

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 7, 2011

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow students will attend Mass in celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Blessed Mother used her freedom to accept, to embrace, and to obey the will of God in her life. She did not know the full extent of God's plan, yet, in faith, she accepted and embraced what she was called to do – be the immaculate vessel who would bring forth the Savior of the World. Mary is a wonderful role model for all of us to enthusiastically respond “Yes” to God's invitation to follow him and serve others.

Students are continuing to prepare for the birth of Christ in a variety of ways. Next Tuesday students in grades 3-8 are scheduled to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from Fr. Bob or Fr. Richard, who assists the parishioners at St. Joseph in Maybee. Each day students hear an Advent prayer and reflect upon the blessings that God has provided each of us.

Prayer for the Second Week of Advent

*Lord, thank you for this special time together.
Thank you for being with us, for taking such good care of us,
and letting us help prepare your way in the world.
Please keep our minds and heart open this week.
Make us gentle and joyful as we grow in your love
and try to make the world a happier place where all are welcome Amen.*

Today we had our Student of the Month assembly at the beginning of the school day. During the assembly students were acknowledged for their best effort during of November in the area language arts. Awards were also given for good behavior outside the classroom. Our Student Council introduced the December Character Trait , *Self Control*.

Our school year is rapidly progressing and this Friday progress reports will be going home for the second quarter. Mid-term exams for grades 7/8 will be taken the week of January 9th. Teachers are continuing to assist students with their Science Fair projects and research reports. Grades 6 and 8 are doing individual projects and students in other grades may elect to do an individual project if they would like. All other grades will complete group or class projects. Please continue to check the Wiki site of your child's teacher for information about the projects. Upper el students are also beginning preparations to complete in our geography and spelling bees during January.

Last night all enjoyed the Christmas Concert featuring all of our students. Thank you to Mr. Vandergriff, Mrs. Kemmerling, and Mrs. Fisk for preparing our students for the concert. The next big project for the music department will be the production of the musical *Willy Wonka*. Auditions will soon take place and you will be hearing more about this production. Thank you to those who will be assisting with costumes and props. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our auction a huge success. It was a wonderful evening filled with generous donors, delicious food, much fun, and terrific bargains. At this time we don't know our final total, but we expect it to be around \$41,000. On behalf of the school community I extend my sincerest appreciation to our chairperson and the many other volunteers, our donors of auction items, the sellers and purchasers of raffle tickets, as well as those who purchased items or donated money for math textbooks. Please plan to attend the wrap-up meeting on Wednesday, December 14th as we discuss this year's auction, improvements that need to be made, and begin formulating the 2012 committee.

Congratulations to the winners of the *Ultimate Christmas Tree* raffle: As a reminder, the auction booklet contains a jean coupon that is good through March 30, 2012 for students and staff. It is limited to one coupon per student or staff member.

Next week we will be having Santa Secret Shop on Friday, December 16. Shopping envelopes are included for students in today's family envelope. In addition to the items from Fun Services, we will have the school cookbook for \$10. Most items for the Santa Secret Shop vary in price from 25 cents to \$2.00. Because the Santa Secret Shop envelopes have columns up to \$9.00...many times parents send in much more money than needed. Please send in a reasonable amount of money for the number of people and types of items your child will be buying. It is also helpful if you include on the envelope whether your child is allowed to buy something for him or her self, and the amount level that you would like them to spend. Any information that you feel would be helpful for our “elves” to assist your child with their shopping is most appreciated. Shopping begins at 8:00 a.m. with the kindergarten class and continues throughout the morning. A potluck lunch will begin at 11:15 for all volunteers and school staff. After lunch we will complete shopping and box up the remaining items. If you are able to provide an hour of two to help with the younger grades at 8:00 a.m., it is greatly appreciated. The PTO is still accepting donations for this event.

Congratulations to our 7th Grader who was the first place local winner of the Patriot Pen Essay Contest and received second place for the District level competition. The two 7th graders who were the second place and 3rd place winners. All students receive a certificate and monetary award from the Carleton VFW. An awards ceremony will be held at a later date.

In today's envelope all parents are receiving a two-sided information sheet regarding the IOWA Assessment taken by our students in October. One side shares information about the class percentiles in grades 3-5-7. The other side is an information letter from Susan Leslie, Associate Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit. The composite score for grades 3-5-7 was above the national average. Thank you to teachers, parents, and students for helping to prepare and take these tests. Parents of students in grades 3-5-7 are also receiving their child's IOWA Assessment Percentile scores in a sealed envelope.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Thursday, December 8

- Holy Day Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 9

- Progress Reports Distributed
- St. Charles Dance for grades 7 and 8. Cost is \$6 or \$5 with two canned goods. Dance is from 7-10 p.m. with dress code enforced and cell phones collected at the door.

Tuesday, December 13

- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14

- Auction Wrap-Up Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – All are invited to attend and provide input for improvements, as well as

Thursday, December 15

- Santa Secret Shop Set-up, 2:00 p.m.

Friday, December 16

- SMCC French Class
- Santa Secret Shop, 7:45 – 11:00 a.m.
- Potluck, 11:20 a.m.

Tuesday, December 20

- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Service Project Jean Day with Red & Green Tops
- Magazine Drive Pizza Lunch and Movie
- Christmas Break Begins at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

- School Resumes

SANTA SECRET SHOP: Help is still needed on Thursday, December 15 beginning at 2:00 p.m. to set-up Santa Secret Shop. Volunteers are also needed to assist students as they shop on Friday morning, as well as inventory and pack left over items on Friday afternoon. A potluck will be held for workers and staff at 11:20 a.m. If you are able to lend a hand, please return the sign-up sheet found at the end of last week's newsletter or call the school office. If you have items you would like to donate for Santa Secret Shop, please send them to the school office.

SCHOOL EMAIL: Catholic Web will be conducting maintenance and a Web server upgrade on Tuesday morning, December 13, 2011 from 7:30 AM to 11 AM EST. During this update the school office and teacher emails will not be available. You may reach the school office through the school email...saintpatrick@chartermi.net or by phone.

UPPER ELEMENTARY AFTER SCHOOL MATH CLUB: In January an upper elementary math club will be held on Monday. This group is limited to ten students in grades 5-8. It will be right after school until 4:30. Cost is \$25 for six weeks. If you are interested in having your child participate, please fill out the slip at the end of the newsletter.

PHONE BOOK COLLECTION: The last day for phone book recycling will be Monday, December 12th. AT&T, sponsor of this collection, has provided our school with t-shirts, rulers, and pencils to acknowledge our students for their recycling efforts. A drawing will be held at the end of our collection to distribute these prizes to students who turned in phone books.

SERVICE PROJECTS: For December's service project we are collecting items for Heartbeat of Monroe. The items most needed at this time include baby wipes, pacifiers, sippy cups, Enfamil formula, crib sheets, socks (for 18 mo. to 24 mo.), and clothes (newborn, size 18 mo., and size 2). The jean day for those who participate will be Tuesday, December 20

SCRIP NEWS: Remember to take advantage of the remaining St. Patrick School scrip order opportunity on Monday, December 12. It's a great After the New Year, scrip purchases will resume through SMCC.

GOOD SEARCH: When doing your online holiday shopping, you can support St. Patrick School by using the *Good Search* search engine. St. Patrick School earns money from all the purchases made through *Good Search*. Open www.goodsearch.com...type in *St. Patrick School*...and select our school in Carleton, MI...and begin shopping.

LOST: If anyone finds black gloves or a green hat, please turn in at the school office:

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Self discipline is when your conscience tells you to do something and you don't talk back. *W. K. Hope*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

AFTER SCHOOL MATH CLUB

Grades 5-8

6 Weeks - \$25.00

My child(ren), _____, will participate in the six week after-school Math Club.
I have enclosed the \$25.00 fee.

Parent Signature: _____