

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

January 20, 2010

Dear Parents,

Today our school community joined in prayer for the earthquake victims in Haiti. From today through Friday, our school community will focus on offering prayers and financial support for those in need. On Friday, any student donating \$1 or more for Haitian relief efforts may wear jeans. Students are also encouraged to bring in coins and dollars for a class collection jar (funds collected in each class for the jean day will be included in class totals). The class with the highest percent per pupil will receive a class jean day. If you wish to send in a check for tax purposes, it should be made out to Catholic Relief Services. Please indicate "CRS Relief" in the lower left memo line of the check. On Friday our Student Council will lead our school community in prayers that will focus on hope for all who have been affected by this natural disaster.

Next week we begin our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week. During the week we seek to reach out and build awareness of what St. Patrick School offers. We also thank all those who work hard to make our school excellent: students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, and our community supporters. It is gratifying to be principal in a school community that maintains a deep commitment to provide quality Catholic education for each child in our school. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: "Dividends for Life" underscores the long-standing tradition of Catholic education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles in life. A schedule of events for the week is included in today's family envelope. Each day has a special dress options for staff and students. These can be found on the schedule. If you are uncertain about a dress day or activity, please contact the school office or your child's teacher.

Tuesday's theme is *Dividends for Life-In Our Vocations*. On this day we are encouraging the role models and significant persons in the lives of our youth to spend extra time with our students. Family and friends are invited to join our community in prayer at Mass. If you come, please have your family sit together preferably with the school and staff members. At lunch on Tuesday, grandparents, or a special person may join our students at lunch. Family and community members greatly influence the choices our students make in so many areas of life, especially vocation and spiritually so it is most appropriate that opportunities are extended to be here with our students.

This year grade 8 will be playing parents and staff on Wednesday. Our seventh graders will lead a pep rally before the game. We are in need of volleyball players as well as cheering audience members. Come share your enthusiasm and sports talents with us!

On Sunday, January 31 our week long celebration ends with a community gathering in the morning. I thank the Men's Club for sponsoring an all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8-11:30 a.m. During this time, we will also have our Science Fair, the winning posters from the Woodsy Owl poster contest, a bake sale, and the eighth grader will be selling Valentine Express cards.. Parents and other community members will also have an opportunity to cast a ballot for the best classroom poster expressing the theme *The Dividends of Attending St. Patrick School*.

Thank you to Mrs. Wickenheiser who is organizing the bake sale. If you are able to assist with the sale after a Saturday night Mass or Sunday morning in the gym, please contact the school office if you have not done so. We are also in need of bake sale items for this event and greatly appreciate all donations. I also thank all those who will be helping at the breakfast and bake sale on Sunday. I encourage you to attend the breakfast and show your support for our school youth and their achievements. All proceeds from the bake sale will be used for the purchase of interactive white boards.

Additional changes have been made at the Archdiocese Central Office. Associate superintendent Susan Leslie will continue to work with us with curriculum; however she will no longer be our associate for the Monroe Vicariate. Mary Swinkey will assume the associate superintendent duties for the Monroe Vicariate. Ms. Swinkey is a Monroe native and I have known Mary for many years.

I sincerely thank all who assisted at our concession stand at Cobo Hall last Sunday for the International Auto Show. Joining my husband and I for a extended shift of 14 hours was. Thank you to the the school family who visited our booth and took pictures to document that we performed our labor of service! Although there were many sore feet and tired bodies, it was a positive experience and great fun for our team. It appears that our profits will be somewhere in the \$1,000 - \$1,200 range. I am very grateful to the Aramark team that provided the opportunity and much needed support to make it a successful fundraising experience for us.

All are welcome to attend the school Spelling Bee that will be held tomorrow, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. in church. Congratulations to finalists.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, January 20 (ART)

- Second Grade Parent Eucharist Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Girls B-2 vs. St. Charles at St. Charles, 5:30 p.m.
- Boys B-2 vs. St. Charles at St. Charles, 6:30 p.m.

- Boys B-1 vs. St. Joseph Erie at St. Patrick's, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 21 (PHYS ED)

- Spelling Bee, 10:00 a.m.
- Boys A-1 vs. O.L.Mt. Carmel at O.L.Mt. Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 22 (MUSIC)

- End of the Second Quarter
- Support Haiti relief efforts: \$1 or more to wear jeans, and a class coin and dollar challenge. Class with the largest percentage of money per student wins a class jean day. Checks should be made out to Catholic Relief Services.

Saturday, January 23

- Boys A-2 vs. St. Mary Rockwood at Shumate, 10:00 a.m.
- Boys B-2 vs. Meadow at St. Patrick's, 9:00 a.m.
- Girls A vs. St. Joseph Erie at St. Patrick's 10:00 a.m.
- Girls B-2 vs. Holy Ghost at Holy Ghost, 12:00 p.m.
- Boys B-1 vs. St. John's at St. John's, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 24

- Catholic Schools Week (See enclosed schedule for events)

Monday, January 25 (PHYS ED)

Tuesday, January 26 (ART)

- All School Mass 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 27 (PHYS ED)

- Service Project Jean Day
- Girls A vs. St. Mary's-RED at St. Mary's Monroe, 7:30 p.m.

YMCA FAMILY NIGHT: The annual YMCA Family Night for St. Patrick School will be Saturday, February 13 from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. Please return the reservation form that was sent home last night with your \$20 payment.

BAKE SALE AND COOKBOOK SALE: Thank you to Mrs. Wickenheiser who has volunteered to chair the bake sale next weekend after all the Masses. Help is needed to sell items after Mass in Church on Saturday and in the gym on Sunday. We also need families to provide baked goods for the sale. Proceeds will be used for the purchase of our interactive white boards and an electronic individual response system.

ST. PATRICK SCIENCE FAIR: The annual St. Patrick Science Fair is fast approaching. Any student at our school may participate by creating a project. Rules and regulations are available from Mrs. Zochowski or the school office. Set up is next Friday, January 29 before school. Judging takes place on January 29, 2010 in the afternoon and evening. The gym is closed to all students and parents during this time. The projects can be viewed during the Men's Club Breakfast on January 31 from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Please make sure your child's Science Fair project is completed and brought to the gym by 7:30 a.m. on Friday, January 29. When arriving, please check in with our science teachers for the location and number of your project.

Science Fair projects should be picked up after the Men's Club Breakfast on January 31 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

WIZARD OF OZ: Congratulations to the students who auditioned and were selected as cast member for the Wizard of Oz.

SERVICE PROJECT: This month we are supporting *Project Halo* by collecting items that can be used to create a 'pillowcase fun bag' to be distributed to children who are currently sick in local hospitals. Some of the items needed include children books, coloring books, crayons, stuffed toys, game pieces for checkers or tic-tac-toe, solid color pillowcases, children's puzzles, easy puzzle (word search, etc.) books for children, and money for the purchase of paints and other needed items. Items need to be turned in by Tuesday, January 26 with the Jean day on the 27th.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH: Sometimes financial situations change during the course of the school year. All families are welcome at any time to apply for free and reduced lunch through Sodexo. Information in the application is confidential and reviewed only by Glen Newa, Sodexo Manager at Airport. For an application, please contact our school office.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT TUITION ASSISTANCE: You will find a Parent Information Sheet in today's family envelope regarding the Archdiocese of Detroit annual tuition assistance program for the 2010-2011 school year. The application forms are now available in the school office. 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. This year \$9,600 was granted to our families for their children's elementary education. Several of these families also received additional funds for children attending SMCC.

YEARBOOK: We are in need of someone to help compile this year's yearbook, which will be done digitally. If you are available to help with this project, please contact the school office. We are also in need of classroom, special activity, and sports photos to include in the yearbook. If you have pictures to share, please call the office for the contact information.

SCRIP: If you are hosting a Super Bowl party, why not earn scrip credit? Be sure to order Gordon Foods or Wal-Mart gift cards. If you aren't cooking, Tiffany's Pizza or Pizza Hut can do the work for you! Remember to send in your order by Friday morning.

H1N1 VACCINATIONS: Free H1N1 vaccinations are offered by the Monroe County Health Department by appointment in January on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.; and Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Call 734-240-7858 during these times to make an appointment. Both H1N1 FluMist and injectable vaccines are available. The Monroe County Health Department is located at 2353 S. Custer Road, Monroe.

MEN'S CLUB ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST: The Men's Club is sponsoring an *All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast* on Sunday, January 31 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Help is needed to provide quick breads and muffins for the breakfast. If you are able to help, please contact the school office at 654-2522.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Today, more than ever, we need to pray for the light to know the will of God...for the love to accept the will of God...for the way to do the will of God. *Mother Teresa*

Ruth Meiring