

St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Celebrate Service"

February 2008



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Upcoming Events

- Feb. 7 – Band Solo/Ensemble Festival
- Feb. 9 – Home & School Meeting
- Feb. 16 – NO SCHOOL
- Feb. 17 & 19 – Grade 2-8 Parent/teacher Conferences
- Feb. 20 – NO SCHOOL (SMS)
- Feb. 23 – School Board Meeting
- Feb. 23 – 28 Tri County Basketball Tournament

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

In the recently concluded month of January, St. Mary's School students and staff celebrated vocations at our school. Father Tom Loomis from Resurrection Parish in Rochester along with Deacon Pat Fagan and Deacon Adam McMillan spoke to our students in small groups on vocations. I believe we have many young people within our midst who are hearing the call from Jesus to be priests, sisters, and other religious areas and I hope that we all will continue by our good example and encouragement to foster those vocations.

Catholic Schools Week concluded this part week. St. Mary's school had many opportunities to show off our school. I was greatly pleased with the wonderful turn out at the Open House on Sunday the 25th. It was great to see so many parents and students and future students and parents in our building. I am sure that this will be an event that we will continue in the future. During Catholic School's week our students and staff got to shine. Teacher appreciation efforts as well as student activities involved items such as the Science Fair, the Talent Show, an opportunity for Praise and Worship at Sacred Heart Parish, and to celebrate liturgies both at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's as well as an All School Mass on Wednesday. We continued our areas of service by collecting Pennies for Patients and having a Red Cross Blood Drive at our school on Tuesday. A special thank you goes out to the junior staff, in particular Mrs. Stewart for coordinating the great Science Fair. We received much good publicity from this event.

Many of our third, fourth, and fifth grade students are becoming

much more adept at 15-2, 15-4, and a pair is 6. Cribbage is going well with many wonderful adults joining us to assist these students learn this fun game. An upcoming tournament will be held during the latter part of this month. Thank you also to Dan Bauer and his wonderful Retreat Team which involved many of our former St. Mary's students as he worked with our 8th graders during the month of January. In February our 7th grade students will have a retreat followed by a retreat in March for 6th grade students. I am so pleased to see that many of the students on the REP retreat team are former St. Mary's students. They remember these retreats when they were young and they want to provide that same opportunity and experience to the new 6, 7, and 8th grade students. These young people have become wonderful role models for our students.

The month of February is highlighted with I love to Read month. There are many activities that will be occurring during this month to support the wonderful skill of reading. It becomes a fun activity to promote reading and strong academics. During this month of February, we also have the Tri-County tournament to bring to a conclusion the basketball season. Please enjoy our teams and cheerleaders who have been very active this year.

A reminder to parents that 2nd quarter report cards did go home with students on Friday, January 23. We had a great number of students in grades 6, 7, and 8 attain the honor roll. In the past few years

Administrator's Corner
(Continued on page 8)

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

The assessments completed at the end of the 2nd Quarter showed some fine progress. We are very proud of our students. Kindergartners will be very busy this month as we move through our curriculum.

In Math major concepts will be number and their relationships as students engage in activities, which they count, combine, and compare amounts. Work on measurement continues as students use nonstandard units to measure objects.

In Reading we are working on beginning and ending sounds. We continue to introduce and practice

words from the kindergarten word list. We will practice comprehension strategies as we enjoy literature selections.

We have been learning so much about how to write and what it means to be a writer. We are getting lots of practice as we learn the "craft" of writing.

Our religion focus will be the season of Lent and Jesus' commandment of love.

Thank you for doing homework and reading to and with your child. Your support is so important.

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

It's been mighty busy down here in Antarctica! We have enjoyed learning so much about penguins this month. We made a book to help organize all the interesting facts about penguins. We had a field trip to Morehouse to have penguin's races on the ice. Thank you for all the donations for our treats after the races and for coming along! We topped off our unit with a wall of Antarctica that you will have to come and see. Our penguins we painted are actual size!

We also had many other

exciting things happening this month! We celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with some interesting stories and discussions. The children came up with their own "dreams" for the future. This all fit in so nicely with our newly elected president!

This month also brought us Catholic Schools Week with several activities to celebrate our faith and learning: penguin races, bubble day, Praise and Worship, Student vs. Teachers in floor hockey and volleyball, talent show, penguin painting, touring the science fair, and a lot of interesting dress days!!!

Thank you for all the donations for pennies for patients! It is touching having a picture of a child to whom our money will go to help! Thank you and God bless you!

We look forward to Valentine's and 100th Day celebrations, I Love to Read month, and many more exciting learning opportunities to come in February! We also wish Deacon Adam well on his new ventures!



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

Happy winter! We can't believe that half of the school year is finished! We have come a long way so far. In reading we read and discussed Martin Luther King, Jr. to help celebrate his birthday. There were many good discussions on how unjustly people were treated long ago and that it just wasn't fair.

In religion the BIGGIE was receiving First Reconciliation. Your children did a wonderful job preparing for this sacrament and learning the Act of Contrition. You can be proud of them we sure are!

We celebrated the Chinese New Year with a variety of activities. This year is the year of the ox. Did your child figure out the year you were born?

We had fun during Catholic Schools Week with: a pancake breakfast in 2nd grade, sledding, Praise and Worship, talent show, all school mass, ice cream sundaes, donuts, sports day and games. What a great school community we have!

Thanks for all you do to support the school and us. It is greatly appreciated.

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

In Language Arts during February, the students will continue with the Disasters theme. After we complete *Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius* (nonfiction), we move onto *Patrick and the Great Molasses Explosion* (historical fiction).

During January, the third graders researched and then wrote about their endangered animals. We will be presenting our reports at the February Home and School meeting. To conclude this Science/Writing

unit, we will attend a class about endangered animals at the Minnesota Zoo in February.

As we begin exploring the concept of place value in math, continue to work with your child on multiplication math facts at home. Have you checked out our updated websites? While practicing multiplication, check the site for websites that may assist them in learning facts.

During religion, we begin the month by studying about the kingdom of God and then

explore the relationship between the Passover and the Eucharist. Following this, we will contemplate our response to God’s great Gift as we explore using our gifts to share about Jesus.

Please know that there is an open invitation to join your children at an Elementary or All School Mass. We enjoy and appreciate parents’ presence at Mass and in our classrooms. Thank you for your continued support of your child’s learning!

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

It is hard to believe that we are over half way through the year. It seems like school has really flown by this year. We are blessed to work with a great group of kids that really have a desire to learn! In math we are conquering the wonderful world of division.

We are also working with coordinates, maps, and angles. We are enjoying our theme in language arts, Super Sleuths. All of the stories are detective type stories. We have also read some other novels that fit into that theme.

In social studies we are continuing our studies of

the ~ southeast region. Our focus now is on the heritage and people of that region. In science we have learned about different diseases, tire safety, and the importance of taking care of ourselves.

We enjoyed celebrating Catholic Schools’ Week and the wonderful school we are all lucky to be part of. Our special day at the water park was a blast! The students really enjoyed the time away from school and hanging out with their friends.

It is shocking that February is already here. We will continue to work hard every day because we still have much to accomplish this year in 4th grade.

School Spirit Valentine’s Day Flower Sale!



Students may buy carnations before school and during lunches on Feb. 4-6. Flowers will cost \$1 each and will be delivered to students and staff on Feb. 13. If you would like to purchase a flower for your child(ren), please complete this order form, include cash or checks (St. Mary’s School), and give to Mrs. Nylund (can put in her mailbox in the office) by Feb. 6. Thank you!

To:	From:	Message:	Homeroom

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

The 6th Graders were the leaders for the Praise and Worship Service for the elementary during Catholic Schools Week! This was their chance to shine as the responsible students at this event. We were so proud of them!

Math finds us completing Unit 5. We have been constructing, measuring, and naming angles. We have also worked with isometry transformations and congruent figures. Ask a sixth grader how many degrees are in a triangle!

Recently, we completed our entries for the Catholic Daughter's Contest. Our students were responsible for creating a piece of artwork and a poem. The themes this year are "God's Gifts in my Life" and "The Gifts I Give to Others." The sixth graders showed great spiritual depth in their pieces for this contest.

Our current novel unit is the book *Uglies*, by Scott Westerfeld. This book leads us into discussions about appearance, inner beauty, and how God loves every one of our imperfections. The high tech gadgets and a fast story line really keep us guessing!

Research papers are our topic in writing. Students are researching a disease of their choice and preparing a two page typed paper. From this paper, students will create a power point presentation to give to the class.

As the season of Lent approaches, let us all remember to prepare our hearts and minds for our Lord, Jesus Christ!

200 Club

The Junior High Responsibility Point system works to help students stay responsible and organized. The students in the 200 Club stayed perfect all quarter, turning in every assignment on time and always being prepared for class! The following junior high students were members of the 200 Club for the 2nd quarter. We thank them for their hard work!

7th Grade

Erin Abbe
 Lisette Betti
 Allison Grubish
 Riana Kubat
 Caitlin Morley
 Antonia Nelson
 Lisa Nguyen
 Anna Rahrick
 Nicole Sedivy

8th Grade

Michael Evans
 Miles Mulet
 Kurtis Pierret
 Kory Soukup

Spelling Bee

Do you know what *feldspar* is or how you would spell it if someone pronounced it to you? This was the word 7th grader Caitlin Morley spelled correctly to win the St. Mary's Spelling Bee on January 21. Caitlin now has the opportunity to represent St. Mary's at a Regional Spelling Bee in Rochester on February 17.

Miles Mulet, an 8th grader from Mrs. Slotvse's Language Arts class, was our school's runner-up, and 8th grader Brody Hudson, also from Mrs. Slotvse's class, came in third.

Other participants included 5th graders Brennon Brase and Luke Bunkers from Mrs. Kasper's class, Thomas Borgerding and Kirstin Pumper from Mrs. Lattery's room, 6th graders from Mrs. Barnes' room, Cole Butler and Morgan Malo, Thomas Donlon and Michael Pfeifer from Mrs. Vieths' room, 7th graders Lisa Nguyen, Anna Rahrick, and Alexandra Liebl from Mrs. Nylund and Mrs. Stewart's Language Arts class, and 8th graders Lara Butler and Brittney Kramer from Mrs. Slotvse's class.

Congratulations to all participants – they represented their classes and St. Mary's School well!!

A Note to Parents.....

Registration opens at St. Mary's School on February 1st. Information was mailed to all present families this past week. Please register as soon as possible to assure yourself a spot for the 2008-2009 school year. Registration will open up to the parishes at large on February 15 and the Owatonna Community at large on March 1. We don't want anyone to lose their place because they failed to register. A big thank you to the parishes that continue to support Catholic education as a mission of stewardship for their parishes.

PLEASE NOTE: Any parent having a specific placement concern for a student for next year should call the school office. Forms are available for K-6 placement for 2008-09 and **MUST** be returned to the office by **MAY 1**.

Mr. Smith's News

Junior High Religion

2nd Quarter Excellence in Faith Fitness Boot Camp Basic Training Award winners are Lisa Nguyen, Anna Rahrick, and Kurtis Pierret. 2nd Quarter Knights of the Round Table recognized by their peers for successfully living out the Be-Attitudes of being Christ-like, respectful, responsible, friendly, ready to learn, and a worker are Mary Ahlberg, Alexandra Liebl, Nikki Sedivy, Anna Frank, Lizzie Prohaski, and Kendra Schroeder. Students are presented with a certificate and are taken out to lunch by Mr. Kent and a junior high staff member.

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Theme</u>
2/1/09	Mark 1:21-28	Acknowledging the Lord's authority
2/8/09	Mark 1:29-39	Hope for healing in Christ
2/15/09	Mark 1:40-45	Healed- go forth to proclaim Christ
2/22/09	Mark 2:1-12	Brought by friends to Christ for forgiveness & healing
3/1/09	Mark 1:12-15	Tempted, but faithful to the covenant

During second quarter, seventh & eighth grade students worked 1,055 hours for the benefit of the school, church, and greater community! Students should remember to perform 8 hours of community service by 3/19/09. Students should also remember to study for their mid-quarter Boot Camp test on saints, Church basics, and scripture. The test will be the week of 2/17-2/19.

Student Council and Youth Ministry Events

- 2/4/09 EDGE Faith Rocks Dance 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym
- 2/4/09 ButterBraid Fundraiser begins!
- 2/6/09 REVAMP Urban Mission Trip Registration & Payment Due
- 2/11/09 EDGE Parent Night 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Cafeteria
- 2/13/09 SMS Dance 7-9 PM @ SMS Cafeteria
- 2/15/09 Sacred Heart Social Justice Valentine's Dinner @ 5 PM
- 2/18/09 EDGE Club 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym
- 2/24/09 SMS Mardi Gras Fundraiser 8:30-10:30 AM @ SMS Cafeteria
- 2/27/09 REVAMP Urban Mission Trip

Hands & Feet Service Projects

Students are invited to volunteer to set up, serve, and clear for the Valentine's Dinner to benefit Sacred Heart's Social Justice Committee. The dinner is on 2/15/09. Students will need to work between 1-7 PM. Please sign up in Mr. Smith's room or call him if interested.

Registration for the REVAMP urban mission trip closes on Friday, February 6, 2009. The retreat/mission trip will take place on the weekend of February 27-March 1. At the retreat, students will learn more about poverty and experience mission work in the Twin Cities. Students will stay at a Catholic church and be supervised by Mr. Smith. The cost is \$89. Check out www.revampretreat.com or call Mr. Smith at 446-2300 for more information.

The Mardi Gras Marketplace will take place on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 8:30-10:30 AM in the SMS Cafeteria. Junior high students develop businesses and sell homemade products and services to students in grades K-6. Junior high students donate their time, energy, and resources to make their products and all money raised benefits a school Lenten service project. All parents and families are invited to participate!

Mrs. Nylund's News

7th Grade Math

The 7th graders are almost done with their chapter on exponents and square roots. They did very well with this chapter, working through it quite quickly. Their next chapter works with ratios, rates, and proportions, dealing with some situations they see often in real life.

8th Grade Math

The 8th graders have completed their 4th chapter on functions, which worked a lot with graphing and looking at relationships between numbers. Chapter 5 covers linear functions, looking at the different forms of writing functions and looking at the slope of lines.

Science News from Mrs. Stewart

7th Grade Life Science

We will continue to explore diversity among organisms this month. We will be comparing a variety of things between organisms including: body structure, methods of obtaining energy, and habitat. We just finished looking at protists (single-celled organisms) and are almost done with monerans (bacteria.)

8th Grade Earth Science

We have just started our astronomy & space unit. Students will explore the solar system including stars, planets, the earth-moon system, and the history of space exploration. This unit will conclude with a student-driven project; more details will be shared as we progress through the unit. Interestingly enough, 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo viewing the sky with his telescope, and has been declared the International Year of Astronomy.

St. Mary's Science Fair

Another successful science fair has come and gone. This was my first science fair at St. Mary's and I was just as excited as the students! Energy and excitement levels in the classroom definitely escalated as projects started coming in. Students were eager to share their projects and others were eager to hear and learn from them.

Thanks go out to all of the parents for their hard work, diligence, and patience during this time. Thanks also to all of our judges. Over 20 individuals volunteered their time to judge the projects. Speaking of which, here are the results from the fair:

Grand Champion: Monica Hanson & Katy Schroepfer

7th grade: 1st place – Josi Segner
 2nd place – Parker Hoen
 3rd place – Emily Gebur

8th grade: 1st place – Mari Bunkers
 2nd place – Abie Kubista
 3rd place – Gabie Edel



Congratulations to all of our students for participating in the science fair!

7th Grade Language Arts

By...Mrs. Nylund & Mrs. Stewart

This month, 7th graders will continue to work on grammar in language arts. We have been working on identifying prepositional phrases and the different types of verbs. We will also continue introducing a variety of study methods and working on improving study skills.

Since we are team teaching, we will be breaking

into smaller groups for our next novel study. We will be reading two different novels exploring a variety of topics within each. Students will continue to develop and enhance their writing skills, critical thinking, and literary analysis through these novels.

Mrs. Slotsve's News

8th Language Arts

According to the Northeast Foundation for Children, a common characteristic of eighth graders is an interest in fairness, justice, and discrimination. Our next unit, Quest for Justice, centers on this interest. The selections in this unit explore the various ways in which people join the search for justice. I'm sure we will have very intense and thoughtful discussions on these topics.

7th Social Studies

In February, we will start with an overview of the ancient civilizations of Africa and the Americas. Then we

will begin a four-chapter unit on Ancient Greece. We will begin our studies with the Minoan and Mycenaean and then move on to Sparta and Athens. While studying the Minoan, we will do a hands-on art project called a fresco.

Later in the month, we will study the beginnings of democratic government in Athens. Students will give a persuasive presentation on one of two city-states. By doing this project, students will better understand Ancient Greece and its contributions to today's society and our government.

8th Social Studies

During February, we will begin studying the Late Middle Ages. Students will discuss and analyze the role of the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages. We will learn about the great strides the church made to reform, which allowed the spread of Christian teachings to Western Europe – thus affecting us all. We will also discover more about important men of the church such as St. Francis of Assisi, St. Dominic and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Jr. High Solo/Ensemble



Fifteen Soloists and thirty-eight performers in 15 ensembles will participate in a Middle level Solo & Ensemble Festival on Saturday, February 7 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at Triton Middle School in West Concord. Students have received a schedule containing the time that they play. The bus will load in the SMS parking lot at 7:00 AM.

All City 5th Grade Band

The St. Mary's 5th grade band has been invited to participate in the All City 5th Grade Band Concert with the Owatonna High School Concert Band on Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the OHS Auditorium. Rehearsals will be on Feb. 19, 26, and March 5 & 12 at 7:00 AM in the Auditorium. Parents will need to drop their band members off at the high school. Busing back to St. Mary's will be provided.

Pop Fiesta

Reserve Thursday, March 5th on your calendar. That will be "Pop Fiesta" night with dinner at 6:00 PM followed by the concert at 7:00 PM. Oh the Pop music you will hear. It will be a night for some good music and a great supper. Come join us! The Music Boosters sponsor this event.

Growing Your Musician – Attention Parents

- Does your student instrumentalist need motivation to practice?
- Do you feel like you don't know how to help your son/daughter team to play their instrument?
- Are you a parent of a 4th grader who is thinking about starting an instrument this summer?

"Growing Your Musician: A Practical Guide for Band and Orchestra Parents" by Tony Bancroft can help. This book is written for parents that are not trained musicians. It offers suggestions and tips on practice motivation, how to practice, and how to talk to your child about music. It even contains a section on how to pick out an instrument!

If you are interested in reading this book, contact Mrs. Kuklok to check out the school copy. If you would like to order the book, it is available at www.rowmaneducation.com or call 1-800-462-6420 or contact Mrs. Kuklok. The cost is \$19.95 plus shipping.

Administrator's Report.....continued from Page 1

90% of our students in these grade levels make the A and B honor and this quarter was no different. These students likewise did very high on the honor roll at OHS. During the 1st quarter 80% of our 8th grade graduates from last year were on the honor roll. St. Mary's School prepares these students very well for future academic levels.

Conferences for grade 2-8 students will be held during the month of February. Please return the conference request forms as soon as possible. I would also like to acknowledge the students in elementary grades that are winners in the 2008 VFW Auxiliary elementary poster contest. In the K-2 category, First place – Daniel Schoeneman, 2nd Place - Jacey Drake, 3rd Place - Adam Pohlen, and in the Gr. 3-4 category, Julia Haarstad, 1st, Taylor Savoie – 2nd, and Sierra Schwarte – 3rd. We thank these students for displaying their many talents.

In conclusion I would like to thank the 23 students from 7 and 8th grade that attended the Pro Life Rally with me on January 22nd. They were commemorating the 36th anniversary of the very destructive Supreme Court Decision Roe vs. Wade. In these 36 years over 50 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion. If the United States is ever going to regain it's prominence as a great nation it needs to find a way to resolve this loss of life. Please communicate your concerns on this issue to our legislators at both the state and federal level. This law must be changed.

Night of Knights Auction Update – *Mark your calendars for April 18th!*



Our 23rd annual auction is really beginning to take shape! Preparation and activity is occurring at a high pace now. While much has been happening "behind the scenes" thus far, January and February marks the time when we set some of our volunteers into motion. Business solicitation packets have been distributed and donations are beginning to come in! Thank you to all our business solicitors – your efforts are truly appreciated!

Coordination of Volunteers: The success of the auction is largely dependent upon the *many* volunteers who help set-up in the days prior to April 18th, work in various roles on the night of the auction, and help with clean-up on April 19th!! Coordinating the volunteers this year is Auction Committee member, Jill Prohaski. Although Jill will be the main contact for volunteer inquiries, any auction committee member will gladly help answer your general auction questions. You will have the opportunity to sign-

up for volunteer slots during conferences on *Feb. 17th* and *Feb. 19th*.. *Please take a moment at conferences to review the many options, and select a role we need filled.* Your time and talent are an important piece to our overall success! (Kindergarten and 1st grade parents will receive a letter in early February with an opportunity to sign-up for volunteer slots since you will not be having conferences until a later date.)

Individual and Family Donations: As our business solicitors hit the streets, we also will be sending donation forms home with your child this month for individual and family contributions to the auction. No gift is too small – we welcome donations in all shapes and sizes – cash, certificates, gift baskets or specific items are all great! Do you have a

fun idea for an auction item that may be more than you wish to donate? Consider partnering with another family (or two) to create that special gift. You may drop off your auction donation at the school office or to the school on our designated "drop-off" nights in March. ("Drop-off" night dates will be announced soon.)

Do you have your **"Car and Cash"** Raffle ticket yet? We continue to sell tickets and the excitement is building! Be sure and get your ticket for this raffle, which will take place at 10 pm during the Live Auction on **Saturday, April 18th!** You may check the auction link on the St. Mary's website under "gifts and giving" if you would like updated auction information for yourself or others.

Auction Committee

Lori and Barry Butler loributler1@charter.net
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Greetings From The Library

February is "I Love to Read" month. We will be celebrating reading with school-wide and classroom activities.

Children's Literary Awards:

Our library Website contains a link to all of the ALA (American Library Association) youth literary awards. Here are just a few:

The 2009 Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature went to Neil Gaiman for **"The Graveyard Book,"** illustrated by Dave McKean and published by HarperCollins Children's Books.

Four **Newbery Honor Books** were named:

"The Underneath" by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by David Small

"The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom" by Margarita Engle

"Savvy" by Ingrid Law

"After Tupac & D Foster" by Jacqueline Woodson

The 2009 Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished picture book is awarded to Beth Krommes for **"The House in the Night,"** written by Susan Marie Swanson

Three **Caldecott Honor Books** were named:

"A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever," written and illustrated by Marla Frazee

"How I Learned Geography," written and illustrated by Uri Shulevitz

"A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams," illustrated by Melissa Sweet, written by Jen Bryant

Coretta Scott King Award

Kadir Nelson, author of **"We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball,"** and Floyd Cooper, illustrator of **"The Blacker the Berry,"** are the winners of the 2009 Coretta Scott King Book Awards honoring African American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults.

Voicethread

Check out our latest addition to the voicethread library. Visit Mrs. Bastyr's classroom Webpage and there you will find a link to their favorite books voicethread. This project was done with the help of our YSL (Youth Service Leadership) student from the high school; Mariah Norland. We enjoyed her time with us in the library. She was able to be in the library three afternoons each week.

Tech Trends

The Internet has become the computer

- 75% of American adults use a computer; 73% use the Internet
- 96 million home have broadband; Internet has become a destination

Millions of Americans, especially the young, are creating and sharing content online

- 55% of online teens have created their own profile on a social network site like MySpace or Facebook; 20% of online adults have such profiles

Many are sharing what they know and what they feel online and that is building conversations and communities

- 33% of young adult internet users have rated a person, product or service online
- 32% of online young adults have tagged online content

Online Americans are customizing their online experiences thanks to Web 2.0 tools

- 40% of younger internet users customize news and other information pages.
- A quarter to a third of younger internet users get RSS feeds
- 51% of young adult internet users have uploaded photos to the internet; 37% of all users have done this
- 33% have created or worked on web pages or blogs for others, including those for groups they belong to, friends or school assignments; 13% of online adults do this
- 28% have created their own online journal or blog, (33% of college students); 12% of online adults have a blog

Physical Education....By Ms. Grose

Kindergarten:

We have been working on locomotor movements; skipping, hopping, jumping, sliding, running, galloping and leaping.

We are working on overhand throwing and catching. Then we will work on a juggling unit and jump roping unit.

1st & 2nd Grades:

We just finished working with scooters. We are working on volleyball skills. After that we will work on basketball skills

3rd & 4th Grades:

We will be working on volleyball skills and then play games. After volleyball we will work on basketball skills and games.

5th & 6th Grades:

They are finishing up a volleyball unit. We learned the skills and now we are playing games. After volleyball, we will be working on a basketball unit.

We will work on skills, learn the rules and play games.

7th & 8th Grades:

We just finished a volleyball unit. We worked on all the skills, learned the rules, and played games. We are starting a basketball unit. They will work on skills, learn the rules and play games.

Nurse's Notes

By Mary Herzog RN

We have been seeing a lot of strep and stomach flu (vomiting) since coming back from vacation. Please remind your children to wash their hands frequently. I will continue to make the rounds of classrooms with Glo-Germs. Ask your children about the fun we've had with glow in the dark hands!

Letters have gone out to 6th grade parents about immunizations required before entering 7th grade. There is no longer a shortage of chickenpox vaccine, so a second shot is required unless your child has had the disease. Any time your student has a vaccination, please let me know so that I can add it to their school records. These records follow them to high school and need to be up to date.

We are also trying to keep our staff healthy. In February we will be having a health fair and shortly after I will be holding CPR classes for any interested staff members.



From the Social Worker's Office...by Gina

The 6th graders and I have been working on their "Life Skills". This curriculum includes helping them develop skills and knowledge in the areas of self-improvement, making decisions, smoking, drugs and alcohol, and coping with emotions like anxiety and anger, and developing social skills. I go into both Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Vieths classes for about a 1/2 hour once a week.

Second Step in 1st, 3rd and 5th grade is continuing. This involves me going into the classrooms and teaching and reinforcing the skills of empathy, impulse control and problem solving, and anger management. A curriculum called Steps to Respect has begun in both of the 4th grade classes. This program is designed to prevent bullying, but the thing that I love about it is that it has so many helpful tools and techniques that teach our children respect and how to be good friends. For example, this week I will be talking with them about how to handle compliments, how to handle situations where someone does not want to be friends, and how to join a group. I am really excited about both the Steps to Respect program and the Second Step program.

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.

Volunteer Coordinator

By Connie Lembke

I want to say thanks to all of you who have been so generous with your time and talents. Especially I want to say thanks for your most recent help with Catholic Schools Week and the Science Fair, Blood Mobile, Kindergarten Calling, as always Scrip at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph and the lunchroom volunteers. All of your energy and enthusiasm for St. Mary's students is what continues to make St. Mary's School so exceptional. Thanks again and God Bless all of you!

Library....continued from page 9

Usborne Book Fair

A special thanks to all who attended purchased books or volunteered at our book fair. We were able to purchase over \$500 in Usborne books for our library and classrooms.

Another Book Fair?

Yes we will be having our annual mid-winter Scholastic Book Fair. It will be held in the SMS cafeteria on Feb. 26 & 27. More information will be sent home in your child's school folder. We are in need of many volunteers to make this book fair a success. Please consider saying "Yes" if you are contacted to help with this school activity.

Girl's Basketball Schedule

Mon., Feb. 2	vs. Lakeville All Saints, B/A, here	4:45 PM
Tues., Feb. 3	vs. Faribault B.A., B/A, here	4:30 PM
Thurs., Feb. 5	at Webster Holy Cross, B/A	4:45 PM
Sat., Feb. 7	at Schaeffer Academy Rochester, B/A	
	<i>Round robin</i> – A vs. Schaeffer	10:00 AM
	- B vs. Schaeffer	11:00 AM
	- A vs. LeRoy-Ostrander	12:00 PM
	- B vs. LeRoy-Ostrander	1:00 PM
Tues., Feb. 10	at Randolph, B/A, here	5:00 PM
Thurs., Feb. 12	at Northfield St. Dominic's, B	4:45 PM
Fri., Feb. 13	vs. Lakeville All Saints, B/A, here	4:45 PM
Tues., Feb. 17	at Faribault Lutheran, B/A	4:30 PM
Feb. 23-27	Tri County Tournament – played at higher seeds home	
Sat., Feb. 28	Tri-County 3 rd Place & Championship games, here	

Boys Basketball Schedule

Mon., Feb. 2	at Faribault MSAD, B/A	4:30 PM
Tues., Feb. 3	at Faribault B.A., B/A (DMC gym)	4:30 PM
Thurs., Feb. 5	vs. Webster Holy Cross, B/A, here	4:45 PM
Mon., Feb. 9	vs. Medford, B/A, here	4:30 PM
Tues., Feb. 10	vs. Randolph, B/A, here	5:00 PM
Thurs., Feb. 12	at Northfield St. Dominic's, B	5:45 PM
Sat., Feb. 14	at Medford, 6 th tourney	TBA
Feb. 23-27	Tri County Tournament – played at higher seeds home	
Sat., Feb. 28	Tri-County 3 rd Place & Championship games, here	

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.

2008-2009 Yearbooks

Yearbook orders are currently being accepted for this year's book of treasured memories. If you cannot find your order form and envelope, you may simply write your child's name, grade and teacher's name on an envelope and include \$8.50 per yearbook and send it to school with your child. **No late orders will be accepted so be sure your order is in by Friday, March 13th**

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

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