

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

January 25, 2012

Dear Parents,

Today you are receiving the annual school survey, which is two-sided. When you select the number "1", you are strongly agreeing or giving the topic the highest ranking. By selecting number "5" you strongly disagree with the selected statement. Please keep this in mind when completing your survey. The results of the survey are reviewed by teachers, school committee members and the administration. It helps to provide input towards our school improvement goals. It also acknowledges the positive actions as well as those areas needing strengthening. Parents, staff, and students all receive surveys to fill out. Thank you to those who take the time to assist us with the collection of this important data. Your creative suggestions allow us to continue providing a quality academic and spiritual environment for our students.

Today you are also receiving a letter about the Think Safety First or Lures personal safety program that is presented each year to our students. Please take a few minutes to review the information about this program that is provided to our students during Religion classes. If you have questions, please contact your child's Religion teacher or myself.

At the last principal meeting in Detroit it was announced the applications for Archdiocese of Detroit tuition assistance will be not be available until February. This is due to some changes on the form. This form can now be used to process applications for the local tuition assistance as well. Anyone wanting tuition assistance either from the AOD or local assistance needs to complete the AOD form. Those who do not qualify for the AOD tuition assistance may still qualify for the local assistance. I am extremely grateful for the generosity of our benefactors. Their kindness and our fundraisers continue to allow us to provide the necessary tuition assistance which fills the gap between the cost of educating a student and the tuition cost families pay. A company representative stated that notification as to who is receiving the AOD funds will be earlier than it has been in the past. For the 2011-12 school year, our St. Patrick School families received \$13, 600 from the AOD tuition assistance fund and over \$30,000 from our local tuition assistance fund. I encourage everyone who needs extra tuition assistance to fill out the application form when it becomes available.

Yesterday 7th and 8th grade representatives from our school attended the Catholic Schools Week Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. Our presider, Archbishop Vigneron acknowledged the important role Catholic Schools play in helping our youth to develop their faith and service to others. Our school received an icon picture of St. Anne the patron saint of our archdiocese. Thank you to the parent who assisted me with transportation and another parent who met us at the cathedral. Thank you to the student representatives who attended on their excellent behavior.

Yesterday our eighth grade student represented school at the Monroe County Commissioners meeting. A symbolic \$200 check was presented to our school for receiving 3rd place in the AT & T phone book recycling contest. The check, along with the official resolution recognizing the efforts of all Monroe County Schools who participated in this event, is on display in our showcase by the school office. Recycled telephone books are used for home insulation, animal bedding, bathroom tissue, cereal boxes, roofing shingles, and other products. Part of the Resolution states "Be it resolved, that the Commissioners congratulate all schools, parents, teachers, and everyone in the community for participation in the total collection of almost 12.5 tons of directories, an increase from last year's seven ton collection and encourages continued efforts to keep Monroe County beautiful."

Catholic Schools Week is fast approaching! There are several opportunities for parents and younger siblings to join with our students and staff. I encourage you to celebrate our students and the many other blessings found in Catholic Schools. On Tuesday we will have a Catholic Schools Week Mass at 8:00 a.m. Students from all grade levels will be participating in the various Mass responsibilities. On Wednesday we are still seeking parents to join our staff for a volley ball game against the eighth graders in the afternoon. If you are unable to play, please come to cheer! We will also encourage movement throughout the day by playing a variety of dance music over the PA. When the music comes on everyone will dance or exercise. On Friday, February 3, students will attend First Friday Mass. We are still seeking donations from our parents for muffins or donut holes to provide students refreshments after the First Friday Mass. After First Friday Mass and until 6:00 p.m. the gym will be open to view the School Science Fair. On Friday evening, a school parent has organized a movie night in the primary basement. The Smurf movie begins at 6 p.m. We will end the week by joining together at the 5:30 Mass on Saturday, February 4 to celebrate Catholic School education and the contribution made by past, present, and future members of the Catholic school community. Students will also speak at each Mass to share highlight on the benefits of receiving a Catholic School education. The 8th grade class will also be having a Valentine card/lollipop sale and bake sale after all the Masses that weekend. If anyone is willing to donate items for the eighth grade bake sale, I am sure your generosity will be greatly appreciated. A complete schedule of the dress days and other events was sent home last week.

I want to acknowledge everyone who has supported and guided our upper elementary students during their group or individual science fair projects. Completing a science fair project that adheres to the Monroe County Intermediate School District's guidelines is no easy task and I commend our students and those assisting them for their efforts. I recently read an article that highlighted some of the benefits to be derived from completing a science fair project. It included acquiring skills for independent research, analytical thinking,

and creative problem solving. It also reminded the reader that during the science fair process students are challenged to perform a multitude of higher level thinking skills and that the experiment and display board supports creativity development. The article stated that students gain experience in documenting, collecting, and analyzing data. They learn the correct procedures for creating data tables and graphs, writing a research paper which includes a works cited page. For those considering a career in science, engineering, or math this provides an opportunity to explore topics of interest using the scientific process. Perhaps the most intriguing point was "Developing tenacity and confidence... It doesn't work; ...It doesn't work; ...It works! ... EUREKA!" Thank you again for your patience and enabling our students to have this learning experience.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Thursday, January 25

- French Club, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, January 27

- Report Cards Distributed
- Service Project Jean Day

Saturday, January 28

- Grade 2 Eucharist Enrollment, 5:30 p.m. Mass

Monday, January 30

- Students dress like a "Shining Star" (A positive role model)
- Math Club, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31

- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m. – parents invited to sit with their children
- Students wear school uniforms with sunglasses and/or crazy socks.
- Ice cream social after lunch

Wednesday, February 1

- Sports Day – Jeans or school pants, tennis shoes, and a favorite sport team top or St. Patrick spirit/gym top
- Grade 7 and 8 volleyball game, 2:00 p.m.
- Grade 8 vs staff/parents volleyball game, 2:25 p.m.

Thursday, February 2

- Pajama or Sweats Day with Favorite Stuffed Animal (no slippers).
- No French Club
- Science Fair Set-up until 3:30 p.m.

Friday, February 3

- Western or Farmer Dress Day
- Science Fair Viewing until 6:00 p.m.
- Science Fair projects picked up at 6:00 p.m.
- Family Movie Night, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 4

- "Celebrate Catholic School Education", Mass 5:30 p.m.
- Eighth grade bake sale and Valentine card/lollipop sale after all weekend Masses

SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT DROP OFF INFORMATION: Science Fair Projects will be due on Thursday, February 2nd. Set up of the projects will be from 12:15- 3:30 p.m. in the gym. If your child needs to bring the project in the morning, he or she may do so and take it to the upper elementary building. This schedule will allow our students to have their gym class in the morning with the tables for science fair set up at recess. In the afternoon, class and group projects will be set up as well as the individual projects. **Projects will not be accepted after 3:30 p.m. as this is when judging begins.** The gym will remain closed on Thursday and be open for viewing after the 8 a.m. First Friday Mass. Projects will be displayed until 6 p.m. on Friday, February 3rd when they should be picked up. If any student in grades 1-2-3-4-5 or 7 is doing an individual project, please notify the school office.

FIRST GRADE VISIT TO IHM MOTHERHOUSE: The First grade visit to the IHM Motherhouse needed to be changed by the sisters. The new date for the visit is Thursday, March 1.

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT: We continue to collect used blue jeans that are in good condition for homeless teens and children. Your donation will go to the *Teens for Jeans* collection drive sponsored by Aeropostale clothing store. Jeans should be gently worn with no holes or stains. Any sizes of blue jeans are accepted. The jean day for those who participate will be Friday, January 27th.

FAMILY FUN: Mark your calendars and be sure to attend all of the upcoming family events:

- Family Movie Night on February 3 at 6 p.m. in the primary basement. There is no charge for the Smurf movie night. Children are welcome to bring a favorite Smurf along.
- A Mass for our Catholic school families as well as alumni and friends is scheduled for February 4 at 5:30 p.m.
- A Roller Skating Night at Dixie Skateland on Dixie Highway near the beach areas in Monroe will be held from 6-8 on February 7. Cost is \$3 per person or \$10 a family. Skate rental is \$1.50 or \$2.50 for roller or speed skates.

- Another family favorite, YMCA night, will be Saturday, March 17. The cost is \$20.00 per family. Thank you to all who are helping to organize these events.

MEN'S CLUB AND SCHOOL LENTEN FISH FRYS: We are again partnering with the Men's Club for the Lenten Fish Frys with part of the profit given to the school. Below are the dates and classes scheduled to work for each fish fry. Mark your calendars to work and invite others to attend this important fundraiser that benefits both our CYO sport teams and the school. We are asking parents to work at least on the day your child's class is scheduled:

- Feb. 24 - preschool and 3rd grade
- March 2 - kindergarten and 6th grade
- March 16 - 1st and 5th grades,
- March 23 - 4th and 8th grades,
- March 30 - 2nd and 7th grades.

You are encouraged to work as often as you are available, even if your child's class is not scheduled to work. Please contact the school office for contact information to volunteer your service. Cake donations will be needed and greatly appreciated each week as well.

AUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING: Thank you to all who attended our auction meeting last night. This is the biggest fundraiser and social event for our school. It contributes approximately \$400 towards the cost of education for each child at St. Patrick School. Our school parent has served as our auction chairperson for three years. I am grateful to her and those who have assisted her for the dedication, time, and talents each has provided our school. For the 2012 auction Erika will transfer her leadership position to a new committee. She has graciously agreed to help those who will be assuming her responsibilities. Many who have served as committee chairpersons for the auction are continuing in their positions and some new faces are joining the auction committee as well. Yesterday at our appreciation meeting, a nice size group of enthusiastic parents gathered to celebrate our past successes and begin the preparations for the 2012 auction. The school auction will be held on November 30, 2012 at Stone Creek Banquet Hall in Flat Rock. Thank you to for led us in last night's meeting and providing the agenda. Thank you to ladies who assisted me in providing refreshments. Finally I thank those who were in attendance. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY: If there are any high school students needing service who would be interested in supervising younger children so parents can attend the next auction meeting on Tuesday, March 13, please contact the school office.

JUICE POUCH COLLECTION: Is there anyone willing to take over the juice pouch collection efforts? The school receives two cents for each pouch returned to Terra Cycle for recycling. If you have questions about what is involved, please contact school office for more information.

EMBROIDERED WEAR ON HAND: The following new embroidered wear is available for purchase in the school office:

ITEM	SIZE	COST
Green Embroidered Polo Shirt	Adult Small, Adult Large, Adult X-Large	\$22.00
Green Embroidered Fleece Pullover	Youth Medium, Adult Large	\$32.00

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Respect for ourselves guides our morals; respect for others guides our manners. *Laurence Sterne*

Ruth Meiring, Principal