

A 50% Matching Windfall for Tuition Assistance!

An extremely generous friend of Corpus Christi—an anchor for our school for many years—has offered an extraordinary gift...and an opportunity for other donors to have their contribution's value increased by half again as much! **Our benefactor has offered a 50% match for every donation for the 2010-11 Nurturing the Spirit of a Child appeal!** This means your \$100 has suddenly become \$150!! Your donation of \$300 will be met with an additional \$150... and suddenly, a child's tuition for one month has been raised!

As we mentioned in a previous article, our 2010-11 *Nurturing the Spirit of a Child* annual tuition assistance appeal is currently underway. The NTSC fund was nearing the \$30,000 level by the first week of the new year. Our 2009-2010 campaign raised slightly over \$61,000. This was supplemented by additional scholarships and "tuition angels" in order to help thirty-six families—sixty-six students—benefit from a Catholic education. Given the rough waters of last year's economy, this demonstrates our community's commitment to the children of the Holland-Zeeland area.

If you have not yet sent in your donation for our 2010-11 tuition assistance campaign, we ask you to consider making one at this time. If you have already responded to our appeal: from the bottom of our hearts—thank you. Many end-of-year donations were timed for tax purposes. If your planned giving includes Corpus Christi again this year, perhaps you would consider an early contribution, timed to benefit from this 50% matching challenge? Every gift is deeply appreciated by our families who desire a faith-based education for their children, yet struggle with the financial means to make it a reality. On behalf of the families and students of Corpus Christi: God bless you—this year and always.

Yes! I would like to support the 2010-2011 Nurturing the Spirit of a Child tuition assistance appeal.

Please count me in...and make sure my contribution is counted for the 50% matching donation!

Name: _____

Gift Amount: \$ _____

Address: _____

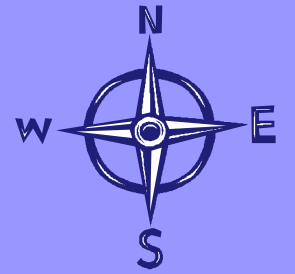
City/State/Zip: _____

Please make checks payable to Corpus Christi Catholic School, & write "NTSC" in the memo section of the check. Thank you!

The Compass



Corpus Christi Catholic School



January, 2011

Welcome Aboard!

Welcome to our first edition of *The Compass*! Corpus Christi Catholic School continues to build on the legacy of Catholic education in the Holland-Zeeland area that began at St. Francis de Sales School in 1924.

Most child development experts will tell you that the influences in a child's life are critical for the future success of that child. The nurturing, protection, and challenges provided during that time gives the child a sense of self, of community, and of purpose for a lifetime.

The same can be said for Corpus Christi, almost mid-way through its twelfth school year. Growing our school has been similar to what most families experience when a child is born: new needs, priorities, routines, and abilities. Reliance on those with experience, compassion, and sometimes a little extra financial assistance has been vital in order to assure a stable beginning to this new life.

Our Lady of the Lake and St. Francis de Sales parishioners and benefactors have been extraordinarily generous in the support of this mission. Like proud parents, they have made sacrifices in all areas to make an outstanding Holland area Catholic school a reality.

These past eleven years have gone by very quickly (don't all parents say that?) But our roots are deep and our purpose is solid. We are indebted to our parent-parishes: for what they have dreamed, what they have built, and what they have taught all of us has been worth every effort. With God's grace and the continued support and prayers of our parishes and community, we will be here for many generations to come.

Please take a few moments to read through *The Compass*. We think you will be pleased with the direction in which our school—and our students—are headed!



Bishop Hurley Visits Corpus Christi

Bishop Hurley came to our school early in October, celebrating Mass with Kindergarten through eighth grade students, staff, parents and visitors. He even agreed to pose with our students



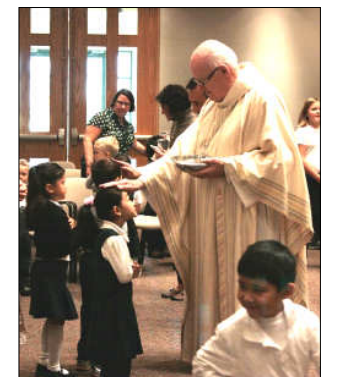
(including Pre-schoolers) and staff afterwards in the annual all-school photo! While it is well-known that he visits every school and parish with regularity, his presence at Corpus Christi is always exciting for our school and families, making our weekly Mass a very special event. When time allows, Bishop Hurley has visited classrooms, sharing some of his stories with students, and encouraging their questions and thoughts. His tight schedule this year did not

allow for individual classroom visits, yet he graciously spoke with visitors and students after Mass until all who came up to him were heard. It was, as one student put it, "A *totally* amazing day!"

"...Catholic schools play a vital role in furthering the teaching mission of the Church by educating our young people in the doctrines and traditions of our Catholic faith.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to those who make Catholic school education a reality. I encourage the faithful of the diocese to continue their support of this important ministry of the church."

+ Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids





Corpus Christi's Pond Project Update

By Miss Abby Giroux, Middle School Math and Science Teacher

The observation dock was just the beginning. There has been great forward momentum over the last year with our school's focus on outdoor exploration and education.

Over the summer, Justin Reamer installed benches near the pond for his Eagle Scout project. A path was installed behind the pond to make travel behind the pond easier and also to highlight the stepping stones made by Girl Scout Troop #2793, Corpus Christi students, and our guests from St Mary's-Spring Lake for Science Day 2010. We were also blessed with a generous donation of new trees around the pond to provide shade near the new benches.



Currently, middle school students and teachers are working on updating and installing additional information markers around the pond. Efforts are also underway to use a grant from JCI to purchase a shed for near the pond. Teachers will be able to store pond exploration and maintenance tools in this shed for easy access.

One of our big learning projects connected to the pond for this year involves purple loosestrife, an invasive wetland plant. We have a growing population of purple loosestrife in our pond. If left unchecked, they could potentially push all the cat-

tails out of the pond. This would deplete our muskrat family's food source and negatively impact the entire whole-food web at our pond. Corpus Christi middle school students are working with Dan Parker from the Muskegon Conservation District to learn more about this problem. We have begun to survey the population of purple loosestrife growing at the pond to get a clearer picture of the number and size of the plants we already have established on our property. Then, with the assistance of Mr. Parker, we will raise Galeracella Beetles, a natural consumer of the purple loosestrife plant, and release them into the pond next spring before school gets out for the summer. Come next fall, students will be able to resurvey the pond and should hopefully see a decline in the size and maybe number of purple loosestrife plants.



We will again be inviting the community to the school in the spring to check out our pond projects. To better accommodate working parents, benefactors and community members we are considering an evening open house Monday May 23, so please save the date on your calendar. In the meantime please take some time to explore our pond and check out weekly school newsletters for pond updates throughout the year.



The Wind in Our Sails



Charting a course for any destination, whether a short trip or an extended journey requires careful planning and preparation. For the most part, there is an end in sight: the traveler knows when he or she has arrived. Corpus Christi's journey however, is an on-going adventure. The navigational beacons of Knowledge, Faith, and Character guide our leadership, our staff, our families, and our supporters on a true and steady course: to provide students with a firm foundation in faith, academics, and self. Given these critical compass points, our students will be able to determine their personal courses and destinations.

The loving and unceasing support of our benefactors has kept a steady wind in our sails. Their confidence in the benefits of a Catholic education and commitment to providing that opportunity for every family who desires it makes Corpus Christi the extraordinary school that it is.

There are a number of groups who make it their mission to help sustain the ministry of the school. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of:

- The Corpus Christi Foundation, for their donation in the Fall of 2010 of \$20,324.55.
- The Friends of Corpus Christi, for their donation this summer of \$35,000.
- "Nurturing the Spirit of a Child", a parish and community fundraising appeal that brought in \$61,060.10 during the 2009-2010 school year. (The 2010-11 campaign is currently underway.)
- The Corpus Christi Home and School Association provided untold volunteer hours and \$20,800 for programs and items for the students in 2009-2010. Procurements this year included textbooks (\$5,000); tech upgrades (\$5,000); Ed-line fees (\$1,900); a large cabinet for the band room; a microphone upgrade; first aid kits for all classrooms; and wood chips for the playground.
- The Corpus Christi Athletic Boosters supported our 5th-8th grades sports programs with funding totaling \$4,048.62 for fees, uniforms, supplies, etc. as well as hundreds of hours of their time last year.
- Many individual benefactors who modestly request anonymity for their generosity—some to the above organizations, and some as separate donations.
- The Holland-Zeeland Foundation has also contributed funding through the years for our school and programs.



We are deeply grateful to these groups—and all who donate to them—for their support and commitment to Corpus Christi. Look for more detailed coverage of some of these organizations in future *Compass* issues.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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