

FEBRUARY 2013 SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame's Blair Barker has signed to play soccer at Jacksonville State University. She was a four-year starter for the Lady Irish and was instrumental in the State Championship season her sophomore year. She also earned All-State honors her junior and senior years.

Nine juniors attended a conference at Aquinas College in Nashville entitled "Genesis: Chance or Purpose?" They attended a series of lectures by experts in the fields of physics, medicine, literature, and theology who all came together for an interdisciplinary forum on the question of human origins and the intersections between faith and science in the efforts to continue to discover those origins.

Notre Dame announced their summer camp program for 2013 which includes Basketball, Baseball, Dance Football, Soccer, and All Sports Camps. Visit www.myndhs.com for more information.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

February was a very full and busy month at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. The month began with Family Honor which is a two day family-centered Catholic chastity education program for 8th graders and their parents.

Our middle school science fair was held and many of our entries will be competing in the regional fair at the University of Tennessee of Chattanooga.



Our eighth grade students had their etiquette luncheon at the Chattanooga Convention center. Courtesy of Jeri McInturff

Our second grade students had their first reconciliation on February 7th.

As part of their service learning, the 6th grade students sold carnations to benefit orphans in Haiti. They raised \$300 which will go to our sister parish in Haiti.

We have two students who participated and did well in the zone spelling bee.



Chatti Gras was a wonderful success. I was silly-stringed by the students because we met our goal of having 60% of our families buy tickets. Courtesy of Jeri McInturff

We had an Open-House for next year's pre-school and kindergarten.

St. Jude School

St. Jude staff, families, and parish members celebrated along with hundreds of members of the Chattanooga Catholic Community at the 2nd annual Chatti Gras, held on February 9. It was a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship with newcomers and old timers represented. All enjoyed the special visit by Bishop Stika, Sister Mary Marta, and others from our Knoxville diocesan office.

Cassie McGonagil, 6th Grade, won the St. Jude Middle School Spelling Bee and won advanced eligibility for the Zone Bee, along with five of her fellow students. Bella Bombassi, also received a special recognition after being chosen to the All-Tournament Team in the ISC League, Girls Varsity Basketball.

The entire 6th grade class spent Friday, February 22 at the UTC Challenger Center as part of their Science Curriculum. They enjoyed the day, studying space travel and participating in a mock flight and space simulator. One added highlight was that the students were able to enjoy lunch in the UTC Student Center! It was their first taste of "college life".

Knoxville Catholic High School

The focus for most of February has been the AP Application Process and Course Selections for the 2013-2014 school year. A meeting was held on February 5 during Activity Period where more than 300 students heard a presentation by the guidance department on AP guidelines. AP notifications will be mailed by March 1. Parent Meetings were held to discuss the Course Selection Process, and forms were distributed to students on February 26 so they may begin their selections for next year, with assistance from their school counselor.

On February 6, ten seniors signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. Congratulations to Aaron Aucker, Kathryn Culhane, Martha Dinwiddle, Kristen Halstead, Emily Holloway, Suddy Hutchins, Erika Miller, Mark Mishu, Ashley Welborn and Riley McMillan. We expect more students to sign letters in early spring and will acknowledge them at that time.

On February 26, KCHS students and staff were privileged to attend the Prayer Service at All Saints Church with Cardinal Rigali and Bishop Stika. Following the prayer service, approximately 35 students and staff loaded on school buses to travel to the airport with Cardinal Rigali as he departed for Rome as a member of the College of Cardinals as they prepare to begin deliberations to select our next Holy Father. These members of the Peer Ministry Team joined Bishop Stika for lunch before returning to campus. Special thanks to our band and chorus students who performed before and during this prayer service. This is certainly a unique time in the Church's history and a great teaching moment for our students.

KCHS will be offering students the opportunity to take eight classes next year instead of the previous limit of seven classes due to the increased interest in Dual Enrollment course. Students who are interested are currently working with their school counselor to create a workable schedule.

We are extremely proud of the Mock Trial members for their efforts this year. The KCHS Mock Trial teams finished up their competitions on February 24. The B Team came in 4th place, and the A team got a 3rd place finish, and the team swept the special awards for the district. Congratulations go out to Libby Fortunato, who was awarded the Best Witness Award for the competition. Nora Connelly was awarded the Best Attorney Award.

Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Year of Faith We have embraced our school theme, "Increase our Faith" from Luke 17:5. The Year of Faith encourages focus on the areas of sacred scripture, participation in the Mass, and celebration of the gift of the Eucharist. Each month we focus on three areas:

1. **Gospel selections or stories on Faith**
2. **Commandments and portions of the Creed**
3. **Synonyms for the word 'Eucharist'**

In **February**, our Gospel reading was from Luke 22:31-34, Jesus Prays for Peter; the Commandment was the 5th – “Thou Shall Not Kill”- Love is the innate vocation of every human being. And, our word for the Eucharist was “The Medicine of Immortality”. We are encouraging these topics for reflection and discussion within our families throughout the school year.

Scholastic Art Award Winners This year, eleven 8th grade Art students competed in the Region-at-Large Scholastic Art Awards. The region includes Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia, and West Virginia. Sacred Heart Cathedral School was honored with three awards! Congratulations to the following students: **Morgan Murphy** – Gold Key Award; **Beau Hollin** – Silver Key Award; **Carter Anderson** – Honorable Mention Award. *Gold Key winners will compete in the National Scholastic Art Awards. Good Luck, **Morgan!**

NFL Player Returns to SHCS Members of the Sacred Heart community welcomed home SHCS alum and Minnesota Vikings player, **Harrison Smith**; Monday night, February 25th. Harrison graduated from SHCS in 2003, KCHS in 2007, and Notre Dame in 2012. He was the 29th pick overall in last year’s NFL Draft. **ESPN’s Dr. Jerry Punch** moderated the evening. **Bishop Stika** also made a special appearance! Harrison shared his faith and football experiences, and signed autographs. The event was SOLD OUT and was a benefit for the SHCS Annual Fund!

Sacred Heart Students Advance to UT Science Fair Congratulations to our 7th grade science fair participants and winners. The first and second place winners in each category will advance on to compete in the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair at UT, April 1st-4th at Thompson-Boling Arena.

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| Consumer and Social Sciences: | 1 st place – Libby Smith “iMultitask”
2 nd place – Nicholas Martin “Tear If You Dare!” |
| Chemistry: | 1 st place – Anna Ward “Grow, Sparkle, Shine”
2 nd place – Mary Grace Coakley “Bad Hair Day” |
| Microbiology: | 1 st place – Marcella Miller “Salivacillin”
2 nd place – Thomas Stucke “Nice Try, E.coli” |
| Engineering and Physics: | 1 st place – Libby Penn “A Test of Strength”
2 nd place (tie) – Rachel DeBaar “Broken Bridges”
2 nd place (tie) – Walker Smith “Hey Sun! Watts Up?” |
| Plant Science: | 1 st place – Isabella Klitzke “Wood Works”
2 nd place – Skylar Stair “Which Light Is Right?” |

Environmental Science:

1st place – Maggie Mock “Filtration Frustration”
2nd place – Natalie Eilerman “Pollution Attack”

St. John Neumann School

The Annual 8th Grade Pancake Breakfast held at Aubrey’s Restaurant was a fantastic success! The 8th graders did a tremendous job serving and raised \$3,300 to purchase a legacy gift for the school. On top of that . . . they had a blast!

The Math-a-thon was a huge success! SJNCS families contributed a total of \$3,250 to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The school community showed a tremendous response to the call for school supplies and picture books to donate to the Mother Perialba Nursery School in Uganda. It is so wonderful to take part in these acts of charity and teach our children the value of sharing the gifts we have been blessed with by God!

The SJNCS Boys Varsity and Boys JV Basketball teams were BOTH crowned Champions of the 2013 Knoxville Independent School League Tournaments. Congratulations also go out to our SJNCS coaches, Jeni Sompayrac, Dave Purcell, and Scott Tate for leading these young men to this awesome achievement!

On Tuesday, February 12th, the parents of students in grades K, 2, 4, 6, & 8, came to join their child(ren) for lunch. John Bathe prepared a special Mardi Gras lunch for families to enjoy at tables set up in the gym.

St. Joseph School

Grades Pre-K through eight participated in a Science Fair. Professors from UT came to judge the middle school projects. First, second, and third place winners from grades 6-8 will participate in the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair at the University of Tennessee.

The annual Mardi Gras fundraiser was held February 9th and was a great success. In addition to financial contributions, attendees were generous in providing new desks for middle school and new locks for classrooms so that teachers can lock their classrooms from the inside in the event of an emergency.

Students performed in the second annual musical, *The Velveteen Rabbit*. The cast included students from Kindergarten through Middle School. Many staff members and parents made it a successful event.

Students joined in prayer to offer a rosary at 2:00 p.m. on February 28th for His Holiness Benedict XVI and the College of Cardinals.

St. Mary School – Oak Ridge

Spirit: St. Mary's Faith Rally on February 1st brought a wonderful Catholic Schools Week to a beautiful conclusion. Special guests Sister Mary Marta Abbott, RSM, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Knoxville, and Deacon Patrick Murphy-Racey, official photographer/videographer for the diocese, came to observe and film the event for the diocesan website. In this Year of Faith for the whole Church, students came to Mass decked out in their Faith Rally t-shirts with the official logo for the Year of Faith. One of the morning activities entered around the logo itself: students gathered around a giant-sized version of the logo to hear about the meaning of its design, then drew pictures of themselves to paste on the image, which is now hanging in the main hallway of the school. The afternoon finished with an all-school Eucharistic procession around the entire church campus—from the Youth Building, down to the lower playground, and back to the gym—with students praying the Rosary as they went, ending in the gym with Benediction and song.

Mission: On Thursday, February 7th, St. Mary's fifth through eighth graders spent the day presenting their science projects to students, teachers, judges, and family during the annual St. Mary's School Science Fair. Judges from the local scientific community—including former students—put the young scientists to the test, questioning them about their efforts to formulate hypotheses, gather their data, and report on the results. That evening, before an expectant crowd, all the students were congratulated and acknowledged for their efforts by teachers Mrs. Marsha Segal and Mr. Nick Corrigan. Nineteen students were selected to compete at the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair at the University of Tennessee in April, and five students competed in the recent Clinch Valley Science Fair sponsored by the Oak Ridge Sunset Rotary Club. Two of those students—5th grader Ashlyn Riikola and 4th grader Jon Milloway—took 2nd place in the life science categories for 5th and 4th grade, respectively.

Service: As part of the Faith Rally, all students participated in a school-wide service project for ADFAC (Aid to Dependent Families of Appalachian Counties), where the director Mrs. Annie Cachiero of St. Mary's Parish spoke about what the organization does and the needs of the people it serves. Students then worked together in shifts throughout the day to pack the toiletries donated during the week, including handmade cards with good wishes for the recipients.

St. Dominic School

Our fourth and fifth grade students had a special “treat” during their Valentine’s Party. They were each given a sheep’s heart and had the experience of dissecting the heart. They were instructed by a parent who is a physician. The students are still talking about this unique learning opportunity.

On Saturday, February 16th we offered a new experience to our parents and their children called “Take your child to the Library”. Our school librarian, Mr. Newman, had many fun learning activities for the parents and their children to do during the 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. time frame. One activity the children especially enjoyed was reading to two special dogs who love children reading to them. Twenty-six children and their parents took advantage of this wonderful experience!

Math and Science Night was held on Thursday, February 28th at 6:30 p.m. It was an evening of fun exploring chemistry, medicine, and math. Eastman Chemical Company presented a Chemistry Show. There were also exploration stations with hands-on activities and demonstrations involving math, medicine, and chemistry.

St. Mary School – Johnson City

Our eighth grade presented their play to their parents on Sunday evening, February 24th. They presented the play to all the students, faculty/staff, any parents who attended and Sr. Mary Marta on Monday afternoon, February 25th.

Our eighth grade held a fundraiser for their Washington, D.C. trip in our gym on Tuesday, February 26th. This fundraiser was a dinner from Carrabba’s Restaurant.

Our registration for the 2013-2014 school year began on Monday, February 25th.