

St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

March 2010



Upcoming Events

- March 4 – Pop Fiesta
- March 8 – Home & School Meeting
- March 14 – KC Breakfast for SMS Music Boosters
- March 16 – All City Band – OHS
- March 18 – All City Choir – OHS
- March 20 – Jerry Kent Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
- March 23 & 25 – K-1 Conferences
- March 23 – School Board Meeting
- March 25 – End Quarter #3
- March 26 – No School, teacher workday
- March 27 – Honor Band – Austin
- March 29 – April 2 – Spring Break – NO SCHOOL

Attendance:

Parents, *please* report a student absence or late arrival by calling the school office at 446-2300. Before school hours a message can be left on the answering machine.

From the Principal's Office.....By Mary Hawkins

The first week in February was designated as Catholic Schools Week. St. Mary's joined other Catholic schools throughout the nation to celebrate the gift of Catholic schools in our community. The week started with an Open House on Sunday where teachers invited parents and the community to visit St. Mary's. The turnout was excellent and we were happy to see current families along with new families expressing interest in the school. Registration for the 2010-2011 school year also started on the same day and we are excited about the possibilities of growing our student population.

If you have not registered for next year, please turn in your registration information to the SMS office as soon as possible. We are starting to budget for next year and the closer we are to an enrollment number, the better the process will be. Also, if your family is in need of tuition assistance, please return this information by May 14th. We know there will be a great need for this and we want to make Catholic education possible for every family through the use of our scholarship fund.

The Building and Grounds Committee from the school board plus a few interested parents have been meeting with an architect to determine what and how much can be done with our current Capital Campaign pledges. We currently have 1.6 million dollars in pledges that can be combined with remaining funds from the window and restroom project. Our goal is to present a project plan to the Diocese of Winona this spring and begin the project this summer. It is exciting to think of how the improvements will positively impact the school and community. Thank you for your continued support.

My prayer for your family and mine is that this Lenten season will bring us closer to God and His message. Please continue to let me know how St. Mary's can support your family.

Mary Hawkins, Principal

Order your Yearbook
Today!

Night of Knight's Auction

Our 24th annual auction is really beginning to take shape! Preparation and activity is occurring at a high pace now. While much has been happening "behind the scenes" thus far, January and February marks the time when we set some of our volunteers into motion. Business solicitation packets are being distributed and donations are beginning to come in! Thank you to all our business solicitors – your efforts are truly appreciated!

Coordination of Volunteers: The success of the auction is largely dependent upon the *many* volunteers who help set-up in the days prior to April 17th, work in various roles on the night of the auction, and help with clean-up on April 18th!! Coordinating the volunteers this year are Auction Committee members, Jill Prohaski and Amy Martinez. Although Jill and Amy will be the main contacts for volunteer inquiries, any auction committee member will gladly help answer your general auction questions. You will have the opportunity to sign-up for volunteer slots during conferences on *Feb. 16th and Feb. 18th*. *Please take a moment at conferences to review the many options, and select a role we need filled.* Your time and talent are an important piece to our overall success! (Kindergarten and 1st grade parents will receive a letter in February with an opportunity to sign-up for

volunteer slots since you will not be having conferences until a later date.)

Individual and Family Donations: As our business solicitors hit the streets, we also will be sending donation forms home with your child this month for individual and family contributions to the auction. No gift is too small – we welcome donations in all shapes and sizes – cash, certificates, gift baskets or specific items are all great! Do you have a fun idea for an auction item that may be more than you wish to donate? Consider partnering with another family (or two) to create that special gift. You may drop off your auction donation at the school office or to the school on our designated "drop-off" nights in March. ("Drop-off" night dates will be announced soon.)

"Car and Cash" Raffle Tickets: Do you have your **"Car and Cash"** Raffle ticket yet? We continue to sell tickets and the excitement is

building! Be sure and get your ticket for this raffle, which will take place at 10 pm during the Live Auction on **Saturday, April 17th!**

NEW Website and Email: We are currently constructing a website specific to the Night of Knights Auction. Get a sneak peak at the list of available auction items, preview the menu and drink list, and much, much more! We send a big thanks out to Dave Effertz for his continuing efforts in the creation of this site. As this is a new site, remember to check back frequently to watch its development, as new information/features are added. Please take a moment to check out our new website!

www.nightofknights.com Also, if you would prefer to communicate with the auction committee by email (i.e. share a great idea, volunteer, donate, or purchase a raffle ticket), you may do so by sending us an email at info@nightofknights.com.

2009-2010 Night of Knights Auction Committee Members:

Bill & Kris Dublin	455-9678	dubsmn@charter.net
Bryan & Roberta Shaver	413-0364	robertafs@charter.net
Carol & Phil Daley	444-0946	carol.daley@allina.com
Chris & Jill Prohaski	451-5000	jcprohaski@charter.net
Dave & Cathy Effertz	446-0258	ceffertz@gmail.com
Garret & Tanya Henson	451-5189	tanyadhen@yahoo.com
Kara Martin	457-2557	kara.k.martin@wellsfargo.com
Kelli & Craig Larson	446-4064	cdklarson@msn.com
Lynn & Tim Gorski	456-1725	lgorski@myclearwave.net
Shannon & Steve Prostrollo	456-5200	sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org
Tim & Elaine Truelson	444-0908	timt@ci.owatonna.mn.us
Amy & Adam Martinez	446-0085	adamamymartinez@q.com

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Sacred Heart

Mrs. Lori Jerpbak	451-1060
Mr. David Mulert	451-3550
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mr. Rich Gerdts	456-8324

St. Joseph

Mr. Chris Herzog	451-2890
Mr. Phil Clubb	451-1049
Mr. Jed Ebner	455-2876
Mr. Jon Hanson	455-1689



Order Your Yearbook Soon!

The deadline to order your copy of the 2009-2010 yearbook is approaching. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook filled with pictures and memories from this school year, your order must be in by Friday, March 12th. No late orders will be accepted. If you have lost your yearbook form, you may use an envelope to write your child's name, grade, and teacher's name on and then place \$9.00 per yearbook in the envelope. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. Mary's School. Don't delay, order your yearbook today!

St. Mary's Music Boosters

The month of March is always a busy one for Music Boosters. Our Pop Fiesta concert will be March 4th with popular hits played and sung by our junior high students. The Music Boosters will be serving pizza, cookies and beverages for the whole family to enjoy at 5:45 in the cafeteria. Please rsvp so we can have an accurate count of how many pizzas to order. The concert will then be in the gymnasium at 7:00 so don't miss this fun event with your family.

Then, on March 14, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a pancake breakfast which benefits the Music Boosters. This is our primary fundraiser to support our band and choir programs at St. Mary's. The students who had participated in the solo/ensemble contest will be performing their pieces for entertainment from 9-11:30. Tickets have gone home with students so if you did not receive them, please contact Kris Tucker at 455-0601. Please join us for a delicious breakfast and entertainment.

If you or your junior high student is available to help with either event, please call Kris Tucker. Thanks for your support!

Solo Ensemble Results

The St. Mary's Band students participated in a Middle Solo & Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 6th at USC High School in Wells, Minnesota.

The following students received the "Best In Site" Award: Anna Rahrck, clarinet solo; Alexandra Liebl, Erin Abbe, Timothy Starman, and Shelby Kern, brass quartet. The following students received a "superior" rating on their solo: Becca Sedivy, trumpet; Anna Rahrck, clarinet; Alexandra Liebl, trumpet; Timothy Starman, baritone; Luke Berkley, French horn; Kayla Moothart, oboe; Dacota Schwarte, clarinet; Andrea Bothun, flute; Thomas Donlon, xylophone; Tessa Rahick, clarinet; Jade Miller, clarinet; Jennifer Schroepfer, trumpet; Logan Johnson, drums; Caitlin Morley, clarinet; Margaret Sager, bass clarinet; and Madison Kramer, alto saxophone.

The following ensembles received a "superior" rating: Michael Pfeifer & Justin Storm, mixed duet; Anna Rahick, Lisette Betti, and Maddy Rysavy, mixed trio; Anna Rahrck & Alexandra Liebl, mixed duet; Tim Starman, Stephen Leon, Margaret Sager, and Lisette Betti, mixed quartet; Andrea Bothun, Maria Chicos, and Kayla Moothart, woodwind trio; Dacota Schwarte & Madison Kramer, saxophone duet; Lisette Betti & Josi Segner, saxophone duet; Alexandra Liebl, Erin Abbe, Timothy Starman, and Shelby Kern, brass quartet; Michael Pfeifer & Timothy Starman, brass duet; Luke Berkley, Timothy Starman, and Reed Tucker, brass trio; Logan Johnson & Thomas Donlon, snare duet. Michael Pfeifer received an "excellent" rating on his trumpet solo. Caitlin Morley, Alexandra Liebl, and Josi Segner received an "excellent" rating on their mixed trio. The St. Mary's Band students are under the direction of Suzette Kuklok. Other participating schools included: Owatonna Junior High, Austin Ellis, Faribault Middle School, St. Casmir's, and USC Middle School.

NURSE'S NOTES

By Mary Herzog RN

During the month of March, the fifth grade students will be watching a scoliosis video and getting their backs checked. I will show the video to both fifth grade classes during the first week of March. At that time I will pass out a booklet for the students to take home and read. Back checks will be done during their gym class that week or the next. Girls need to wear a swimsuit top or a sports bra. 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys will be getting checked towards the end of March. If your child needs further evaluation, you will receive a letter in the mail.

St. Mary's has joined the SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program). We will be working with other area schools in implementing comprehensive nutrition policies including healthy lunch and snacks (including classroom celebrations, incentives, concessions and vending), and exploring school gardens and Farm-to-School initiative. Watch for more information in the coming months. If you are interested in becoming involved, feel free to contact me at school.