



St. Barbara Catholic School

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Rooted in Christ, Growing with the Future

October 2009

Dear Parishioners:

The new school year is in full swing! This year our theme is “You Are an Important Piece of the Puzzle”. The puzzle is ultimately the community in which we live. Our emphasis will be that everyone in the community is important and that without even one piece the puzzle is not complete. With this comes three important words; **Respect** for oneself and others, **Responsibility** for our own actions and for the needs of the community and **Care** for one another.

Visit our school to see our community puzzle completed by the students and people from our community. It hangs at the entrance of our school. The parish is also represented in the puzzle because, of course, you are all an important piece of who we are and who we become.

The summer brought exciting and challenging renovations. Our preschool expansion is awesome. I hope you all have had a chance to visit. Both stairwells from the second floor to the first floor were rebuilt. The painting of a portion of the beautiful tin ceiling brings out all of its highlights. We hope to be able to paint the hallways over the next summer in anticipation of our 100th anniversary celebration.

The goal of the diocese was for every Catholic school to hold its enrollment from last year. We met our goal of 168 and increased by one student. The children are working hard to become the best students they can be. The faculty is also working hard to provide the best education. We are in our fourth year of studying and implementing the work of Robert Marzano. This year we are also analyzing Terra Nova data and aligning the curriculum to the IL standards. We continue to live our mission statement and to be a Catholic school by teaching and example.

Our students continue to do well. Last year we were one of three schools nominated for the Cardinal’s Award. This award is given to one school yearly where test scores show improvement, where there is strong leadership and a solid plan for staff development in place. Although we did not win the award last year, it is the second time we were a finalist. We won the award in 1997. It is quite an accomplishment to be nominated twice.

We continue to gain momentum in the things we do. Ninety-four golfers joined us this year at our annual golf outing and another twenty-seven joined us for dinner. Almost half in attendance were alumni. It was great to share happy memories with everyone and to hear how their lives have changed since graduating from our school.

Our Board of Specified Jurisdiction continues to plan for the future always including the input of our families. Their leadership and support are appreciated.

Every Catholic school needs the support of its parishioners, school families, alumni and the community. If you believe in what we do, please be positive in your comments to everyone who will listen. Advertising is great but word of mouth and testimony go much further in the recruiting efforts of a school.

Remember **YOU are an important piece of our puzzle**. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Hurckes