

# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

## January 2008



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### Upcoming Events

- Jan. 14 – 7:00 PM Home and School Meeting
- Jan. 14 – 7:00 PM School Board meeting
- Jan. 17 – 8:15 AM Yearbook group pictures
- Jan. 17 – End of Quarter #2
- Jan. 17 – 7:00 PM Kindergarten Parent Information meeting
- Jan. 18 & 21 – NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 27 – Feb. 1 – Catholic Schools Week
- Jan. 28 – Science Fair

### Administrator's Corner

By Jerry Kent

Happy New Year! On behalf of St. Mary's School I wish all the students and staff a very wonderful new year. May the blessings of the Christ Child be with each of you and your families for the many kind and generous

gifts given not only to me but also to the teachers and staff members at our school. I know that they greatly appreciate all the support and your great generosity. I wish to thank the St. Mary's School family for the great support of the most recently completed service project that the St. Mary's families were involved in collecting money which will be forwarded to the fire victims in California. God bless each of you for your great generosity.

Registration for the 2008-2009 school year will be held beginning February 1. Registration information will be mailed out approximately the middle of January along with copies of school board policies pertaining to registration. The two parishes and parents of St. Mary's School support St. Mary's School. Tuition pays approximately 50% of the cost of educating a child at St. Mary's each year. Please be very supportive of your parishes as well.

Perspective kindergarten parents will have a parent only information evening on January 17 to learn more about the kindergarten program. Information concerning this program will be mailed to those unable to attend. An Open House will be held in April for all registered kindergarten students for the 2008-09 school year. Remember that St. Mary's School is a full day kindergarten program beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of each year.

The St. Mary's Staff is dedicated to providing the best opportunity for children to be educated in a very Christian and caring environment. To the present members of the school family I thank you for your choice in attending St. Mary's School and urge you to pass on information

concerning SMS to friends and neighbors who you believe would also benefit from being part of this Christ-centered school family.

Information concerning Catholic schools and Catholic Schools Week will be available during the upcoming month. CSW will be celebrated the January 27 - February 1.

St. Mary's staff is currently working on reviewing the social studies and physical education curriculums during the school year. This will hopefully be completed by the end of the school year.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Night of Knights Auction will be held on Saturday, April 12. During the next few weeks you will be receiving information concerning this evening. I urge you to support the auction committee by donating auction items and also to give your time to help solicit others to do the same from the Owatonna community on their behalf. I urge St. Mary's families to continue to promote Scrip as a way to benefit SMS and also to urge others to purchase scrip and use it to benefit Catholic education.

In conclusion I would like to state publicly my strong support for considering the option of St. Mary's School purchasing portions of the Owatonna High School building. Based upon the results of the most recent completed feasibility study, I believe that this is the best option open to St. Mary's at this time. Within this newsletter (*see page 9*) is a composite of information that I presented to the SMS school board members at the Dec. 19 meeting when they formally endorsed SMS proceeding with this possible purchase. I urge you as SMS family members to find out more about this exciting opportunity as information becomes available.

## Kindergarten News ..... *By Mrs. Lambaere, Mrs. Borgerding, & Mrs. Wolfe*



December was a flurry of activity in Kindergarten. We had so much fun creating, singing, and preparing for Jesus' birthday.

We hope and pray that the snowy winter weather will continue through January. Snow and cold temperatures will allow us to complete many fun science experiments during our winter unit.

We will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a mini unit focusing on peace and brotherhood.

Kindergartners will also celebrate A.A. Milne's birthday (creator of Winnie the Pooh).

We continue to focus on letter and sound recognition, as well as our growing list of words, for use in our reading and writing.

Keep watching for communications in your child's classroom newsletter for any updates in his/her classroom.

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

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas! We enjoyed the vacation and we are back and ready to go! The New Year blew in with a lot of cold temperatures so please remember to send appropriate things to wear for recess.

We hope you enjoyed getting your child's gifts they made for you as well as seeing their wonderful work on their ABC Books of Christmas. We had so much fun preparing for Jesus' birth with all of our activities. We enjoyed doing

our kind deeds during Advent and caroling at the bank. We did a wonderful job bringing in donations for our advent project as well! We are a very giving school family! We also had a lot of fun the last day with our party and our gift exchange. The students had so much fun bringing gifts for others!

As long as the weather is so cold, this month we will begin our unit of study on penguins! This is a lot of fun, and you will be amazed at the amount of things we learn about penguins! We look forward to

Catholic Schools Week at the end of the month.

We are also very pleased to meet Parker Duncan in Mrs. Haarstad's class! He comes from Arizona and moved here over Christmas break. We are very excited to have him with us and he is making new friends fast! We welcome the Duncan family.

Please remember to sign planners each day and keep up with your daily reading at home! May God bless you in this New Year!

## Second Grade News ..... *By Mrs. Bastyr & Mrs. Pipitone*

Happy New Year from Mrs. Bastyr and Mrs. Pipitone!

Can you believe we are through with the year 2007? December just flew by. In reading we read The Mitten, Annie and the Wild Animals, and The Wild Christmas Reindeer, written by Jan Brett. We read some other stories by her. They are very enjoyable.

In math we worked on ballpark estimation and finding actual answers to bigger problems. We

continue working on the addition facts.

Each Monday we got together with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and had an Advent Prayer Service.

We will be finishing up our preparations for First Reconciliation. Please remember to say the Act of Contrition at home.

May this New Year bring much happiness to you and your family!

First Reconciliation—

Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at

Sacred Heart Church from 3:30-4:30PM or 6:30-7:30PM

\* If you cannot attend on Wed. there is one being held on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart from 9:00-10:00.



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



January is an exciting month in third grade! In Language Arts, we move onto the *Disasters!* unit with nonfiction stories about the *Titanic* and Pompeii. We will finish a unit on Measurement and Area and then begin Multiplication and Division in Math. Look for a set of multiplication flashcards to study at home in your child's binder in a couple of weeks. In religion, the children will be learning of God's new covenant with believers through Jesus.

While studying habitat and endangered animals in science, the students will be experiencing the process of writing a research paper! We look forward to sharing our Endangered Animal reports at the Home and School meeting in February.

May 2008 bring rich blessings to your family!

## Fourth Grade News.....By Mrs. Gerdt & Mrs. Wobschall



It is hard to believe that the New Year is here. We have plenty to do in 2008. We accomplished much in 2007 and look forward to what is ahead.

In language arts we are into our 3<sup>rd</sup> theme, which is titled "Super Sleuths." The stories are mystery type stories. We have also been working on persuasive writing. They have had some fun topics.

Math has been very exciting! The students love the lattice multiplication. They actually beg for more work. We are also working with rounding, estimating, and very large

numbers. We will be finishing up unit 5 and moving on to unit 6.

In religion we spent some time on the Advent season. Each week we got together with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and had a short Advent service. We enjoyed worshipping as a whole school family before Christmas break. In science we are finishing up talking about diseases. In social we are studying the people and heritage of the Northeast region. We will be taking our northeast state capitals test soon.

We look forward to a productive 2008 with our students.

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

Happy New Year! We are ready to start 2008 refreshed and eager to learn. The end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is only 2 weeks away. The students will be making new goals as we approach our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of school.

The New Year brings with it many new learning opportunities. We will be starting Science with a unit on Magnets, Motors, and Electricity. The students will be experimenting to help them understand the relationship between magnetism and electricity. We wrapped up our literature books

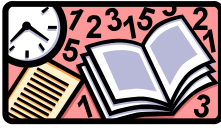
before Christmas, therefore we will begin a new unit in our reading series titled: "Try to See it My Way." The stories revolve around the perspective of many interesting characters. We will be working with adjectives, metaphors and similes, and interesting verbs to help us with our writing. Organization is the new trait we will introduce in writing. We will be working on introductions, transitions, closings, and much more.

We are still dividing in math. Students are using different strategies to solve one and two digit divisors. We are always reinforcing

the importance of using estimation to help us find the correct quotient. We will wrap up the unit with a fun group project before heading into fractions.

In Religion we will begin our study of the 7 Sacraments. We will also wrap up our study of puberty with a separate boys' and girls' talk. More information will be sent home on the topics covered. You will also have an opportunity to join us for these conversations. Watch for the note. Have a great 2008!

## Sixth Grade News.....By Mrs. Barnes &amp; Mrs. Vieths



Welcome back to another wonderful year at St. Mary's School! It is always so nice to come back to your children after the long break!

Mrs. Pohlen will begin Life Skills with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders this month. This program teaches valuable skills to help students resolve conflicts and make wise decisions.

Math finds us adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions, working with percent graphs, and using percents of numbers. We will complete this unit shortly and begin Unit 5, which deals with geometry.

Our first round of self-selected Literature Circles was a huge success! The detailed discussions and incredible projects displayed how much effort the

students put into their work. We are so proud of them and cannot wait to see what they show us next!

The end of second quarter is January 18<sup>th</sup>! 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be reflecting on their goals for the quarter and preparing any new goals for quarter 3. We will also hold our 6<sup>th</sup> grade auction! This is a special treat for all the students have accomplished!

Catholic Schools Week will be the last week of January. This is a special time for us to celebrate what it means to be Catholic through unique activities and projects.

We hope your New Year has gotten off to a splendid beginning!

## Mrs. Nylund's News

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

Right before Christmas break we finished our novel, Summer of My German Soldier, and watched the movie as well. The students are now working on writing a paper comparing and contrasting the two, concentrating on using transitional words and phrases correctly and writing good topic sentences, introductions, and conclusions. They have also had the opportunity to use the new computer software, Inspiration, which is a program that helps them make a web and outline to organize their thoughts before they begin writing. The students seemed to enjoy the book and learned a lot about the feelings of the world during WWII. They learned many new vocabulary words, and we concentrated on conflict resolution and character development. After the paper is completed, we will be moving back into our Literature

books and will concentrate on some grammar skills as well.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

We recently finished the unit called Variables and Patterns, which introduced the algebra concepts of working with equations using tables and graphs. The students are now quite adept at using graphing calculators to construct the tables and graphs after they have written an equation for a situation. Their new unit, Moving Straight Ahead, continues the concepts they started in the last unit. They will soon be working on solving algebraic equations, a concept that they will need to master to be successful in high school mathematics.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

The students were very sad to say good-bye to the Pythagorean Theorem (or at least I like to think that; they might say differently!). I

saw very impressive scores on their unit tests. After some frustration with the concept, they seem to have finally grasped it! Having only a few days before break between finishing the old unit and starting our new, we worked on some basic skills work to refresh those minds on all the math skills learned in elementary math such as fractions, ratio and proportions, etc. Immediately following Christmas break we began our new unit, Frogs, Fleas, and Painted Cubes, which deals with quadratic equations.

Happy New Year! I hope that 2008 brings everyone only health and happiness!! ☺

## Mr. Smith's News

### Junior High Religion

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1/6/08	Matt 2:1-12	The Magi Would Come to Your House, Too!
1/13/08	Matt 3:13-17	Jesus Needed Tutoring?
1/20/08	John 1:29-34	Who Are You Pointing At?
1/27/08	Matt 4:12-23	Let God Use Tragedy for Good

7<sup>th</sup> graders will continue studying Catholic Social Justice teachings and applying what they learn to participating in acts of justice and charity. Students will also wrap up the filming of their saint stop motion films.

8<sup>th</sup> graders will complete the writing of their very own Ready to Go Scripture Skit that will be acted out in class. Students will complete filming and editing their scripture music videos. Look for them by the end of the month in the My Videos section on the SMS webpage.

All service hour forms must be signed and turned in by 1/17/08 to receive credit. Students who want to earn points for praying the Beatitudes and O My God, Teach Me should recite the prayer to parent volunteers on Thursdays during religion class time until the end of second quarter.

Students will have quiet prayer time at Sacred Heart Church on 1/9/08. During this time, some of the students will meet with their spiritual advisor, Sister Cecille, Sister Nadine, or Deacon Pat. Students meet with their spiritual advisor every other month.

Students will also attend a student created and led prayer service focusing on "unity." This prayer service will be at 1:40 pm on 1/22/08 @ Sacred Heart Church. All are welcome to this prayer experience.

### Student Council and Youth Ministry Events

- 1/4/08- Volleyball Tournament 6-7-8<sup>th</sup> grade 7-9 PM SMS Gym (\$2 to play; \$1 to watch)
- 1/5/08- Game Night with Seminarians 6-7-8<sup>th</sup> grade 5 PM Mass- Pizza Supper- Games @ SMS Gym 6:30-8:30 Free!
- 1/16/08- DOC 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym
- 1/18/08- CYO Ski Trip to Afton Alps 8 AM to 8PM 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade (cost varies- see website for details)
- 1/19/08- Food Fast (service project to raise funds for the Steele County Food Shelf)
- 1/21/08- CYO Snowtubing Trip to Stewartville 9 AM to 1:15 PM 5-6-7-8<sup>th</sup> grade (\$11)
- 2/1/08- All School Dance @ SMS Gym

### Hands & Feet Service Project

All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to participate in Food Fast on 1/18/08-1/19/08 to raise money for the Steele County Food Shelf and raise awareness about hunger. Please watch for information on the website and in emails for more information!

### Vocations Week

In observance of National Vocations Week, the Owatonna Area Serra Club has invited Fr. Loomis from Resurrection Parish in Rochester, MN to celebrate Mass and spend the day sharing his story with students on 1/16/08.

### DVD's for sale

DVDs featuring the K-5 Christmas Concert and elementary and preschool Christmas programs are available for purchase for \$5. The DVD features performances from all three preschool classes, all kindergarten classes, and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Wobschall, and Mrs. Kaspers' classes. Checks can be made payable to St. Mary's School.

## Science Fair.....By Mr. Simon



7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade scientists should be finishing up their Science Fair Research Paper. The Fair is scheduled for Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Parents, grandparents, and mentors interested in being a Science Fair Judge please call 446-2300 and leave a message with the office. More information will be sent out towards the end of January.

## Physical Education.....By Ms. Grose

Kindergarten: We have been working on locomotor movements; skipping, galloping, sliding, running, leaping, hopping, and jumping. WE will be working on the proper way to overhand throw and catch. After that we will be working on a juggling unit. We will juggle 1-2 tennis balls, beanbags and scarves.

Grade 1-2: We just finished a juggling unit. We are working on a jumping rope unit, using short and long

ropes. We will be working with hula-hoop and scooter. After that we will work on volleyball skills.

Grade 3-4: We have been working with pogo sticks, walking stilts, scooters, skip-its, walking on a buddy board, using balance discs and hula-hoops. The next unit will be volley. We will work on the skills and then play games.

Grades 5-8: We are working on a volleyball unit. We have been working on skills, learning the rules and playing games. The next unit will be basketball.

## Greetings from the Library.....By Mrs. Berg

### **"Movies" of Favorite Authors at Home? (or at our Public Library)**

St. Mary's School has a subscription to TeachingBooks.net, a multimedia website that generates enthusiasm for books and reading with engaging author programs and K-12 book resources for children and teens.

TeachingBooks is an online service that students and families can use at school, home, wherever there is Internet access.

With TeachingBooks, you can...

- See and hear favorite authors
- Listen to books being read
- Find discussion questions for books
- Enjoy author websites

#### **To use TeachingBooks:**

1. Go to [www.TeachingBooks.net/home/](http://www.TeachingBooks.net/home/) (It is important to use this address to avoid being offered a trial period; we already subscribe to this service).

2. In the "Sign In" box under "Password," enter: smarys

3. Click "Submit."

[www.TeachingBooks.net/home/](http://www.TeachingBooks.net/home/) (800)596-0710

### **Maud Hart Lovelace**

It is a new year and not too late for your 3-8<sup>th</sup> grader to begin reading books from this selected list. Maud Hart Lovelace is the MN state book award. We are encouraging students in grades 3-8 to read at least 3 books from this list (you may also read them **to** your child) and vote in March. Students reading 3 books earn the right to vote, and those reading 6 or more will be having their lunch in the library. We'll have some lively discussion about the year's winning books.

### **Caldecott & Newbery Medals**

Some of our classes will be studying the background behind these annual awards given for distinguished illustrating and writing. The awards are soon to be announced, and we'll have background enough to voice an "educated" opinion on the committee's decision.

### **Helping Children Become Better**

### **Readers**

We all want our children not only to be good readers, but also to know the joy of reading. As our children become good readers, we are often tempted to push them or urge them to read books that are within their reading abilities but that are above their understanding. It is not enough that children can read the words; they must also have had enough life experience to understand what the author is trying to say. If they begin reading a book before they can understand it, they will have "lost" that book forever; many a good book has been overlooked under these circumstances.

### **Children's Book Council**

Check out [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org) and find some great ideas in choosing books appropriate for your child's age level. At this site you will find guidelines for choosing books and lists to assist you in that choice. Many wonderful links are also available at this site for further exploration.

**Happy New Year!**  
**Mrs. Berg**

## Auction Committee Update



With the holidays behind us, our auction preparation kicks into high gear. We are working on some great packages and are continuing the sale of the "Car and Cash" raffle tickets. First and foremost though is to be sure that your have **Saturday, April 12, 2008** reserved on your calendar to attend our big fundraising event for St. Mary's School.

We're going "South of the Border" again with our Fiesta theme. We had such a great response to our Mexican celebration last year that we are bringing it back! We will include decorations, margaritas, chips& salsa and some special auction items to create a fun, festive atmosphere.

The "**Car and Cash**" raffle tickets are selling steadily! If you would like to purchase a ticket or if you could help us sell a few tickets, please contact Matt Thurnau at 455-1769. The winner will be drawn during the Live Auction on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Just to remind you, the Grand Prize is a 2 year lease on a 2008 Ford Edge with all the bells and whistles, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$1000, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is \$500! Hurry and get your "winning ticket"!

"Buy it Now" –Back by Popular Demand! Again this year we will be offering "Buy it Now" tables. This

concept is similar to online auctions like eBay. You have the opportunity to bid on certain items that once the designated price is reached-the winner is determined-no more bidding. So, if you really like an item, make your bid at the "Buy it Now" price and it will be yours. We find this to be a great alternative for those people that can't be with us for the entire evening, but who really wish to purchase something.

**Please** remember to keep St. Mary's Auction in mind as you shop the after Christmas **sales**. This is a great time to make your purchase for a donation to the auction. The donations that St. Mary's families make are very important to the success of the auction every year. If you need ideas or if you have a new, unique idea you would like to share with us please contact a committee member! Thank you in advance for your help and support!

**Business Solicitations** will begin in January. It will be a busy month as we organize our business solicitation volunteers. Auction solicitors will be provided with their contact list of businesses and our auction donation forms this month. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this very important task. Our auction success depends heavily upon our business donors. Year in and year out they provide us with great items that make our event so special – household goods, travel packages, dining experiences, or cash to put toward other auction purchases. Be sure to thank them on our behalf for their support of St. Mary's School. If you could help out with business solicitations please contact Katie Felland at 446-0510.

We're looking forward to making this year's auction a great evening for all!

### Auction Committee

Jay and Tricia Johnson [bushelboyfam@msn.com](mailto:bushelboyfam@msn.com)  
 Jack and Katie Felland [katiejack@deskmedia.com](mailto:katiejack@deskmedia.com)  
 Matt and Karen Thurnau [mkgthurn@rconnect.com](mailto:mkgthurn@rconnect.com)  
 Mark and Mary Rahrck [mmrahrck@charter.net](mailto:mmrahrck@charter.net)  
 Lori and Barry Butler [loributler1@charter.net](mailto:loributler1@charter.net)  
 Nic and JoAnn Matejcek [jomat@rjfwindowsanddoors.com](mailto:jomat@rjfwindowsanddoors.com)  
 Patrick and Kristin Haberman [kristin@habermanlaw.com](mailto:kristin@habermanlaw.com)  
 Todd and Kris Wishy [tkwishy@charter.net](mailto:tkwishy@charter.net)  
 Dave and Cathy Effertz [ceffertz@gmail.com](mailto:ceffertz@gmail.com)  
 Phil and Carol Daley [carol.daley@allina.com](mailto:carol.daley@allina.com)  
 Bill and Kris Dublin [dubsmn@charter.net](mailto:dubsmn@charter.net)  
 Chris and Jill Prohaski 451-5000

## Boys Basketball Schedule

Jan. 8 vs. Prior Lake (St. Michael's), B/A, here 5:00 PM  
 Jan. 9 at Northfield (St. Dominic's) 6/A 4:45 & 6:45 PM  
 Jan. 11 vs. New Prague (St. Wenceslaus) B/A, here 4:15 PM  
 Jan. 14 vs. Schaeffer Academy Rochester, B, here 6:15 PM  
 Jan. 15 at Randolph, B/A 5:00 PM  
 Jan. 17 vs. Faribault Lutheran, B/A, here 5:30 PM  
 Jan. 22 vs. Webster (Holy Cross), B/A, here 4:45 PM  
 Jan. 23 at Montgomery (elementary school) B/A 5:30 PM  
 Jan. 25 vs. Faribault B.A., B/A, here 4:30 PM  
 Jan. 29 vs. Owatonna Christian School, B, here 5:15 PM  
 Jan. 31 vs. Faribault MNSAD, A, here 4:30 PM

## Girls Basketball Schedule

Jan. 3 vs. New Prague (St. Wenceslaus), B/A, here 4:15 PM  
 Jan 8 vs. Prior Lake (St. Michael's), A, here 7:00 PM  
 Jan. 9 at Northfield (St. Dominic's) 6<sup>th</sup> 5:45 PM  
 Jan. 14 vs. Schaeffer Academy Rochester, B/A, here 4:15 PM  
 Jan. 15 vs. Randolph, B/A, here 5:00 PM  
 Jan. 17 at Faribault Lutheran, B/A 4:30 PM  
 Jan. 22 at Webster (Holy Cross) B/A 4:30 PM  
 Jan. 25 at Faribault B.A. (Divine Mercy) B/A 4:30 PM  
 Jan. 29 vs. Owatonna Christian School, B, here 4:15 PM  
 Jan. 31 at New Prague (St. Wenceslaus) B/A 4:45 PM

## Jr. High Solo/Ensemble



On Saturday, February 2, St. Mary's Jr. High Band students will participate in a solo/ensemble festival at Triton Middle School in West Concord. Approximately 300 students from area schools will perform solos and/or small group ensembles from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Participating students will

receive a schedule of the event sometime during the last week of January. We will travel by bus to West Concord. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kuklok.

## From the Social Worker's Office.....By Gina Pohlen

Are there any St. Mary's parents who have been wondering if their children are safe on the Internet? I recently came across a very helpful pamphlet promoting Internet safety. It discusses a variety of topics in an easy to understand way for those of us who are not very savvy about

cyberspace. Information includes: kid-friendly search engines, websites which would be good for homework, common sense rules to teach kids about cyberspace, and tips for parents whose teens use social networking sites like MySpace, Facebook and Xanga. The pamphlet can be found at the website WiredSafety. A direct link is

<http://www.wiredkids.org/parents/parentingonline/parentingonline.pdf>

I hope you find this information useful. My office hours are M, W, Th from 8:30am-2:30pm. Please stop by my office or call me at 446-2300 if you have any questions or concerns related to your child at St. Mary's. Happy New Year!

## Nurse's Notes.....By Mary Herzog, RN

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays together and have come back to school well rested and ready to start our last half of the year.

December was a busy month in the Nurse's office. We had a large number of cases of pinkeye and an equally large number out with the vomiting and diarrhea. My hope is that January will be a healthier month.

I will be making the rounds of the elementary this month with "Glo Germs". Students will learn about proper hand washing, which is our best defense against winter illnesses.

Letters will be going out shortly to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students concerning the immunizations they will need before

entrance into 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. All will need a tetanus booster and new this year is the state requirement for a second chickenpox (Varicella) shot. This shot will also be required for students entering kindergarten.

Please remember to let us know why your child is absent. I am required to report outbreaks of influenza, chickenpox and shingles to the MN Dept. of Health. It is also helpful to send letters home if there seems to be a concentration of an illness in a particular grade level.

If you have any questions I can help you with, please feel free to call me.

## January Liturgies

- Jan. 9 – 8:10 AM Spirit Group
- Jan. 16 – All School vocations Mass
- Jan. 23 – 8:10 AM Jr. High Mass
- Jan. 30 – 8:10 AM All School Catholic Schools Mass

All masses are at Sacred Heart Church. Parents and guests are welcome.

## School Board Members

### Sacred Heart

Mrs. Carla Kern	455-1544
Mr. Robbe Kniefel	455-2371
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mrs. Holly Liebl	455-9013

### St. Joseph

Mr. Chris Herzog	451-2890
Mrs. Dawn Ritter	451-8199
Mr. Brian Bunkers	455-3186
Mr. Jon Hanson	455-1689

*Information presented to SMS School Board on December 19, 2007*

December 19, 2007  
SMS School Board Members,

After the presentation of the feasibility study results this past week I had to consider the what if's. If Andy Currie, study director, is correct we can only probably raise \$3 million dollars from the two parishes realistically. That does not take into account a "miracle donor" that he spoke about but that is probably wish full thinking. This is similar to the amount that we were told was available for "Seeds of Faith". This leaves the OHS option, as I believe to be the best and only realistic option. I need to remove the highly emotional piece of the present location for 130 years. The OHS site is better educational space for many reasons:

- Bigger and better educational space to truly develop Best Practices in education.
- Fantastic space for a quality library and technology space run by our fantastic librarian, Sharleen.
- Prep areas for our teachers in areas made for this purpose.
- Conference rooms to meet with teachers and parents as well as hold board meetings.
- Space for a teacher's lounge-we really need such a space.
- Break out areas for classes to work together without crowding two classes into one room or using the cafeteria under a noisy gymnasium.
- State of the art technology throughout the building as opposed to a single lab.
- Small group presentations in the small group forum area designed for these sessions.
- A kitchen that is already equipped far better that we can ever make at our present site even if we spend \$100,000's of thousands of dollars.
- Air conditioning and better air exchange in classrooms for if and when Minnesota goes to year around education.
- More gym space to meet students' physical needs in a society dealing with child and adult obesity issues.
- Flexibility to use indoor areas on bad Minnesota weather days.
- Green space that is far better and safer than trying to use a joint space with students sharing a parking lot with cars, trucks and semi's.
- Safety for students and staff by locating the main office at the main entrance to screen all who enter our educational space.
- Joint REP and SMS offices to promote more unity and cooperation amongst these programs. This can lead to an overall Catholic Education Administrator in the future.
- Room for growth for present grades and future generations of Catholic Youth.
- Better band and choir areas than what is presently available and also of future changes to this present site.
- An actual auditorium that is built for school concerts and drama productions.
- If this school is ever going to reach the quality level it is capable of this is a golden opportunity that will not happen again.
- The issues of water and mold will be addressed and corrected before we take over ownership.
- We are one block from St. Joseph's Parish and only three blocks from Sacred Heart. It is not like we are moving across town. We will have the space for an in house chapel as well. We can make a Catholic School environment in this place I am positive. Religion in a former public school building is a good thing-not a bad thing.

The committee has done its' homework and we can get a better facility for far less money-less than 1/3 rd I believe. It is a win-win situation for Catholic Education and the Owatonna Community. We can make the new SMS better than addressing limitations of the present site. It is time to see the future and grab hold and embrace this plan. This old building and site has served us well these many years but it can no longer meet the needs of our youth and staff in a manner they so richly deserve.

Jerry Kent  
Administrator

## Auditions For The Spring Play

Auditions for the Spring Play, "Beauty and the Beast" by Vera Morris will be held on Monday and Tuesday, January 7 and 8 from 2:40 to 4:30. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 may audition from 2:40 to 3:30. Students in grades 7 and 8 may audition from 3:30 to 4:30 on those days. If these dates and times do not work for you, please feel free to contact Stacey Mulet at 446-9471. Rehearsals will begin on

January 14, and will run most school days from 3:30 to approximately 5:00.

"Beauty and the Beast" is a classic tale about a selfish prince who cares for no-one but himself after a mysterious stranger turns him into an awful Beast, he is condemned to live in sorrow, unless he can find someone to show him the kindness he never showed to

others. There are more than 30 parts in the play for actors, as well as backstage crew, lighting, sound, and special effects. This non-musical version contains drama, humor, mystery, and magic. This is a play with something for everyone!

The performance dates are March 13, 14, and 15. See you there!

## School Closing Information

St. Mary's School, because of busing, follows the same schedule as District 761 for late start and school closings. In speaking with Tom Sager from the District, they follow the following procedures.

*Notification of school closing or a late start will be posted on the following information systems no later than 6:30 a.m.*

- *Local district 761 website*

- *Education channel 21*
- *Local radio stations KOWZ, KRFO, KAAL, KDHL*
- *Television stations: KSTP Channel 5, KARE Channel 11, and KMSP channel 9, WCCO Channel 4.*

I would urge you to post this information and keep it close at hand to use on days of possible school closings.

### Save Aluminum Cans All Year

By Terri Grose

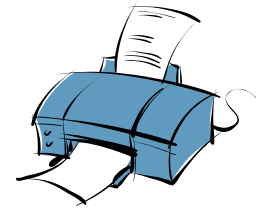
Owatonna Metal Recycling  
1210 Industrial Road  
Owatonna, MN 55060

(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.

Parents, Grandparents, Neighbors...



St. Mary's is collecting empty inkjet Cartridges for recycling:

**Lexmark Xerox Sharp  
HP Dell Apple  
Canon Brother**

Please drop them off at school  
Attn: Mrs. Wacek

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

**507-446-2300  
507-446-2304 (fax)  
www.stmarys-owatonna.org**