

St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

September 2009



From the Principal's Office

Many of you have heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." This year it took a village to prepare the school building for the start to the 2009-2010 school year. Thank you to everyone that helped with sweeping, dusting, landscaping, and room preparation. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity and service of the St. Mary's Family. You truly are living the Faith.

We start the school year with 329 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. We welcome a talented teacher to the 6th grade, Molly Henriksen. And we are excited about the new After School Program and the director Anisha Pitzenberger. Molly, Anisha, and I are thrilled to be at St. Mary's and ready to serve its' students and families.

The school building will open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. By 8:15 a.m. the doors will be locked and visitors will need to enter through the main doors on Marian Drive. Please check in at the office so we can direct you to the correct location and keep track of visitors. If you need to use the building after 7:00 p.m., please make arrangements in the office. We hope to create a welcoming, yet safe and secure environment for students and families.

In order to maintain a safe drop off area for students, we will have signs placed on Marian Drive asking parents to limit traffic to one way going east to west. Please do not park on Marian Drive because traffic will be blocked. If you enter the parking lot from Oak Street, please park and walk your child into the building.

September is busy with many events. The magazine drive kicks off on Friday, September 11. Seventh grade students will go to Eagle Bluff on Tuesday, September 15, and junior high students, 6th through 8th grade, will take part in the Youth Frontiers Courage Retreat on September 18. Hearing and vision screening and school pictures will also take place in September.

If you are looking for information about the schedule or individual classroom information, we invite you to use our website: www.stmarys-owatonna.org. It's a great way to stay connected and save on trees.

I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Stop by for a visit, give me a call, or write me an e-mail.

Blessings to you and your family,

Mary Hawkins, Principal
St. Mary's and St. Isidore Schools
Owatonna, MN 55060
School: 507-446-2300
E-mail: mhawkins@stmarys-owatonna.org

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.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 11 – Magazine Drive kick-off
- Sept. 14 – 7:00 PM Home and School Meeting
- Sept. 15 – Grade 7 Eagle Bluff Field Trip
- Sept. 17 – Vision and Hearing gr. 1-8
- Sept. 18 – Gr. 6-8 Frontier Retreat
- Sept. 21 – 7 PM School Board Meeting
- Sept. 24 – School Picture Day
- Sept. 25 – Vision & Hearing for kindergarten

2009-2010 Lunch Prices

Grades K-5 - \$1.75 a day / \$8.75 a week

Grades 6-8 - \$1.85 a day / \$9.25 a week

½ pint of milk - \$.35

(For purchase of an extra carton with lunch or for purchase with cold lunch from home)

For the students that are allergic to milk, we offer Lactose free milk or juice. Please send a note to school, letting us know who is allergic to milk.

A note from the Kitchen

You are always welcome to have lunch with your child. It would be really helpful if you could please call the office by 8:30 AM if you are planning to eat that day.

I am also looking for subs for the kitchen. The hours would be 10:45 AM to 1:15 PM. If you are interested please call me at school or e-mail me at rfisher@stmarys-owatonna.org

[owatonna.org](mailto:rfisher@stmarys-owatonna.org)

Rita Fisher

Lost And Found

We are hoping to minimize the amount of lost clothing this year at school. We recommend that your child's name be written on the inside tag of all sweatshirts, jackets, boots, shoes, lunch bags etc. to help make sure that lost items are returned to their rightful owner. This is also true for junior high students as many items are left in the locker rooms and hallways. Thank you for your cooperation.

Notice of Pest Control Materials

St. Mary's School utilizes a licensed, professional pest control service firm for the prevention and control of rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the school building. Their program consists of:

1. *Inspection and monitoring* to determine whether pests are present, and whether any treatment is needed.
2. Recommendations for *maintenance and sanitation* to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
3. Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening; and
4. Application of *EPA-registered pest control materials* when needed.

Pests can sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property, and spread disease; therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pest control materials, or the class of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per Federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review or copying at each school office. A similar estimated schedule is available for application of herbicides and other materials to school grounds. Parents of students may request to receive, at their expense, prior notification of any application of a pest control material, should such an application be deemed necessary on a day different from the days specified in the schedule.

Parking & Drop Off

When you are visiting St. Mary's, please park your vehicles south of the Sacred Heart Parish Center or facing the basketball hoops. This will allow full use of the parking lot for our physical education classes and recess.

Please do NOT park in the bus-loading zone on Cedar Avenue. Thanks for your cooperation

September Liturgies

Sept. 9 – 8:10 All School Mass at Sacred Heart

Sept. 16 – 8:15 All School Mass at St. Joseph

Sept. 23 – 8:10 All School Mass at Sacred Heart

Sept. 30 – 8:05 Spirit Groups (1-8)

Parents and guests are welcome.

2009-2010 Asbestos Notification

As a result of recent Federal legislation, each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent inspection for asbestos and to develop a major plan for all asbestos-containing building materials. St. Mary's School is in full compliance with this law. St. Mary's School continues to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our students, staff, and parents.

Asbestos was used extensively during World War II in the construction industry and was also widely used in many factories, building and hospitals across the nation. In all cases, asbestos products work very well to provide fire safety. Since then, concern has been raised that, with time, asbestos-containing materials can break down and allow particles into the air. Heavy exposure to asbestos particles has been linked to certain forms of

cancer. Earlier Federal laws were passed requiring school districts to identify areas at which materials containing friable asbestos were used. More recent legislation (AHERA) required identification of all asbestos-containing materials and a plan to manage those materials.

In keeping with this legislation, accredited inspectors inspected all building owned or leased by the school districts and independent laboratories analyzed samples. Based upon these inspections, the school prepared and the state approved comprehension management plans for handling asbestos located within buildings.

St. Mary's School has asbestos containing materials within it, which are either under repair, removal, or being maintained on a regular basis.

Federal law requires periodic walk-through called surveillance every six months of each building containing asbestos. The last inspection at St. Mary's was in May 2009. Also the law requires that all buildings be re-

inspected each three years.

Short-term workers (outside contractor's example, telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) are provided with information regarding the location of asbestos that they may come into contact with. All short-term workers shall contact the head custodial maintenance person before working within the building.

St. Mary's School has a list of locations; types of asbestos containing materials found in the school building and a description and timetable for the proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for you to view in the school office. Copies are available at \$.10 per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Dan Johnson, a designated asbestos management programmer through the Institute of Environmental Assessment under contract with Southeast Minnesota Cooperative at 507-281-6662.

St. Mary's Magazine Drive



Please support our school by renewing or ordering new. 40% of price goes to the school. Over 800 titles to choose from!

For your convenience, you may order online by following these simple steps. Go to www.qsp.com and select St. Mary's -Owatonna or enter our school's account number 425006429. You will be linked directly to the on-line site where everything you purchase will earn 40% profit for St. Mary's!

Sale begins September 11th

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.

St. Mary's next aluminum can pick-up will be the weekend of the school carnival (Oct. 10) in the parking lot.

From the Library

WELCOME BACK!

We have added many new books to our library collection thanks to the generosity of our Home/School Association and some personal donations.

Birthday Book Club

Attached to the newsletter is our Birthday Book Club membership form. Last year many new books were added to our collection through this program. These books are labeled with special book plates and spine labels, shelved with the rest of our collection, and available for checkout to all of our students.

MN State Book Award

Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in this program, which runs from Sept. – Mar. When a student has read 3 books from the selected titles they earn the "right" to cast a vote for their favorite. Votes are tallied here and sent to the MN Youth Reading Association. **If YOU read the books to your child; that counts too!** We have multiple copies of each title, and our Public Library will also shelve the same books. Students reading 6 or more of the books become part of the "Scholar's Club" and celebrate in the library when the state winner is chosen (Apr. 2009). Listed below are the nominated books for this school year. Or you can visit our school Website and find the list and book summaries.

Thank you again for your support in making our library a vibrant component of our school. We have a school population supported in its desire to read.

Have a wonderful school year!

Sharleen Berg

School Board Members

Sacred Heart

Mrs. Lori Jerpbak	451-1060
Mr. David Mulert	451-3550
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mr. Rich Gerdts	835-3283

St. Joseph

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

Scrip Update:

J.C. Penney's Scrip can **NO longer** be used to pay on charge accounts.



St. Mary's School
730 S. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

www.stmarys-owatonna.org

507-446-2300 (phone)
507-446-2304 (fax)
507-456-5883 After School Program