

## *St. Patrick School Family Newsletter*

February 17, 2010

Dear Parents,

Today our school joined with other Catholics throughout the world to begin the Lenten Season. Students attended Mass and received ashes on their forehead as a reminder of God's words in the Bible, "...you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Archbishop Vigneron's calls us to spend Lent in more fervent prayer, fasting, self denial and good deeds of love. Father Bob also reminded us today that after our ashes wear off the only way others will know that we are Christians is by the love we share with others. Our theme *SOW seeds of love, GROW in God's Word, and GO share his love* responds to this call to make our actions signs of our love for God and others. A garden of heart flowers will be created in the upper elementary hallway. Our flowers will contain one idea as to how each student will sow seeds of love by responding to God's call to go and share his love with others.

Students will attend Stations of the Cross each week and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. Our school will also provide additional opportunities for staff and students to grow closer to God through spiritual prayer, acts of kindness, sacrifice, almsgiving, and community service.

Students in grades 6-8 will soon be invited to participate in the Living Stations. Practices will be during recess and students will offer this prayer service to our school community on Wednesday, March 31 which is the last day before Easter vacation. Students will also offer the Living Stations to the parish on Good Friday, April 2 at noon. Thank you to Mrs. Grinn who will be assisting me.

The results for MEAP have been completed; however they have not been released to the public. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will be receiving the parent summary to send home.

The America and Me essay contest sponsored by Farm Bureau has notified us of the top three finishers of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade contest. Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grader who received first place and has advanced to the state level of competition. Congratulations also our two other eighth graders who received second place and third place winner. The top ten state wide winners will be announced in April. Several thousand eighth grade students from nearly 500 Michigan schools participated in this year's event. The essay topic was *My Personal Michigan Hero*.

Enclosed you will find the results of the *Family Satisfaction Survey*. Thank you to all who took the time to complete and return the form. All surveys received by Friday, February 13 were tabulated and can be found in the summary you are receiving. This tally was used for the school improvement portion of the staff professional development on Monday. The information is very helpful as we begin planning curriculum development for the upcoming school year. Any late arrivals will be included in a revised tabulation for the School Committee.

Thank you to everyone who made our Valentine's Day celebrations on Friday, February 12 so enjoyable. Our staff, as well as myself, greatly appreciate the many cards, warm wishes, and special treats that were shared. Students took great pride in sharing cards and special treats with each other. When one seeks to find the definition of *community*, a visit to one of our classrooms certainly brings forth the true meaning of this word. I also acknowledge all of our parents who came in or donated items for this special day.

I thank Mrs. Grinn and Ms. Blair for organizing our assembly yesterday for the Olympics. During the assembly students learned about the history of the Olympics which dates back to the Greeks and Romans. The significance of the Olympic torch and mascots for this year's Olympics was also explained.

**LITTLE CAESAR FUNDRAISER:** Families are receiving an informational letter and order form the Little Caesar fundraiser which begins today. The sale will end on Wednesday, March 3. The items ordered will be delivered on Thursday, March 11 and will be Beth Hammermaster who will chair this for the students who will be attending camp in the fall and to Karen Laginess who is also assisting.

**MEN'S CLUB FISH FRY:** All are invited to attend the fish fry on Friday, February 19 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., sponsored by the St. Patrick Men's Club. If you are able to help with this dinner, please complete and return the form found in today's family envelope. Other fish fries will be held on March 1, March 19, and March 26.

**HELP NEEDED FOR FATHER/SON BREAKFAST:** The Father/Son Breakfast will be held on Sunday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m. The Altar Society is seeking help from our fifth through eighth grade girls who may be able to help serve the breakfast. The girls are asked to arrive at 7:45 a.m. for instructions. The girls will receive breakfast and are invited to watch the animal magic show that will be presented that morning. Girls are asked to notify the school office if they are able to help. Any mother who is interested in helping is also welcome!

**CYO SPRING SPORT SIGN-UPS:** Students in grades 5-8 who are interested in playing baseball or softball this spring are invited to sign up on one of the following two dates in the gym lunchroom. The fee is \$25.00 and should be paid at the time of sign-up.

- Sunday, February 28, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm.
- Monday, March 1, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Wednesday, February 17 (ART)**

- Little Caesar pizza kit sale begins
- Drama Club, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.
- Boys A-2 vs. St. Mary Rockwood at St. Patrick’s, 6:30 p.m.
- Boys A-1 vs. St. Joseph Erie at St. Joseph Erie, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, February 18 (PHYS ED)**

- Grade 6 Pizza Lunch

**Friday, February 19 (MUSIC)**

- Men’s Club Fish Fry, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, February 22 (PHYS ED)**

**Tuesday, February 23 (ART)**

- Mass 8:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 24 (PHYS ED)**

- Grade 3 field trip to Blues-a-Palooza
- Service Project Jean Day
- Drama Club 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

**Thursday, February 25 (MUSIC)**

- Bishop Reiss visits
- Mass 2:00 p.m.
- Scholastic “Click” Interactive Learning Club orders due

**Friday, February 26 (PHYS ED)**

- Progress reports sent home

**Saturday, February 27**

- Eighth grade retreat

**CORRECTION TO FEBRUARY SCHOOL CALENDAR:** The specials listed on the school calendar are incorrect for the last week of February. Please make the following corrections to your calendar:

Monday, Feb. 22	Tuesday, Feb. 23	Wednesday, Feb. 24	Thursday, Feb. 25	Friday, Feb. 26
Physical Ed	Art	Physical Ed	Music	Physical Ed

**SNOW DAY CHANGES:** When there is a snow day, the hot lunch program usually serves the menu that was listed for the snow day, when we return. Our special classes (art, music, and gym) stays on the same schedule that is posted on the monthly calendar.

**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.

**YMCA FAMILY FUN NIGHT:** Thank you to Mrs. G for organizing the sloppy joe YMCA Family Fun Night that was held last Saturday evening and to the 35 families who attended. It was a fun evening for all!

**BOOKS ARE FUN:** There is a *Books Are Fun* display outside the school office that parents are welcome to view through Monday, February 22.

**SCHOLASTIC “CLICK” INTERACTIVE LEARNING CLUB:** Enclosed you will find two different order forms for the Scholastic *Click* Interactive Learning Club. Please return the order form and payment by Thursday, February 25 if you wish to place on order. Checks should be made payable to *Scholastic, Inc.*

**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](http://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, please contact school office to find out where to send them.

**ST. JOSEPH FAMILY MASS & MOVIE NIGHT:** On Saturday, February 20, St. Joseph, Maybee will host a *Family Mass & Movie Night*. Mass is at 7:00 p.m. and the movie will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Madonna Hall. They will be showing the newly released Fatima movie *The 13<sup>th</sup> Day*. All are invited to attend this free event.

**RACHEL’S CHALLENGE:** The *Rachel’s Challenge* program offered by Monroe Middle School for seventh and eighth graders and their parents has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the MMS auditorium.

**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*.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

Peace and love are always alive in us, but we are not always alive to peace and love. *St. Julian of Norwich*.

Ruth Meiring, Principal