

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

December 2, 2009

Dear Parents,

Yesterday Mrs. Grinn and four of our junior high students visited SMCC for the Religion Quiz Bowl. This event provides an opportunity for Monroe Vicariate Catholic elementary students to share their knowledge of the Catholic faith and spend time with other Catholic school students that will be going to local high schools. Congratulations to our students for being excellent representatives of St. Patrick School. I believe that all of the 28 students participating in this event are "winners". I thank SMCC for hosting this wonderful activity. St. Charles students were the first place winners and received the "traveling trophy".

On Sunday we began the season of Advent. On Tuesdays before Mass our school community will gather at Church to light the Advent wreath and offer prayer. The theme for this week is *hope*. Tomorrow Fr. Ed Vella, who's conducting a mission at St. Joseph-Maybee, will be visiting us. He will celebrate Mass with our school at 9:30 a.m. If you are able to attend, you are most welcome to join us. After this he will be visiting classrooms and having lunch with the staff. Next week students in grades 3-8 will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas.

ADVENT PRAYER

God, please show us how you would have us serve others this Christmas Season, and empower us as your vessels that, by serving others, we may bring your glory. We thank you and praise you and ask these things in your Son's name. Amen.

Tomorrow afternoon retired Master Chief Joe Diaz and his wife are planning to visit our students. They will be sharing the ministry work they are doing in Peru, with our students. On Sunday at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, Mrs. Diaz performed a song of Thanksgiving in her native Pilipino language.

During Advent this year we are also focusing on our ability to provide hope to those in need. Our service project will be to provide assistance to the Sunrise House. This is the women's domestic violence shelter in Monroe County. In addition to the shelter, they provide food, clothes, hygiene items, and other needs. They have a case manager that meets with residents and non-residential clients to set goals, offer resources, and empower families exposed to domestic violence. Support groups meet every Monday night and there is a 24 hour crisis line 242-SAFE (7233). Other components of this organization are child advocacy and parenting classes. One of our school parents who is closely involved this ministry has shared that there is a great need for assistance in obtaining items. A list of needed items can be found under the *December Service Project* section found below.

God has truly blessed our school community with a wonderful response to our needs for auction help and donations. We have sold 306 dinner tickets. We are in need of additional support for selling our raffle tickets. Currently 237 tickets have been sold. This is less than half of the 500 tickets available. If you are planning to bring sold tickets the night of the auction, please let Mrs. Sroka know. If you are able to sell additional tickets, it is greatly appreciated. A note is being sent in today's family envelope to all families who still have outstanding tickets. Please remember that we make no profit until our expenses for the purchase of a ticket license and prize are covered. I thank and acknowledge the Borg family and Quality Printing & Copy Center for the donation of auction dinner tickets, Christmas Tree Raffle tickets, and silent auction bid forms for the night of the auction. This donation, as well as other donations decrease our costs and enable us to increase our profit from this event. We received approximately 50 live auction items and 290 silent items. Yesterday we received a donation of two Taylor Swift sold-out concert tickets for the live auction. This and the many other wonderful auction donations will make it a fun filled evening for all who attend. Thank you to all who have donated their time to prepare for our auction. I would like to especially thank our chairperson, who has been assisting with all of the classroom projects.

Students in grades 7/8 will have mid-term exams next week. They will be in English, reading, and math. Progress reports will go home Friday, December 11 for all students.

Thank you to all who participated in the Turkey Trot last Tuesday. We had an excellent turn-out of parents who assisted with punching the turkey cards each time a student completed a lap. Some parents also joined in walking the course with our staff and students. The sunshine, mild weather, and warm spirit of our participants made it an excellent beginning to

our Thanksgiving celebrations. A random drawing for Burger King or Wendy’s certificates was held for the awarding of prizes to our participants.

The character trait for December is *Faith* which is shown through our words and actions which express a belief in God and Religion. It is a value of hope and trust in that we are loyal to God even when we do not physically see him.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Thursday, December 3 (PHYS ED)

- Mass at 9:30 a.m. with Fr. Ed Vella
- Auction set-up 12:30 p.m. at Grafton Hall
- Cooking Class 3 – 4:15 p.m.

Friday, December 4 (ART)

- First Friday Mass 8:00 a.m.
- School Auction – Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- Grade 7/8 dance at St. Charles

Monday, December 7 (PHYS ED)

- Grades 7/8 semester exams this week
- Drama Class 3 – 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8 (MUSIC)

- Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9 (PHYS ED)

- Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m. (grades 1-2-5-6-7-8 and St. Patrick Singers)

HOT LUNCH NEXT WEEK:

We have still not yet received the December hot lunch menus so are including next week’s hot lunch menu in today’s letter. Last week’s letter includes the menu for tomorrow and Friday. You may also view the monthly calendar through the Airport Community Schools website.

Monday, Dec. 7	Tuesday, Dec. 8	Wednesday, Dec. 9	Thursday, Dec. 10	Friday, Dec. 11
Macaroni & Cheese w/roll Corn Dog Garden Salad Whole Wheat Jelly Bagel & Cheese	Chicken Rings w/roll Hamburger on a bun Chef Salad Sub Sandwich Bagel & Cheese	Cheese Pizza Ham & Cheese Wrap Garden Salad Whole Wheat Jelly Bagel & Cheese	Nachos w/beef Strawberry Yogurt & Pretzel Chef Salad Sub Sandwich Bagel & Cheese	Beef Ravioli w/breadstick Chicken Sticks Whole Wheat Jelly Bagel & Cheese

LATCHKEY: The school benefit auction will be held on Friday, November 4 with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Because latchkey personnel will be attending the auction, we are asking that children be picked up from latchkey by 5:00 on December 4th, if at all possible.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The St. Patrick School Christmas Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Students in grades 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and the St. Patrick Singers will perform in this concert. Students should be dressed in Church attire and arrive at 6:00 p.m.

DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT: During December we will be collecting items for the Sunrise House, a shelter for families affected by domestic violence. Needed items include aluminum foil, plastic wrap, wax paper, tall and large garbage bags, scrub sponges, zip-lock bags, Clorox spray, laundry soap, window cleaner, dryer sheets, liquid hand soap, women’s all-size socks, large diapers (sizes 3-4-5), pull-ups, diaper rash ointment, games for children, craft kits, paper plates, tissues, batteries (C, D, and 9-volt), and birthday wrapping paper. Items will be collected through December 18. The jean day for those who participate will be Monday, December 21.

SANTA SECRET SHOP: This week you are receiving information and a sign-up sheet for the upcoming Santa Secret Shop that will be held on Wednesday, December 16. We are still in need of a person to oversee the shop or co-chair. Please call the school office or Brandi Blaz at (734) 299-3008 if you are able to assist in that capacity. If you have items you would like to donate for Santa Secret Shop, please send to the school office.

SCRIP: Christmas is quickly approaching. Please remember that December 16 is the last Scrip order date. Many retailers are offering temporary percentage bonuses just in time for the holidays. We have also been informed that iTunes is now offering a \$25 gift card in addition to the \$15 card.

If you are looking for a great gift, keep in mind that we offer hundreds of different gift cards, including Omaha Steaks and Harry and David, which are both available in a \$25 denomination. A full retailer list is available on the school website.

Before using VISA gift cards, be sure to read the information that is included with your card. Some restaurants and salons may put 20% of your bill on a hold for several days until it is determined whether or not a tip was added.

ST. PATRICK BOOSTERS: There is a sign up book in the gym for working the concession stands during basketball season. Please stop in and sign up for a date that will be convenient for you. We are also looking for parents that would provide extra assistance at booster club activities. The duties would include setting up, running and cleaning up from an evening during the various sport seasons, as well as helping with the end of the year sports banquet. Please remember that all proceeds from booster activities benefit all children who are involved in sports activities. Thank you to for our mom who is chairing this organization this year.

LOST: A black junior high coat with red drawstrings is missing and possibly left in the gym before Thanksgiving.

SMCC HIGHSCHOOL PLACEMENT MAKE-UP TEST: The SMCC placement make-up test will be held on Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 am until noon. The test fee \$26.00 and students are asked to bring two #2 pencils. No pre-registration is necessary.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Blessed is he who does good to others and desires not that others should do good to them. *St. Giles of Assisi*

Ruth Meiring