

St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

March 2009



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Upcoming Events

- March 5 – Jr. High Pop Fiesta
- March 8 – KC Benefit Breakfast for Music Boosters
- March 9 – Home & School Meeting
- March 13 & 14 – Jr. High Play
- Mar. 17 & 19 Kindergarten & Grade 1 Conferences
- March 19 – End Quarter #3
- March 20 – NO SCHOOL
- March 23-28 – Spring Break

Order your Yearbook Today!

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.

Administrator's Corner.....By Jerry Kent

We have begun our Lenten journey for 2009. I pray that you Lenten journey will be successful, and that each day you are moving closer to Jesus. Lent is an opportunity to fast, practice abstinence, and to give alms to those in need.

St. Mary's School students have definitely started their Lenten journey. Our 7th and 8th graders on Fat Tuesday raised over \$2,000 for two very worthwhile projects that we were supporting locally during Lent, Hospital House and Lilly Sparrow House. This Market Place Event has become a very popular one at St. Mary's, not only for the students but the entire school population coming forth to purchase a great variety of items. We thank our students also for the Pennies for Patients program that was run during Catholic School's Week. Over \$2500 was raised to assist in helping to eliminate cancer and leukemia and other diseases. I thank the students, parents, and staff for being very generous and being very good role models for all of us to follow.

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year is now open to the public. Once again I urge any members of the present St. Mary's School family who have not yet registered to do so to guarantee you a spot for the coming year. If there are people who feel that they will need financial assistance, please do not hesitate to call Jerry Kent, St. Mary's School Administrator. Tuition assistance forms are available at this time. Placement request forms are also available in the office. We ask that these be returned no later than May 1 so we can begin the final process of identifying classes at specific grade levels.

Congratulations to our basketball and cheerleading teams for their very successful year. The final results in the Tri-County tournament were not available at this time of printing. I know that the students have had a very successful year and we thank them and their coaches and parents for the strong support of the programs.

I also wish to thank the parents in grades 2-8 for attending conferences during this past week. K & 1 conferences will be held during the month of March. St. Mary's School assists parents who are the foremost educators of their children and we thank them for their willingness to come to school to work with our staff to provide a better educational opportunity for their children. I would also like to thank the St. Mary's Home and School Association for providing the meals for staff during these conferences.

During the month of March, bids will be released on the summer building projects. St. Mary's School will be completely renovating six restrooms in our facility and replacing all of the windows. This renovation will begin approximately June 10 and be concluded prior to the start of the new school year. More information on this as well as the capital campaign is located in this newsletter submitted by Mike Randall.

March is the month to celebrate fine arts at St. Mary's School. A number of opportunities will be available starting with the Pop Fiesta on March 5. Our 5th grade students will also be participating in the All City 5th Grade Band and All City

Administrator's Corner
(Continued on page 10)

Kindergarten News *By Mrs. Lambaere & Mrs. Wolfe*

Kindergartners will kick off the month of March with a Dr. Seuss celebration. There will be reading, art and, of course, snacking on Green Eggs and Ham! St. Patrick's Day will also offer many opportunities for writing, stories, games and art activities this month.

Kindergartners will continue to make the Lenten journey we started in February. We pray that we will grow and change during this time. Our prayers reflect our interest in the needs of others. We want to be ready for Easter!

In Language Arts we have begun Guided Reading Groups. This offers students instruction at their level. There is also

time for independent reading and opportunities for writing. This is a time for great growth in literacy.

Our Social Studies Mapping Unit also begins in March. Kindergartners are always excited to learn more about the world around them.

There are many special activities and events in the next months of school that you won't want to miss. Be sure to check your child's binder daily for important information.

First Grade News.....*By Mrs. Haarstad, & Mrs. Peterson*

The month of February was filled with many exciting activities to celebrate "I Love to Read" month. We started the celebration by "sweating it out with a good book". We wore sweats and listened to Mr. Kent read a story to the school. We had crazy socks day and readable shirt day also. We also had a great time watching the teachers act out the book Possum Come A Knockin". We enjoyed listening to all of our classmates take their turn at

being the reader of the day.

We also celebrated our 100th day of first grade. Another highlight of the month was celebrating Valentine's Day. Thank you to all the parents that came in to help!

Check the hallways and classrooms for our beautiful Eric Carle art. We read The Very Hungry Caterpillar and created art just like Eric Carle!

Order your Yearbook
Today!

We read and wrote poetry this month. We finished with a "Poetry Coffeehouse" where students performed a poetry reading on stage for the rest of the class. Thank you for all who were able to attend our Coffeehouse!

Second Grade News.....*By Mrs. Bastyr, Mrs. Connor, & Mrs. Pipitone*



Greetings!

We enjoyed visiting with you at conferences.

For such a short month, we've been kept pretty busy.

We also talked about Lincoln and Washington and what famous Americans they were. Our next reading theme is about Frog and Toad and their adventures.

In math we finished with adding and subtracting two digits with no regrouping and regrouping. We will be working on the 100 number grid,

complements of 10, and patterns we see in counting. We will continue to work on addition and subtraction of 2-digits. In the middle of March we will begin with 3-digits.

We have started work on our auction baskets by creating our class books. They will be off to press to be hardbound soon. Before you know it this fun event will be here. Thanks for all of your support you give to St. Mary's. It is greatly appreciated.

Third Grade News.....By Mrs. Chatelaine & Mrs. Johnson

What's cooking?! Why, great literature in Language Arts! During the month of March, the third grade students will begin to read selected works by some great authors, including Tomie dePaola, Patricia Polacco, and Beverly Cleary in our "What's Cooking" unit. In this unit, we will also explore the skills of following directions, predicting outcomes, using context, and determining the sequence of events. And, who knows. . . we might even try our hand at some cooking!

Didn't the students do great work on their endangered animal reports and posters! Did you know that during the month of January, they learned to research information, take notes, organize their thoughts, and then organize and write five paragraphs about their animals?! Mrs. Thurnau's habitat project brought the students greater

understanding of the life of their animal. The students enjoyed sharing their "final product" with you!

March brings *geometry* concepts and a continuation of *memorization* of multiplication facts to *math*! As your child passes a fact times test, they will bring home the next set to study. Thank you for taking the time to review the facts with your child each night! It really does make a difference in their knowledge *and* confidence!

Nutrition and Physical Fitness are the topic in health/science, including choosing healthy foods and ways to move our bodies more. Take a look on our website for a great internet site that helps students learn to balance energy in/energy out.

The children are continuing their Lenten journey by following Jesus through an act of charity, good work, or sacrifice. As a group, we will participate in the Stations of the Cross.

We encourage you to continue to take time at home to discuss your faith and how you "put it in action" with your children.

Later this month, your child will explore the "8 Kinds of Smarts" and discover different areas that they are "smart" in. *Multiple Intelligences* – the "8 Kinds of Smarts" - will be the theme of the third grade auction baskets.

It was great to discuss your child's progress with you at conferences! As we reflect upon the past few weeks, the word "growth" comes to mind. We have had the privilege watching these children grow in so many ways – socially, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. It's so good to see! As always, thanks for the hard work and support at home! It's great to partner with you for the good of your child!

Fourth Grade News.....By Mrs. Gerdtz & Mrs. Wobschall

The 4th grade classrooms have been engaged in a variety of learning. In language arts we are finishing up the Super Sleuths theme and starting the American Snapshots Theme. We have worked a lot with adjectives and descriptive writing. In math we are finishing the unit on measuring angles and division. The students have become quite proficient with their protractors. We are now entering the world of fractions. The way that fractions are taught to the students is so visual. The students gain a deep understanding of fractions.

In social we are finishing up the unit on the Southeast

Region. We have studied the Civil War and the many people who helped segregation end. The students were also tested on the Southeast Region's state capitals. The next unit we will be studying is the Midwest Region. Each student is also doing research on a specific state and will be creating an informational poster using the information that they have collected. In science they are out of this world as they are studying the Solar System. We have been very busy and we will continue to work hard each and every day!

Fifth Grade News..... By Mrs. Kasper & Mrs. Lattery

The fifth graders are all a buzz with news of research papers. They decided this past week who they are going to research. They will have a chance to do some research in the computer lab this week, but they are also required to use a good old fashioned book as well. They will research for the next week or so. (Notes are due March 6th.) I'm sure you have heard all about it. Thanks for the help!

While they work on writing their papers, they will enjoy a quick unit on mythology. They will learn about the gods and goddesses of the Greek culture.

We are well into our unit about fractions. Once we finish adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them, we will move into converting them into decimals and percentages. A bit of graphing will accompany the percentage lessons.

Thanks for coming to conferences. We enjoyed seeing you and updating you on your child's progress. Thanks again for all of your support.

Sixth Grade News.....By Mrs. Vieths & Mrs. Barnes

The month of February kept us very busy. Thank you for attending our student-led conferences. The students did a wonderful job of highlighting their strengths and deciding on a few goals for the rest of the year.

We have been reading up a storm for "I Love to Read" month. We have enjoyed extra DEAR time, reaching our nightly reading goal, meeting with our second grade buddies, and watching the teacher play.

Thank you for all of your support for the "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. Sixth graders donated almost \$250 for this very worthy cause.

Next month will find us solving algebraic equations, beginning a new cycle of literature circles, performing experiments on states of matter.

We hope this Lenten Season finds you happy, healthy, and preparing your heart for Easter.

Mrs. Nylund's News

Language Arts (with Mrs. Stewart)

The 7th graders learned about propaganda in conjunction with their Mardi Gras service project. After learning about the different types of propaganda and looking at rules and regulations surrounding advertising, the students made an ad to promote the product they were selling at the Mardi Gras event. I saw some great creativity!

We finished our unit on short stories by reading "Flowers for Algernon." The students really enjoyed this story about an experiment done on a mentally handicapped man to make him smarter. Many ethical issues were brought up regarding this sensitive issue, sparking some great conversation. The unit ended with watching the movie Charly, which was based on the story.

The next couple months will be spent in small groups reading two separate novels. Students in Mrs. Nylund's group will be reading Fever 1793, and Mrs. Stewart's group is reading House of the Scorpion.

A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Berg who helped us set up a classroom blogging site that students will be using for Language Arts. The students have already had the chance to get on and "chat" about events happening in the novels they are reading, and it is exciting to read the insights they are making as they read about and comment on what their classmates' views are on the topics presented in the books.

7th Grade Math

The 7th graders are finishing their chapter on ratios, proportions, and similarity. We tried to liven things up for the first half of this chapter by doing what we called "jigsaw math." A group of students was assigned a section in the chapter to master and then were responsible to teach it to their classmates. After teaching it they then wrote the quiz questions for their section. Many of the students really liked this method of learning the material, but some said they prefer the traditional method of learning math. The last half of the chapter was taught in the traditional way. The next chapter the students will see is on percents.

8th Grade Math

The 8th graders have been lost in the world of linear functions for the past few months, with their last two chapters covering that topic area. We will be finishing that area this week and will then move into systems of equations and inequalities

Regional Spelling Bee Update

Congratulations to Caitlin Morley, who represented St. Mary's School at the Regional Spelling Bee in Rochester on February 17! We were proud to have you as our representative Caitlin!

Order Your Yearbook Soon!

The deadline to order your copy of the 2008-2009 yearbook is approaching. If you are interested, your order must be in by Friday, March 13th. 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 \$8.50 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!

Mr. Smith's News

Junior High Religion

Students will continue their study of Sunday scripture and its link to Church teaching. The readings for March are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Theme</u>
3/8/09	Mark 9:2-10	Witnesses to Divine Glory in Jesus
3/15/09	John 2:13-25	The Temple of Jesus' Body
3/22/09	John 3:14-21	Jesus Saves; We Condemn
3/29/09	John 12:20-33	Let Your Fear Die

Students should remember to perform 8 hours of community service by 3/19/09. Students performed **1,055** hours of service during second quarter. Students should prepare for their end of quarter Boot Camp tests which will be on the week of 3/16-3/19. Students need to know their Old or New Testament information as well as the 10 Commandments, saints, and the Sacred Heart Prayer.

Katy Schroeffer, Nicole Carlson, Trent Tucker, Kory Soukup, and Sarah Mulert all earned perfect scores on the mid-term Boot Camp test. Congratulations and enjoy your Catholic Boot Camp t-shirts!

7th grade Saint Animation Movies Online!

All 7th grade saint movies are now online! Please take a look at <http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/smsjuniorhigh/videos.cfm> to watch these videos and learn a thing or two about our models in the faith.

Mardi Gras Marketplace

Mardi Gras Marketplace was a huge success again this year, raising \$2,004 for the Hospitality House and the Lily Sparrow House. Seventh and eighth grade students and their families donated the supplies for thirty-one groups of students to form their own mini-businesses for a few hours! Thank you so much for your continued support of St. Mary's School and our attempts to give our children the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Youth Ministry Events

3/4/09 EDGE Issue Night- "Bullying:" 7-8th grade 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym
 3/11/09 EDGE Club 7-8th grade 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym
 3/19/09 Baby Ball 6-7-8th grade 6:30-9:00 PM @ SMS Gym (\$10) must register by **3/13/09!**

1st Annual Babyball to benefit Birthright

All 6-7-8th graders are invited to participate in Babyball, a wiffleball tournament to benefit Birthright. Students who would like to participate need to register and pay \$10 (CYO) by 3/13/09. Students will receive a t-shirt, hot dog, bag of chips, and beverage as part of their registration. We hope to also have a home run derby competition and a baserunning contest. We hope to create a real ballpark atmosphere with an organist, play by play announcer, and live video jumbotron of the game.

It would be great to have all of the money for supplies donated so that we could give even more money to Birthright! Any parent wishing to chaperone the event or donate money to help defray costs for the event please contact Mr. Smith.

Summer Camp Information:

Please contact Joan Steffens in the REP Office for more information! Registration and a \$75 deposit are due 4/1/09.

Summerfest Grades 7-8
www.summerfestivalmn.com
 July 20-24 \$325

Mrs. Slotsve's News

8th Language Arts

We will be finishing our unit, *Quest for Justice*. The selections in this unit explore the various ways in which people join the search for justice. The students will have the opportunity to explore these issues in detail and gain greater insights to the world around them.

Later in the month, we will be reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. The work of fiction has won numerous awards including the American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year.

At the beginning of the novel, Jonas is torn by internal conflict as he dutifully accepts his training for Receiver of Memory but yearns for his childhood and the normal lives his friends lead. Throughout the novel, the reader will be discovering a new world where everyone is safe and comfortable. Is this the most important element for human life? We will discover family, love, individual differences, and freedom to make choices are essential elements to a worthwhile community.

7th Social Studies

In March we will continue our study of Ancient Greece. The Greeks made many contributions to the world. We will discuss some of the great thinkers – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle – as well as mathematicians and scientists of the time. Like the ancient civilizations before them, the Greeks will decline and eventually be taken over by Philip II of Macedonia. We will explore the reasons for their decline as well as the reasons for the success of Philip II and later those of his son, Alexander the Great.

8th Social Studies

During March, students will explore the rise of monarchies in Europe during the late Middle Ages. We will begin our study with France and explore the role of Joan of Arc in cementing the monarchy in France. Other countries we will investigate are England, Spain, and Germany.

Later in the month, we will concentrate on the Renaissance. The Renaissance is the rebirth of learning in Europe. The invention of the printing press made information available to many people which in turn led to new inventions and discoveries. We will discuss how these advances helped form the basis for modern times.

From Mrs. Stewart's Classroom

Language Arts: We just started the novel *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer. It follows the adventures and mishaps of a young boy who discovers he is a clone of a powerful leader. We will explore the topic of cloning to learn what it is, how it is currently being used, and ramifications for misuse. We have also started a classroom blog; students are having great success with this tool!

7th grade Life Science: We're nearing the end of our plant unit and will move into the genetics unit before finishing up with the animal kingdom. Students will be dissecting a flower to identify plant features discussed in class. We will construct a simple model of a DNA strand, and explore concepts of simple Mendelian genetics.

8th grade Earth Science: We will begin our journey back to earth from the far reaches of the solar system. Students have been busy identifying constellations and tracking the moon phases. We had a guest speaker, Gene Kispert who works with NASA, talk with the students about NASA's ongoing work. He showed some spectacular slides and answered some of their questions about objects in space from a different perspective. We will finish up our space journey with a tour of the planets and early history of the solar system.

Auction Update

Don't be late on Sat. April 18th!!!

The 2009 "Night of Knights" Auction is rapidly approaching! We hope you have the evening of **Saturday, April 18th** reserved on your calendar! Our fiesta theme is making a comeback, along with the margaritas. Plenty of good food and a variety of beverages will be available. We've already received many generous donations from our Catholic Community and Owatonna businesses. Donations include a 8' X 12' backyard wood playhouse, jewelry, a week at a Colorado condo, a beautiful picnic table, a Wisconsin Dells family package, lots of signed sports memorabilia, and much more! Special thanks to all of our **business solicitors** for all your efforts! If you are a solicitor and you haven't turned in your packet yet.....**please turn in your packets as soon as possible.** The picnic table will be one of our first items on the Live Auction. Winners of this table will be treated to special seats, complete with complimentary chips, salsa and beverages.

Volunteer Update: Thank you to all of you who have already registered to work a shift during the auction week-end! We are grateful for your willingness to help! We really do need all of you! For those of you who were unable to sign up yet, please consider contacting Jill Prohaski, our volunteer coordinator, to lend a hand. We still have many opportunities to help and get involved!

Family Solicitations Underway:

Donations from SMS families are very important part of the auction.

Please return your donation form as soon as possible. Even if you do not have your donation ready to turn in, for planning purposes it is very helpful to us to have an idea of what will be coming in. If you are wondering *what* to donate, we have included in this newsletter a "Wish

List" of donation ideas. Please remember that no donation is too small.....it all helps toward the success of the event. Cash, gift certificates, theme baskets, or specific items are always welcome. *We always need items to be used in the **gourmet baskets.*** Large containers (small and large baskets, laundry baskets, backpacks, metal/plastic buckets) are needed as they will be transformed into beautiful gift baskets in our Silent Auction section by our creative and talented Gourmet Committee. Contributions of homemade cookies, rolls, breads, candy, snacks, jams, salsas, etc...are always a great thing to donate. We also have a need for coffee, crackers, nuts, soup mixes, bags of chips, and a variety of beverages. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Olson (446-0052) or Karla Kniefel (455-2371) on the Gourmet Committee.

Donation Drop Off Dates: For your convenience, the Auction Committee will be accepting donations and donation forms at St. Mary's School from **6:30-8:00 pm on March 9th, 16th and 30th.** Donations may always be dropped off at the school office on school days.

Free "Early Bird" Drawing: Each year we encourage auction participants to come early to view the vast display of diverse items up for bid. Again this year we are offering an incentive to those that come in the door between **4:00-5:00 pm.** You will receive an **"early bird" ticket** to be placed in our collection bucket down in the Silent

Auction area. The drawing will take place at 5:15, so be sure to come early and earn a chance at this fun, free drawing. The prize for the drawing is a secret, but you can expect it is sure to follow our fiesta theme.

"Car and Cash" Raffle: The raffle tickets are selling!! Be sure to get yourself a chance at driving a sporty new 2009 Ford Fusion or \$10,000 cash, and if that is not enough \$1000 or \$500!! Tickets are available from any auction committee member or from Connie Lembke in the school office!

St. Mary's Staff Appreciation Raffle : Be sure to purchase raffle tickets to recognize a St. Mary's Staff person for their commitment to Catholic Education and St. Mary's School. If you need a raffle ticket form, they will be available in the school office. To have your raffle tickets included in the drawing, please have your completed form and payment (either cash or check) delivered to the St. Mary's School office **on or before March 6th.** The winner will be randomly drawn just before the Live Auction begins at 7:30 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact any Auction Committee member for assistance. We will be glad to answer any of your auction questions.

We're looking forward to fun, festive 2009 Auction!! Please come early and stay late and feel the SMS spirit at work!!

Auction Committee

Lori and Barry Butler loributler1@charter.net
 Nic and JoAnn Matejcek jomat@smig.net
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"Night of Knights" Auction 2009 Donation Ideas

The sky's the limit when it comes to ideas! Listed below are some items that have worked well in the past and there are a few ideas that are new. Everyone has something to offer and no donation is too small. You may want to consider working together with another family or two to make a donation. Please help make our 2009 Auction a night to remember!

Food!!

- *Homemade cookies, bars, rolls, breads, snacks (always needed!)
- *Gourmet foods/nuts/chocolates
- *Beverages to be included in baskets: pop, wine, beer, and juice
- *Host a theme dinner or party (BBQ, Italian, Mystery, etc...)

Kids and Teens!

- *Books, Movies, Games, Art Supplies
- *Favorite Character Baskets
- *Bicycles/scooters/skateboards
- *Sports equipment
- *Host a tea party, birthday party, scavenger hunt party

Events!

- *Sporting event tickets
- *Concert tickets
- *Theater tickets
- *Hunting or Fishing outings

Electronics!

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| *Ipods | *Play Station 3/X Box |
| *TVs | *Games or attachments for game systems |
| *Laptop computers | *Digital camera/photo printer |

Other Great Ideas!

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| *Patio Furnishings | *Camping Equipment/Tent |
| *Lawn Care/Services | *Gardening Equipment |
| *Art, pottery | *Grills |
| *Dart board/air hockey/game table | *Painting/Carpet Cleaning Service |
| *Small kitchen appliances/coffee maker | *Lawn equipment/leaf blower |
| *Sports equipment | *Services for home/yard |

Cash and Gift Certificates!!!

Administrator's Corner....*continued from page 1*

Choir. We will also have the drama production under the direction of Mrs. Stacey Mulet. We thank Mrs. Kuklok, Mr. Ostermeier, and Mrs. Mulet for their strong leadership in the Fine Arts area of music and drama. We also have much art throughout our building compliments of Mrs. Jodi Hovden, art teacher for students grades K-6. Elsewhere in this newsletter will be the winners of the Catholic Daughters Essay/Art projects. We had many winners from St. Mary's School that will be going on to the state competition.

As administrator, I thank you for your strong support of the annual Night of Knight's Auction. I look forward to seeing all of you at the 23rd annual auction on April 18. During the month of March donation booklets will be put together. We urge everyone to make sure that they are making a donation to this very worthwhile project. If you are calling on business owners within our community, please complete those solicitations as soon as possible. This is a very important piece to the financial well being of our school. I wish to thank also the school board for their assistance in providing Steve Stansberry to be an assistant to provide additional administrative support during these last months of the school year as we have an upcoming reaccreditation visit at the end of April. Some of my time will be directed to complete that process as well as interviewing contractors and signing contracts for the building project that will be going on this summer. Mr. Stansberry's experience in working with teacher observations and school improvement plans as well as his work with evaluation of present testing and assessment procedures and staff development is greatly appreciated. He has been a very welcome and great addition to our school. In conclusion, I would ask that St. Mary's parents encourage new families to join the St. Mary's School family. We realize that dollars in this present economy are very tight. It is also very important that we provide the best education possible for our children. As parents you have wonderful children attending St. Mary's School. I would hope that we could expand the present enrollment of our school to include new members coming into our school system. I would urge parents to talk to their friends and neighbors about joining the St. Mary's School family. In one way or another, we will make ends meet and we will find tuition assistance dollars to provide help to those who feel that they can never afford a Catholic education. I urge you to reach out to your friends and neighbors in this way.

Building Improvements, Fundraising to Begin this summer

With proceeds from the Seeds of Faith campaign and the Neville estate, St. Mary's school has about \$1.5 million set aside for building improvements. Plans are in place to begin construction on two major remodeling projects this summer – replacing the windows and remodeling the bathrooms.

The goal is to replace all of the windows this summer with highly efficient, energy saving windows. The windows will have a slight bronze tint to increase their energy efficiency and improve the looks of the building. Gone will be the single pane windows and insulating panels that were installed on the upper portions of the windows.

In addition, all of the bathrooms in the elementary building and the two restrooms in the gymnasium lobby will be completely remodeled. The restrooms in the gymnasium lobby will be expanded into the adjoining offices. Work on both of these projects will begin as soon as school ends in June.

The fundraising portion of the school's building campaign will begin this July in conjunction with the building projects.

The campaign steering committee (see below) felt it was important to combine the start of our capital campaign with the excitement generated by the building improvements to maximize our ability to raise as much money as possible.

More details about the upcoming fundraising campaign and subsequent building improvements will be provided in the coming months. Anyone who would like to join our steering committee and ensure the success of our campaign is asked to contact Jerry Kent or Mike Randall at school.

St. Mary's Building Campaign Steering Committee:

Dave and Sharleen Berg
 Dave and Cindy Emanuelson
 Jon and Peggy Hanson
 Tim and Diane Holland
 Jay and Tricia Johnson
 Mark and Martha Kearin
 Jerry and Michelle Redman

4th Recorder Performance

Fourth grade students have been practicing their recorders for music class and invite you to attend their concert Tuesday, March 10 in the cafeteria at 9:00 A.M. The concert will be about a half hour long. We will also perform a short concert for all who can attend on Monday, March 9. This performance will be before the Home and School meeting. Students should report to the band room by 6:45 if they plan on playing. The concert will begin at 6:50.

All-City Choir

Eleven St. Mary's students will participate in this year's All-City Choir. The 5-6 Choir will perform with the High School Concert Choir at the OHS Auditorium on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 P.M. (an admission is charged). Students participating are Luke Berkley, Thomas Borgerding, Thomas Donlon, Zoe Kienholz, Kayla Moothart, Liana Mulet, Tessa Rahrlick, Kristen Rysavy, Jennifer Schroepfer, Becca Sedivy, and Grace Thurnau.



Music Boosters

We have two fun events coming up in March!

First, the **Pop Fiesta** is Thursday, **March 5th**. This evening features dinner and a lively concert performed by our Junior High students. Join us at **5:45 pm** in the cafeteria for Walking Tacos and beverages. The concert begins at 7:00 pm in the gym. This is always a fun concert.

Second, on Sunday **March 8th**, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a **benefit breakfast** to help support the St. Mary's music programs. This is the primary fundraiser for our music programs. St. Mary's students will be providing musical entertainment from 9:00 to 11:30. If you did not purchase tickets ahead of time, tickets will be available at the door the day of the breakfast.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to help serve dinner at the pop fiesta and work the pancake breakfast. If you are able to help out please contact Dawn Carlson at 451-3541.

Jr. High Solo/Ensemble

St. Mary's Band students participated in a Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 7 at Triton Middle School in West Concord. The following students were selected as "Best-In-Site": Miles Mulet, Percussion solo and Justin and Marysa Storm, Woodwind Duet.

The following students received a "superior" rating on their solo: Brooke Miller, Percussion; Alexandra Liebl, Brass; Madison Kramer, Woodwind; Kayla Moothart, Woodwind; Daniel Nolte, Percussion; Andrea Bothun, Woodwind; Anna Rahrlick, Woodwind; Miles Mulet, Percussion; Caitlin Morley, Woodwind; Monica Hanson, Woodwind; Kory Soukup, Woodwind; Logan Johnson, Percussion; and Kurtis Pierret, Brass.

The following students received a

"superior" rating on their ensemble: Alexandra Liebl, Erin Lindenbaum, Maddy Rysavy, and Shelby Kern, Brass Quartet; Miles Mulet, Brook Miller, Joe Kearin, Logan Johnson, Thomas Donlon, and Daniel Nolte, Percussion Sextet; Kendra Schroeder and Marysa Storm, Mixed duet; Sarah Mulert, Lisette Betti, Josi Segner, Woodwind Trio; Maria Chicos and Andrea Bothun, Woodwind Duet; Jade Miller and Dacota Schwarte, Woodwind Duet; Monica Hanson and Lizzie Prohaski, Woodwind Duet; Lauren Chicos and Katie Schroepfer, Woodwind Duet; Michael Pfeifer and Col Matejcek, Mixed Duet; Madison Kramer, Kayla Kniefel, and Margaret Sager, Woodwind Trio; Stephen Leon and

Tim Starman, Mixed Duet; Hannah Olson and Briana Hartmann, Brass Duet; Anna Rahrlick and Lisette Betti, Woodwind Duet; Justin Storm and Marysa Storm, Woodwind Duet; Lauren Chicos and Lizzie Prohaski, Woodwind Duet.

The St. Mary's Band students are under the direction of Suzette Kuklok. Other participating schools included: Owatonna Junior High, New Prague Middle School, United South Central, Faribault Middle School, Blooming Prairie, Ellis Junior High in Austin, Triton Middle School, and St Casimir's.

Pop Fiesta

The Jr. High Pop Fiesta is on Thursday, March 5. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:45 PM in the cafeteria. The concert will begin at 7:00 PM in the gym. The Jr. High bands and choir will perform a concert of popular music. The Best in Site winners from Solo/Ensemble will also perform. The 6th grade band will warm up at 6:40 PM, and the 7/8 Band at 6:50 PM. See you there!

Southeast MN Middle School Honor Band

On Saturday, March 21, 2009, Alexandra Liebl, Stephen Leon, Anna Rahrack, Margaret Sager, Tim Starman, Lisette Betti, Lauren Chicos, and Trent Tucker, members of the school band will participate in the Southeast Minnesota Middle School Honor Band. The festival will be held in Austin, Minnesota and is hosted by the Austin High School Band. Two bands of 125 members each rehearse during the day and present a concert at 5:00 p.m. in Austin High School's Knowlton Auditorium. Twenty-nine schools from southern Minnesota and northern Iowa will participate in this Honor Band Festival.

All City Band.....by Mrs. Kuklok

The St. Mary's 5th Grade Band will be performing with all of the public school 5th Grade Band students in an All City 5th Grade Band. EVERY STUDENT that is in band is able to participate!!! We will practice on Thurs. mornings, March 5 and 12 at the high school. Please drop your son/daughter off at the main doors of OHS at about 5 to 10 minutes before 7:00 AM. Once inside the high school, your son/daughter will need to proceed to the auditorium. When rehearsal is finished, transportation will be provided to St. Mary's School.

On the night of the concert, students will need to report to the OHS Orchestra room at 6:45 p.m. (Go down the 1st hallway to the left of the auditorium.) The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. with performances by the All City 5th Grade Band, followed by the 9th grade Band and the Symphonic Band, and finally the Concert Band. Because this is a high school activity, admission of \$7.00 per adult and \$4.00 per student will be charged (OHS activity cards are accepted). The total length of the program is expected to be an hour and thirty minutes, so I would encourage you to stay for the high school bands.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding All City 5th Grade Band, please feel free to contact me.

All City 5th Grade Band Rehearsals: 7:00-7:50 AM
 Thursday, March 5 OHS Auditorium
 Thursday, March 12 OHS Auditorium

All City 5th Grade Band Concert with OHS Concert Band
 Thursday, March 12 - 7:00 PM OHS Auditorium
 * * * Warm up in OHS Orchestra Room at 6:45 p.m.

Growing Your Musician

What is practice?

In the book "Growing Your Musician", the author defines practice as " careful analysis, introspection, and repetition". Most band students think playing through their music from beginning to end is practice. This is actually music performance. Many do not realize that this passive method of practice is really a waste of time and energy. If you continually play through passages without stopping to fix the errors, you are reinforcing the mistakes, which makes them very difficult to correct. Real practice

requires "analyzing the parts, organizing priorities, creating action plans, making assumptions, reacting to realities and limitations, and reviewing music over and over until it can be performed correctly, or at least as well as possible". When using an active approach, children will "mark the challenging sections in the music and play them again and again until they are perfect. Active practice requires three essential elements: organization, purpose, and discipline".

Organization: You need all the required materials of practice (instrument, music, well-lit room, a chair, a music stand, a pencil, etc.),

plus good time-management skills. *Purpose:* You need to practice with a distinct goal in mind - a vision of where you are and where you want to be.

Discipline: You need to be willing to put in the time and effort it takes to achieve your goal. The above is taken from the book "Growing Your Musician: A Parent's Guide to Band and Orchestra Students". Contact Mrs. Kuklok if you are interested in reading the book or would like to order a copy.

Order your Yearbook Today!

Liturgy Schedule

- March 3 – 8:05 AM Live Stations of the Cross
- March 4 – 8:05 Spirit Groups
- March 11 – 8:10 AM Elementary Mass
- March 18 – 8:10 AM All School Mass

Liturgies are at Sacred Heart Church. Parents and guests are always welcome.

Dear Parents,

Please help us keep our SMS students safe by not parking so close to the end of the block. The patrollers cannot see around the line of vehicles to safely cross the students. Please leave a parking space, or two, at the end of the block of Cedar and University as well as the SMS driveway and Cedar (in front of the church).

Thanks,
Mrs. Lattery

After School Care Program

At the February School Board meeting, St. Mary's School Board determined that they will be offering an After School Care Program beginning September 2009 at St. Mary's School. It is very possible that a Before School Program will also be made available but this is still in the development stages. We urge parents who are urging parents who are considering St. Mary's School to also consider having their children take advantage of this After School Program that we will be offering. More information on hours, fees, and staffing positions will be available shortly. Thanks to Stacy Hanson and Lynn Gorski for taking this project on and bringing it to the Board.

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.

We have had our first confirmed case of influenza. Watch for sudden onset of fever, aches and cough. If diagnosed early, medication can be prescribed to lessen the length and symptoms of the illness.

Strep throat has definitely been making the rounds at school. Although sore throat is the typical symptom for strep, we also see fever, headache and stomachache (with or without vomiting). Remember that students must be home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics to prevent passing it on to others. And as always, remind your children about frequent and proper handwashing.

From the Social Worker's Office

By Gina Pohlen

Lifeskills for the 6th graders and Second Step in 1st and 5th grade is continuing. Steps to Respect in the 4th grade classes is well under way. The Steps to Respect curriculum has two book studies that Mrs. Angela Donlon and Mrs. Laura Duncan have generously agreed to take on with their fourth grade book club. This will reinforce some of the skills and techniques we have discussed in class during the kids' fun book club environment.

The 3rd graders are finishing up Second Step this month. We've been meeting since September and have had many lessons on anger management, empathy, and impulse control and problem solving. Look for posters around the school next month that will show you some of the things they have learned.

In January the Second Step program also started with the Kindergarten classes. The Kindergarteners get to meet puppets in Second Step so that has been lots of fun for all of us. If you are a parent of a Kindergartener ask them about Impulsive Puppy, Slow-Down Snail and Be Calm Bunny.

If you have any questions about any of the curriculums that I am working with the children on please feel free to call. Also, please let me or your child's teacher know if something has happened in your family life or at school that you would like me to talk to your child about. My office hours are M, W, Th from 8:30am-2:30pm. You can stop by my office or call me at 446-2300.

Physical Education

By Ms. Grose

Kindergarten:

We are working on a juggling unit in which we will juggle tennis balls, beanbags, rings, and scarves. We will then work on jumping rope, hula hoop, and basketball skills

1st & 2nd Grade:

We will be working on all types of basketball skills.

3rd & 4th Grade:

We will be working on basketball skills. They will learn the rules and play games.

5th & 6th Grade:

They are working on a basketball unit. They have been working on skills. They will learn the rules and then play games. After basketball we will start a dance unit. We will cover square, ethnic, and social dances.

7th & 8th Grade:

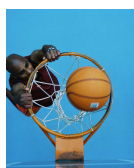
We have been in a basketball unit. We are learning the rules and playing games. Our next unit will be dance. We will cover square, ethnic, and social dances.

Umpires Needed

Anyone interested in umpiring either boy's baseball or girl's fast pitch, please call Terri Grose at St. Mary's – 446-2300. This is a paid position.

Softball & Baseball

Softball and baseball season is just around the corner. The boy's baseball coaches will be Steve Zappa and Bob Hoen. The girl's softball coaches will be Mike Ritter and Scott Houston.



Tri-County Tournament

Thanks to all the parents and students who helped with the Tri-County Basketball Tournament that was held at St. Mary's on February 28. Your help made the tournament a success.

Congratulations to the cheerleaders, basketball teams, and coaches for a fine season. Thanks to Christy Mulert and LaVonne Sedivy for lining up ticket takers and running the concession stand.

Home and School News

We are currently looking for Home and School officers for next year. Sara Borgerding and Kim Degen will be the co-Presidents for next year, but we will have openings for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Shannon Prostrollo at sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org.

SMS Clothing Sales

We have had some interest for placing another clothing order this spring. The order will be placed on March 20. Samples and order forms will be available during K-1 conferences on 3/17 and 3/19 or at anytime by contacting sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org.

AHOY! AVAST! YO HO HO! ARGHHHHH!

Be sure to see the St. Mary's School Play, "**The Fearsome Pirate Frank**" by Pat Lydersen! Students in grades 4-8 will be performing our play at 12:30 on Thursday, March 12, and at 7:00 P.M. on March 13 and 14. You won't want to miss this zany comedy filled with lots of pirates, ghosts, mermaids, zombies, and more! There's something for everyone! The cast and crew include: 4th Grade -- Brett Peterson, Sierra Schwarte, Bernadette Donlon, and Maya Rohwer. 5th Grade -- Liana Mulet, Jennifer Schroeffer, Noah Scheid, Tessa Rahrick, Becca Sedivy, Emma Smith, Grace Thurnau, Danika Degen, and Aaron Deml. 6th Grade -- Thomas Donlon, Kayla Moothart, Madeleine Haberman, Margaret Sager, Dacota Schwarte, and Hannah Olson. 7th Grade -- Emily Emanuelson, Madelyn Rysavy, Mike Zappa, Isaac Torrez, and Miranda Schimek. 8th Grade -- Anna Frank, Marysa Storm, Mari Bunkers, Brooke Miller, Nicole Carlson, Joe Kearin, Brody Hudson, Stephen Joachim, Kendra Schroeder, Sarah Mulert, Miles Mulet, Kurtis Pierret, Monica Hanson, Josh Gerdts, and Katy Schroeffer. Directed by Stacey Mulet and Allyson Schroeffer.

"Shiver me timbers", you'll have a good time! See you there!

2009 CDA Education State Entries

*Poetry

Division I – Mark Hanson – Grade 5K
 Division II – Lara Butler – Grade 8
 Division III – Sadie Schroeder – Grade 11

*Essay

Division I – Annabelle Paquin – Grade 4G
 Division II – Lisa Nguyen – Grade 7

*Art

Division I – Mark Hanson – Grade 5K
 Division II – Lisa Nguyen – Grade 7

*Computer Art

Division I – Mark Hanson – Grade 5K
 Division II – Brooke Miller – Grade 8

*All of the above students' work will be entered in
 State Competition
 Results will be announced in May 2009

2009 CDA Education Contest Results

*Poetry

Grade 4 – 1st Place – Anne Sager – 4G
 Grade 6 – 1st Place – Kayla Kniefel – 6B
 Grade 7 – 1st Place – Antonia Nelson
 Judges' Choice – Dacota Schwarte – 6B
 Erin Lindenbaum – 7
 Troy Lembke – 7
 Marcus Oylo - 8

*Art

Grade 4 – 1st Place – Ivette Torres – 4G
 Grade 6 – 1st Place – Kayla Moothart – 6V
 Grade 8 – 1st Place – Josh Gerdts
 Judges' Choice – Isaac Torres - 7

*Computer Art

Grade 4W – 1st Place – Aidan Ebner
 Grade 4G – 1st Place – Cameron Deml
 Grade 6 – Albert Rysavy – St. Isidore's
 Grade 7 – Troy Lembke
 Judges' Choice – Anna Frank - 8

School Board Positions

St. Mary's School will be looking to fill one school board positions from both Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parish. Elections will be held at the respective parishes in late April/early May. If you are interested in serving a three-year term on St. Mary's School Board or have questions, please contact Jerry Kent at 446-2300.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Sacred Heart

Mrs. Carla Kern	455-1544
Mr. David Mulert	451-3550
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mr. Rich Gerdts	835-3283

St. Joseph

Mr. Chris Herzog	451-2890
Mrs. Dawn Ritter	451-8199
Mr. Jed Ebner	455-2876
Mr. Jon Hanson	455-1689

Volunteer Coordinator

By Connie Lembke

I want to thank all of you who helped with the Scholastic Book Fair. Your support is always so greatly appreciated. And as always, for helping sell Scrip at both parishes, but most of all for your willingness to say "yes" whenever there is a volunteer need. God Bless you!

Volunteers are a vital part of St. Mary's School. We appreciate the generosity of time, talent, and expertise of all of you. We would like to show our appreciation. **On April 1st we invite you to our All School Mass.** Please join us at 8:10 AM at Sacred Heart Church and afterwards in the parish center for donuts and coffee.

Save Aluminum Cans All Year

By Terri Grose
 Owatonna Metal Recycling
 1210 Industrial Road
 Owatonna, MN 55060
 (Across from the Waste Treatment Plant)
 451-1470

Owatonna Metal Recycling will collect aluminum cans for St. Mary's Sports Boosters all year. All you have to do is turn your cans in there and they will give you a slip. Take that slip to the office at the recycling center and they will keep track of the money owed to St. Mary's School. At the end of each month they will send St. Mary's a check for the cans collected. All the money will go towards St. Mary's sports.

This is a great way of getting rid of all those cans and not having to wait until our next pick-up date, which is in April. Any questions call Terri Grose at St. Mary's School or Wanda at Owatonna Metal Recycling. Thanks for your support.