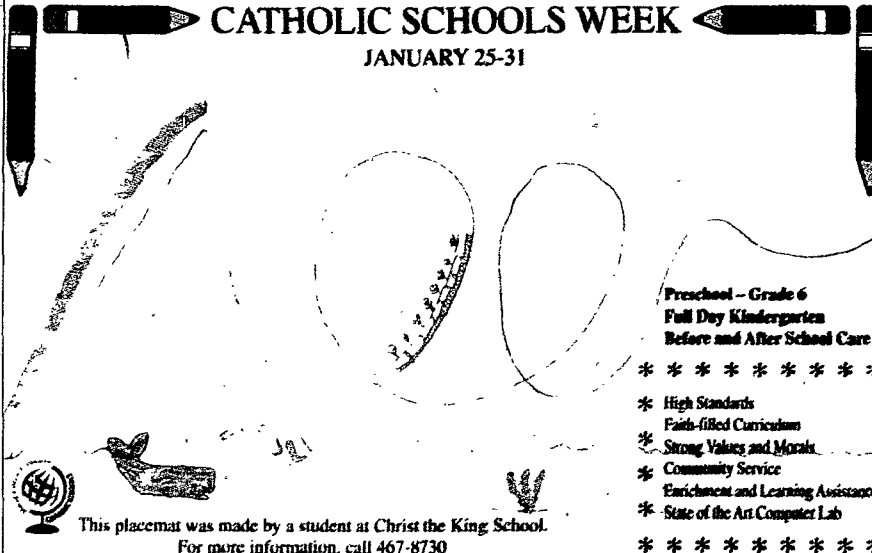


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
JANUARY 25-31

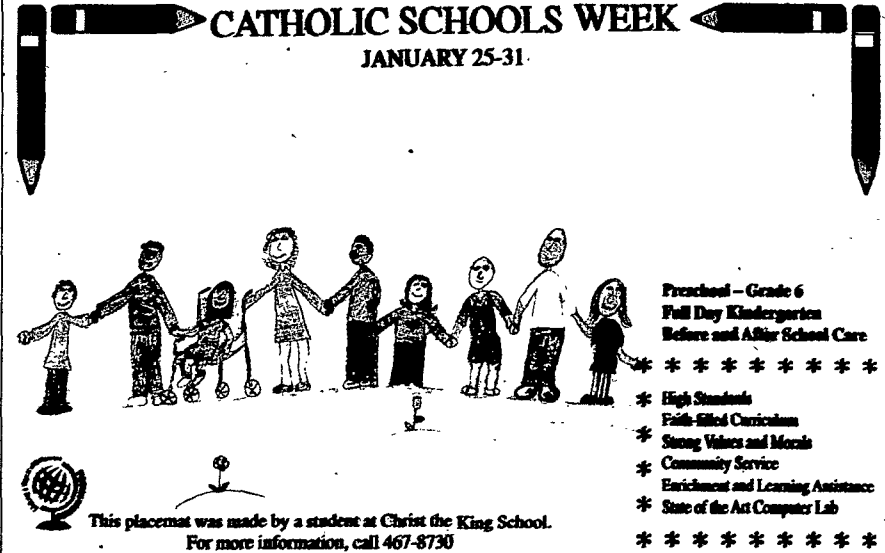


Preschool - Grade 6
Full Day Kindergarten
Before and After School Care

* High Standards
* Faith-filled Curriculum
* Strong Values and Morals
* Community Service
* Enrichment and Learning Assistance
* State of the Art Computer Lab

This placemat was made by a student at Christ the King School.
For more information, call 467-8730

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Serving education with your order

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Imagine walking into your local diner and ordering eggs up, whole wheat toast and a side of Catholic schools information.

Irondequoit-area restaurant customers didn't have to imagine that last week. They merely had to look down at their tables and see place mats designed by students at Christ

the King School. The place mats celebrated Catholic Schools Week Jan. 26-Feb. 1 and contained information about the school.

"High Standards," "Faith-filled Curriculum" and "State of the Art Computer Lab" were among the phrases found on the place mats, along with "This place mat was made by a student at Christ the King School" and the school's phone number. The place mats also featured the national logo for Catholic Schools Week.

Colleen D'Hondt, Christ the King principal, said she got the idea from a person she knows who heard of another area school that had promoted itself through place mats last

fall.

"We needed a new way to promote the school using less money," she said.

The 650 place mats were made by children in their homerooms and art classes, using card stock paper which was then laminated so that the mats could be used repeatedly. D'Hondt said that the entire project cost only \$110.

She noted that by the middle of Catholic Schools Week, two families that had seen the place mats called looking for information about the school.

"We're trying to cover a lot of ground," she added, noting that seven area restaurants had accepted

the place mats. To vary the place mats, the school gave each restaurant a selection that contained examples from each grade, she said.

Joann Joseph, a waitress at LaMartina's Italian Restaurant on North Goodman Street, said her customers appreciated the place mats.

"They love 'em," she said. "They're cute. They're nice. They love reading them all. Some of them have got imagination."

The only downside of putting the place mats in public places, D'Hondt said, was the fact that the school couldn't place the students' names on the place mats. D'Hondt cited safety concerns for the children, but noted that some lucky students had taken their parents to a local restaurant and had seen their place mats by chance.

The students were apparently thoughtful about their designs, if the words of sixth-graders Elizabeth Bradshaw and Rhett Pinckney were any indication. Elizabeth drew a picture of people of different races holding hands, and included a woman in a wheelchair in her picture. The girl said she wanted to show "that everybody is different, and that war is going on right now, and we should just get together and have peace."

Rhett's surrealistic design showed a group of people riding a roller coaster over the ocean on tracks that were a fishing pole line.

"I did a roller coaster because life is kind of like a roller coaster, and you don't know what's going to come next," he said.

The kindergarten-to-sixth-grade student body enjoyed making the place mats, D'Hondt said.

"They loved it, they were thrilled with it," she said. "Several of the little ones said, 'I've told my mom we've got to go out to eat!'"

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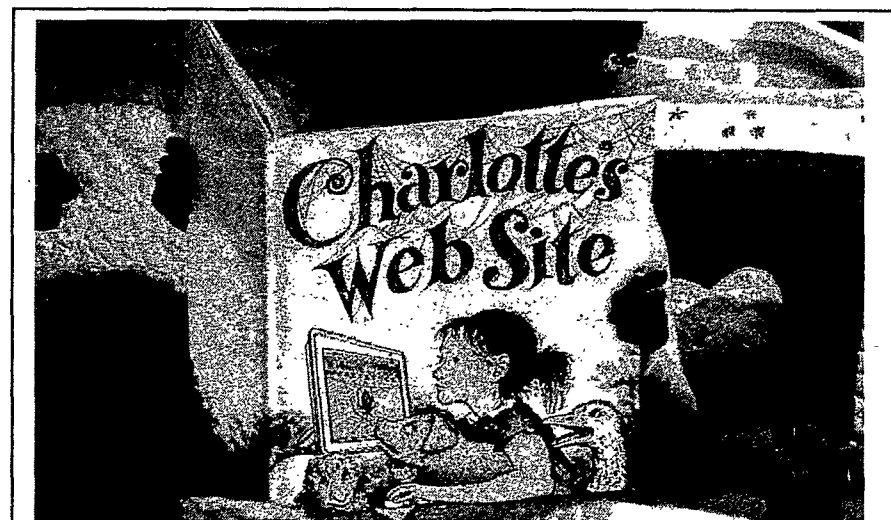
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