

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

February 9, 2010

Dear Parents,

This Friday our school will celebrate Valentine's Day. This holiday was named after St. Valentine, a holy priest who lived in Rome in the third century. When Christianity was banned, Valentine helped and encouraged the Christians who faced martyrdom rather than give up their faith. It is said he even performed marriage ceremonies for Christian couples. When Valentine was condemned to death, he wrote a farewell letter to the girl who he had cured from blindness and signed it "from your Valentine". Some believe this is where the custom of sending "valentines" began on February 14, the day of his execution. The Church reminds us that the best reason for honoring those we love is to follow the example of St. Valentine as the patron saint of love by expressing our own great love of God with kind deeds and cards to those we love.

On Friday students are invited to wear appropriate red/white/pink tops with their gym uniforms. Valentines will be distributed in the afternoon and teachers should be sending home information regarding individual classroom activities. Please remember that if your child is bringing valentines to school, he or she needs to bring one for each student in the class. I strongly encourage healthy food to be sent. If candy is being sent, please have it individually wrapped so students may take it home for parent discretion.

Last Thursday representatives from our school community attended the Catholic Schools Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. At the end of Mass our school received a *Recognition of Achievement Certificate for Grade Three Catholic Identity* by having one of the top ten scores on the grade 3 religion test component of the IOWA test last fall. Congratulations to our third graders, their parents and their religion teacher, Ms. Werstein for excellence in learning Catholic Identity.

On Thursday, February 11, grade 7 will have a jean day for donating the most money per student for Haiti Relief. On Thursday, February 18, the sixth grade will have a pizza lunch for having the winning poster for the Catholic Schools Week contest.

Our Book Fair is fast approaching. Please consider helping one of more days if you are able. Our coordinator would greatly appreciate any help. Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase resource books for the teachers and library books for the students. More details will follow in a later newsletter.

Don't forget to return your parent survey that was sent home in last week's family envelope. Your input is important to us.

Parents of fourth and fifth graders are reminded to send in their child's camp reservations form and \$25.00 deposit for Camp Storer in the fall.

REMINDER TO ALL WHO PLAY SPORTS...FROM FR. BOB: If school is cancelled tomorrow, all games and practices are also cancelled.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, February 10 (PHYS ED)

- Drama Club, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
- Girls A vs. St. Mary Rockwood at St. Patrick, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 11 (ART)

- Grade 7 Jean Day

Friday, February 12 (PHYS ED)

- Red / White/Pink Tops with Gym Uniforms
- Grades 7/8 Dance, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 13

- Boys A-2 vs. St. Michael at St. Patrick, 11:00 a.m.
- Boys A-1 vs. St. Joseph Erie at St. Patrick, 12:00 p.m.
- Family YMCA Night, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Monday, February 15

- No School for Students; Staff Professional Development Day

Tuesday, February 16 (PHYS ED)

- Olympics Assembly, 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, February 17 (ART)

- Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Little Caesar Pizza Kit Sale Begins
- Drama Club, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 18 (PHYS ED)

- Grade 6 Pizza Lunch

HOT LUNCH ON THURSDAY: Should there be a snow day tomorrow, Wednesday, February 10, the lunch on Thursday will be pizza. We have now received the menu for Ash Wednesday and the two Friday's in February. Please correct your February calendar to reflect the following:

Wednesday, February 17	Friday, February 19	Friday, February 26
Cheese Pizza	Garden Salad	Yogurt & Soft Pretzel
Bean & Cheese Burrito	Fish Sticks with a roll	French Toast Sticks & Hard Boiled Egg

COUGH DROPS: As a reminder, we are required to have a doctor's authorization for all medication, including over the counter items such as Tylenol and cough drops. Forms may be obtained on the school website or from the school office.

STUDENT TREASURE BOOKS: This year *Student Treasures* sent extra books for the following grades: Grade 7 (3 books), Grade 3 (1 book); and Grade 6 (3 books). These books will be available on a "first come-first serve" basis and may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Sroka. The cost is \$17.90. Checks should be made payable to *St. Patrick School*.

EIGHTH GRADE FUNDRAISER - VALENTINE EXPRESS: The eighth grade class are selling *Valentine Express* cards this week during lunch. Students may purchase these colorful cards that come with a sucker. The cards will be delivered to the classrooms on Friday, February 12. Each card is \$1.00.

YMCA FAMILY FUN NIGHT: It's not too late to join us at the YMCA in Monroe on Saturday, February 13 from 6 – 11 p.m. There will be a potluck sloppy joe dinner, swimming, tennis, racquetball, walleyball, basketball, and inflatable challenge course. The cost is \$20 and families are asked to bring a dish to pass. I hope to see you Saturday night for an evening of fun

SERVICE PROJECT: For February, our service project is to collect soft **individually wrapped adult toothbrushes** or a monetary donation of \$1.00 or more to purchase toothbrushes for Hope Dental Clinic in Ypsilanti. Toothbrushes will be collected through Tuesday, February 23 and the service project jean day will be Wednesday, January 24 for those who participate.

CORRECTION TO YEARLY CALENDAR: The yearly calendar states that there is no school on March 19. This is incorrect. Please cross that date off in your Parent/Student Handbook, as there **is** school on March 19.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT TUITION ASSISTANCE: Application forms are still available in the school office for the Archdiocese of Detroit Tuition Assistance program. The cost for submitting an application is \$21.00 and the due date is April 12, 2010. I encourage our families to submit an application.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP: The next *Protecting God's Children* workshop that will be held in our area is at St. Joseph, Maybee on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The workshop will be held in Madonna Hall and a light supper will be available from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. To register for this workshop, go to www.virtus.com or contact Mrs. Sroka for help in registering.

YEARBOOK: We are in need of classroom, special activity, and sports photos to include in the 2009-2010 yearbook. If you have pictures to share.

SCRIP: Neiman Marcus has been added to the list of available retailers. They offer \$50 cards at a 12% discount. If you are planning a spring getaway, be sure to check out the gift cards Scrip has to offer. There are many hotels, restaurants, and gas cards. Going to Disney? We offer gift cards in \$25, \$100, and \$1,000 denominations. Disney cards are offered at a 2% discount. Orders should be placed by Friday for delivery the following week.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

It is very important for us to realize that love, to be true, has to hurt. I must be willing to give whatever it takes not to harm other people and, in fact, to do good to them. This requires that I be willing to give until it hurts. *Mother Teresa*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

