

Superintendent's Report
October 5, 2005
For
Archbishop José H. Gomez, STD
And
The Catholic Schools Council of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

Sr. Carla Marie Lusch, SSND, Superintendent

2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon of Excellence

The Atonement Academy and St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles School received the national 2005 *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon of Excellence* award. Ceremonies were held at each school on Thursday, September 22nd. Each school will be invited to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony. These schools were two of only three who received this award in the San Antonio area.

Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2005-2006 year was officially recorded at 14, 226 students, as reported in the 2005 Census Report. This is an increase of 71 students. Twenty schools showed an increase in enrollment, one school remained the same, and twenty-six schools saw a decrease. Add this sentence: This enrollment figure does not include evacuee students. Enrollment of these students has fluctuated from a high of 90 to a low of 71.

PTC Federation of the Archdiocese

The PTC Federation of the Archdiocese hosted its annual fall workshop on August 27, 2005. The workshop was held at Our Lady of the Lake University. Archbishop Gomez attended the event and spoke about his commitment to Catholic education and encouraged parents to stay involved. Linda Beck Johnson was the keynote speaker; her presentation was entitled *Creating an Empowering Environment*.

New CSO Staff Members

New CSO staff members include: Marcia Barbosa, Media Center clerk; Arlene Fuentes, secretary for Sr. Marcelle Stos and Sr. Barbara Neist; Monica Lopez, secretary to Sr. Carla Marie Lusch.

Katrina and Rita Evacuees

Katrina and Rita evacuees are being welcomed into our Catholic schools. At our highest point, 91 students were enrolled. Presently we have approximately 77 students. Numbers change from day to day as some families leave the city. Financial assistance is being made available to those schools in need. A grant was secured from the Kenedy Foundation; Archbishop Gomez received funds from the Eleanore Mullen Weckbaugh Foundation; additional funds are expected from the Burkitt Foundation via the Texas Catholic Conference.

Sr. Barbara Neist, SSND, Associate Superintendent

During September, there were visits to eleven elementary schools which included a meeting with the pastor and principal. The areas of discussion were Catholic identity and long-range/strategic planning. School health coordinators/nurses met on August 24. Guest speakers were from the American Cancer Society, the Texas Diabetes Center and the American Diabetes Association. Orientation meetings were held with representatives of these schools beginning preparation for TCCED accreditation visits in 2006-07: Providence High School, St. James the Apostle, St. John the Evangelist, St. Luke, St. Margaret Mary, and St. Mary's Fredericksburg. Sacred Heart (Uvalde) will also have a visit in 2006-07 (rescheduled from 2005-06).

Sr. Marcelle Stos, SSND, Associate Superintendent

Mathematics Standards Guide Committee

The Mathematics Standards Guide Committee conducted two in-services during September on the new math standards for the Archdiocese. All schools, except for one, had personnel attend the workshops.

Admission Directors

The Admission Directors from the Catholic Secondary schools met on Wednesday, September 14 from 1:00-3:00 at Antonian. This group continues to work in a collaborative manner in regard to Admission procedures.

New Librarians' Orientation

New Librarians' Orientation was led by Laurie Packard on Friday, September 16th at the chancery. This year there are four new librarians/library managers.

Catholic Secondary Campus Ministers

Catholic Secondary Campus Ministers met on September 21, 2005, with input from Dolores Martinez regarding Eucharistic ministers and Communion Services in our Catholic high schools.

Stanford 10 Workshop

A Stanford 10 Workshop was held on Thursday, September 22 for teachers and test coordinators to receive information and suggestions to use the results of their spring testing in beneficial ways. This past April, the elementary schools administered the SAT 10 for the first time.

Stanford Achievement Test

Stanford Achievement Test results for the Designated Schools were presented by Sister Marcelle Stos to the Archdiocesan Finance Council on Wednesday, September 28th.

Library Manager Workshops

The first of four Library Manager Workshops was conducted by Laurie Packard on Saturday, October 1st for those library managers seeking more professional growth in their area. Ten library managers are participating this year.

School Visits

Formal visitations to the schools are occurring at this time by both Sister Barbara and Sister Marcelle. The foci for the visits this year are Catholic Identity, Long Range Plan, and Services of the CSO.

Ramon Guerra, Director of Teacher Recruitment and Federal Programs

The office has been extremely busy processing teacher applications and making sure all of our schools are properly staffed throughout the Archdiocese.

Title I Directors Meeting

On September 22, 2005 Title I Directors from the Independent School Districts met at Region XX to review and discuss services being provided to our students and the workshops available for the teachers.

Criminal Background Checks

Over 700 criminal background checks have been processed this month.

Deficiency Plans

Deficiency plans are being addressed to ensure that all teachers meet TCCED educational personnel requirements.

Joyce Horner, Director of Development and Marketing

Events:

- Hall of Fame and Outstanding Leaders in Catholic Education: The committee met on September 9th. The committee will take a much more active role in this event this year, beginning with the selection of the honorees. The Selection Committee consists of the 2005 and 2004 honorees and several members of the committee. They will meet on October 18th to select the 2006 honorees. Sponsorship letters are targeted to be mailed out on or before November 1st. The event will be held on February 4, 2006 at the OMNI Hotel. Michael Valdes will emcee the event.

- Marketing Representatives attended their first meeting on September 27, 2005. Seventeen schools sent representatives and 6 schools/representatives which were not able to attend; however they requested information packets. This marks the third year for these gatherings. Representatives include principals, teachers and staff, parents/volunteers, PTC officers, school council officers, school development officers and more.

Grants submitted:

- Pryor Foundation: ACE Program: Living Quarters Upgrade \$8,392.43
- Raskob Foundation: Request for \$14,800.00 for the "Implementation of a Development and Marketing Program for representatives from our Catholic schools to attend" Request Pending, second request
- Express-News-underwriting for a sponsorship level for the 2006 Hall of Fame and Outstanding Leaders in Catholic Education Awards Dinner, request pending.
- Black and Indian Grant, for tuition assistance for Black and American Indian students who attend our schools, request \$61,750.00

Grants Received:

- Kenedy Memorial Foundation:
 - Emergency Funds/Grant(s) for Katrina Evacuees. Received \$10,000.00 and another \$10,000.00.
- Black American and Native American Evangelization Grant (2004 request): Schools received \$22,241.00 and the Catholic Schools Office received \$5,149.00

Grants denied:

- Lewis Foundation: denied September 2005

Endowment information:

Catholic Schools Endowment Fund Frost Brokerage:	\$ 998,219.92
Catholic Schools Endowment Fund Frost Investment:	<u>\$1,139,153.28</u>
	\$2,137,373.20

Designated Catholic Schools Endowment Fund:	\$1,059,804.64
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Laurie Packard, Library Consultant

Catholic School Librarians' Annual In-service

Our Catholic school librarians held their annual in-service on August 8th at Our Lady of the Lake University, and 36 attendees received information from several speakers, including AMIGOS Library Services of Dallas, and also discussed pertinent library issues. The orientation for new librarians to our schools was held on Friday, September 16th. The library consultant is currently arranging for librarians from OLLU to meet with the faculty of St. Gerard High School in early November to discuss possible collaborative efforts, especially for seniors preparing for transition to the college learning environment.

Library Manager Development Program

The 2005-06 Library Manager Development Program began on Saturday, October 1st with 16 participants being in-serviced on the topic of "Core Religion Resources for Catholic School Libraries." The next workshop will be held on Saturday, Nov. 5th. The library consultant has met with several school librarians at their request on specific school library matters, and she is also assisting the Media Center personnel in working on the holdings catalog.

Barnacle Bill's Reading Incentive Program

We recently received an order of an additional 10,000 reading logs to be distributed to our elementary schools through our reading incentive program partnered with Barnacle Bill's Restaurants; we are very grateful for their continuing sponsorship of this program to encourage students in pre-kinder through 5th grade to spend more time reading for enjoyment.