

Sowing Seeds of Service

The school theme for the 2008-2009 school year was *Sowing Seeds of Service*. All year long students and teachers looked for ways to provide service to others. The whole school participated in many projects.

- Recycling Dude led the way for us to recycle paper, aluminum cans, milk cartons, juice boxes, cardboard, and empty lunch bags.
- Families contributed 194 pairs of shoes for children in Belize.
- Each class took a monthly turn to bring in food for a breakfast program at St. Vincent Home for Children.
- In art class, students of all grade levels made Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, Easter, and summer cards for the residents of Sabbath Manor.
- The Student Council organized a *Hats On Day* for children fighting cancer.
- During Advent families participated in our second annual *Filled With Love* project by filling grocery bags with food for Caritas. Then the whole school formed a human chain to pass the food from school to Caritas.
- Everyone participated in our annual *Jump Rope for Heart* in February.
- At the end of the year students contributed school supplies for Honduras.

Each class was also involved in a variety of service projects.

- Kindergarten students made cards for Service men and women overseas and Trick or Treated with the retired Sisters at Good Shepherd Convent.
- Grade 1 students read 100 books in one month in a program through Scholastic Books and then the company contributed 100 books to needy children.
- Grade 2 students wrote cards and letters to the retired Sisters at Good Shepherd Convent.
- Grade 3 students ran the St. Ann School Post Office, delivering mail twice a week. They sold stamps (stickers) for a penny or two. They raised \$110 which was used to purchase a hive of bees, a flock of chicks, and a trio of long-haired rabbits through Heifer International.
- Grade 4 students donated snack food items for the USO at Lambert Field and participated in Pennies for Prayers for all Service men and women. They collected \$51 for the USO at Lambert Field.
- Grade 5 students made Christmas cards for older parishioners, helped unload a food delivery van at Caritas, raked leaves at the Preschool, and attached ribbons to the *Singing Our Faith* music books. They also made Time Machine conflict resolutions mats for Kindergarten through grade 4 and taught those classes how to use the mats to solve problems.
- Grade 6 students were Hospitality Ministers at school masses and graduation. They were also in charge of emptying the large school paper recycling can into the Abitibi dumpster on the parking lot. Each student individually completed a total of 8 hours of service in four of the following categories: **H**ome, **A**ged, **P**arish, **P**oor, and **Y**outh (**HAPPY**).
- Grade 7 students made Valentine and Easter cards for Sabbath Manor.
- Grade 8 students participated in the *Adopt a Veteran* program at Christmas. They were also Big Buddies for the kindergarten students all year long.

Next year the school theme will be *Growing in Caring and Compassion*. We will continue our service projects and also focus on showing care and compassion to everyone we meet. We are learning to live like Jesus!