

**In This Issue:**

OLA On the Air	2
Keep Holy The Lord's Day	2
Classroom Notes	3
Tricky Tray Countdown	3
Easter Candy Sale	4
No Brainer!	4

# Mirror

Volume 2  
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*A Publication for the Parents and Friends of Assumption School*

## Who's Watching Our Children?



*Keeping kids safe in the age of mobile technology*

**Dates To Remember:**

- **Saturday February 17:**  
*Tricky Tray Basket Wrapping, 9 am Cafeteria*
- **Monday February 19:**  
*SCHOOL CLOSED – Presidents Day*
- **Tuesday February 20:**  
*School Advisory Board Mtg , 7:30 pm*
- **Wednesday February 21:**  
*Ash Wednesday Mass, 8 am; Pasta Night*
- **Friday February 23:**  
*Fourth Friday, Cafeteria; Market Day Pickup, 5:30-6:30*
- **Saturday February 24:**  
*Tricky Tray Basket Wrapping, 9 am Cafeteria*
- **Monday February 26:**  
*Easter Candy Sale Begins*
- **Friday March 2:**  
*12:30 Dismissal—Faculty Mtg*
- **Mon Mar 5 – Thurs Mar 8:**  
*Terra Nova Testing*
- **Thursday March 8:**  
*TRICKY TRAY!*
- **Sat-Sun March 10-11:**  
*Bake Sale, Church Basement*
- **Tuesday March 13:**  
*Parents Guild Mtg, 7:30 pm 50/50 Drawing*

MySpace.com, with 70 million visitors, has become the digital equivalent of hanging out at the mall for today's teens, who load the site with photos, news about music groups and detailed profiles of their likes and dislikes. Other social network sites include Facebook, geared to college students, and Xanga, a blog-based community site. In all, an estimated 300 sites, including smaller ones such as StudyBreakers for high schoolers and Photobucket, a site for posting images, make up the social network universe.

As MySpace and other social networking sites have grown, so have concerns about Internet safety and privacy. The Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported more than 2,600 incidents of adults using the web to target children online in order to engage in sexual activity. Last March, federal prosecutors in Connecticut charged two men with using MySpace to contact youths with whom they later had sexual contact. Following Congressional hearings about online sexual predators, MySpace hired a safety czar to improve the site's protections for young users.

At our school, Technology Coordinator and resident safety czar Ms. Margaret Sullivan has worked diligently to promote Internet safety. Her efforts have extended beyond the classroom and into the mass media. Assumption has become the "go to" school whenever the topic of Internet safety is covered in the news. (See page 2 for more.)

Establishing Teen/Tween Angels, monitoring MySpace sites and reporting misuse by our students (some as young as fifth grade and under!), educating children and parents

about the dangerous reality of online predators are just a few of the ways Ms. Sullivan is helping us parents protect our children. These efforts ideally should be reinforced and repeated at home, but there are an alarming number of parents who admittedly are not as savvy as their children when it comes to the Internet.

Savvy or not, all parents take note: Technology is handing us an even more difficult challenge now...

Both MySpace and Facebook are extending their reach beyond the computer screen to cell phones. Cingular Wireless, Sprint Nextel and Verizon Wireless are starting a service that will allow users to post messages on Facebook's home pages or search for other users' phone numbers and email addresses from a cell phone. MySpace has a pact with Helio, a wireless joint venture between SK Telecom and Earthlink, that will allow users to send photos and update their blogs or profiles by cell phone.

It's not enough for us to peek over our child's shoulder while they're sitting at our home computer. Soon they'll be able to carry MySpace with them everywhere they go. Who's going to be watching our children then...and how are we going to protect them?

We have to teach our children that, along with the power they have at their fingertips, they have an immense responsibility to use it wisely. Parents, if we don't watch our own children, you can be sure that somebody else will...in fact, they probably already are.

*Editor's note:*  
[www.knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu](http://www.knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu)  
is the source for some of the information that appears in this article

## OLA On The Air

### *Students, Alum Featured on Montel Williams, CBS Evening News*



The Montel Williams Show: "MySpace: What Every Parent Needs To Know" airs this Friday, February 16 on WWOR-TV Channel 9 at 4 PM. Guests include Internet safety expert and founder of WiredSafety.com, Ms. Parry Aftab; Ms. Margaret Sullivan; Shannon Sullivan, class of 2005; and others. Visit [www.montelshow.com](http://www.montelshow.com) for details.

CBS Evening News has also interviewed our Teen and Tween Angels on the subject of Internet safety. Earlier this

month, the program featured Ryan Morano speaking about the importance of pop-up blockers in keeping undesirable material off your computer screen.

Read more about it at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/02/05/tech/main2431433.shtml>

Watch the news story with Ryan at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SU8mqDhP-nU>

***Parents...are you concerned about how your child is using MySpace?  
Call the school office for ways to make sure that your child is playing it safe.***

## From The Principal

Whatever happened to the Third Commandment?

As our second graders can tell you, the Third Commandment is "Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day." The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very explicit: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." Our teachers have been emphasizing the importance of attending Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Unfortunately, we are finding no increase in Mass attendance among our children.

Some of the reasons they give for not attending Mass are:

- It was my grandmother's birthday.
- I had a game.
- I don't know why I didn't go.
- I overslept.
- My parents wouldn't drive me.
- I (we) forgot.
- We had to clean the house.
- It's not important in our house.

We have been suggesting ways that the students can organize their time so that they can do what God wants them to do and accomplish all the other things in their lives.

Masses are celebrated at Assumption on Saturday at 5:30 pm and on Sunday at 8, 9:30, and 11 am. Surely one of those Masses would fit with Grandma's birthday party. If all else fails, Corpus Christi has a Sunday evening celebration at 6 pm.

I often ask the children if they were going to attend a dance or basketball game, if their parents would drive them. "Of course," they respond. So I encourage them to let their parents know how important Sunday Mass is to them. I tell them that even if they are at the shore, or in New York, they can attend Mass at any church. Just a little effort is required to find out when and where Mass is being celebrated.

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. It is sometimes disheartening to discover that parents who have gone to great time and expense for their children's First Communion do not take their children to Mass after the big day. Our children look to us for guidance and good example. By being faithful to the responsibilities of the commandments, we model what a Christian life should be.

--Aileen Carlin Giannelli, PhD

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**Remember  
to keep holy  
the Lord's  
Day...**

## Classroom Notes

Phys Ed students in grades 2 through 8 are undergoing the Presidential Fitness Testing Program. So far, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has the most students at the Presidential level, with one event remaining: the grueling one-mile run. In addition, students have been learning and playing volleyball in class. The lower grades are having fun with hula hoops, large and small ball skills, and their favorites: Monster Tag and Two-Headed Monster.

*The sacrament of Confirmation and the season of Lent are the topics in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Religion classes. In Science, the students are learning about rocks and fossils. They were given several rocks and asked to identify their properties. Many of the students were able to name the types of minerals.*

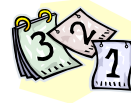
Second graders celebrated the sacrament of First Penance last month, and now they're busy preparing for their First Holy Communion in May.

*The SmartBoard is a fifth-grader's best friend! Students are using it in both Science and Math classes. After working in small groups to collect data, they use the SmartBoard to compare the results and create graphs.*

Thank you to everyone who donated items for their classroom Tricky Tray theme baskets. The winning class will be announced on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Tricky Tray. Be sure to join us at the Fiesta that night to see all the classroom baskets...and maybe you'll be lucky enough to take one home!



## Countdown To Tricky Tray!



Twenty-one days and counting!  
Please note these important dates  
and deadlines:

### **FEB 17**

Basket wrapping 9 am Cafeteria.  
Contact Stacey Drotos.

### **FEB 20**

Deadline for admission ticket sales,  
in order to be eligible for financial  
obligation credit.  
Contact Patsy Baghdo.

### **FEB 21**

Deadline for raffle ticket book sales,  
in order to be eligible for financial  
obligation credit.  
Contact Jean Setzer.

### **FEB 23**

Deadline for purchasing ads in 10<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Program.  
Contact Carol Trinker.

### **FEB 24**

Basket wrapping 9 am Cafeteria.  
Contact Stacey Drotos.

### **FEB 28**

Deadline for all baskets and gift items  
donated/purchased, in order to receive  
mention in 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program.  
Contact Chris Lamendola.

### **MARCH 3**

Final basket wrapping 9 am Cafeteria  
(if needed).  
Contact Stacey Drotos.

### **MARCH 7**

Volunteers needed for set-up and  
transport of baskets to the Fiesta.  
Contact Laurie Blanco.

### **MARCH 8**

**See you at the Fiesta!**

# Mirror

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*A community of faith  
teaching a world of  
knowledge.*

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## The Easter Bunny's Coming to Town

Back by popular demand...the annual Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy Sale!

Sale flyers and order forms will soon be distributed to all families. There's something for everyone in this collection of premium chocolates, confections, and gift items.

Remember that your participation in this sale will earn credit toward your \$300. financial obligation. For every \$100. in sales, you will receive a \$35. credit.

Your children are also eligible for prizes. The more they sell, the more they win!

Profits from this sale will go toward meeting our annual \$90,000. fundraising goal.

This is one of the last few opportunities you'll have this year to earn financial obligation credit. We're asking for strong support from everyone in order to reach our goal.

Your Easter Candy chairperson is Lisa O'Beirne. Contact her at 201-939-6951 if you have any questions.

Let's make this our best Easter Candy Sale ever!

**February  
50/50  
Winners**

Tom & Lisa Sarracino \$1,223.25  
Steve Drotos \$349.50  
Joanne Piela \$174.75

## Grocery Gift Cards...A NO-BRAINER!

Shop-Rite and Stop & Shop gift cards will be sold again before and after Masses this weekend, February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>st</sup>.

This is our NO-BRAINER fundraiser! All you have to do is purchase gift cards from the Parents Guild...SPEND NOT A PENNY MORE than what you already spend to feed your family...and our school earns 5% ON EVERY CARD!

If every school family buys just one \$100. gift card every month...that's over \$8,000. CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL!

Please bring cash or checks payable to Assumption School Parents Guild to church this weekend...or use the form below to order at school.

THE NO-EXPENSE, NO-BRAINER WAY TO HELP US MAKE OUR \$90,000 GOAL!

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(Tear Here)  
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### Grocery Gift Card Order Form

**YES! I want to help raise EASY MONEY\* for our school...WITHOUT SPENDING AN EXTRA PENNY!**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name and Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver to my home \_\_\_\_\_ Leave in safe place (where?) \_\_\_\_\_ Send home in child's backpack \_\_\_\_\_

#### SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS

(How many?)(Subtotal)

\$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send order forms & checks (payable to Assumption School Parents Guild) to:  
Laurie Blanco 201.288.7820  
(for Shop-Rite cards)



#### STOP & SHOP GIFT CARDS

(How many?)(Subtotal)

\$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send order forms & checks (payable to Assumption School Parents Guild) to:  
Tom Sarracino 201.896.8248  
(for Stop & Shop cards)

**\*We earn 5% on every gift card...and it doesn't cost you any more than you already spend on groceries!**