



# TIGER TIMES

PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1  
OCTOBER 2008



## PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

It seems like only moments ago that we were in the midst of the August excitement that comes with the beginning of school. Now, a casual look down the hallways and in the classrooms makes it clear that the students and staff have gotten to know one another, routines are well established and being followed, and there is that great feeling that comes when a school is beginning to hum right along. I know I speak for all the PB staff when I say thank you to all parents and community members for the outstanding support you've given us. You, and the importance you place on education in your homes, are a key ingredient to any success we have here at school.

Though it is October now, we want to extend one more, big WELCOME to all the families of students new to Precious Blood

School. I hope that your children are making new friends easily and that the transition from your previous schools is smooth. Please be sure to let us know if there is anything we can do to help you with your needs.

We have two main goals this year. Our first goal is for students to model respect for themselves and others by living out Gospel values. At every turn, we are thinking about what respectful behavior and actions look like and TO show those in our own actions and our attitudes with others. We even developed a school prayer with that specific focus. Our second goal is to improve our students' performance in math. We will be working hard to make sure that students have the foundation skills essential for success in math, especially when it comes to applying math concepts to real world situations. Along the way, we'll keep you posted about the successes and challenges we face as we tackle both goals.

Finally, if you have time, I would like to encourage you to come to one of our Friday morning masses. Worshipping God and celebrating mass together with our parish community members is a spiritually uplifting event – one that you should treat yourself to if you have the chance. No reservations needed, just come along at 8:30 and worship with us.

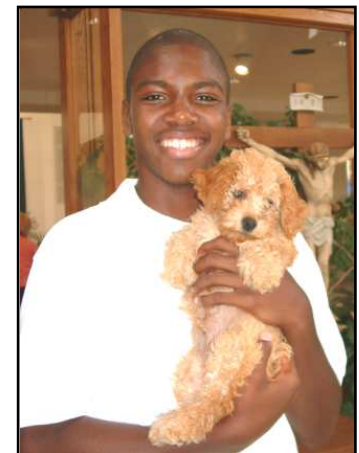
Thanks again for all you do.

## HOME AND SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome Back Precious Blood Families! We have lots of activities planned for this school year. We will begin with a PB Skating Party on October 12, 2008, at Skateworld in Vandalia. You will receive a flyer with the information one week prior to September 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Home and School Association will hold all meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 7 PM. All parents/guardians are members, so mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Spirit Day is normally held on the third Thursday of every month, but due to picture day on September 18, **we did not have a Spirit Day in September. Instead, an extra Spirit Day will be held October 9<sup>th</sup>.** Students are permitted to wear their spirit shirts and jeans/pants on Spirit Day. From then on, Spirit Day is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month and gives students an opportunity to show school spirit. PB TIGERS ROCK!



You can print a color version of your own at: <http://www.preciousbloodschool.org/>

## **FASHION SHOW A FUN WAY TO REVIEW SOME RULES**

Our style-conscious junior high students were treated to an early fashion show put on by our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. Students strolled onto stage to a vibrant Latin beat and showed the very latest in clothing combos that get the thumbs up here at school... and some styles that are cool, but not allowed here at PB. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade models flashed their fashion fair in pairs that got the point across with fun, energy, and a great sense of humor.



## **PARKING LOT AND SAFETY**

Please remember to follow all procedures when dropping off or picking up children here at school. Allow plenty of extra time in the morning so you don't get caught with only seconds to go when dropping off kids at the front of the building. Be sure to drive slowly as you approach the underpass to pick up your child. And finally, please do not park your car in the lot and pick up your child from the car rider area. If you need to have your child dismissed early, come to the main entrance, and we will have your child brought to the office. Otherwise, we need to have you use the A-L/M-Z lanes. Thank you!



## **POWER OUTAGE CANCELS SCHOOL**

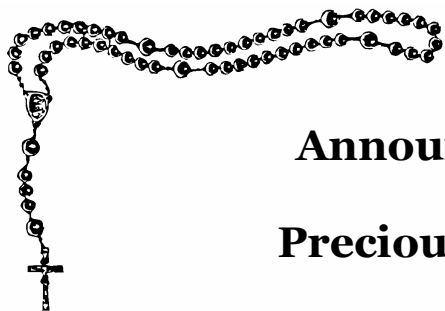
OK, so what's the deal? The school was in session last year when there was three feet of snow on the ground and polar bears knocking at the school door; yet, there was no school on Monday and Tuesday of "Ike Week". Hmmmm. Well, Monday was a no-brainer. Power lines down, no phones, no feeder school districts in session, and the first State of Ohio emergency called since the blizzard of 1978. On Tuesday, we still had every feeder school cancelled for the day, several staff members without power, no Internet here at school, and the first three people called as potential substitute teachers had no phone service. Added to that was the fact that many people needed to volunteer to help out a neighbor... anyway, you get the idea. Farmer's Almanac has a prediction of a tough winter. Yup, so with our remaining calamity days, we'll be conservative ... but also as safe as we can call them. Thanks for your patience.

## **FOCUS ON ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS**

Our daily attendance has been quite good this year. We've had a few germs go through our school, but nothing too terrible. However, we are still having a problem with the number of students who come to school late. Please be sure to allow some extra time in the morning for those unforeseen glitches that may cause children to be late. Remember, students are to be in their rooms at their seats when the 7:55 bell rings. We still have a number of them who are rushing up the steps, trying to make it with book bags flying, lunch boxes rattling, and panicked looks on faces. (Please note that we did not count any tardies as "unexcused" during "Ike Week" unless students got to school after 9:00AM)

## **THINKING ABOUT A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL?**

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is holding a High School Information Fair at the University of Dayton (Kennedy Center Ballroom) so that students and parents can obtain information regarding different Catholic High School options. The fair is being held October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm – 4:00pm. High schools represented will include: Alter, Carroll, Chaminade-Julienne, and Fenwick, as well as 6 high school from Cincinnati. Though designed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, anyone is invited to attend.



**Announcing a very special event  
for all families of  
Precious Blood Parish and School**

**The Annual “Living Rosary” Celebration**

**Reverencing God’s Gift of Human Life**

**Wednesday, October 1**

**6:30-8:00 pm**

**Parish Activity Center and Church Sanctuary**

**All present will gather for the “Living Rosary” at 7:15 in the church,** praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary with meditations led by our young people (*bring your own Rosary or we can provide one for you*). We’ll end with **Refreshments in the Gathering Space at 8:00 pm.**

**All are welcome – please join us!**

**SCHOOL PRAYER**

Every morning, we begin our school day with a special prayer/poem. It helps us to focus ourselves spiritually from the very start of our school day, with a special emphasis on our school goal of becoming respectful children of God. You can learn and say this prayer at your homes as well:

*God, our Father,  
Creator of all  
Bless us this day  
Those great and small*

*Jesus, our Brother,  
Servant to all*

*Teach us to give  
As disciples on call*

*Spirit, Counselor,  
Advocate for all  
Inspire our hearts  
With respect, our resolve*

(At this point we always remember, by name, those who need our prayers, followed by, “  
Lord, we lift up those people mentioned in our homerooms this day. We also raise up the unspoken prayers of those around us. In your name, Jesus, we pray. *Amen.*)

**INTERIM REPORTS**

Interim reports for students in grades 4-8 are going home Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. These reports give a good glimpse as to how students are doing at the midway point of our first semester. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress, please be sure to contact his or her teacher. An easy way to keep abreast of daily assignments is to check those assignment notebooks that every student in 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade carries to and from school.

## **YOUNG MUSICIANS NEED YOUR OLD BAND INSTRUMENTS**

Do you have an old clarinet, trumpet, violin or other instrument gathering dust in the attic or basement? Now's the time to put it to good use again. Our growing school band program is in desperate need of instruments for our talented young musicians. WE can re-condition many items, even if they've seen "better days." Donated items can be dropped off at the school office. If you need to have someone pick up your instruments, please contact Debi Schutt at 461-3740 ext. 407, [dschutt@cjeagles.org](mailto:dschutt@cjeagles.org).



## **RETREAT FOR PRECIOUS BLOOD JUNIOR HIGH AT TRANSFIGURATION RETREAT CENTER MEANS MANY THINGS**

"You are made in God's image. I honor you and I honor Christ within you." This was one important theme the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at PB Catholic School received during their time with Mrs. Barb Maloney, and Mr. Benjamin Darnell, at Transfiguration Retreat Center in Ludlow Falls. In three days they were able to spend some special time with each class individually for prayer and reflection away from their typical classroom setting. "Prayer is a battle," and "respect means giving honor to someone or something," were some other themes that helped us retreat. Since people are created in the image and likeness of God they are already worthy and valuable with human dignity granting freedom from the influence of this culture which falsely claims that we have to earn our worthiness and value as persons. Life is sacred, therefore, and that sacred dignity evokes the proper respect for all human life no matter how skilled, talented, attractive, or successful we seem to be, no matter how much we produce or accomplish or how popular we can become. Fr. Bill came to be with us each day at Transfiguration to celebrate Mass for the youth and exhort them toward each spiritual theme and much more. Principal Dan Mecoli also made appearances to be with his flock, share his own story and pray with the classes. Please enjoy these pictures by Kristi Gaston that capture some of our moments with God and each other.



## READING WITH TROTWOOD FIRE AND RESCUE

PB parent, and Trotwood Fire and Rescue member, Sean Lehrter came up with a hot proposal for students in grades K-2. Because literacy is so important for young students, Sean and his shift members have decided to come to PB every three weeks to read with our youngest students. Kids will get a chance to hear squad members read up close and personal during those sessions. Not only will it be exciting to hear the guys read, children will also become more comfortable with them and learn firsthand that they can count on fire and rescue workers to help them in a time of need.



## AULLWOOD PARTNERSHIP HAS BEGUN

Thanks to funding help from our Home and School Association, all students in grades K-5 will get two field trips to the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm through the Aullwood Adventures program. When Aullwood naturalist, Chris Rowlands, worked as an artist-in-residence last year, he inspired our staff to bring students to Aullwood for a more focused series of hands-on field experiences. Our intent is that those trips will reinforce the importance of our role as stewards of this earth. We are eager for our students to explore the natural world under the talented direction of the Aullwood naturalists



and staff. At Aullwood, students are more than passive learners because they learn about their natural world through exciting, hands-on workshops designed to deepen their understanding and appreciation for nature. Because we are involved in the Aullwood Adventures series, every K-5 classroom will also be visited by an Aullwood naturalist at some point during the school year.



## AFTER SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM BEGINS

Students and staff in grades 3-8 enjoyed an assembly presented by Dabico Artist Factory. Whether using our own voices, clapping hands, or playing some instruments for the very first time, students were able to be successful under the energetic guidance of Mr. John Derrickson and Mr. Al Talib. Students are able to sign up for classes that begin on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and continue for 8 weeks.



## ASSESSMENT IN OCTOBER

Students in grades 2, 4, 6, and 8 will take the Terra Nova battery of tests from September 29 - October 3. The tests are administered over a series of days for about 60 – 90 minutes per session. Students in third grade will take the reading portion of the Ohio Achievement test on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The tests are a normal part of school and cannot be “crammed” for. Instead, a good night’s sleep, plenty of rest, and a good breakfast are all the children need.

## HINTS FROM THE PB CAFÉ:

Did you know that spices can benefit you in more ways than making food taste great? Cinnamon sharpens cognitive functioning by increasing blood pressure and oxygen to the brain. The scent enhances memory, attention, and mental processing. Mmmmmm. What a great excuse to have some cinnamon on applesauce!

## FULL OCSAA ACCREDITATION GIVEN TO PB

Precious Blood received a plaque in August from the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association in recognition of receiving full accreditation from that agency. We are proud of the full accreditation distinction from OCSAA because it recognizes past progress and current plans for excellence here at Precious Blood. All Catholic schools take part in the 5-year school improvement process overseen by OCSAA.

## SCHOOL PICTURE INFO

The people at LifeTouch did a good job of taking pictures in September. However, if, when you get your pictures back, you are not completely satisfied with your child/children's school pictures, please return the entire, uncut picture package to the school office with child's name, telephone number, grade, homeroom number, and reason for retake on the outside of picture envelope. LifeTouch will be at school on November 6, 2008, for picture retake day. Students who are getting retakes will receive a reminder prior to the retake day. All returns must be in the school office no later than **November 4, 2008**.

# October/November Dates to Remember

## OCTOBER

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Wednesday, 1    | - PSR Family Living Rosary, 6:30-8:30PM             |
| Monday, 6       | - OAT Reading, Grade 3                              |
| M-W, 6-9        | - Terra Nova make-up testing                        |
| Thursday, 9     | - Spirit Day ☺ (Make-up day from September)         |
|                 | - Home and School Meeting, 7:00PM                   |
| Sunday, 12      | - Skating Party                                     |
| Tuesday, 14     | - Grade 3 to Aullwood                               |
|                 | - School Advisory Council, 7:00PM                   |
| Wednesday, 15   | - 7 <sup>th</sup> graders to Marmon Valley          |
|                 | - Grade 4 to Aullwood                               |
| Thursday, 16    | - 7 <sup>th</sup> graders return from Marmon Valley |
| -               | - Spirit Day  |
| Friday, 17      | - Kindergarten to Aullwood                          |
| -               | - Market Day pick up, 5:30-6:30                     |
|                 | - Sally Foster Fundraiser Ends                      |
| Monday, 22 – 26 | - Red Ribbon Week, spirit theme each day            |
| Thursday, 23    | - End of First Quarter (42 days)                    |
| Friday, 24      | - No School   |
| Monday, 27      | - Second quarter begins                             |
| Wednesday, 29   | - Grade 2 to Aullwood                               |
| Friday, 31      | - First Quarter Report Cards                        |

## NOVEMBER

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Tuesday, 4   | - Election Day, please vote ☺                  |
| Thursday, 6  | - Picture Retake Day                           |
|              | - Home and School Meeting, 7:00 PM             |
| M-F, 10-14   | - Scholastic Book Fair                         |
| Sunday, 9    | - Skating Party                                |
| Tuesday, 11  | - Grade 1 to Aullwood, Candle Dipping          |
|              | - Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:15 – 8:00PM    |
|              | - School Advisory Council, 7:00PM              |
| Thursday, 13 | - Aullwood Comes to Kindergarten, Life Science |
|              | - Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:15 – 8:00PM    |
| Friday, 14   | - Market Day pick up 5:30-6:30PM               |
| -            | - Gym Uniform Sale, 5:30-6:30PM                |
| Friday, 21   | - Sally Foster Pick-up                         |
| Tuesday, 25  | - All School Thanksgiving Luncheon, Free       |
| W-F, 26-28   | - Thanksgiving holiday                         |