



Panther Press

NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2009



Dear Parents,

Here it is already October and the beginning of Fall!

One whole month is complete, and it was a busy one. Thanks to Liz Kozlowski and her volunteers for the Welcome Coffee. The Pancake Breakfast was a success thanks to Danielle Chattman, Yolanda Klishevich, and their crew. School Support Sunday was a success thanks to Larry and Fiona Engler. Thanks to those adults who spoke at the Masses. Mia Tepper and Sandy McDaniel did a terrific job organizing our Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale.

Thank you to Paul and Leslie Dennis for collecting the earthquake food and preparing us for any emergency that might occur.

A good time was had by all at the Parish Picnic organized by Jane Fortin, Ingrid Flintoft, and Gina Kohler. Thank you for your hard work.

Laure Healy, Reilly Harris, and Peggy Smith did a great job at Back to School Night. The decorations were lovely and the food terrific.

Thanks to Gloria Spicuzza and Karen Johnson, our room parent chairs, the room parents are organized and ready for another year.

Remember, all of us working together can produce great things. And we're on our way to a great school year!

Parent-Teacher Organization	President Carolyn Godlewski	1st Vice-President Theresa Hoiles & Traci Thomas	2nd Vice-President Jacque M. Winston	3rd Vice-President Susan Pearson	4th Vice-President Esmeralda Balsz & Stephanie Nuño	Co-Secretaries Sue Leifield Kelly Ritter	Treasurer Herb Klein
Student Council Officers	President Sari Arambulo	Vice-President Nicholas DeVito	Secretary Christopher Weis	Comm. of Reps Kathryn Godlewski	Safety Patrick Harris & Shannon Healy	Spirit Delaney Smith	Publicity Sarah Lloyd
	Finance Niko Klein	Apostolic Hannah Sornborger					

Our prayer circle each morning continues to grow. We would love for more of you to join us. Prayer is powerful. Meeting around the flag pole each morning at 7:45 AM takes about five minutes, and we pray for all your needs.

Friday, October 9, is a school holiday. And Monday, October 12, is a Faculty In-service day. Enjoy your four day weekend.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 13, 14, and 15 from 1:00 – 6:00 PM. School will be dismissed each day at 12:15. You will receive progress reports at that time.

We will have a Kindergarten Open House for students for the 2010 – 2011 school year on Wednesday, October 14, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. Please invite any of your friends who may have children ready for kindergarten to join us. Children must be five years old on or before August 31, 2010, in order to enter kindergarten at St. Anastasia School in 2010.

There will be a PTO business meeting at 7:45 AM on Wednesday, October 21. Please join us in the Parish (Basement) Hall.

On Friday, October 23, we will have our earthquake drill in which we ask you to pick up your children between 11:00 AM and 12:00 noon. We have one of these drills each year to be sure that we are all prepared for any emergency that may occur while your children are at school.

The Book Fair will take place from Sunday, October 25 to Thursday, October 29. This is a great place to begin your Christmas shopping.

Picture retakes will take place on Thursday, October 29.

The end of the month brings us Halloween. We will celebrate Halloween at our annual parade at 8:30 AM on Friday, October 30. Students may come dressed in costume. Pre-school siblings are invited to come and parade.

October will be a busy month. It is also the month of the Rosary. In this envelope you will find information on the rosary, which you might find helpful to use with your families. During this month, as we pray the rosary, let us pray for peace and safety – in our world, in our country, in our city, in our families, and in our school. God bless you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rosemary C. Connolly





We are very happy to welcome the kindergarten class of 2018 to St. Anastasia School! Our newest little panthers have already begun what I believe will be a truly successful school experience. Mrs. Drollinger and I are both very excited to be working with your children.

The kindergarteners have been working hard during their first month of school. We have been reviewing the alphabet, building phonemic awareness and reading comprehension skills, learning about different genres of stories, and acquiring new math vocabulary. The children have especially enjoyed the new prayers we have been including in our daily routine. They show a great enthusiasm for learning every day. I am confident we will have a terrific year together.

October will bring lots of fun as we prepare for Halloween with spooky art projects and stories. The kindergarteners will start unit two of our reading series, which focuses on friends, begin to work with numbers in math, learn about fire safety, and participate in their first Halloween Parade. They will also learn about the Rosary and visit our Church to

pray a decade of the Rosary with the seventh graders.

Happy Birthday to our October baby: Mark (10/19)!

May God bless us all and keep us safe this fall.



1st

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Melinda Hage & Mrs. Cathy Heppell

First grade is very excited to have three new pets: two hermit crabs named Sleepy and Star and some newly hatched brine shrimp. We are learning how to take care of them and writing about what we observe watching them.

Do you hear pounding footsteps? Do you hear gigantic roars? Come by our classroom to see all our exciting dinosaur art hanging in the hallway.

Hurray! Reading centers are off to a great start, and I would like to thank all the parents who have offered to help with the program. I know your children love to have you helping in the classroom. In math, we are beginning to work on addition and subtraction

rules. You can help reinforce these basic skills at home by using flashcards or by playing addition and subtraction games.



I look forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your child's progress during the Parent-Teacher Conferences on Oct. 13-15. With all of your positive energy, you have gotten your child off to a fantastic start!

Happy October birthdays to the following students: Natalie (10/9), Caroline (10/10), and Alexis (10/16).

Welcome to Second Grade! Your child is about to embark on an exciting learning experience - and you can come along not only in reading these letters but also through active participation. This year will be a dynamic year of growth and mini-miracles. It's a year filled with fun and adventure throughout the curriculum. You ask, "What is second grade really like?" It really is the year that the children say is a fun celebration. You've witnessed your children at school for two years now and they understand the school routine. They have made friends; and best of all, they are prepared with a foundation. I have already had the fun of expanding their horizons and capitalizing on their eagerness to learn. I have enjoyed observing the children exploring and extending their skills and abilities. Throughout the year, you will receive letters that provide important information and fun activities to help your child with reading, math, language arts, social studies, and especially religion.

In the first month of second grade, we have been quite busy in developing and expanding our knowledge on the theme unit of Relationships at home, school, and community. Relationships are an important part of our lives - as children and adults. So far, your child has been reading stories about the joys, complications, and responsibilities of relationships and are beginning to understand their

importance. Please urge your child to discuss what they have learned aloud to you and emphasize the need to apply it to everyday life at home as well as on the playground. Please share memories with your child about your relationship experiences allowing your child to make comparisons to their own lives. Also, the students have been working hard in building a community in the classroom by reuniting and making new relationships. By forming this community, the students have grown closer as a class and feel more comfortable in sharing aloud knowing they will be appreciated and celebrated. They also realize that community extends further than the classroom leading them to all the groups that they belong to, especially the Catholic Church. They have come to know themselves as followers and friends of Christ and have taken their first steps in their sacramental journey by touring the church. They learned that the celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of the church's life. They appreciate the celebration of the Eucharist as the "Most Blessed Sacrament". This term refers to the consecrated bread that is reserved in the tabernacle. The children have learned to show respect by genuflecting as a sign of love. I encourage you to continue this practice when visiting our church and others. We are off to a good start and looking forward to a good year as we prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Happy Birthday to Sean.

Thank you to all parents for attending Back To School Night. Your support regarding homework has been appreciated. As discussed, the homework offers important reviewing and learning time away from the classroom. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children. I hope to see you share in the growth and excitement that takes place in our classroom.





Welcome to the third grade. We are off to great start, and the students have been working very hard. The third grade is a big transition year. There will be a great deal of emphasis on listening, following directions, and responsibility. Please check your child's homework assignment book since this is new to them this year. Their homework should be written down every day, and please look for upcoming tests.

We have started cursive handwriting, and everyone is doing a great job. Please encourage your child to practice at home. In math, we are working on adding and subtracting with regrouping.

In religion, our first unit is on unity. We have been concentrating on working together and showing respect for one another. The class made a unity chain which is hanging in the classroom to remind us that we are a Christian family.

Congratulations to Adriana and Aaron for being chosen the Third Grade Student Council Representatives for the first half of the year.

I enjoyed meeting all of you at Back to School Night. I'm looking forward to working with you and your children this year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Happy September Birthdays: Alexandra

Happy October Birthdays: Krysten, Sophia, Jacob, and Aaron.

REMINDER:
Book Report
(Giant Post Card)
due October 8, 2009.



The fourth graders have had a busy start to the school year. They enjoyed getting the classroom ready for your visit on Back-to-School Night. Thank you for joining me at Back-to-School Night. It was wonderful to see all of you and discuss some of our exciting upcoming events.

In religion this month, we have been learning about our Creator and Father. We will begin Unit

2 this month and discuss *Jesus, the Son of God and Mary*. Every Wednesday at 8:00 AM, the class attends Mass. You are invited to join us if your schedule permits. Please remember that the fourth graders will be responsible for the first Friday Mass on November 2, and mark it on your calendar. We hope you will join us.

In math, we have focused on place value and money. We have begun Chapter 2, *Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers and Money*. Please continue to quiz your child on basic facts, making change with coins and paper money, and telling time. Also, each day the class prepares for math with *Simple Solutions*. Another fun way to improve critical thinking in math is to visit the website, www.mathstories.com. The user's name is mathjoy, and the password is lower case x.

In English, we have reviewed grammar, usage, and mechanics of good writing. This month we are reviewing nouns. Students are expected to complete their work using pens and their best cursive writing.

Our social studies lessons have allowed us to delve into our beautiful state of California. Your children thought of many interesting questions to ask a relative regarding "Coming to California." They will be completing the project, bringing the finished interview to school on October 22 and the time capsule with oral presentation on October 28. Each child has been assigned a California mission for the mission report. Perhaps you'll have time to visit your mission before the reports are due on January 8, 2010. We will be visiting the San Fernando Mission for our field trip on November 4, 2009.

Some other upcoming events are Parent-Teacher Conferences next week. Remember, the children will be dismissed at 12:15 PM each day. You may see your child's grades on GradeLink at any time. The schoolwide Earthquake Disaster Drill is scheduled for October 23. The Book Fair is from October 25-29, 2009. The four books which we will be reading in class are available at the Book Fair: *By the Great Horn Spoon*, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, *The Sign of the Beaver*, and *The Island of the Blue Dolphin*. On October 19 we will have our first Gateway-to-Art project. Please send a t-shirt to school for your child to wear during art. During the week of Oct.19, we will celebrate Poetry Week.

Finally, thank you for your support. As I told you at Back-to-School Night, I am thrilled to be teaching your children, and I look forward to a positive and productive school year.

The birthdays we have celebrated so far this year have been for Alex (9/3), Chad (9/7), Gabe (9/13), and Brooklyn (9/21). Our birthdays in October will be for Nate (10/11), Amber (10/15), and Delaney (10/27). Happy Birthday to all!



Welcome to a new school year! I am looking forward to experiencing your fifth grade year with you. There are a lot of things in store for the fifth grade, from writing papers to creating beautiful art!

In religion, we begin the new school year looking at the beauty of God's creations. Our focus will be to see the goodness and value of all that is part of our lives; as all that we have and all that we are, are gifts from God. We are focused on the idea that "I am a child of God," with the goal of having our actions reflect that idea. Come check out our bulletin board that reminds us "I am a child of God".

Our journey in math begins with a review of the basics of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division—with the added fun of decimals and fractions! Look for the fifth grade to be computing

sums and products all day long! And just to add some non-computational fun, we will also get to learn about shapes and angles and do some graphing.



Social studies is sure to be an amazing adventure this year. Early American history is my favorite! From the colonies to the American Revolution to the Civil War, look for many an essay and project to enhance these great topics.

I have already discovered this class is amazingly creative and artistic. I know they will be producing many great art projects over the year, so be sure to come by the class room and check out our art displays!

Happy August Birthday to Ian! Happy October Birthdays to Celine, Mathew, Sara and Jake!



It has been five weeks that we are in school! Thank you so much to all of you who attended the August 29 meeting at which Mrs. Connolly informed you of the high school requirements. Back to School Night gave us another opportunity for gathering. I look forward to our cooperative efforts this year on behalf of your children. The emphasis will be to fashion students of good character, and not characters! We hope to celebrate one's strengths, and manage one's weaknesses. As a class we are working very hard on peace-making opportunities with our class and with others. This is extremely difficult for eleven and twelve year olds who are trying very hard to establish relationships and who succumb to peer pressure so easily!

Our class was pleased to call Erynn- Marie to leadership on the Student Council as the class representative for the first semester.

In September we celebrated the following birthdays:
5-Jacquelyn, 18-Ella

In October we will celebrate:
2-Laurel. 6-Trevor, 12-Matthew, 22-Cameron

As you know we have begun to use an online grading system- Gradelink. I thank you for your great patience in advance . I think I'm on the right track now.

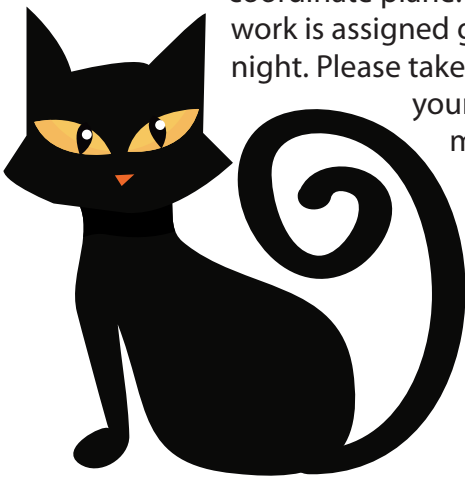
Thanks so much to all of the parents/guardians who are continuing to monitor your child's daily progress. Please check their assignment books on a very regular basis. Some students do not fill in the assignments accurately. This has had a negative impact upon their grades as they are insufficiently prepared for class and/or homework!



I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the seventh grade students. I can't tell you how excited I am to work with this wonderful class. The seventh grade has done a great job during the first month of school. Social studies continues where the students left off in sixth grade. We just finished a chapter on the fall of the Roman Empire and are continuing with a unit of study on Islam.

In math, we completed our chapter on order of operations and scientific notation. In the next chapter we are focusing on integers and the coordinate plane. Math home work is assigned generally every night. Please take the time to check your child's work to make certain that they understand the concepts.

In religion, we are focusing our efforts on the life of Christ while we



also familiarize ourselves with learning and putting to use our Schoolwide Learning Expectations.

As we look to upcoming months, the emphasis will continue to be on using the facts that are presented through the learning process and formulating them into knowledge that the students will be able to take with them beyond the classroom. Please emphasize, to your children, the importance of organization during the daily school routine. This will help them immensely with their ability to prepare for quizzes, tests, and projects.

Congratulations to Victoria who was chosen as Student Council Representative for the first semester.

I would like to thank all of the parents for attending our Back to School Night. It was great to meet you, and I look forward to working with you and your children this year.



Welcome back! The eighth graders have already taken on the academic challenges of the new school year. In English, they are boning up on the rules of grammar and refining their writing skills. This year in literature they are taking on the challenge of four novels, and they are reading five short stories that they will see presented as plays on a field trip to Royce Hall on the UCLA campus. Not only will they read the stories, but they will also study the lives of the authors to discover what motivated the authors to write the classics. This enriching field trip will be on October 20. In religion, the topic is church history, and they will learn about the origins of their faith. A lot of knowledge is to be gained this year.



The students have already experienced a religious retreat directed by Brother Chris. They spent the day focusing on their dependence on each other for the good of the whole. Brother Chris did an outstanding job in bringing the students together as a faith-filled community. Of course, they also enjoyed the day at Toe's Beach and the neighboring park.

The students are off to a great start, and it will be a challenging year for them.

We've only just begun. Everyone has settled in nicely to the business at hand – learning how to use technology as a learning tool! During the summer, my course work at LMU included an instructional strategy that I used with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. It was a question of choice – their topic was a remembrance of 9/11/2001, and they chose which aspect to research and how to present what they learned. The response has been absolutely "MAH-velous", including stories, skits, oral history, poems, big-board collages, student-produced movies, musical performances with background photos, and PowerPoint presentations. The depth of reflection surpasses all expectations, and I commend one and all for creative work well-done!

This year, I have selected students to serve as lab interns in the 6th through 8th grades who will be more active in a teaching role, helping classmates with their questions, presenting a "Website



of the Week," teaching an assigned topic for Word, PowerPoint or Excel, and summarizing class content for the 6 weeks of their internship. I know they'll do well and hope this will expand their interest in technology and help with their presentation and leadership skills.

In other classes, Kindergarten and 1st grade students are working with educational software and doing very well. In second grade, they'll soon be writing a short story in Microsoft Word, and they have begun the advanced second grade Jump Start series. In third and fourth grade, we are learning more about Microsoft PowerPoint. Some Microsoft Excel activities are on deck for the 5th grade. Naturally, all classes are working on their keyboarding skills.

And so, our work begins. Up next is Halloween – I can't wait to see everyone in costume and am working on my own, proof of the child in every adult!

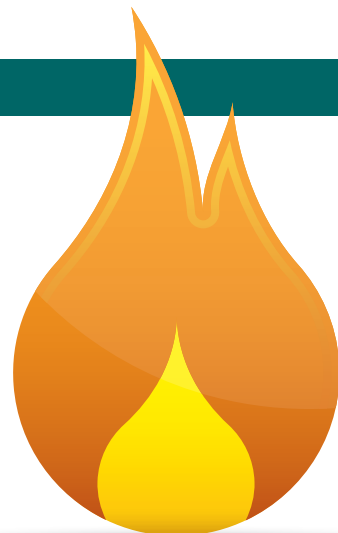
SCIENCE Dr. Tom Petoskey

Welcome back to another year of scientific explorations and experiments. Thank you to everyone who baby sat the Science Center animals during the summer vacation.

Once again we will be having two Science Fairs. On January 31, we will be having a Science Fair for the students in grades three, four, and five. We will also have an Open House that morning which will serve as the opening for Catholic School Week.

The Science Fair for students in grades six, seven, and eight will be held on March 7. The top entries will again compete at the L.A. County Science Fair in April. More details on these events will follow as the school year progresses.

Happy Halloween!



Welcome back to school and the library! I hope you had a wonderful summer. As we get back into the school routine, I wanted to remind everyone of some of our library policies. The students come to the library once a week during class time. The kindergarteners, second graders and sixth graders have library on Tuesdays. First, fourth, seventh and eighth grades come to the library on Wednesdays. Third and fifth graders have library on Thursdays.

The kindergarteners and I get to read and discuss many picture books and short stories during their library period. The first and second graders get to check out one book, have a short time for silent reading, and then I read to them for the rest of the class time. The first graders leave their books in the classroom while the second graders are permitted to take their books home. Grades three through eight are allowed to check out two books or magazines and also have time for silent reading and reading with me. They may take their books home.

All library books and magazines are checked out for one week and are due the following week during

the class library period. Please help your children remember to return their books to the library on their "library day". If a student is absent when their book is due, they need to return it to the library when they return to school. There are no fines for books that are late due to a student's absence. If a student forgets to return their book on time, they incur a ten cent per day fine for each book or magazine that is late. Students who have overdue books or outstanding fines will not be able to check out any other books until all items are returned and the fines are paid. The students enjoy the privilege of getting books from the library; please encourage them to remember to return their books on time!

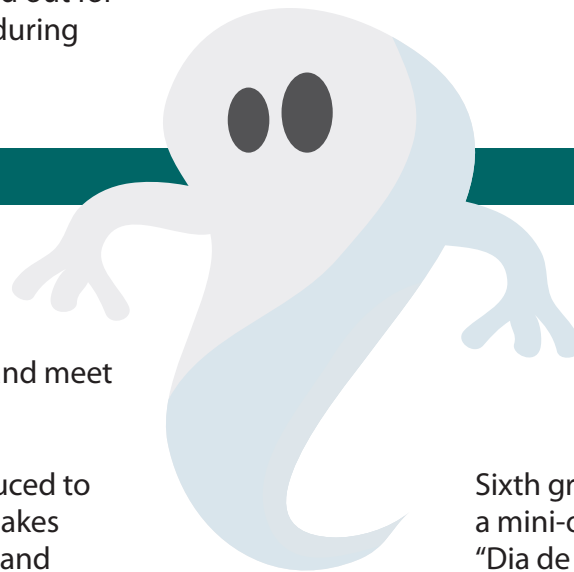
Thank you to everyone who took time to visit the library during Back to School Night. I'm sure you all enjoyed seeing the 5th and 6th grade summer reading projects that are displayed in the library. If you haven't had an opportunity to see the projects, please stop by on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons from 2:50-4:00 to see the students' creative projects!

Hola familias de Santa Anastasia,
Bienvenidos-Welcome back,

It was so exciting to see our students back and meet some new ones!

En octubre our little ones have been introduced to the vowels and the sounds that each one makes along with a fun vowel song. Second, third and fourth grades have been learning about classroom objects, clothing for certain weather and greetings.

Our older grades have been learning about chores, clothing, sports and hobbies.



We have spent time reviewing our subject pronouns and Spanish alphabet.

Sixth grade will be displaying a mini-offer in celebration of "Dia de los Muertos," Day of the Dead, from November 1-8.

Come admire their creations and learn about our culture from many Spanish speaking countries.

Es todo por hoy-This is all for today.
Hasta la proxima-till next time.

Welcome back to school! As always, we got the school year off to a great start with a lovely Welcome Coffee. Many thanks to Liz Kozlowski for easing us back into the school routine in such a pleasant way!

Back to School Night was a great way to officially kick off the year. We hope that you found it informative, and we appreciate the efforts of our teachers and staff to guide us through their plans for our children. Many thanks go to Reilly Harris, Laure Healy and Peggy Smith for setting up a beautiful refreshment table, ending the evening on a high note.

Special thanks go to those chairs who were busy behind the scenes, making sure that our programs were running smoothly. Gloria Spicuzza and Karen Scott, the room parent coordinators, put together a lovely orientation meeting for the room parents; Al Aguilera had volunteer parents guide our children safely across the parking lot to their classrooms; Valerie Guziak made sure that our kids were greeted with their Innisbrook school supplies on the first day of school; Paul and Leslie Dennis collected our earthquake supplies; and Patrick Green and Peggy Smith provided many opportunities to exchange gently used uniforms. A very big thank you goes to Traci Verbaarschott and Patty Wiacek for volunteering to chair our hot lunch program this year, and to Lisa Edwards for staying on as its finance coordinator.

Catechetical Sunday was a busy day for the PTO. We appreciate the leadership of Fiona and Larry Engler in making the School Support Sunday collection a success. The Pancake Breakfast, run by Daniele Chattman and Yolanda Klishevich, was a highlight of that morning, and a big thank you goes to the volunteers who staffed the PTO/School table at the Parish Ministry Fair.

October began with the very popular Parish Picnic. This event provided a fun way to enjoy the afternoon with family and friends. Many thanks go to Jayne Fortin, Ingrid Flintoft and Gina Kohler for giving us the opportunity to enjoy yummy burgers and the culinary creations of our fellow parents and parishioners. Meanwhile, we have all but “wrapped up” our Innisbrook sales. A huge thank you goes to Mia Tepper and to Sandy McDaniel for organizing this effort, and to all of the volunteers and parents who purchased or sold gift wrap and other items.

To start the year off right, many of our children brought in school supplies for Alexandria House. Thank you, Jennifer Altergott, for organizing this. As we approach November and Thanksgiving, there will be more opportunities for both parents and students to provide service to those in need. In a recent Electronic Family Envelope, you received a list of stewardship opportunities that will come up for the kids during the year, put together in a table format by 4th Vice Presidents Esmeralda Balsz and Stephanie Nuño. We hope that you will find this a useful tool for planning your giving with your family (especially your children), and to make it more convenient for you to coordinate your shopping efforts. We only ask that you not bring the items to school until the official flyers come home.

This month, we are looking forward to the annual Golf Tournament, which is co-sponsored by the Men's Club, and our Halloween Parade.

Finally, I would like to invite you to attend our first monthly business meeting, to be held on Wednesday, October 21, at 7:45 AM. I hope to see you there! Have a happy and safe Halloween!



As this is my first entry for the Panther Press as the President of Student Council, I am thrilled to welcome you all back to another school year.

In Student Council, we have been very busy discussing new activities for Saint Anastasia School to make this year enjoyable. We had a wonderful pep rally to support all of our fall sports' teams.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the class representatives.

Grade 3- Aaron and Adriana

Grade 4- Michael

Grade 5- Sarah

Grade 6- Erin

Grade 7- Victoria

Grade 8- Giovanna

Thank you, and I know we will have a great year!



Welcome back to Panther Athletics. We're off to a fantastic start! We currently have C, B, and Varsity teams of Flag Football and C, B, and Varsity volleyball teams as well as a Cross Country team, 45 members strong.

The CYO Golf Tournament originally scheduled for Monday, Oct. 12 has been rescheduled to Sunday, Oct. 18. Please see the flyer in the family envelope for more information.

A huge thank you to our dedicated coaches:

Ruben Morales – Varsity Boys Football

Lisa Edwards – Varsity Girls Volleyball

Peggy Smith & Elizabeth Handal – Cross Country

Steven Johnson – Boys B Football

Molly Healy & Jennifer Kaczor - B Volleyball

Matty Morisaki & Bobby Spicuzza – Boys C Football

Peggy Smith & Elizabeth Handal – Girls C Volley

Come out and support your Panther teams!
Go Panthers!

