

THE HAWK

VOLUME 3
ISSUE 2

OCTOBER
2011



Letter from the Editor

My name is Grace Molloy and I am excited to return as editor of The Hawk this year. We are planning five editions of the newspaper. This edition contains homework tips, mission carnival information, an article on the floor hockey season, artist's works, and a story about the adorable chicks.

We are always looking for information on our students to share with the community so if you have won an award, been honored outside of the school, or have done something

newsworthy please let the staff know. Ideas for articles are welcome from students and parents alike so send your ideas to Mrs. Taylor, our moderator at fifth@mtregional.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Grace Molloy".

Grace Molloy
Editor-in-Chief

In this issue, find out about:

- Homework tips
- The MTRS Debate Club
- Mission Carnival
- The Hunger Challenge
- Changes in the cafeteria
- Student Council



Mother Teresa
Regional School



Hunger Challenge

Mother Teresa Regional School is hosting its third annual Hunger Challenge to benefit our parish food pantries. **The Hunger Challenge begins on October 14th and ends on November 11th.**

In keeping with our school community's tradition, each class from grades Pre-K through Fifth Grade will be separated into Aquinas, Jude, or Seton House, to match up with the students in the middle school grades. Students in Pre-K 4, Second, and Fourth grades will be in Aquinas House, students in Pre-K 3, First, and Third grades will be in Jude House, and students in Kindergarten and Fifth grades will be in Seton House.

Students will be encouraged to bring in items from the list below to help create Thanksgiving baskets. Students who bring in twenty-five items will receive a homework pass, and the house with the highest weight of food will receive 150 points and the Turkey Trophy award for the year. Second place will receive 75 points, and third place will receive 25 points. Since box potatoes and stuffing mix are very light, yet are essential for a Thanksgiving basket, they will count for three times their weight. If the combined weight of the food meets or

exceeds one ton, there will be a special treat for the whole school!

Items needed for Thanksgiving dinner baskets include: box mashed potatoes, stuffing mix, pasteurized apple cider, non-perishable desserts, dinner rolls, and festive crackers such as Triscuits. A more detailed list is included in the 10/12/11 issue of the HSC.

Any additional items are also appreciated, as we are preparing to help make over 200 dinners and help stock the local food pantries. General food pantry items include: canned tuna, pasta sauce, pasta, coffee, canned soup, vegetables, rice, and baby food.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Student Council

What's a fun way to lead your school and plan exciting things? Student Council is the best answer to this question. The Student Council gets to create fun activities for the student body and learn valuable leadership skills. What a great club!

This year's Student Council is excited to make this a fun year. Christina Noll is the president, Brianna Lubrano is the vice president, Laura Matsen is the secretary, Emily Nicholas is the treasurer, and Sydney Rosa is the charity chairperson. The class representatives are Kahryn Henry for eighth grade, Kate Manning and Kevin Finucan for seventh grade, and Steven Claggett and Andrew Gosse for fifth grade. Mrs. Baeder and Mrs. Patrizio are the moderators. Mrs. Patrizio commented on her duty, "I like to plan fun activities and like helping students use their leadership skills."

The students of MTRS are excited for Student Council. Franny Fiore, an eighth grader, said that the Student Council is good and that she is excited for Crazy Hair Day. Ray Diaz, also of eighth grade, said he is looking forward to so many things, he can't decide.

Looks like this year will be a fun-filled year at Mother Teresa, thanks to the Student Council.

by Brianna L. and Christina N.,
Grade 8

Mission Carnival



The Mission Club gets ready to host the Mission Carnival on October 31st

Students are excited for the annual Halloween event.

Mother Teresa Regional School students are looking forward to this wonderful school tradition, which benefits missions overseas. The Mission Carnival will be held on Monday, October 31st, after lunch. Students are allowed to dress down on this day and are encouraged to bring some pocket money to participate and contribute to charity.



Past favorites of the students include winning prizes at the games of chance, like beanbag tosses and quarter roll, as well as the raffles. They also enjoy helping out with the face painting and fake tattoos, as well as getting festive decorations themselves! Older students love being with their younger buddies, helping them partake in this exciting, fun-filled day.

When the staff surveyed the student body, they received the following feedback about the Mission Carnival: “We’d like to try it outside one day, because Autumn is so pretty!” “Could we have a hula hoop and jump rope competition? Maybe we could have a Guitar Hero competition, too!” The older students suggested they distribute bags to their younger buddies to carry their Halloween loot, and assist the younger students with pumpkin decorating contests.

No matter what, this year’s Mission Carnival is sure to be filled with old favorites and new surprises! We hope to see you there!

**by Grace M., Ally P., Kevin C,
Drew E., and Julie R.**



Changes in the Cafeteria

This year, we found some changes on the menu in the school cafeteria. These include new chicken nuggets and different vegetable options as sides. Most notable, though, are the new cookies. The school cafeteria is no longer serving the same cookies as last year.

At first students thought this was a temporary change, but Mrs. White has confirmed that these cookies are here to stay. The food service company has chosen these cookies because they have a lower sugar content than last year's cookies. Some students feel that these cookies do not taste as good as the old cookies, but agree that they are healthier. Eighth grader, Brianna Lubrano, stated, "At first, I was very upset. I tried the chocolate chip and didn't like them. But, the M&M and sugar cookies are exceptionally good. I do wish for the old ones though.

Some people are happy with the healthier changes. One teacher said, "I was excited to see new options like sautéed zucchini and fresh coleslaw. There are also many new options in raw vegetables, such as green and red pepper slices. I am a big fan of Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution and I like seeing more and more healthy choices in the cafeteria.

**by Kahryn H. and Laura M.,
Grade 8**



Homework Tips

The Fifth Grade and the Middle School sure know what it's like to have a lot of homework! To keep themselves afloat, they have compiled the following list of helpful homework tips:

- Find a quiet place to do your homework.
- Make sure you bring home your books. Double-check and write it in your planner.
- Write down your homework as soon as you get it.
- Do your homework when you first get home. Make it a first priority! That way, it's fresh in your mind.
- Take a piece of looseleaf paper and write the name of the assignment on top, and put it in your book. This helps in case you forgot to write it down in your planner.
- Make sure you put a full heading on your papers.
- Confirm with your teacher whether they want it in cursive.
- Have a study buddy—someone you can count on to call if you forget your book, forget the assignment, or were absent.
- Make sure your books are all packed before you leave for school. Put your books back into your bag as soon as you're done with your homework! Be careful to not mix up your brother's and sister's books with your own.
- Put your homework books into your backpack as soon as you can, so you don't forget them at school.

**by Grace M., Ally P., Kevin C,
Drew E., and Julie R.**

Devil Street Hockey

Congratulations on a great season. The champions in the Junior division were the RiverRats and in the senior division, the champions were the Wolfpack.

Students raised over \$1,000 at the Hockey Cares fundraiser which was matched by New Jersey Natural Gas. Students had fun and practiced hockey skills with former NJ Devils player, Jim Dowd and mascot, N.J. Devil.

A special thank you to the coaches, Greg Caggiano, Scott Lombardo, Brian Sullivan, George Wolf, and especially Vinny and Ann Margret Duminski for all of their hard work.

by Grace M.



Featured Essay

“Body Switch”

If I could switch places with anyone or anything for one whole day, I would switch places with my sister, Shannyn. I would desire to switch places with her because she is disabled. I would love to see what it is like to not be able to see, understand my surroundings, and have to deal with braces all over my body. I would also like to know why she laughs and what it is like to choke over and over again.

During this extraordinary day, I would sleep till 6:30 a.m. to see my sisters and my mom before they go off to school and work. I would then sit with my dad till 8:00. At 8:00, he would change me and make sure I'm ready for my nurse, Terri, to come at 9:00. When she arrived at 9:00, I would listen to her wonderful voice sing the song she made up just for me! It goes as follows: *S is for Shannyn, it's good enough for me!*

*Shannyn,
Shannyn,
Shannyn, and
Shannyn starts
with S!* Then she would sing her second song. It is the animal fair song. I would laugh and maybe even choke because I laughed so hard. Then at 9:30 a.m, 9:45 a.m, and 10:00 a.m, I would get my meds.

At 9:30, Natalie, my speech therapist, would come until 10:15. I would be asleep

for half of her class and through half of Ursula's, my occupational therapist. She would be there from 11:15-12:15. I would be soothed when Ursula comes because she rubs the white, lavender scented lotion on my arms, legs, and face. She would also have me hold up my head. It's really boring, but at least I would be able to look at myself in the mirror. Then I would fall asleep by the time my physical therapist, Pat, who comes at 1:15. She would make my legs go straight out. Ouch! She also will put me in a straddle and make me stay like that for another hour or two after she leaves at 2:15. Then by 3:00, my sisters would come home screaming and yelling. It would make me laugh. Then they would all come give me a kiss and run upstairs to get a snack.

After a half hour of the girls fighting and me laughing, my teacher, Jenn, would come. She would make a craft with me depending on the season, holiday, or

book that we read. It makes Jenn chuckle and get a little frustrated when I stick my hand in the glue and then put my hand near my face or in my hand. Next, my sister Katie would go outside, not shut the door, and make the room very cold. After Jenn leaves at 4:30, I would watch some television. I really wouldn't want to watch *Hannah Montana* because her voice makes me cry. By 6:00, I would go upstairs and sit with my family while they eat. I would hear Katie's voice constantly talking and my Dad yelling at her to eat. Then, my Mom would walk in the door, give me a big kiss, and get changed. Before she eats, she will pick me up and comfort me with a hug. I would then sit and watch her eat. After she gives me a shower, gets me changed, brushes my hair, and blows it out, my Dad would play “Still of the Night” by White Snake. Then my sisters would eat dessert and talk to me for an hour or so. Then when my Dad kicks them out of his bed, they would kiss me goodnight and go to sleep. By 9:30 p.m., my Mom would give me my medicine, which would make me go to sleep. Zzzzzzz!

I really hope that one day a great scientist designs a machine like this so I can see what it is like to face my sister's everyday struggles. If someone was to invent this, I would be the first person to try it! This would be an astounding and superb miracle.

by Meghan C.,
Grade 7



Debate

If you hear anyone arguing in room 201, don't call a teacher. It's just the debate team practicing for their upcoming tournament. This year Mother Teresa Regional School is participating in the Garden State Debate League where they will compete with other middle schools in traditional debates.

The team will participate in four debates throughout the year. The first tournament this year will be at Stone Bridge Middle School in Allentown, NJ on October 22nd. Students will be debating topics ranging from the positive and negative effects of homework to the question of NATO's involvement in Afghanistan.

The debaters must be able to argue both sides of the argument since they will not know what position they will be defending until they get to the debate on that Saturday. The debaters are nervous but excited to try out their public speaking skills.



Debate Team

Anti-Bullying Initiative Gets Kids Talking

The week of October 4th was Anti-Bullying Week at MTRS. Mrs. Baeder led the students in a number of projects intended to raise awareness and empower students to prevent bullying.

On Monday, students read and signed an anti-bullying pledge and

designed their own shirts. On Tuesday, the students in grades 4-8 all participated in evaluating scenarios to determine if they met the criteria for bullying. Using the Renaissance Responders, the students voted on whether or not the scenarios described were bullying, then explained their reasoning. Mrs. Sikora, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Patrizio, Mr. McGoldrick, and Mrs. Hale all acted in skits to illustrate the different forms bullying can take. There was much discussion about this as well. On Wednesday, students designed anti-bullying t-shirts and got to wear them to school the following day. On Friday, the students turned in their anti-bullying posters for a contest.

Teachers also made available sheets the kids can fill out and return to them. The sheets are intended to help both bullies and victims consider their actions, how they affect others, and the steps they can take to solve the problem.

Students have been inspired by this and are encouraging one another to be aware. Working together, we can all help to make MTRS a bully-free place to be!

by Mrs. Taylor, moderator

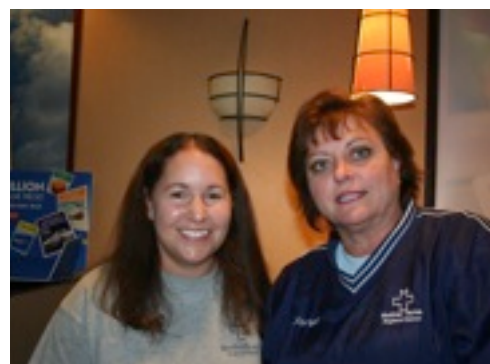
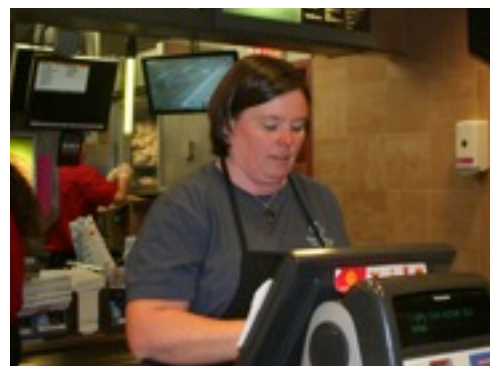


McTeacher Night Raises Money for Technology

Students were delighted to be giving orders to the principal at Mother Teresa Regional School's annual McTeacher Night. Mrs. Wisk switched hats and donned her McTeacher Night apron to work behind the counter at McDonalds.

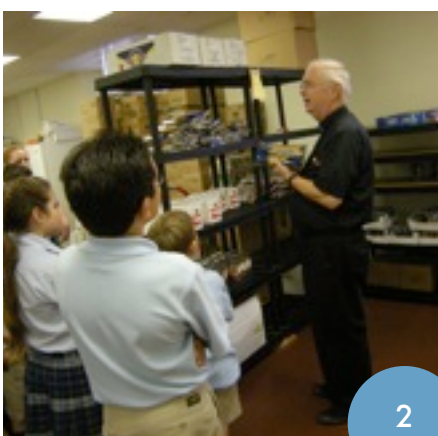
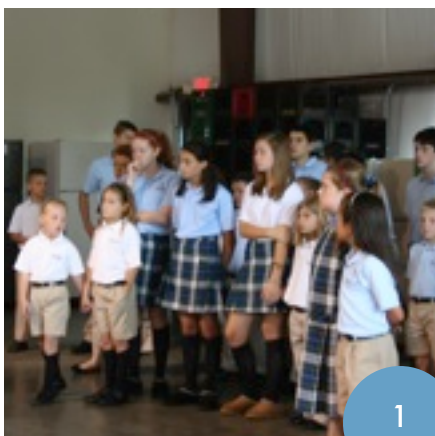
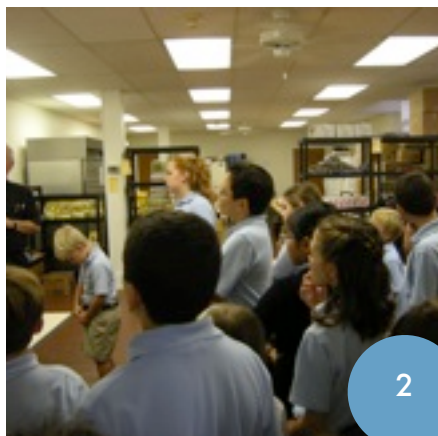
10% of the proceeds from the night are donated to the school. The school raised \$301 in the three hours that the faculty worked. Mr. McGoldrick and Mrs. Pirilli, as the new teachers, had drive thru duty. Students were excited to see the teachers working and enjoyed spending time with their friends.

Proceeds from the night will be used to support technology at the school. "We have gotten some great new technology this year and the proceeds will allow us to upgrade some of our older items such as projectors and cameras" explained technology teacher Mrs. Platenyk. "McTeacher Night is a fun way to raise funds and spend time together as a community."





Our Social Justice Visits

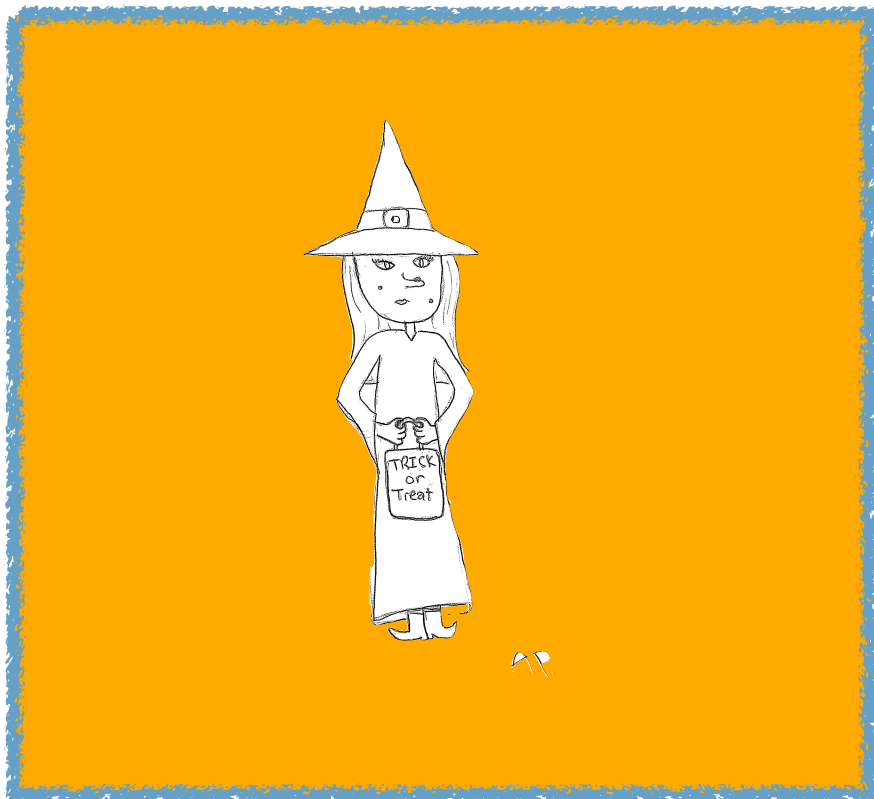


1. Barn for the Poorest of the Poor
2. OLPH Food Pantry
3. King James Nursing Home

by Julie R., Grade 7



by Ally P., Grade 7



Important Dates

October 14th

Hunger Challenge begins

October 28th, 6:00 pm

Trunk or Treat

October 31st, 12:15 pm

Mission Carnival

November 1st, 9:00 am

Mass on Feast of All Saints

November 3, 6:30 pm

Pep Rally

November 4th

Dress Down Day

November 9th, 7:00 pm

PTA General Meeting

November 11th

End of First Trimester

November 14th

End of Hunger Challenge