



"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go." ~Dr. Seuss

**Mission Accomplished!** Together, through the generosity of our parishes, families, friends, parent volunteers, school staff, community sponsors, and with the enthusiasm of our students, our 2011 Walk, Steps to Greatness, was a huge success. The entire school wins the Top Dog Award for achieving the donation goal of **\$38,000!** The students will be treated to pizza and Flubs ice cream on **Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.**

**~William Arthur Ward**

**Way to Go!!!! First, thank you to the students, and congratulations on a job well done!**

Your determination and enthusiasm made the Walk a great success. A big thank you goes to Mr. Lynn Long, our fabulous DJ, and to Mrs. Schafer for her great warm-up exercises before the Walk. The Walk demanded many administrative duties. Thank you to Mrs. Kathy Hart for all the copies and office help and also to Mrs. Terry Jacobs for her help with web announcements and financials. Thank you also to Mrs. Sharon and Father Haft for their support and for spending the day with us. Mr. Austing was also very instrumental in making sure we had extension cords, tables, and all the other necessities for the day. Who can forget David Fulcher who helped kick off our campaign and motivate the students on staying healthy? We appreciate Chris Settle, Athletic Director for Miami University in Hamilton, who joined our walk to show the students different speed and agility drills. We also can't forget our accommodating teachers who supported this venture wholeheartedly, from start to finish.

**Here are the facts:**

- ❖ 2700 labels sent in from families, 1115 sent to parishioners, totaling 3815
- ❖ 98% of our school families received pledge donations (That's an "A+!")
- ❖ 46 families were eligible for the \$2000 tuition drawing (46 families received over \$300 in donations!)
- ❖ Classroom doors were filled with kind and inspirational post-it notes. These are coming home with your children as soon as the committee gets them sorted. Please read them!
- ❖ Students participated in a taste test organized by Renee Rawlings to test their taste buds. Surprisingly, many students preferred the low-sugar Gatorade to the regular Gatorade! They also tasted wheat vs. white bread and regular Pringles vs. low fat Pringles. Not surprising was the result of the Twizzler test — most students preferred the regular Twizzlers over the sugar-free version!
- ❖ Class prizes were awarded to all classes based on pledges received. Congratulations to Mrs. Pickerill's first grade class for winning the Golden Shoe Award, given to the class for the highest dollar amount of pledges.
- ❖ Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Teachers, and Father Haft spent the day pacing around our school.
- ❖ Congratulations to the following winners of the prize drawings, based on donation levels:
  1. Basket of gift cards – Siegler Family
  2. iPod Nano with a iTunes Gift Card – Prough family
  3. Bengals tickets/Flip n Twist Birthday Party – Crank Family
  4. Netbook Computer - Ross Family
  5. \$2000.00 toward tuition for 2011/2012 – McGuire Family

**Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. Anonymous**

This event would not be possible without the help of many volunteers. A very special thanks to walk co-chairs Kathleen Pendergest and Christe Flaig for organizing the snacks, drinks, volunteers, and seasonal stations. The students enjoyed the healthy snacks and walking through the seasons of the year. The following volunteers brought their seasons to life on the playground and around the school: Fall: Lynne McCaughey & Kyla Rooney; Spring: Christe Flaig & Kathleen Pendergest; Winter: Lisa Belden & Michelle Luebbe; Summer: Karen Long & Heather Kirkendall. We would like to say a special thank you to the 50-plus parent volunteers who made this event possible. Many of these volunteers worked from home, attended steering meetings, helped with mailings, labels, post-it notes, delivering T-shirts... You are all greatly appreciated! Thank you also to JoAnn Schutte for counting money, editing announcements, and being there for the walk almost **every day!** Julie Meece and Kathy Prough provided the encouraging signs posted along the walk route. The walk T-shirts this year were printed by the Wisharts. We would like to thank them for their quality work and organization. You are all a very dedicated, hardworking, and passionate group of volunteers. Again, this year, we reached out to our community for corporate sponsors. There will be displays in both the church and school with the names of our community sponsors. Please support them, as they so generously continue to support us. We are blessed that we have so many people who believe in Catholic education and healthy lifestyles and choose to help make the Walk such a great triumph.

**Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow ~ Anonymous**

We have a lot of thanking to do... We will be thanking our estimated 1000+donors with thank-you postcards. Please watch for an email or web update for information about our thank you writing campaign. We will need your help! If you want to thank your family and friends **personally**, we can send you a list of your sponsors. Please submit your request in writing to the school office, Attn. Walk Committee. A final financial summary of the Walk will be completed once all donations are counted and expenses are paid. **From the Walk a Thon Committee ~ Thanks and job well done!**