

# Counselor's Corner

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Fourth quarter is halfway over and summer programs loom in the near future. We only have a few weeks left of the current school year and to say it seemed to fly by is a cliché, but true for me. Very soon we will be making sure plans have been made for the next school year which seems to just skip over summer break.

Looking back over this school year, we have accomplished many good things through the Student Council. We've raised money for a machine to help new expectant mothers, the animal shelter, and the Samaritan Center. Once in a while we were lucky enough to be in the newspaper to be recognized for the wonderful, community-minded school that we try to be. I want to thank all you parents for your support of the many projects we've sponsored during the school year. As I've told many classes, "God didn't put us on this Earth to be by ourselves. He put us in the middle of a family and a community for a purpose." We all have to work together to make this the best community possible to live in. We can only do that if everyone shares the burdens and the joys. You have shared the burden; now please share in the joy of our accomplishments.

Thanks to all those who provided items for the Easter Baskets sent to the Samaritan Center. We were able to send 31 baskets this year. I'm sure they made at least 31 kids very happy, not to mention their parents. Thank you also to all those providing plastic eggs and candy for the Pre-Kindergarten and the Kindergarten Easter Egg hunt the first of April. Each student was able to find seven eggs with the help of their Student Council buddy. I know it took longer for the Student Council members to hide the eggs than it did for the little ones to find the eggs. All the participants had fun and felt special that afternoon. Finally, thanks to all those who were able to attend the school Talent Show. I know I had so much fun watching the students display their wonderful talents. It was a very diverse talent show in that there was a wide variety of a talent displayed. As this was the first time we tried having the talent show in the evening, the turnout was a wonderful surprise. The next time we will plan on more seating and programs. Again, thanks for your support.

Another program that I am leading this year is the Eighth Grade Leadership Group. They chose to be a part of the Cole County Relay for Life. I have 21 students signed up to be a part of this group. For the Relay, we needed to raise at least \$2,100.00. The larger group broke up into smaller groups and designed fundraising activities. Currently, the students have raised over \$3,500.00. Thanks to all the parent and parish support. This group will end this project at the Relay for Life on June 1 & 2. We are currently making plans to spend the night at the relay and will be participating in the activities there. Again, thank you so much for your support. I'm sure the students have learned a lot from their experiences. We still have the Luminarias for sale. If you would like to remember someone, or honor them as a cancer survivor, or a cancer victim, please let me know and I'll send you a form to fill out.

As summer break is fast approaching, please help your student stay involved in learning and using what they learned during the school year. For example, if a child continues to read at grade level at least 30 minutes a day during the summer, they will be better prepared for the reading that will be necessary for the coming school year. If the child is in primary grades, share the time and take a turn reading to them. Make sure they use math and science as often as possible. Take some time to give jobs to your child/children, even if they are very young. It makes them feel like a necessary part of the family and teaches the child to be responsible for something besides themselves. This is also a good opportunity to find out how much they have grown emotionally since the last summer. I found the following in an article and thought it was worth passing on to you.

#### A Recipe for Respect

Your child will learn respectful behavior by watching the way you treat others. When she makes a mistake, for instance, gently tell her what she's done wrong – and out of earshot of others. Also, let her see you respect ideas and beliefs that are different from your own.

When you see your youngster acting respectfully, let her/him know that you've noticed ("I like the way you asked your sister before borrowing her iPod"). Your words and attention will encourage her/him to show respect in the future. If you see disrespectful behavior on TV (a child rolling their eyes or talking back to authority), tell your youngster that isn't okay in real life. Then, ask them to be on the lookout for respectful actions by that character. How many can they spot before the program ends?

Finally, thank you once again for allowing me to work with your students during this school year. We have crammed many things into all our heads and now it's time for a little relaxation. May God bless you, keep you safe and on His path during the summer months.