

# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

November 2009



## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 5 – Picture retakes
- Nov. 6 – End of Quarter #1
- Nov. 9 – NO SCHOOL Teacher workday
- Nov. 15 – KC Breakfast for SMS Home & School Association
- Nov. 23 & 24 Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 25 NO SCHOOL - SMS
- Nov. 26 & 27 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving vacation

## 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. It would be helpful if you would report symptoms, especially those related to influenza.

## School Pictures/Retakes

Lifetouch will return on Thursday, Nov. 5. Photographs will be taken for those who were absent in September or need retakes. Picture envelopes are available in the office. If you would like student pictures retaken, please follow the instructions in your picture packet.

## From the Principal's Office

It has been a great start to the school year at St. Mary's School. I have had many opportunities to meet parents and students. Thank you for your help and suggestions in making SMS a great place to work. I have noticed many special things about St. Mary's that I did not see in the public school system. Students have many opportunities that include experiential learning, multidisciplinary units, and unique curriculum offerings. The environment is respectful and parents are involved. And above all is the strong presence of faith represented in the students, staff, and events at St. Mary's. What a blessing it is to be able to pray and learn together in a community of faith.

I have made a few changes that you may have heard about. We are doing a monthly reward for the W.O.W. program. At the end of every month, one student from each class will be joining me for "Pizza with the Principal". Our first lunch took place on Oct. 9. The following students represented their classroom as a W.O.W winner: Isabelle Leonard, Grace Smith, Hunter Menden, Jannah Jandt, Sam Pumper, Benedict Zepeda, Abe Havelka, Brett Ruiter, Amy Oldenburg, Alex Gardner, Kayla Borchert, Ryan Domeier, Albert Rysavy, Joe Smith, Maddie Menden, and Krista Kniefel. This is a great opportunity for me to connect with students and hear their ideas. I realize we have many "WOW" students, and many more are being recognized in their classrooms.

In the past month we have been fortunate to receive some gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you to the Peacemaker Foundation who donated \$500 for curriculum. Thanks to the Elks who will be donating \$500 for safety materials. Thanks to Catholic Charities who will present a check for \$500 for technology. We also want to thank the KC's for their continued support and the gift of winter coats for students in need. Please contact me if your family could use one of these new coats. Joe Kearin has finished his Eagle Scout project and we thank him for his work on the landscaping. And a huge thank you goes to our priests and deacon for their presence in the school and continued support.

Students in grades 3-8 have finished the first round of NWEA testing in both math and reading. The teachers will be using this data to evaluate curriculum and set goals for the year. As a school, SMS students far surpass national data. A typical school in Minnesota would have about 33% of its students fall in the high category of the NWEA scoring range. St. Mary's has 54% of its students in the high range for math and 64% of its students in the high range for reading. We need to be cautious as to how we use this information. It is just one score and one piece of the puzzle, but it is also valuable information for us to use as we plan and look to the future.

Please take time to review the information on the Capital Campaign project. I appreciate the calls and conversations we have had. I know all of you, like me, have the best interests of the school in our minds and hearts.

Mary Hawkins

## Liturgy Schedule

- November 2 – 8:15 All School Mass at St. Joseph
- November 11 – 8:10 All School Mass at Sacred Heart
- November 17 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade reconciliation at St. Joseph
- November 18 – 8:15 All School Mass at St. Joseph
- November 24 – 8:10 Elementary Word/Communion Service at Sacred Heart

The Call To Be Catholic speakers series is pleased to present Fr. Paul Nienaber, S.J., Asst. Prof. of Physics at St. Mary's Univ. His topic: "Can Science & Religion Coexist?" Join us on Sunday, Nov. 8, 3:00 pm., at St. Joseph Parish in Owatonna. Free will offering suggested.

## Christmas Concerts



The Elementary Christmas concert will be on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:00 p.m. All students should be in their classrooms by 6:45 p.m. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students should report to the band room at 6:45 p.m. as well.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to decorate for the elementary concert on Dec. 3. Call Shelly Chicos at 455-1397 or Joann Moothart at 455-2809 or Mr. Ostermeier at SMS.

The Junior High Christmas concert will be on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. The choir students should be seated in the gym by 6:50 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students will meet in the band room at 6:40 p.m. The 7/8<sup>th</sup> band will warm up at 6:50 p.m.

Please remember to bring a dozen treats per family to each concert.

## Carnival Thank You

A big "Thank You" to all St. Mary's families, students and staff for making this year's school carnival a great success! The Carnival Committee wishes to thank everyone for their support of this event. The families and volunteers make this possible with their generous time of volunteering and donations. It would not happen without you. The guessing jar winners were

Alex Gardner (Military Play Set), Janell Ward (Bella Popstar Dance Party), Michael Haberman (Nerf Gun), and Madelyn Seykora (CD Player). If you have any suggestions for future carnival activities or are interested in being a part of this event, please contact Shelly Rohwer 528-2392, JoAnne Hartman 446-8299 or Tammy Ginter 451-8929.



## Wanted: Science Fair Judges

No experience necessary. You do not need to have a child participating in the fair; just be willing to judge and interview students with projects. Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Time commitment: 2-3 hours. Lunch will be provided. If interested, let Mrs. Stewart know – [lstewart@stmarys-owatonna.org](mailto:lstewart@stmarys-owatonna.org)

## Night of Knights Auction

Mark your calendars! This year's auction will be held on **Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010**. Come and enjoy our new Hawaiian theme for the evening.

We can't give out all the details just yet...BUT, another super exciting raffle is in the works. You won't want to miss out!

### 2009-2010 Night of Knights Auction Committee Members:

Bill & Kris Dublin	455-9678	<a href="mailto:dubsmn@charter.net">dubsmn@charter.net</a>
Bryan & Roberta Shaver	413-0364	<a href="mailto:robertafs@charter.net">robertafs@charter.net</a>
Carol & Phil Daley	444-0946	<a href="mailto:carol.daley@allina.com">carol.daley@allina.com</a>
Chris & Jill Prohaski	451-5000	<a href="mailto:jcprohaski@charter.net">jcprohaski@charter.net</a>
Dave & Cathy Effertz	446-0258	<a href="mailto:ceffertz@gmail.com">ceffertz@gmail.com</a>
Garret & Tanya Henson	451-5189	<a href="mailto:tanyadhen@yahoo.com">tanyadhen@yahoo.com</a>
Kara Martin	457-2557	<a href="mailto:kara.k.martin@wellsfargo.com">kara.k.martin@wellsfargo.com</a>
Kelli & Craig Larson	446-4064	<a href="mailto:cdklarson@msn.com">cdklarson@msn.com</a>
Lynn & Tim Gorski	456-1725	<a href="mailto:lgorski@myclearwave.net">lgorski@myclearwave.net</a>
Shannon & Steve Prostrollo	451-6269	<a href="mailto:sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org">sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org</a>
Tim & Elaine Truelson	444-0908	<a href="mailto:timt@ci.owatonna.mn.us">timt@ci.owatonna.mn.us</a>
Amy & Adam Martinez	446-0085	<a href="mailto:adamamymartinez@q.com">adamamymartinez@q.com</a>

## NURSE'S NOTES

By Mary Herzog RN

I'd like to update everyone on our health status here at school. Before MEA break we went over the 5% absentee rate with influenza-like illnesses (ILI) which is the Minnesota Department of Health guideline for school reporting. Since the break, our absentee rate has gone down considerably.

I would like to thank those families who have been so diligent about keeping their children home when they are sick. I really believe that is why the spread of ILI has remained minimal. As a reminder, your child should remain home for 24 hours after their temp returns to normal without the aid of Tylenol or Ibuprofen. The policy is the same for vomiting and diarrhea.

Below are ways to tell if your child is coming down with a cold or the flu.

1. Fever is rare with a cold.  
*Fever is present with the flu in up to 80% of cases. A temp of 100 or higher for 3 to 4 days is associated with H1N1.*
2. A hacking, productive cough is often present with a cold.  
*A non-productive cough is usually present with the flu.*
3. Slight body aches and pains can be part of a cold.  
*Severe aches and pains are common with the flu.*
4. Stuffy nose is common with a cold and typically resolves within a week.  
*Stuffy nose is not commonly present with H1N1 flu.*
5. Chills are uncommon with a cold.  
*60% of people who have the H1N1 flu experience chills.*
6. Tiredness is fairly mild with a cold.  
*Tiredness is moderate to severe with the flu.*
7. Sneezing is commonly present with a cold  
*Sneezing is not common with the flu.*
8. Cold symptoms tend to develop over a few days.  
*The H1N1 flu has a rapid onset within 3-6 hours. It hits hard and includes sudden symptoms like high fever, aches and pains.*
9. A headache is fairly uncommon with a cold.  
*A headache is very common with the flu, present in 80% of cases.*
10. Chest discomfort is mild to moderate with a cold.  
*Chest discomfort is often severe with the H1N1 flu.*

### Pedometers -

To promote healthy living and increased activity, Mrs. Herzog will have pedometers for sale in her office for \$5.00!

Handwashing is your best defense against getting the flu. Remember to cough or sneeze into your elbow and use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. It is also extremely important to keep your hands away from your eyes and nose. Gargling with salt water or Listerine can prevent the proliferation of the flu virus in your throat and drinking as much of warm liquids as you can will wash any viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive.

If you have not already received the seasonal flu shot, I would definitely recommend it. Availability of the H1N1 vaccine will be sporadic and is highly recommended for pregnant women and children from the ages of 6 months to six years as soon as it is available. Questions can be answered by calling the Minnesota FluLine at 1-866-259-4655.

## Home & School Update

The annual Home and School Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be held on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-12:30 in the St. Mary's School Cafeteria.

If you haven't already turned in the money for your tickets please do so ASAP. Your money can be handed into to the school office. Please mark your envelope with PANCAKE BREAKFAST.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

### Sacred Heart

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

### St. Joseph

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

**NOTE:** School Board meetings have been changed to 6:00 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month

## 2009 Magazine Drive Wrap-up

The September drive is over but orders can still be placed at:

QSP.COM

Register at St. Mary's Catholic School – Owatonna  
For Credit  
Online code is: 425006429

### \*Top 10 Sellers

Brett Peterson  
Liana Mulet  
Anna Edel  
Jacob Dahle  
Matt Kern  
Emma Smith  
Miranda Schimek  
Jade Miller  
Greg Simpkins  
Bernadette Donlon

**\*Contestants in Deal or No Deal**

## SCRIP

Don't forget to use scrip when doing your Christmas shopping this year. To help you we will be accepting "Special Orders" weekly the month of November and the first two weeks of December. "Special Orders" are the yellow order forms. If a store is not listed that you are interested in, please call, because there are many additional retailers available. Orders must be prepaid separate from regular orders and will be placed each Monday morning at 8:00 am. Orders will be ready for pick-up the following Thursday at the St. Mary's School office. We will do our best to have our regular scrip available as your orders come in. With the high demand during the holidays it is sometimes difficult to have enough on hand, so place your orders early.

### ***Here is an example of just how fast scrip profits can add up:***

"How many of you spend at least \$75 or more a week on groceries?"  
"How many of you spend \$50 or more a month on clothing?"  
"How many of you spend \$25 or more a week on gasoline?"  
"How many of you spend \$50 a month dining out?"

### THAT EQUALS

Food at \$75/week x 4 =	\$300/month
Gas at \$25/week x 4 =	\$100/month
Clothing	\$ 50/month
Dining out	\$ 50/month
Total	\$500/month x 12 months = \$6000/year

Spending \$6000 a year at 5% average profit equals \$300 profit for the year. That is the amount an average family, using these modest spending levels, could earn easily each year for St. Mary's School, and all they have to do is make their same purchases with gift cards. If we can get 200 St. Mary's School families to do this, that is \$60,000 worth of profit to St. Mary's School, all just from regular shopping! As you can see, the returns add up very quickly.

**Note:** St. Mary's School has \$130.00 of Happy Chef scrip still on hand. There is a Happy Chef located in Mankato & St. James. If anyone is interested in purchasing Happy Chef certificates for themselves or someone they know in Mankato or St. James, please contact the school office at 446-2300.

## St. Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Marathon

The 2009 All School Marathon was held on Friday, October 2nd. The students walked to earn money for the school. The Marathon is one of the major fundraisers for our school. This year the students brought in close to \$12,000. Six of the classrooms earned a coupon booklet for a variety of the activities that their class may participate in. There were many daily winners that earned prizes that included money, sports equipment, school shirts, and many other items. We also had a classroom competition. The classroom that earned the top honors this year was Mrs. Wobschall's class, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Mrs. Connor's class and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Mrs. Haarstad's. These classes were rewarded with classroom prizes. Congratulations to the **the top money collectors**, Zach Jerpbak, Sam Pumper, Kirsten Pumper, Julia Haarstad, and Taylor Savoie who were treated to a Subway lunch with Mrs. Hawkins on October 27. We were blessed with nice weather and we know all the students and staff had an enjoyable day. We look forward to next year!

**\*\*\* We are still looking for parents interested to be on the Marathon Committee for 2010-11. Please contact Mrs. Hawkins if you would like to be a part of this activity.**