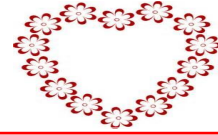


PETER'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



February 2016

Page 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...



Lent is a special season in the church's liturgical year. It is not just a time of "giving up something." It is a time of giving to others.

With the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, our children have been studying the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Even the littlest angels, our preschoolers and kindergartners, have been learning their meaning and how to apply them in their lives.

In St. Peter's School our students are privileged to be able to learn about the life of Jesus, the Master Teacher, through what have become known as the "action parables." Jesus ate with sinners, welcomed outcasts such as the lepers and even washed the feet of the Apostles. It was His silent actions such as these that send a powerful and enduring message; speak with your actions not words. It is an example for our students, for all of us, not just during the season of Lent, but throughout our daily lives.

In his Lenten message Pope Francis wrote:

"God's mercy transforms hearts; it enables us through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged! Let us not waste this season of Lent."

May God bless our students and their families on their Lenten journey.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL - MS. HOFFMANN



It is hard to believe it is the end of February already. The Ground Hog said it will be an early Spring. We will have to see if he is right.

Morning Meeting - PreK-3 is hard at work learning all the names of the letters and the sounds they make. Daily we sing along to <http://www.youtube.com/> - Have Fun Learning ABC, Have Fun Learning Letter ____, Shape Song 2.

Phonics - PreK-3 is working on the alphabet daily. We have focused on the letters D, Q, and K. PreK-3 is also starting to trace their names.

Math - PreK-3 is learning the names of shapes, reviewing color names, counting 1-10, and beginning to learn how to measure things.

Science - PreK-3 is learning about the different types of weather. PreK-3 made their own weather wheel. They can show when it's sunny, rainy, cloudy, or snowy. PreK-3 will be starting to look for signs of Spring and planting seeds to watch them grow.

Social Studies - Helped us to learn about the holiday Valentine's Day. We have discussed many ways to show kindness, caring, and love to other people. We also spoke a little bit about Martin Luther King Jr. who wanted everyone to get along. We did a project making a shaker bottle with oil and water showing two separate groups joining together as one. The PreK-3 students loved shaking and mixing the oil and water together.

It is truly a pleasure to help your child learn and discover new things daily in school. If you have not yet registered for PreK-4 2016-2017 School Year, please do so as soon as possible. Spaces are filling up quickly and you don't want your child to miss out on an amazing education at St. Peter's School.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL - MS. NOVELLO



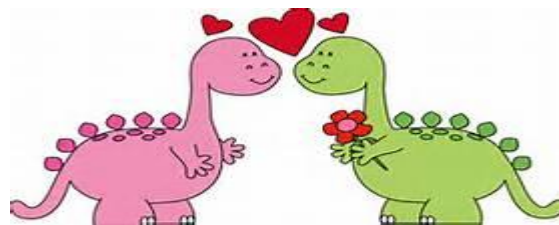
Every day we work on growing our õKindergarten Musclesö by learning and having fun.

In Phonics we have covered the letters Oo, Kk, and Yy. We are continuing to master recognizing our letters and their sounds. In Math, we are continuing to practice counting to 20. We are also continuing to master identifying numbers 1-20 in and out of order. We have also been working on identifying patterns and how to create patterns. In Social Studies we have talked about why we celebrate Ground Hog Day, Valentineø Day, and Presidentsø Day. In Science, we went to the lab and participated in a Candy Heart experiment. We put candy hearts into five different liquids such as coke, ginger ale, air, water, white vinegar, and rubbing alcohol. We observed the candy hearts at the end of every day with a magnifying glass. In Religion we discussed what Ash Wednesday is, we went to Church and we received ashes. We also discussed how Jesus belonged to a family, and how each of us belong to a family.

Parents, when sending money into school with your child please label what the money is for. Please send in a winter appropriate change of clothes in case of an accident; a summer appropriate change of clothes was sent into school in September. Also, please donø forget to check the classroom blog for weekly updates and reminders. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at anytime; my email is novelloprek34@yahoo.com. Thank you for sharing your child with me.

Gentle Reminderø Please do not send in any foods that contain nuts as we have students with allergies.
Thank You!

-Ms. Novello



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

KINDERGARTEN - MS. MC MILLAN



We have arrived at the 100th day of school! Where has the time gone?

It is marvelous to see the kindergarten class reading books and writing full sentences. Our social studies lessons include discussions on February holidays and we are refining our skills in math as we work with numbers one to thirty one. We are having so much fun in science class especially the time spent in the school's science lab. We are patiently waiting to see if we can make crystals grow!

Additionally, our students are using music to learn and explore the solar system. We received ashes on Ash Wednesday and have been discussing Lent. Kindergarten was honored by a visit from Deacon Joe. He surprised us with a personal tour of our church and it was wonderful to see the children's faces as they explored things up close. We anticipate an exciting month of learning and fun!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 1 - MRS. TSIKITAS

February in First Grade



February was a very busy month for the first graders! We spent time learning about Presidents' Day and Black History Month. We watched videos and read about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ruby Bridges and Harriet Tubman, among other important African American people who are important to us all.

In Math, we finished up our chapter on tens and ones, and have moved back into addition and subtraction. The students are very confident with these topics and it is making our lessons go very smoothly which make both the students and myself very happy.

In Religion, we have begun discussing Lent. We went to church on Ash Wednesday to receive our ashes. This day began Lent. We will continue to discuss the importance of Lent as well as all of the Holy days celebrated throughout this season. The students are doing really well with this! Quiz them or ask them to share what they have learned with you.

In Language Arts, we have been working on quite a lot! In Grammar, we have been working on many different verbs and how to use them. In Reading, we have been working on building our reading stamina and fluency. We visit the library every Wednesday to work on this, as well as doing it daily in our classroom. In Phonics we have been reviewing short and long vowels and the sounds of Yy as a vowel. Some of the students were hesitant when we got back in to this but did a wonderful job remembering them all.

I am amazed at how quickly the year is going by and how much the students have learned already. There is still a lot more learning to take place, and I ask for your help with it. When the Reading books come home, please read the stories with your child. Allow them to read to you so they can build their fluency. Also, please help your children review for tests they are having. We need to continue to work together for your child to be successful learners. I am trying to get them prepared for the big transition into 2nd grade, and cannot do it alone!

I thank you in advance for your help and please remember to reach out to me if you ever have any questions or concerns!

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 2– MR. MORGESE



I just want to take a moment to say how happy my students make me. I don't know anyone who is luckier than me. I get to come to work each day and love what I do. Not many people can say they sing on their way to work each day, but I can.

With that said, I am very proud of the kids. They did super well at First Penance and Reconciliation. We will be moving on to our Family Life books. We will learn all about God's plan for all families. We will also learn that God loves ALL families. Once completed with Family Life we will go back to our Be My Disciple books. At the end of March we will begin our First Eucharist books.

In math, we have learned all about numbers and place values up to 999. We have moved on to geometry. We will cover money and measurement in order to prepare us for Terra Nova exams.

We have been working on Terra Nova practice sheets in ELA. Once we complete them I will send them home in a folder for you to keep.

In science we are learning about all kinds of matter. We will talk about solids, liquids, and gases. We will be going to the science lab to work with different types of matter.

In social studies we are learning all about local and state government. We will learn all about our town and state.

I can't tell you just how much fun this year has been so far. The kids have worked so hard on projects and book reports. Keep up the good work.

Just some wordsí

Teachers are the silent ones lifting up the children to their futures. To us, we just do what comes as naturally as breathing air. We raise our students high enough to see their potential, a future filled with hope and opportunity. And, when we know they are able to run free on their own we retreat to our classrooms to shed a tear. This tear is not for loss, but a tear for the understanding that we have worked our hardest and done all we can for that one child. We sit silently, without need of recognition, because we know that our battle never ends. We know that our work is not a job, it is a dream realized. And, there is nothing that can chip away at that dream for we know that our work goes very well-paid; we are paid by the gratitude from those smiles of our little ones, the ones we see day-in and day-out. The laughter that comes from us being goofy and human is the best paycheck we could ever receive. These students see us as superheroes, but we see them as angels that live on Earth. This is why I teach.

God Bless,
Mister D and Stella the Bulldog



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 3– MS. TIGHE



RELIGION:

In Religion, the 3rd graders completed their study of Saints. We learned the canonization process and focused especially on Mother Theresa and Pope John Paul II. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about these wonderful people. Following this, we will study the 7 Sacraments and concentrate on the importance of Lent.

MATH:

In Math, the 3rd graders have started Units of Measurement, Weight, and Capacity. They will soon move onto Intro to Fractions. We have used fractions in Science to determine what portions of fresh and salt water exist on earth. I am very proud of 3rd grade and their hard work in Math. They seem to enjoy it very much and show a great deal of excitement for what is next. Tobi Kolawole remains in 1st place in our 3rd grade *First In Math* competition. Congratulations to him! Keep up the great work and dedication everyone.

LANGUAGE ARTS/GRAMMAR:

In Grammar, we have studied synonyms, prefixes, and quotations. The 3rd grade writing has improved a great deal since September and their writing portfolios are growing. One of their narrative essays for Black History Month was about the conductors of The Underground Railroad. So, we created a Pathway to Freedom Quilt to go along with it.

SCIENCE:

In Science, we started our study of natural resources and the importance of recycling. Our Science project due in March will be to create a, ðrecycled robotö. This is a very exciting project. The students are working on blueprints of design, materials, and how their robot should function. I am very much looking forward to seeing them completed.

Thank you to all of the parents and families for their continued support.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 4 - MRS. BARTELS



Catholic SchoolsøWeek was a HUGE success! We enjoyed so many different activities. The Living Rosary celebrated our faith, we moved and danced on Get Up and Dance Day, the First In Math-a-thon showed our competitive side, and the Pep Rally showed our school spirit. And the Penny Races are just plain fun!

Religion - We completed our Family Life books. We learned so many new things about ourselves, our responsibilities, nutrition, and our faith. Our final project was making a food pyramid. We went -shoppingø through the fliers and filled in the pyramid with healthy choices from all the different food groups.

Finally, we are working hard to be the best person we can be! Godø's love for us shines through in so many ways. Our Lent Roadway Project is encouraging us to perform an act of kindness for each of the 40 days.

*We can't change yesterday, but we can choose to
make today a wonderful day for someone!*

English - Both the 4th and 5th grade completed the units on adjectives. Next will be verbs! This unit also includes simple and complex sentences, editing skills, synonyms, antonyms, and diagramming sentences.

Social Studies - In honor of PresidentsøDay, we learned about Mount Rushmore and the four presidents depicted. The students researched each president and the facts were compiled and are displayed in the hallway. We learned so many interesting stories about why Abe Lincoln grew his beard, George Washington cutting down the apple tree, and where todayø's -teddy bearsø came from!

We are continuing our studies of the four regions of NJ.

Extra-Credit Challenge - visit the Great Falls of Paterson, the Twin Lighthouses at Sandy Hook, -Old BarneyøLighthouse, or High Point State Park. Take a -selfieø and bring it to school!

We have also been working very hard preparing for the Terra Nova tests. We have been practicing our editing skills, finding topic and detail sentences, reading stories, answering comprehension questions, differentiating between fact and opinions, and reviewing a long list of vocabulary. And we have been writing, writing, writing!

I cannot believe that February is almost over - the year is just flying by! I want to send a giant THANK YOU to Mrs. Venegas, Mrs. Ramos, Mrs. Vasquez, and Mrs. Gomez for sending in all our Valentine treats for our party. We also received plenty of goodie bags, cards, candy, chocolate, and lollipops!

Letø's hope March comes in like a lamb!

Special note - Lately I have noticed a huge change (maturity) in your children. It is sometimes very subtle, but it is there. Have you seen it???

Mrs. Bartels



IE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 5 - MRS. BUBENIK



February marked the month where we remembered our past constituents of our country and continue to embark on new adventures in all of our studies. I hope everyone enjoyed their winter break and are all rested for all the upcoming events for the rest of the school year. The students and I would like to give a BIG THANK YOU for all the wonderful goodies that everyone so graciously sent in for our Valentine's Day party. We enjoyed everything so much!! Thank You!!

Speaking of goodies CONGRATULATIONS to the 5th graders - winners of the Catholic Schools Week First in Math-a-thon! We really enjoyed our ice cream party!

In math, we worked on graphing and surveying and are currently learning about probability. Also, we are approaching Terra Nova testing. Each student has their own Terra Nova practice book where they are assigned different practice pages to complete each night to help prepare them for the upcoming testing. It is also important to practice your multiplication facts each night. Please remember to also participate in firstinmath.com every night for at least fifteen minutes or more.

In social studies the students are comparing and contrasting colonial life and life of today. Their colonial poster projects are fantastic and are on display outside our classroom. Please stop by to see them! In celebration of Black History Month, the students completed Stamp Projects, which are also hanging outside the classroom.



February is the month of love:
*Love....
 Have I told you yet...
 How much you mean to me
 Have I told you yet...
 About all the happiness you bring!
 Have I told you yet....
 That you mean the world to me!
 Just in case I haven't
 I want you to know that...
 You are the best thing
 That has ever happened to me!!
 ~Author Unknown*



The students' writing is evolving more and more each day! Keep up the great work everyone! Make sure you have a chapter book with you in school each day. Have a chapter book (no sports or comic books and needs to be 150 pages or more) in class each day for they will receive their next chapter book project in the near future.

Students are continuously using their supplies for various assignments. Please replenish crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue and most of all PENCILS. Test folders- please sign the papers in the folder (83% or below) and return them within two days. Lastly, your continued support is greatly appreciated from the students and me.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE



6th grade- The students are learning about Ancient Greek history and culture. The students will be working on an Ancient Greek mythology webquest. They will be researching the Greek mythology stories of the gods, goddesses and heroes. The students will also build an Ancient Greek city-state with a patron god or goddess. The students will also be reading the *Illiad and Odyssey* for an upcoming book report. The two stories deal with Greek literature and history. We will be reading the two stories in class during our Literature sessions.

7th grade social studies- The students will be learning about the causes of the American Civil War. The students will create various propaganda posters and political cartoons on the topics. The 7th graders will read about the Compromise of 1850, Bleeding Kansas, the Dred Scott case and many other topics that led to the American Civil War. The students will also conduct speeches based on the Lincoln-Douglas debates that helped to make Abraham Lincoln a known politician.

8th grade social studies- The students will be learning about the Roaring Twenties or Jazz Age. The students will create various political cartoons on topics such as the Red Scare and Prohibition. The students will create graphic organizers dealing with various criminals that grew powerful during Prohibition. The students will learn about the changing of American culture during the 1920s that led to new literature, music and leisure activities.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 7 - MS. KENNEDY



The most exciting event for our school during the month of February was Catholic Schoolsø Week. The students participated in a living rosary, broke out their dance moves, played volleyball, and showed their school spirit. Additionally, students attended the mass for Ash Wednesday and discussed the importance of Lent. They shared not only the sacrifices they were willing to make during the 40 days, but also how they planned to give back to their families, school, and community. Lastly, our class celebrated Presidentø Day by playing a writing game with task cards that included fun facts about presidents from the past and present.

This month the 7th grade is committed to practicing the important virtues of faith, hope, love, and charity. Our students are reminded from our readings of Saint Paul that love is the greatest virtue of all. Each day the students demonstrate acts of kindness by helping classmates, finding peace with friends, and donating money to those in need. As we face new challenges within our lives, we are always thinking of the Lord and recognizing his love for us.

In 7th grade, the students explored different types of plants within the plant kingdom. During one lab, students examined a fernø characteristics and reproductive cycle. They also researched a rare species and designed museum information cards. In writing class, the 7th graders are transforming into innovative writers and learning how to add dialogue, transition words, and figurative language to their stories. One essay we are working on asked the students to imagine waking up as their teacher for the day! In reading class, the students are exploring the high seas as we read our class novel, *The Wanderer*. The story is told from the point of view of a teenage girl and boy who have adventures, learn life-long lessons, and discover the challenges of sailing across the ocean.

In 6th grade, gravity is holding us down as we explore the depths of force, motion, and Newtonø scientific laws. The young scientists most recently explored the reasoning behind air resistance and how it affects the speed of falling objects. During our lessons, students viewed Scholastic science videos, or as we call them, Study Jams. These videos help us to further understand a given topic such as friction. Our room is constantly full of energy and excitement about science, and the sixth graders canø wait to explore motion further and understand the science behind their favorite activities- sports and rollercoasters.

In 8th grade, we have uncovered the mysteries behind major changes in landscapes. The students explored how mountains, volcanoes, and earthquakes are formed, and the dramatic effects some natural disasters can have on our planet. This month, they completed their volcano project by writing reports to the president about volcanic eruptions and creating slideshow presentations to describe the harmful effects of smog and fog. The students also completed a STEM lab by designing and building a tower that could withstand an earthquake. We tested our towers in Jell-O and learned about the types of seismic waves. They utilized their creativity as engineers working with limited resources such as toothpicks, uncooked spaghetti noodles, and marshmallows. Great job scientists!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 8—MRS. REESE



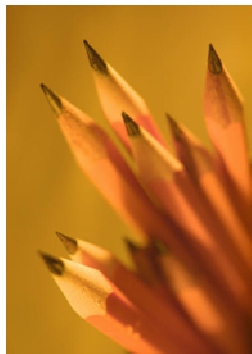
Although this has been a relatively mild winter, the blizzard and 0 degree temperature have me wishing for Spring! I think the students would also like to have some warmer weather.

The 8th grade students are studying the sacraments in Religion as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this June. They're finishing their study of proportions in Pre-Algebra as well as preparing for the upcoming Terra Nova standardized test and will soon learn about functions and relations. Participles, gerunds and infinitives have been their course of study in Language Arts along with writing a persuasive essay using Criterion.org. The 8th graders enjoyed *The Outsiders* and have also been preparing for the Terra Nova test. There is still so much to do until graduation!

The 7th graders have finished working with inequalities and are also reviewing for Terra Nova. They will soon start practicing their geometry skills.

The 6th graders are focused on fractions. They have finished adding and subtracting fractions and will now concentrate on the multiplication and division of fractions. They, too, have been reviewing for Terra Nova.

Please keep in mind that all students must play First in Math and get at least 50 stickers each week. Also, please check my blog for important information, such as, after school help, club meetings, tests, etc.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI

Gymô Physical Education: Learn with Body & Mind together



Respect: òGive It, Get Itö
Grades 3-8

Presidential Fitness Challenge

Some of the activities include Free Throws, Standing Long Jump, and Shuttle Run.

MUSIC - MR. GEHMAN

Music- The students are having a great time preparing songs from different cultures for the spring concert in May. The concert will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 7pm in the school gym.

ART—MR. VILLAMIEL

Hello everyone! This February, we proceed into elements & principles of art that have not yet been covered in previous projects. It was quite fast and busy month for us as we created several works relevant to the month, such as, Catholic SchoolsøWeek, Valentine's Day and Black History Month. This month has definitely highlighted the importance of sharing, caring, appreciation and respect. My we continue to extend these acts of positivity to family, friends and everyone around us!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

SPANISH/COMPUTERS—MS. O'SHEA

Spanish



We're sharing the love and trying to stay warm here in the Spanish room as winter is in full swing!

The Kindergartners are working on their Spanish alphabet. They are now up to letter F (for foca ó which means seal). They have been working so hard and we have been doing activities that reinforce their vocabulary understanding. Our first graders are learning all about animals in Spanish. In fact, if your child has a pet perro (dog), gato (cat), pajaro (bird) or pez (fish), we'd love to see pictures! Feel free to send those in on Thursdays over the next few weeks!

So now that the second graders have learned how to say different occupations in Spanish, where do these people work? We are now learning about the places around town! The students in Grade 3 are learning to identify people by who should be addressed in Spanish formally and informally (tu vs. usted.)

Grade 4 is using their knowledge about óar verbs to learn about what you ócompraó (buy.) They will also read the section in the chapter on Puerto Rico (any takers on a presentation about the island, please feel free to contact me!) Grade 5 is beginning a unit on restaurant vocabulary and they will make their very own Spanish menus!

The sixth graders have been working hard ó both in the classroom and in the computer lab ó on their action phrases, as well as the verb querer (to want.) Grade 7 just finished their unit on home vocabulary and the verb tener (to have) They are all still working in óteamsó and continue to enjoy the team work/differentiation!

Eighth grade has made significant improvement on their ófin de semanaó weekend reports (keep it up ó it DOES improve your grades!) They are also working in groups ó one is working on óer/-ir verbs and the other group will start a unit on travel vocabulary!

Computers

We are so excited about all of the fun activities we have done recently in Computer class ó many of which involve the integration of classroom learning with technology! The Kindergartners have been using the computer to illustrate their Spanish alphabet words. Our first graders are illustrating their Spanish vocabulary animal words. The third graders learned a lot about Presidents' Day through Internet activities.

Our second graders continue to improve their word processing skills by using their Spanish vocabulary words to change fonts, sizes and colors.

Our fourth grade did an amazing job on their Power Point presentations in Power Point for their Social Studies classes! Grade 5 created advertising campaigns for a product (you guessed it ó St. Peter's School!)

The sixth, seventh and eighth graders are learning extensively about fair use/copyright rules regarding images on the Internet. I've learned a lot about this topic at my monthly technology integrators meetings at the Archdiocesan Center. The students are learning how to cite images that they use for their lab/class work. They are also including some of those images in their publishing skills projects ó some of which include President's trading cards, ó writing projects and resumes.

In addition, the eighth graders are starting a project during which they will be collaborating with other schools in the Archdiocese of Newark called the óSix Sounds Project!ó We are very excited about this opportunity!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

AFTERCARE



Daily Schedule

3:00-3:15 - Arrive in Spanish Room

3:15-3:25 - Students are given a snack of animal crackers and apple juice. Or they may bring their own snack. Please do not send candy, soda, or nuts for snack. After students have their snack they must clean up after themselves. The After Care teachers are not responsible for cleaning up students wrappers and garbage from the floor.

3:25-4:30 - Students in Grade 1-8 have the time to do homework. Please encourage your child to use this time to work on homework . When they complete their homework they can go to the gym to play with balls, table toys, or draw.

3:25 - Students in PreK and Kindergarten go to the gym for play time.

4:30-6:00 - All students in After Care are in the gym. If any student wishes to continue working on homework we have tables in the gym where they can continue to work.

As of Monday, February 22, 2016 all Cell Phones will be collected in After Care. When you pick up your child you may pick up their Cell Phone too.

All students in grades 1-8 are given time in After Care to work on written homework and to study for tests. Please encourage your child to use this time to work on homework.

All students must be in school uniform during After Care. Students may not change out of school uniform. Boys must keep ties on during After Care.

Please remind your child to keep track of personal items. Many things get left in After Care and the After Care Program is not responsible for lost or misplaced items.

If you have any questions about After Care please speak with Ms. Hoffmann, Mr.Laudati, or Mrs. Sisco.

Thank you, for sending your child to St. Peter's School and using the After Care Program.

If you need to contact the After Care Program our Cell Phone # is
973-932-2807.





AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



Congratulations Alumni



Honors

Anjanie Perez—Grade 9



Presidents List

Taylor Elliot-Dolor—Grade 12

Kimberly Martinez—Grade 10

Joel Melendez—Grade 9

First Honors

Jelson Mendoza—Grade 12

Natalie Feliciano—Grade 10

Dylan Vasquez—Grade 10

Mathew Munoz—Grade 9

Second Honors

Osmalyn Urena—Grade 10

Allen Gomez—Grade 9

Andy Villamarin—Grade 9