

## **We Are Family**

**By: Lauren Brothers 8th grade**

I think the theme "We Are Family" is a great theme for this year. There are many different types of families, each one being special. Families are unique, proud and trustworthy, plus many other qualities. They support each other and help us be the best person we can be. They don't bring others down, although my siblings and I do fight sometimes. A family's love lasts forever.

My mom, dad, and siblings make up my family. Together we have many memories. I love my brothers, sister and parents so much. All of us together are great friends and inspire each other. Laughing is a big part of my family. Whether we're at the dinner table, in the car, or around the Christmas tree, we're always laughing. We protect each other and really care about one another.

My extended family is a huge part of my life. My twelve first cousins are all like siblings and best friends to me. Everyone gets along extremely well, and we have great times together. Tahoe is one of our favorite places to go and we have even gone to Hawaii together. I'm so lucky that I have cousins that only live two minutes away from me and I can see them all the time. The other five cousins live about an hour and a half away; but I see them frequently and text my cousin, Natalie, who is my age, almost every day. I also have many second cousins, too many to count. I have visited my family in Ireland twice, and my Irish cousins have come to America to visit, too. The other second cousins live all over the United States and Australia. I love my aunts, uncles, and grandparents, even though three have passed away. Holidays wouldn't be the same without them and I am so thankful to have them in my life.

The eighth grade class at Our Lady of the Assumption is family to me. Being in this class for almost nine years, I have seen people come and go, yet the love for my friends in this class stays the same. I would never want to change schools; I am so fortunate that I have so many wonderful friends in this class. As I said before, a family's love lasts forever. I am so thankful to have these wonderful families in my life.