

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

January 6, 2009

Dear Parents,

The school staff extends our warmest wishes of peace and hope for 2010 to your family. We are grateful for the many gifts, talents, and blessings you share with us and our school family. The warm and nurturing environment of faith and excellence exists because of you and the many other caring individuals in our community.

Today I visited all classrooms and offered a New Year blessing and sprinkled students and staff with Holy Water. The doors in all classrooms and the office were signed with the inscription "20+C+B+M+10". The letters are the initials of the Three Kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar and the numbers represent our current year, 2010. The inscription reminds all of us to treat those who enter with respect and kindness. It also symbolizes our belief that God is present in all things that we do and in all places of our lives. Thank you to several 8th grade boys for assisting with the marking of the classroom door frames.

Jesus, Guardian of this New Year, help us to set aside our fears, worries, and concerns. Help us to open our life to mystery, to beauty, to hospitality, to question and to the endless opportunity of discovering you in our relationships. We welcome your presence and walk with hope into the New Year.

During the month of January, students and staff will focus on the character trait of commitment. Supportive values for this trait are loyalty and effort. Students and staff may be nominated for recognition by submitting a form in the box located near the Mary statue outside the office.

This week at Mass grades 2 and 6 received the building crosses for their individual and class demonstration of faith during the month of December. Some examples of how others recognized our staff and students for being good role models for their faith included: Altar servers at school Mass and the weekends, teachers who organized Christmas nativity plays and students who performed in the Christmas plays, students who participated in the Christmas Eve Children's Mass as readers or in the choir, classes praying the *Stations of the Crib*, sending cards to parish shut-ins and Sister Joseph Marie a St. Patrick graduate who celebrated 75 years of service as a Sister of the Poor, a class informed their teacher on the rituals of receiving Holy Communion, a student helped a kindergarten student who fell, a group of students helped another student who dropped several items in the hallway, a student picked up litter that was outside and disposed of it properly, a teacher who was acknowledged for her teaching skills in religion class, a student opened the door for a staff person and allowed her to enter first, and students who donated free time to pack service project items.

January 10 – 16 is National Vocation Awareness Week. During this week we reflect on our call through Baptism to joyfully serve God in a vocation to the priesthood, religious, single, or married life. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon the unique gifts that each of us is given to be successful in our vocation. Please pray for our young people as they seek to understand the vocation that God has called them to.

Just before the Christmas break, I received a letter from the Monroe County Health department announcing the closing of the Monroe County Health Department's School Health Program. This is due to "mandatory and dramatic county-wide funding reductions." All of the scheduled visits by the county health nurse after December 31, 2009 have been canceled. This program has provided a yearly visit to all classrooms to educate on topics such as personal hygiene and nutrition. This year only grades 3-5 received their visits. If you or someone trained in the health profession would be willing to do presentations for the remainder of our students on these topics, please contact the school office. Sessions varied from 30 minutes to one hour and two or three classes were combined for the session. Please consider helping us to keep this health program going. Although our physical education classes have a health component lesson taught every fourth class, it is always beneficial for guest speakers to visit and reinforce the importance of making positive choices to keep our youth healthy and productive.

The results from the High School Placement Test have arrived. Those eighth graders taking this test in November at SMCC are receiving the results in today's family envelope.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to assist at a concession stand during the Cobo Hall Auto Show. We will be working at a concession stand all day on January 17. If you are planning to attend the Auto Show, please stop by and support our efforts. Our school will receive 10 percent of the profits and all tips. I thank those who attended the first training session. Today volunteers are receiving additional information regarding participation and procedures. Thank you to those who will attend the cashier training session on Thursday. The following weekend the Carleton Boy Scouts will be manning a concession stand at the Auto Show. I encourage you to support them as well if you attend the Auto Show.

Below is the Vision Statement the Strategic Planning Committee has submitted for approval. Please review the draft and submit any comments to the school office. These will be reviewed before a final draft is submitted to Father Bob for approval.

St. Patrick School Vision Statement Draft Recommendation

Inspired by our Catholic faith in Christ and together with our school families, parish members and community, the St. Patrick Catholic School and Parish leadership commit to creating a school environment that allows each person to reach their full potential in body, mind, heart, and spirit.

Everyone in our school community is a unique creation, made in the image of God and deserves to be cared for unconditionally and valued equally. In our learning, in our work, in our relationships with each other, and in the ways in which we organize our community, we are committed to be a school that:

- Pursues excellence in all fields of learning.
- Supports innovation and creativity.
- Respects and reinforces cultural identity and diversity.
- Cultivates an environment that promotes high quality experiences and opportunities for students, staff, and the community.
- Lives the Gospel message through prayer and service.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, January 6 (PHYS ED)

- Girls B-2 vs. St. Michael's at St. Patrick's, 6:30 p.m.
- Boys B-2 vs St. Michael's at St. Patrick's, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 7 (ART)

- Boys A-1 at St. Charles, 7:30 p.m.
- Boys B-1 at O.L.Mt. Carmel, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 8 (PHYS ED)

- Geography Bee 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 9

- Girls A vs St. Michael's at MCCC (South), 11:00 a.m.
- Boys B-2 vs. St. Mary Rockwood at Shumate, 10:00 a.m.
- Girls B-2 at St. Joseph Erie, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 10

- Boys B-1 vs. Trinity at St. Patrick's, 2:00 p.m.
- Boys A-2 vs St. Charles at St. Patrick's 3:00 p.m.

Monday, January 11 (MUSIC)

Tuesday, January 12 (PHYS ED)

- Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Strategic Planning 7:00 p.m.

ST. PATRICK SCIENCE FAIR: In January we will have the annual St. Patrick Science Fair. Judging begins on January 29, 2010 and the projects can be viewed during the Men's Club Breakfast on January 31 from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Any student at our school may participate by creating a project. Rules and regulations are available from Mrs. Zochowski or the school office. If you find the packet of information overwhelming or difficult to understand, contact your child's science teacher for additional assistance. We look forward to the students' projects and celebrate the most important outcome of our Science Fair, the joy of learning that comes from scientific discovery. All students in grades K-8 participate with either class or individual projects to explore the wonders of science.

Please make sure your child's Science Fair project is completed and turned 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.

SERVICE PROJECT: This month we will be support a service project organized by several of our parish youth. Co-founders of Project Halo have invited us to join with them, the St. Patrick Teen Youth Group, and others to assist with Project Pillowcase. They are collecting items that can be used to create a 'pillowcase fun bag' to be distributed to children who are currently sick in local hospitals. Each pillowcase fun bag will contain a painted game board on the pillowcase and many fun items inside. They are in need of the following items: 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.

GEOGRAPHY BEE: This Friday, January 8 at 10 a.m., the finals for the Geography Bee will be held in Church. Congratulations to our finalists.

NO SCHOOL: Please remember that there will be no school on Monday, January 18. Teachers will be attending a Professional Development Day in Erie with the teachers of St. Joseph School.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE: Thank you to all who are making extra effort for the success of our fundraisers this year. The Magazine and Cookie Dough drive profited \$5,566.62. An updated auction profit, which includes the sale of our cookbooks, is \$39,400. This figure includes the \$5,000 raised the night of the auction for our interactive Smart boards and other classroom *Wish List* items. Our school has received \$2,138.28 from this year's Scrip program. Last year the entire amount of Scrip received was \$3,573.42. Your continued support of Scrip for the remainder of the year will allow us to increase our profits in this area from last year.

H1N1 PERMISSION SLIPS: Thank you to those who returned the H1N1 permission slips earlier this quarter. Those families who have not yet returned the slip are receiving another one today. It is important that we receive permission slips for every family, indicating whether you wish your child(ren) to have the potassium iodine tablet(s) in the case of a nuclear emergency during the school day.

WEATHER: Please remember to have your children dress appropriately for the weather with hats, gloves, scarves, and warm coats. Also remember... "Snow on the ground...boots on the feet". It's important all students are dressed properly for the weather.

SMCC DEDICATION: All are invited to attend the SMCC blessing and dedication of *Founders Hall* on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

GENERAL MILLS BOXTOPS: Thank you to all who continue to save General Mills Boxtops. We received a check this week in the amount of \$507.60. Thank you those who trim the labels and submits them for redemption.

NEEDED: Mrs. Koziol is seeking the wood slatted crates that clementines and tangerines come in.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

One who takes a virtuous vow has the strength of seven generations to help him succeed. One who breaks a vow brings ill fortune on seven generations. *Anonymous*

Ruth Meiring