

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

December 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

On Monday, students in grades 3-8 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I thank Fr. Bob and Fr. Rich for administering this sacrament to our students. Yesterday students and staff attended Mass for the Immaculate Conception holyday. Before Mass our school community gathered at church to light the second candle for Advent and offer prayer. In today's envelope you are receiving an Immaculate Heart of Mary prayer card. I thank the Nelson family who donated these cards for our First Friday service.

Advent Prayer

Dear God,

Live in us and enable us to share the hope of Christ through encouraging words and actions this Advent season and throughout our lives. We make this prayer in your name. Amen.

During the month of November, our school community members were challenged to live the Gospel message by demonstrating compassion. The third and fifth grade classes were recognized for showing compassion during the month of November and now have the class cross displayed in their classrooms. Grade 3 was recognized for their excellent cards for our veterans. A third grader assisted an injured student by getting ice for the student at recess. Another student helped a classmate fill out his assignment notebook. The fifth grade class was recognized for their willingness to give up recess to help younger students in the lunchroom as well as their positive attitude while performing this service. A fifth grade student also helped another student on the playground when she needed assistance. I also acknowledge others who were nominated for actions which included helping on *Mix-It-Up-Day* at lunch, creating veteran cards, assisting Mr. Vandergriff with moving his equipment, volunteering to hand out muffins in the lunchroom instead of going to recess, assisting a student who dropped books and paper, and allowing a classmate to have the last treat instead of taking it for himself. During the month of December we are looking for nominations for the character trait of *Faith*. The nomination box and slips can be found outside the school office near our Mary statue.

Thank you for your participation in our school auction. Your efforts and support has made the auction a success. At this time we do not have a final figure on our net profit. There were 305 tickets sold which is an increase of 25 people over last year. I would like to remind students and staff that the auction book contains a jean day coupon that is good until March 30, 2010, limited to one coupon per student or staff member.

Congratulations to the two school families for winning a \$250 tuition scholarship for the 2010-2011 school year. Special thanks to Suburban Sewer and Septic Tank Cleaners for donating the two \$250 scholarships that were awarded. Congratulations also to the winner of the *Ultimate Tree Raffle* package and the 50/50 winner that evening.

It was wonderful to see so many people helping out in the various areas. I sincerely thank Erika Alessandrini who chaired this year's auction, as well as the many others who chaired various facets of the auction: Live auction , Silent Auction – , Classroom Projects , 50/50 , Clean-up , Tree Raffle , Check-out, Class Wish , Booklet, Cookbook, Ticket Sales and Seating , Sub-committee. I also thank those who donated the cake for this event and the Quality Printing & Copy Center for the donation of the auction tickets, raffle tickets, and silent bid sheets.

I sincerely thank our many auction guests who brightened the Christmas of our teachers by purchasing items from their classroom "Wish List" or donating to the Smart Interactive Boards. An anonymous donation of \$5,000 was given to assist in the purchase of a board. The night of the auction, our generous donors combined to provide another \$5,000 for the purchase of a second board. We have an educational consultant doing a professional development program with our teachers next Tuesday after school. Teachers are researching two brands, the Smart Board and the Promethean Board, to determine which brand best suits our needs. It is our goal to place a board in each of the buildings. Thank you again to all who enable our teachers to have the tools for providing quality academic instruction.

This week, on Thursday or Friday, all families will be receiving a photo magnet package from Lifetouch. Parents may purchase one or two sheets of the magnets. The cost is \$20 a package or \$12.00 a sheet and our school will receive 10% of any purchase made. If you do not wish to purchase the Christmas photo magnets, simply return them to the school.

Information about cost and other procedures will be explained in the packet. If you wish to make a purchase, please make your check payable to *Lifetouch*.

A school parent has volunteered to help organize a *Michigan Apples School Sweepstakes* contest. From now until the end of March we will be collecting Michigan apple labels from the plastic apple bags, as well as hand drawn apples for this contest. Eighteen thousand dollars in prizes will be awarded. An \$800 prize will be awarded to each of two schools for collecting the most proof of purchase labels and/or hand drawn apple cards. The remaining prize money is awarded in the random selection of challenge entries. Students may submit 3x5 cards which contain an original hand drawing of a red, green, or yellow apple (apple cards). Apple cards with pre-printed pictures, stamped pictures, or mechanically produced will not be accepted. Each proof of purchase symbol or apple card constitutes one challenge entry.

Congratulations to kindergartener, who was a runner-up in the Archdiocese of Detroit *Name Our Patron Saint* contest. The contest guidelines called on students to aid Archbishop Allen Vigneron in his search for a patron saint for the Archdiocese of Detroit by submitting nominations. All of our kindergarten students did colorful hand drawn pictures of their choice. You can view the drawing on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at www.aodonline.org.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, December 9

- Christmas Concert 6:30 p.m. in Church – Grades 1-2-5-6-7-8 and St. Patrick Singers

Thursday, December 10 (ART)

- After School Cooking Class 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Friday, December 11 (PHYS ED)

- Progress Reports distributed

Monday, December 14 (MUSIC)

- After School Drama Class 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15 (PHYS ED)

- All School Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Santa Secret Shop Set-up 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16 (ART)

- Santa Secret Shop

Thursday, December 17 (PHYS ED)

- After School Cooking Class 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Monday, December 21 (PHYS ED)

- Red & Green Tops with gym uniforms
- Service Project Jean Day
- Assembly 2:15 p.m.
- Christmas Break begins at 3:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 21:

Monday, December 21 will be the last day of school before Christmas break. School dismissal will be at the regular 3:00 pm. time. Latchkey will be available for those who need this service. Students and staff are invited to wear red and green tops with their gym uniform bottoms. Students and staff who participated in the December service project may wear jeans. All students should have tennis shoes for gym class. If there is snow on the ground, students should wear boots and change into their shoes when they arrive. At 2:15 p.m. the school community will gather in the gym. Our drama club will present two Christmas plays and we will sing Christmas carols.

HOT LUNCH NEXT WEEK:

The December hot lunch menu has arrived, however, it contains a few errors. Please make note of the following corrections: Sub sandwiches will be an entrée item included on the menu each Tuesday and Thursday. Tomorrow, Thursday, December 10, the nachos include beef AND cheese. On Monday, December 21, the pancakes and sausage offered is a “wrap”.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The St. Patrick School Christmas Concert will be held **tonight**, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. The day was incorrectly listed in previous newsletters. 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 6:10 p.m. unless Mr. Vandergriff gave an earlier time for a particular grade.

DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT: During December we continue to collect 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, 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.

A final tally of November service project items has been completed. There were 124 gloves, hats, and scarves collected, 74 coats, two pair of shoes, and 307 non-perishable food items.

SANTA SECRET SHOP: We look forward to Santa Secret Shop that will be held next week. Set-up will be on Tuesday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m. Shopping will be held on Wednesday, December 16 with a potluck for workers and staff. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help that day. If you are able to help and haven't signed up yet, please call the school office.

In today's family envelope you will find a parent information sheet and Santa Secret Shop envelope for each student. If your child wishes to shop, please complete the face of the envelope and return it by Monday, if possible. This helps to avoid forgotten envelopes on shopping day, especially since there will be no make-up day offered because of gym on Thursday. There will be school cookbooks for sale at a cost of \$10, as well as scrip in \$5.00 and \$10.00 denomination to various establishments such as Bath and Body, Borders, Tiffany Pizza, Wendy's, Arby's, and Burger King.

The company providing our Santa Secret Shop items this year is offering Mackinac Island ferry coupons. Visit www.funservicesofmichigan.com to print a coupon. Click on "Santa's Secret Shop & Holiday Gift Shop – Program Features", scroll down to the bottom and click on the Star Line Ferry logo, fill out the form using the code "DET", and print.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH: We have received the following information from the MDCH warning residents to avoid fraudulent emails referencing CDC-sponsored state vaccination program. They state: "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer (OCISO) Cyber Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) have received reports of fraudulent emails referencing a CDC-sponsored State Vaccination Program for the H1N1 virus. The messages request that users create a personal H1N1 "Vaccination Profile" on the cdc.gov web site. The messages then states that anyone who has reached the age of 18 has to have his/her personal "Vaccination Profile" on the cdc.gov site. The CDC has NOT implemented a state vaccination program requiring registration on www.cec.gov. These emails are a scam and residents are asked to ignore and delete them. Users that click on the embedded link in the email are at risk of having a malicious code installed on their system. The OCISO reminds users to take the following steps to reduce the risk of being a victim of a phishing attack:

- Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open or respond to unsolicited email messages.
- Use caution when visiting un-trusted web sites.
- Use caution when entering personal information online.

For more information, please visit www.cec.gov/hoaxes_rumors.html"

H1N1 VACCINATION CLINIC: A vaccination clinic is being held on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at Monroe High School (Commons Area) from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The clinic is being held for the following target groups:

- Pregnant women;
- Household contact or caregiver for children younger than 6 months of age;
- Healthcare or emergency medical services personnel;
- Aged 6 months through 24 years;
- Aged 25 through 64 years and have a health condition associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

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 still 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 our school parent for chairing this organization this year.

SCRIP: If “Marla Meyer” is one of your Kroger friend or family contacts, please notify one of the scrip coordinators so proper credit may be given to your family. We are also looking for the owner of Kroger Plus Card #41831489891. If you have this card, please notify the office so proper credit may be given. Also remember there are two remaining scrip order dates before the Christmas break. Orders placed by this Friday, December 11 will be delivered December 16. The final order date will be Wednesday, December 16 with delivery on Friday, December 18. Thank you to all who have been purchasing scrip for their Christmas shopping needs.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying “Whom shall I send and who will go...for us?” Then I said, “Here I am, send me.” Isaiah 6:8

Ruth Meiring