students and our recent regional Literary Rally participants. After the recognition program, we'll have a "summit" of sorts for our students, dividing them into smaller groups to offer suggestions for next school year. Many students have great ideas for school improvement, but often lack an idea of how best to make those suggestions. We think it's important not only for them to offer their ideas, but also to learn the best way to make them known. Our staff will be present to assist students in these meetings; we look forward to hearing from them!

In the coming weeks we'll have a very exciting announcement for our school community regarding the renewal of an awesome recognition program for our students. Stay tuned!

Last year we were able to purchase the equipment to outfit two "21 st Century Technology Classrooms", complete with Smart Board, LCD projector, and ELMO projector. This year, we again were able to access those funds, thanks to our Superintendent, Sr. Carol Shively.

Our faculty voted to purchase one flatscreen TV for each of our twenty classrooms. The TVs, which will be mounted on the classroom walls, will be connected to the teacher's classroom computer. This technology will allow the teacher to navigate websites, play DVDs, and access LPB's Cyberchannel, an extensive library of audiovisual teaching tools. In the future it will be possible to connect the TVs to cable, opening up even more educational possibilities related to teachers' lesson planning. Not only are the teachers excited, so are the students!

Three years ago, we began aligning our annual textbook purchasing to the state of Louisiana's textbook adoption cycle. Each year, the state reviews and considers for adoption instructional materials in a particular content area. Publishers are required to present correlation to the state's content standards. Selected textbooks are then presented to school officials, both public and non public, at "Textbook Caravans," allowing schools to adopt textbooks for their own school. We send a textbook committee to each caravan to examine the books and listen to publishers' presentations; our committee then evaluates the textbooks' alignment, not only with state content standards but with our own curricular objectives which reflect college entrance and national academic organization standards, when making their selection.

The benefits for us include not only allowing us to align our textbook selection to the state curriculum standards as well as our own, but also the opportunity of taking advantage of special offers and packages offered by the publishers.

Last year, we selected reading textbooks for all six grades; this year, we examined language arts selections. Over the next four years, the selection areas will be Career and Technology Education (2009-10), Science/Health and PE/Computer Education (2010-11), Foreign Languages/Music and Fine Arts (2011-12), and Mathematics (2012-13).

I hope that this Lenten season provides an opportunity for all of us to experience a spiritual renewal as rich as the changing of the seasons. Please continue to pray for the success of our school, and remember to pray for the success of our search for the completion of our administrative team.