

## A Letter From Anne Willkens Leach

DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

It is hard to believe that our first semester has ended. I recall so many wonderful memories and will share some of those with you:

- The opening of school and the heartfelt dedication by principals, staff, parents and students to make all of our incoming students feel welcome and at home in their school
- The involvement of pastors in special programs as well as celebrating masses for our school community and delivering relevant and meaningful homilies to our children
- The Veterans Day programs that so vibrantly honored our service men and women
- Delightful Christmas concerts and pageants attended by so many parents, grandparents and loved ones
- Celebrating the ten diocesan schools that were endorsed for Middle States Accreditation
- Our exciting and positive publicity campaign featured on television, radio and the Catholic Courier covering our entire region.

As we move toward the beauty of spring, we look forward to registering and welcoming new families to our system. I hope that you will take this opportunity to not only register your own children, but to tell your friends and neighbors about our terrific schools.

May God bless you and your family during 2009 and always,

Respectfully,  
Anne Willkens Leach



### IN THE MAILBOX

From a former Siena Catholic Academy student, now a HS Sophomore



Hi Mrs. DiBella,

How are you? I just wanted to e-mail you an update on how I have been doing. I miss having you as my teacher. I also wanted to thank you because last week I was inducted into the Math National Honor Society. You have taught me a lot and it was a big deal to make it into Math Honor Society as a sophomore. Currently, I am taking Math 11 and I am doing very well. I am now tutoring some students in 6th grade every week. I will always remember the lessons that you have taught me. Thank you for being such a great teacher and having a huge impact on my math career and life. E-mail back, please.

P.S. I have recently been having serious thoughts about being a math teacher when I get older.

## Have you seen or heard our radio/tv ads?

The Diocese of Rochester has been running radio, print and TV ads throughout our regions to promote Catholic schools and the beginning of registration for the 2009/2010 academic year on Jan. 26th.

Please visit our web site at: [www.dorschools.org](http://www.dorschools.org) if you would like to view/hear the ads

*Thank you for your continued support!*



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
1150 BUFFALO ROAD  
ROCHESTER, NY 14624

### QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT  
THE OFFICE OF  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AT:  
**585.328.3210**  
OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE  
[www.dorschools.org](http://www.dorschools.org)



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Diocese of Rochester Catholic Schools

January, 2009

# Partners

NEWSLETTER

## 10 Schools Receive Middle States Accreditation

**DISTINCTION IS INDICATION OF EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND ON-GOING IMPROVEMENT**

Ten Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester were notified in 2008 that they have received accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (MSCES). Before receiving accreditation, the schools were required to undergo a more than two-year process involving numerous site visits and interviews with faculty, parents and students from each school. Nine of the schools were notified in December, while St. Mary, Canandaigua received their accreditation in the spring of 2008.

The following schools have received Middle States accreditation:

**All Saints Academy (Pre K-8), Corning**  
**Our Mother of Sorrows (K-8), Rochester**  
**St. Joseph (Pre K-6), Penfield**  
**St. Joseph (Pre K-8), Auburn**  
**St. Louis (Pre K-6), Pittsford**  
**St. Mary (Pre K-8), Canandaigua**  
**St. Pius Tenth (Pre K-6), Rochester**  
**St. Rita (Pre K-6), Webster**  
**Seton (Pre K-6), Rochester**

**Siena Catholic Academy (7-8), Rochester**  
“We are very proud of these schools who worked so hard over the past two years to achieve this significant honor,” said Superintendent of Catholic Schools Anne Willkens



Photo by Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

*Kindergarten students at St. Joseph School in Auburn work on a craft project.*

Leach, who also added that several more schools are currently working on receiving their accreditation. “This recognition is an affirmation of the quality education that is available at all of our schools.”

Accreditation signifies that these schools have met the MSCES standards for a quality school, including a rigorous process for developing self-knowledge and an on-going strategic plan for school improvement.

## St. Pius Tenth School Receives \$100,000 Gift

A donor who has requested anonymity has given \$100,000 to support the work of St. Pius Tenth Catholic School in Chili.

“This is a tremendously generous gift that will be put to great use helping our children for years to come,” said Stephen Oberst, principal of the school. “It is a strong statement of

support for the ongoing ministry of Catholic education. We are so very grateful.”

Those wishing to make a financial gift to support Catholic Schools should contact the Office of Stewardship and Communication, Diocese of Rochester, at 585-328-3210 or e-mail [stewardship@dor.org](mailto:stewardship@dor.org).



## Catholic Schools Week Focuses on Service to the Community



Catholic Schools Week, a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is being celebrated nationally from Jan. 25-31. This year's theme focuses on community service.

"Service to the community is a hallmark of a Catholic education," said Anne Willkens Leach, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester. "We are very proud of all of our students, faculty and staff who participate in service projects throughout the year." (You can see glimpses of these projects on the pages of this newsletter.)

Schools throughout the Diocese typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, administrators, faculty, school staff, the community and families.

The 2009 theme links to a recently completed NCEA initiative, "Birthday Blessings for Pope Benedict." During the pope's April 2008 visit to the United States, Catholic youth were asked to pledge hours of community service to honor the pope's 81st birthday. More than 2 million hours of service were pledged by the end of the campaign. Three Catholic school students representing Catholic youth nationwide had the opportunity to deliver the pledged hours personally to Pope Benedict during a private moment at the Vatican Embassy, where the pope stayed during his Washington, D.C., visit.



**ALL SAINTS ACADEMY, CORNING**  
*Students raked leaves for local senior citizens.*



**ST. LAWRENCE, ROCHESTER**  
*Students sewed blankets for Habitat for Humanity residents.*



**ST. PIUS TENTH, ROCHESTER**  
*Students decorated and filled birthday bags for a local food cupboard.*



**ST. MICHAEL, PENN YAN**  
*Students delivered food to the needy.*



**ST. MARY, CANANDAIGUA**  
*Students volunteer on the safety patrol to help younger students get to class safely.*



**ST. LOUIS, PITTSFORD**  
*Students put together food baskets for children and families at St. Joseph's Villa.*



**ST. JOHN NEUMANN, ROCHESTER**  
*Students rang the bells for the Salvation Army.*



**ST. RITA, WEBSTER**  
*Students collected and donated winter clothing to Rochester's homeless.*



**HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR HIGH, ELMIRA**  
*Students prepared Christmas baskets for needy families.*



**OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS, GREECE**  
*Students saluted veterans at a special prayer service.*

## REGISTRATION FOR THE 2009/2010 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS ON JANUARY 26.