

St. Barbara Elementary School End of the Year Report

October 2008

Dear Parishioners,

The Big Shoulders Fund of the Archdiocese of Chicago has a one word motto this year, **Momentum!** I also believe that this should be the motto of St. Barbara School as well. So many good things are beginning to happen for our school. It has been a good year and I am confident that the **Momentum** will continue.

Financially, the school closed the 2007-08 fiscal year with a very small surplus. This is great news! The school accessed all available government funding thereby saving money in the budget. This summer, new windows were installed in the gym using grant money that we had acquired when the high school was in operation. The remainder of the cost of the windows was covered by a donation to the elementary school. Summer work also included the repair of all torn asbestos-wrapped pipes in the building and removal of asbestos in a stage closet. All necessary boiler work was completed in preparation for this coming winter. The entrance doors of the school were repaired and painted. All classrooms walls were patched and two classrooms were completely painted.

The Mezydlo Scholarship money continues to help keep tuition costs competitive with neighboring schools.

The Board of Specified Jurisdiction completed its first year of existence. The diligent work of this outstanding and dedicated group of people will provide the vision and **momentum** to move our school beyond our 100th anniversary. The board is in the process of developing a three year plan for growth that we will share with you in the near future. A sneak preview was presented at the parent meeting in September. Two new members from the Big Shoulders Auxiliary Board will join our board this fall. Both men have experience in finance.

The most exciting news is the acquisition of a patron for our school. Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Sue Sullivan visited us several times last year. They were impressed with the academic program we provide. They found our kids, faculty and staff engaging and dedicated to our mission of Catholic education. As patrons, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan will donate \$80,000 per year for three years to our school. Part of the money will be used to market the school and build enrollment. Further discussion with Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan will determine how the remainder of the money will be used.

Academically, our theme this year is **Building a Community of Learners**. As a community we come together because we share the same expectations and values. As a community of learners we come together in respect of one another to learn and become the best students we can be! Our ultimate goal is to become a Blue Ribbon school by 2011.

Momentum: a positive driving force, an energy, which moves one to accomplish great things. Thanks for believing in us. Feel free to catch the **Momentum!**

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Dorene Hurckes
Principal