

October 2011

Dear Friends,

Homecoming...what an exciting time at Sacred Heart-Griffin! I wish you could have experienced the energy and enthusiasm of our SHG community throughout Spirit Week, the week before the Homecoming game and dance. Students continuously exhibited their pride in being part of the SHG tradition. Let me share with you a flavor of our 2011 Spirit Week.

Monday we began with a prayer service planned and led by our students with direction from our Campus Ministry staff. The theme song for Homecoming was "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." After reflection and sharing on this theme, students chose the rainbow and paradise as the theme of our prayer service. They wove together the idea that as there are many colors in the rainbow, we, the SHG community, radiate our spirit in many ways. The prayer service was held seven times throughout the day, theology classes from each period attended the services. Prayers were led by different students and a senior gave a reflection on the scriptures at each service. I have attached excerpts from the seniors' reflections. I hope you enjoy reading them and let them draw you into your own reflection about where you find your paradise.

Friday, the day of the Homecoming football game, we traditionally have the fall sports pep rally where we honor the athletes, cheerleaders and poms involved in fall sports. This year's was really special because the rally was held in the newly renovated Jim Belz Gymnasium. We did not just have a pep rally but a Celebration of Progress of our renovation and construction. I wish you could have heard the students give all of our SHG donors a standing ovation with loud cheers for your support of them and SHG.

The weekend after Homecoming, October 8-9, was SHGWorks. Over 300 SHG students, alumni and parents blanketed the Springfield community providing service, including painting, yard work and other needed repairs, to forty-four sites. Participants worked all day Saturday and Sunday putting their faith in action by providing service to Springfield residents unable to provide upkeep to their own property.

You are a very important part of our Sacred Heart-Griffin community. Without your support, we would not be the vibrant Catholic, Dominican High School we are. Imagine hearing that cheer for you from our entire student body, filled with much gratitude and asking God's choicest blessings upon you!

With much gratitude,  
I am sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Katherine".

Sister Katherine O'Connor, O.P.  
President