

February 25, 2010

Brothers & Sisters in Catholic Education,

I don't know about the rest of you, but I've had enough of winter. The snow can melt and the sun can shine anytime soon!

As Lent continues the children are learning about the sacrifices of the past and are encouraged to think of something to do for the present. I have taken the opportunity to tell the students this is a good time to add something instead of giving up something. Depending on their age/grade they have been encouraged to make a Lenten decision to help someone else. I'm sure they are open to suggestions of family members who would appreciate their company and assistance. The older students can offer to help at some of the service agencies that allow individuals in their age group to assist. Whatever they choose to do, hopefully they will feel a sense of fulfillment for helping others. If all else fails, they can still give up candy for Lent! Be sure to ask them about the 'stop & go' lights that adorn our 'Mary's Shelf'.

The 6th & 5th graders may be grumbling because they have been informed they are all participating in the biannual county speech contest. They needed to choose among poetry, prose, story telling, and group reading. I will take my time during their Developmental Guidance class to work with them to try to help them be ready for the day of the contest. My rationale for making this 'mandatory' is my continued efforts to help them grow in their readiness to move on to the next level. "Laker Leaders" is another example of this effort and the types of success we are looking for.

Enclosed in the 5th & 3rd grade 'Thursday folders' last week was a letter explaining the Iowa Test of Basic Skills coming up the first part of March. I have been spending time with these students attempting to prepare them for the testing process. I hope you support your student by encouraging them to try to do their best. I will make every effort to reduce the daily stress involved in such activities.

Is there anyone reading this who is interested in helping with an 'in-house' chess tournament? I'd like to get one started during March. My ultimate goal would be to have a group of chess players ready, willing, and able to participate in the state chess tournament one year from now!

May Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, our patroness, watch over each of you,

Your servant in Catholic Education,
Rick Erickson, PhD