



October Newsletter

Dear Parents and Friends,

As you know we have chosen the symbol of the "**Tree of Life ~ Rooted in God's Love**" as our theme this year. This is the perfect time of year to wonder at the beauty and miracle of God's creation. I offer you the following autumn prayer:

***O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing seasons.
As we embrace these autumn months,
May the earlier setting sun remind us to take time to rest.
May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet remind us of the
brevity of earthly life.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you
who give us your breath of life.
May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds
remind us that you call us to follow your will.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.***

The mission of Good Shepherd Catholic School inspires and challenges all of us to be rooted in: **God**, (Proclaiming our Catholic identity); **Scholarship**, (Developing lifelong learning skills); **Community**, (Having compassion and respect for all); **Service**, (Responding to the needs of others.) I encourage you to talk about the attributes of our school with your children. Ask them the meaning of our four highlighted words.

I am sorry that I did not see you on "Back to School" night. As I have said many times, "We are truly blessed with a faculty and home and school board that assume leadership and fulfill unexpected tasks." I understand that Fr. Larry wants parents to have access to his email – gofppastor@comcast.net

We are fully engaged in our Middle States Self Study. The committees have completed two sections – Mission Statement/Belief Statements and the Community Study section. I will post our progress on the web site under Middle States Accreditation. We are anticipating a visit and evaluation in the fall of 2012.

The diocesan implementation of the **Common Core State Standards** has necessitated changes in roll slips, record cards and report cards. There is **one grade** for English Language Arts. This includes the areas of: Reading, Writing, Language (Spelling, Grammar, Mechanics), and Listening/Speaking. There is **one grade** for Math. This grade includes: Problem solving, Computation, and Communicating Mathematically. Each of the subcategories will have equal weight when calculating the final average for Math and ELA. The Office of Catholic Education has planned professional development days to help teachers adapt to the **Common Core Standards**. The first meeting is scheduled for September 30.

Below is a look forward at some upcoming events during the month of October:

- Good Shepherd Catholic School will initiate a Student Council. Student representatives and officers will include students from grades 6 through 8.
- A fire prevention assembly and fire drill will take place on October 11.
- We ask the Holy Spirit to gift our Confirmandi from St. John of the Cross and Queen of Peace.
- Show your creative side by decorating a pumpkin and entering our pumpkin contest.
- Our "First Grade Saints" will come marching in on October 28. In the evening we can dance, play games, and win prizes at our Halloween party.

Thank you for your support, which is evident in so many ways. God bless you and your family with October blessings.

Sister Patricia