

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

August 30, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. This year we begin 164 years of Catholic education in our school community! Our graduates greatly enrich our parish and local and world communities through their faith, service, and professional skills. Our staff has been busy preparing for the new school year. We look forward to partnering with you for another successful year of providing quality academic and spiritual excellence to your children.

In today's family envelope you are receiving a wealth of information including the student/parent handbook and all of the required forms to be completed for the upcoming school year. Please do not hesitate to call us if your questions regarding any of the items in your family envelope.

This year's school theme was introduced at our school Mass this morning, **S.T.A.R.S.** ...Students Taking Action and Responsibility for Success. Each student received a star blessed by Father Bob to hang on his/her book bag as a reminder that their success depends on their actions and willingness to make good choices and act responsibly.

We welcome new staff members Mrs. Maureen Wickenheiser who is teaching our Third/Fourth Grade class. She will also be teaching our 8th grade science class this year. Ms. Andrea Hoffman, our seventh grade homeroom teacher. She will also teach grades 5-8 math, 5-7 science, and grade 7 social studies. In addition to their other teachers credentials Mrs. Wickenheiser is highly qualified for teaching junior high science and Ms. Hoffman is highly qualified for junior high social studies.

Please attend our Parent Back to School Night as we will be sharing information about our special class programs, teaching assignments, team teaching, multiage classrooms, and other important school information and school improvements.

All special subjects will begin next week. A collaborative effort between Airport Community Schools, St. Patrick School, and St. Charles School in Newport is providing all three schools with a win-win situation. The configuration of the specials program will bring Airport teachers to St. Patrick for art, music, and gym. Next week additional information will be sent home regarding our specials programs.

This Thursday September 1st students and staff will be celebrating Heritage Day. During this day we will celebrate family and local parish and school heritage. Students may wear jean or jean shorts (no higher than 2 inches from the knee) and a **St. Patrick Spirit Wear or gym uniform top** with tennis shoes. Students and staff are also encouraged to bring a non breakable and non valuable item that represents their family heritage to share with other students. On this day students should bring a picnic lunch to eat outside along with a blanket or beach towel to sit on. Any family member who would like to join their child for the picnic lunch is welcomed to do so. In the morning students will have an opportunity to view items from the Monroe County Historical Society. The kits include antique kitchen items, Michigan animal pelts, and Native American Indian artifacts. During the afternoon the school will play heritage games and Mrs. Wickenhesier will be showing them how to spin wool on her spinning wheel. Students will also see a demonstration of how clothes were washed before washing machines were invented. The day's schedule and needed supplies (corn muffins, jam, and margarine) can be found at the end of the newsletter. Please send in items for our students heritage treat if you are able to do so.

Along with the Heritage Day information is a survey on whether your family will attend our family potluck on Friday, October 7 from 5:30-7 p.m. Last year very few of our families attended this event because of football games and other family activities. If the participation rate is low we are considering having a different family activity at another time of the year. Ideas so far include a family dance with all types of music, or just a square dance evening for families. For next year I have discussed the possibility of having the potluck on our first day for lunch with the School Committee. If you have an option on this please share it with the school office or a School Committee member.

Thank you to the new families who attended the *New Student Orientation* last week. We extend a welcome to our new K-8 families and their children and wish them many successful years at our school:

We also welcome our new kindergarten students of returning families:

Thank you to the school families and grandparents who assisted in the construction of our Fair Parade Float.. I also thank to the grandparent who provided the float wagon and a parishioner who provided the tractor and drove our float in the fair parade. The school took second place in our division and received \$30.

Thank you to Ann Werstein, Stephanie Koziol, and Tony Latarkski for matting student art projects and setting up our art booth at the Little Red School House. Our school took third place for our school art display. Thank you to also to those who served as guards at the Little Red School House during Fair Week. In the kudos section all students who had an art project displayed are listed.

Please remember in prayer our latchkey supervisor, Doris Grabetz who passed away unexpectedly on August 23. She was a strong supporter of Catholic education. Her children and many of her grandchildren were graduates of St. Patrick School and the family suggested our school for memorial donations. Mrs. Grabetz has been part of our extended day program since its beginning seven years ago. Along with our other after school workers graciously hosted a Christmas celebration each year and provided each of these students with a gift. Her faith in God, energy, and positive attitude will be missed greatly by her family, friends, and our school community. Please remember in prayer her family during this difficult time. In anyone would like to send a sympathy note to the family, it may be sent to the office.

During Labor Day weekend a chartered bus will be taking local community members to the Mackinac Bridge Labor Walk. My husband and I will be joining this group who will either walk the bridge or cheer for walkers. This is being organized in memory of Mrs. Guzewa who passed after being hit by a car on the night of our Christmas Concert. I encourage you to pray for the safety and success of walkers as well as all those who will be traveling this weekend! I thank St. Patrick graduates, one who organized this event and another who designed the t-shirt that will be worn by the group.

Booster

Specials

Picture Day
Notebooks

Uniform order

Camp Storer

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Wednesday, August 31

- Full day of classes with no Airport bus service either way
- Hot Lunch begins
- Extended Day service available am and pm.
- Back-to-School Night for parents at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 1

- Full day of classes with no Airport bus either way
- Camp Storer meeting for parents and cabin leaders at 3:00 p.m.
- Heritage Day activities – **corn muffins needed**

Friday, September 2 – Monday, September 5

- No School

Tuesday, September 6

- Classes Resume
- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Uniform Orders Due

Thursday, September 8

- School Pictures
- PreK Open House 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. with pictures (Three year olds 10:15 a.m.; Four Year Olds 10:30 a.m.)

Friday, September 9

- Hearing and Vision Testing (Hearing – grades K-2-4; Vision – grades 1-3-5-7)

HOT LUNCH: Hot lunch will be available on Wednesday and Thursday this week. The entrees offered Wednesday include Safari chicken or lasagna. On Thursday, the entrée will be a sub sandwich. All students will eat outside with a picnic lunch. The cost of hot lunch this year remains at \$1.75 and includes milk. For students wishing to purchase milk only, the cost is \$.40. Checks should be made payable to *Airport Community Schools*. If you would like to monitor your child's hot lunch account online, please contact the school office for your child's pin number.

EXTENDED DAY CARE: This year the school is offering both a "before school" (6:55 – 7:25 p.m.) and "after school" (3:00 – 6:00 p.m.) extended day program for students in grades K-8. If your child(ren) will be using this service, please contact the office for a registration form if you have not yet done so. If you would like more information, please contact the school office. I welcome Mrs. Jannita Simpson who will be assisting with our morning program and I welcome back our returning after school supervisors, Mrs. Rae Dylenski and Mrs. Joyce Stasa.

HEARING AND VISION: On Friday, September 9th, students in grades K-2-4 will be their hearing tested and students in grades 1-3-5-7 will have their vision tested. Parents are asked to complete and return the gold vision form included in today's family envelope for those students who will be tested. If your child is not scheduled for a hearing or vision test and you would like them to have one, please send a note to the school office.

AIRPORT BUS RIDERS: Parents who indicated on their school registration form for 2011-2012 that their child(ren) will be a bus rider are receiving the Airport bus form in today's family envelope. If you did not receive a form and your child will be riding the Airport bus either occasionally or everyday, please contact the school office.

GYM UNIFORMS AND CLASSES: Physical education classes will begin on Tuesday, September 6th. Each class will have two days of physical education. Grades k-6 will wear their gym uniforms on the days they have gym class. **Grades 7-8 will bring their gym uniform and tennis shoes to school and change before and after physical education class.** Kindergarten, first and second grade physical education classes are Monday and Wednesday. Grade 3/4 will have physical education classes on Wednesday and Thursday. Grades 5-8 will have physical education on Monday and Tuesday. Grades 7 and 8 may bring their gym uniform and tennis shoes to school on Monday and leave them here until they go home on Tuesday.

MEDICATION: Under the Archdiocese of Detroit School Policies and Guidelines, **prescription and non-prescription** medication that needs to be taken during schools hours requires a signed permission release form signed by a physician. The form includes the drug name, dose, time to be administered, etc. This includes cough drops and Tylenol. The medication form can be obtained on the school website at www.stpatsmi.com or from the school office. If there is no medication form on file, parents also have the option to personally administer the medication to their child while he/she is at school.

HEALTH UPDATES: If you child has any medical concerns or other needs that the office and school staff should know please contact the school office. It is especially important for us to be aware of asthma, bee sting allergies, etc. that could affect gym participation or recess activities. Thank you to all who are so diligent in keeping us informed so we can attend to your child's needs.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE: All students attending St. Patrick School receive student accident insurance benefits while at school or school related activities. This is an excess policy which provides medical assistance with deductibles and co-pays within the parents' health system. Student Assurance Services also provides an option to purchase 24-hour coverage. If you wish to purchase the additional coverage beyond what Michigan Catholic Conference provides, you may complete the enclosed form and mail it directly to Student Assurance Services.

CAMP STORER 2011: On Thursday, September 1st, a camp representative will meet with fifth and sixth graders at 2:00 p.m., followed by a meeting for parents at 3:00 p.m. in the basement of the primary building. Packets for camp are included in today's family envelope and parents are asked to return the completed forms by Thursday, September 1st. Invoices are also included for those still owing money for camp.

SCRIP: This year we are partnering with the SMCC Scrip program to provide scrip to our school families. Credit for your child's tuition will be provided as it has been in the past. To participate complete a SCRIP application and return it to the school office. You may order SCRIP as you have done in the past or purchase it at St. Mary Catholic Central. A limited amount of SCRIP will also be carried in our school office. SMCC carries some SCRIP that we were unable to offer our families such as Meijers. I encourage you to sign up today and get a list of all the available gift certificates.

GIRLS ON THE RUN: The school is offering "Girls on the Run" at St. Patrick School and is seeking girls in grades 3-8 who may be interested. *Girls on the Run* is an innovative, non-profit after school program that uses running to help prepare girls for a lifetime of self respect and healthy living. Their character-building program focuses on building self-esteem, confidence and improving physical and emotional health. Over the course of a ten-week season, volunteer coaches teach life-skills lessons such as handling bullies, dealing with body image and the media, making healthy decisions and contributing to the community. The program culminates in a non-competitive 5k event which gives the girls a chance to shine and an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. All shapes, sizes, and abilities are celebrated and welcome! The normal fee for GOTR is \$150, however, this organization is able to offer it in our area for \$125 due to the generosity of our local donors and sponsors. For those needing additional financial assistance, scholarships are available at the school office or online. The fee includes 20 lessons, healthy snacks, water bottle, t-shirt, celebration 5k, finisher's medal and an end of the season celebration. Full and partial scholarships are available to families in need. Registrations are available online at www.girlsontherunsemi.org. The last day to register will be September 12th. The fall 2011 season is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. with the culminating 5k event on Sunday, November 20.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: School volunteers, coaches, chaperones, employees, etc. are required to attend a *Protecting God's Children* workshop. If you have not yet attended one, the following sessions are scheduled for Monroe County:
Saturday, September 24 from 9 a.m. – 12:00 noon at St. Mary's in Rockwood.
Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Temperance.

SMCC YOUTH CHEERLEADING CLINIC: Girls are invited to learn cheers and a dance, then take the field with the SMCC varsity cheerleaders at the SMCC vs Airport game on Friday, September 16 – 7:00 p.m. at Navarre Field. Sessions are offered at the following times at St. Mary Catholic Central IHM Activity Center.: Grades K-2 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. or Grades 3-6 6 :30 – 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes t-shirt, hair bow, and admission to the game. For more information you may contact Coach Mrs.Middleton at 734-693-4153 or SMCCCheer@yahoo.com The cost is \$15.00

RECYCLING: During June 14.38 cubic yards of landfill space and trees were saved. In addition our school received \$69.07. Please support our recycling efforts by putting your newspapers and magazines in our recycling bins. Each ton (2,000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yard of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water.

KUDOS:

- To the students who received awards at the Monroe County Fair *Little Red Schoolhouse*:
- To the PTO for providing a back-to-school luncheon for the teachers and staff for providing items and/or hosting it.
- To the students who helped teachers last week prepare for the upcoming school year..
- To the school family for the donation of sidewalk chalk.
- To the school families for a donation of books.
- To a school grandmother for the donation of school supplies.

Prayer for a new school year:

- Bless St. Patrick School and keep all those who enter its doors safe
- Be with our students and staff and provide protection as they travel to school each day
- Be with all those who support and care for our school community
- Be with all those who support and care for our students in their our home life.
- Give us the grace to show our appreciation for all those who make our Catholic ministry to youth possible.

Ruth Meiring
Principal

Back-to-School Potluck

- _____ **Our family would attend the family *Back-to-School* potluck on Friday, October 7**
- _____ **Our family is not able to attend the family potluck on Friday, October 7**

Name: _____ **Number Attending (if applicable):** _____

HERITAGE DAY
Thursday, September 1

- _____ I am able to provide two dozen corn muffins on Thursday, September 1st
- _____ I am able to provide a jar of jam for the corn muffins.
- _____ I am able to provide a tub of soft margarine for the corn muffins.
- _____ I am able to help with activities from 1:00 – 2: 00p.m.

Name: _____

Heritage Day on Thursday, September 1, 2011

- Students may wear jeans or jean shorts (no higher than 2 inches above the knee), St. Patrick Spirit Wear or gym top, and tennis shoes.
- Students should bring a non-breakable, non-valuable heritage item for a show and tell presentation.
- Students are encouraged to bring a beach towel or blanket to sit on for our outside lunch.
- Students need a sack lunch or you may purchase a sack lunch from Sodexo (sub sandwich and sides). Milk will also be available to purchase.

- Lunch will be outside. Any parents/family members wishing to join their child for outside lunch may do so. **PLEASE do not bring pizza or other fast foods for your child.**
- During the morning students will view Monroe County Historical Museum Michigan artifacts.
- A prayer service focused on our local heritage will take between 12:30 and 1 p.m.
- Heritage games and a spinning wheel and clothes washing demonstration will take place between 1 and 2 p.m.
- Students will share heritage items with classmates at 2 p.m.
- Students in grades 5/6 will share their heritage items earlier in the day and attend a meeting on Camp Storer.
- The parent Camp Storer meeting will take place at 3 p.m.