

# Week reaffirms schools' purpose

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Sister Carolyn Knipper, RSM, principal of Holy Cross School in Rochester, can't really imagine going through the year without marking Catholic Schools Week.

"It would be like not celebrating somebody's birthday in your family," she said.

This year marks the 21st annual Catholic Schools Week. Like Sister Knipper, other Catholic school principals agreed that Catholic Schools Week, which runs from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, reaffirms their institution's identity in a positive way.

"I think it's a good spirit-builder for the kids," explained Loretta Hayton, principal of St. Patrick's in Owego.

Kathy Peters, principal of St. Michael's in Newark, noted that Catholic Schools Week highlights the presence of Wayne County's only Catholic school.

"It makes the community aware," she said.

She pointed out, for example, that her students stencil school advertisements on shopping bags that are subsequently used by customers at two area supermarkets: Loson Big M in Lyons and Bells in Newark.

St. Michael's stenciled shopping bags are just one example of how Catholic Schools Week has become the ideal time to solidify a school's sense of itself both among its staff, students and parents and in the public eye.

Holy Cross has slated a host of activities to mark Catholic Schools Week, Sister Knipper said. Families have already been given a paper heart pattern upon which they are encouraged to write "We love Holy Cross because ...," adding whatever reason comes to mind. The hearts will be used to decorate the school, she said.

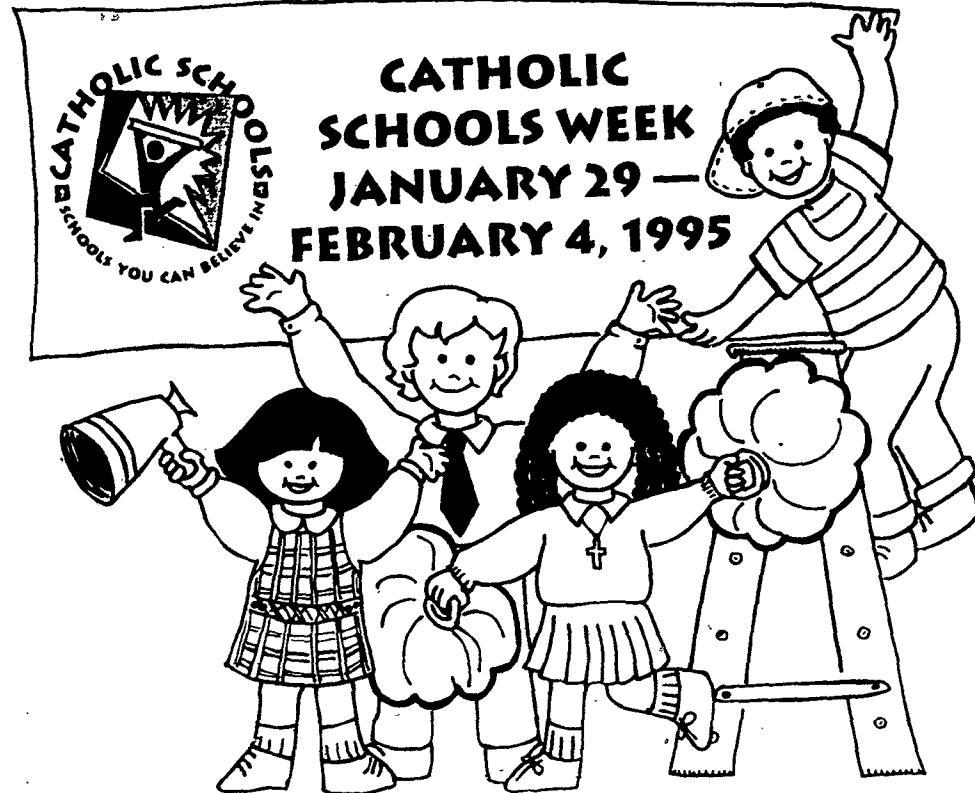
The school, which houses grades pre-kindergarten through eight, has also slated a rolling-skating party for students at Horizon Skateway on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, students will wear either homeroom hats or their own special hats, she said.

And on Friday, Feb. 3, grandparents are invited to visit the school in the afternoon, Sister Knipper said.

"A lot of grandparents are doing the parenting thing," the principal commented. "It's extremely well-attended."

Meanwhile, St. Patrick's older students



will take younger students to the movie "The Lion King" on Monday, Jan. 30, Hayton said.

She added that the older children will also teach the lower grades on Tuesday while the Home/School Association will put on a luncheon for the teachers.

Wednesday will see the school put on a luncheon for school families at the local Elks club, and on Thursday, Feb. 4, the students will honor parents and school volunteers by writing letters and giving gifts to them.

On Friday, the school's alumni will return and speak to different classes on what it was like to attend St. Patrick's in their day, Hayton said.

The students will be allowed to dress throughout the week in various forms of casual attire from pajamas to sweat shirts, she added, noting that Catholic Schools Week comes on the heels of mid-term exams the week before. Catholic Schools Week serves as an in-school break of sorts for the students, she concluded.

St. Michael's third- and fourth-graders who won a recent competition have recorded public-service announcements on behalf of the school that they will hear on local radio stations WNYR-FM and WACK-AM throughout Catholic Schools Week, Peters said.

Tuesday, Feb. 2, will see Father Leo J. Reinhardt, pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Clyde, host "Class Bowl," a quiz game contest pitting students from grades five through eight in a test of academic knowledge.

During the week, the school has also slated a Living Rosary which the students will recite in the gym, and a bingo game for the children in which candy will be substituted for cash prizes adults usually win.

Peters also said she is praying for snow - an uncommon occurrence lately in some parts of the diocese - so that students can participate in a snow sculpture day slated for Feb. 3.

All three principals pointed that in-house registration will take place during Catholic Schools Week, followed by registration of new families the following week. And each school plans to hold various liturgies and open houses to highlight Catholic Schools Week, the principals said.

Sister Knipper may have summed up best the feeling of the school administrators when asked what Catholic Schools Week means to her and all supporters of Catholic schools.

"I guess it's a time that we celebrate together the wonderful school and the wonderful education that we offer," she said.

## Events to mark CSW

The following schools have notified the diocese and/or the *Catholic Courier* of events marking Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 29-Feb. 4).

The following is a sampling of events:

**Siena Catholic, Rochester:**  
Feb. 1 - 10 a.m. Mass; 11:45 a.m. hot dog lunch; Feb. 2 - open house for sixth-grade students and their parents from 6:30-8 p.m.; call 716/381-1220.

**St. Louis, Pittsford:**  
Jan. 29 - 9 a.m. liturgy at St. Louis Church, 60 S. Main St., followed by reception in gym; Jan. 30 - daylong food collection for area soup kitchen; call 716/586-5200.

**St. Pius Tenth, Rochester:**  
Feb. 1 - 9:45 a.m. school liturgy in church; also Joseph Sarto Awards in school gym, and Dress Up Day; Feb. 1 - open house and ice cream social from 7-8 p.m.; call 247-5650.

**Guardian Angels, Rochester:**  
Feb. 3 - physical education demonstrations in school gym; parents walk through, and ice cream for kindergartners; call 716/334-3770.

**Holy Trinity, Webster:**  
Jan. 29 - Family Mass and coffee hour at Holy Trinity Church; Jan. 30 - "Brown Bag It Together" from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in classrooms; Jan. 31 - "Hobby Day," from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in classrooms; Feb. 1 - "Family Night Spaghetti Dinner" at 6:30 p.m. in parish hall; call 716/265-2002.

**St. Andrew, Rochester:**  
Jan. 31 - academic walk through/open house from 7-8 p.m.; call 716/467-9201.

**St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester:**  
Feb. 3 - open house in school from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Feb. 1 - "Red & White Day" - kids wear school colors; faculty vs. eighth-graders volleyball game at 2 p.m. in school gym; family skate at Horizon Skateway, Ling Road, Greece, from 6-8 p.m.; Feb. 2 - Aquinas Jazz Band presentation at 10:30 a.m. in school gym; Feb. 3 - Dare Graduation for fifth-graders in church at 1 p.m.; call 716/663-1220.

**St. John of Rochester, Fairport:**  
Jan. 31 - open house from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; family luncheon; book fair in library continuing through Thursday evening; Feb. 2 - special luncheon for faculty, school and parish staff; open house and ice cream social from 7-8 p.m.; Feb. 4 - "Family Fun Night" after 5 p.m. Mass (6-8 p.m.); \$2 person, \$10 maximum per family; reservations must be made by Jan. 31.



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