

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

January 4, 2012

Dear Parents,

I extend my appreciation to all those who contributed to the gifts Father Bob and I received at our Final Mass before Christmas break. Father Bob received a school sweatshirt, and gift certificates to Dolce Vita and Lowe's. My Christmas gift included a reed diffuser, space heater, and gift certificates to Dolce Vita and Panera. These gifts along with the many other acts of kindness shown to us during the Holiday Season are greatly appreciated. While it is a special gift to be with my daughter's family for Christmas, I truly miss being with you and the other school and parish families at the Christmas Eve Mass. To compensate, my sister always provides a wonderful synopsis of this prayerful time and our students' involvement. I thank our many students who attended Christmas Mass and enriched the community of faith through song, prayer, and other participation. I also gratefully acknowledge all the wonderful food that was sent in for class parties on our final day, as well as the many parents who came in to assist with the various activities on our last day. The many acts of kindness and gifts that were shown to our staff during the Christmas Season is a blessing to us. You are a wonderful example of Christian Community in action!

Our school staff extends its warmest wishes for a Happy New Year to you and your family with an Irish Blessing written by Father Andrew Greeley.

*May the morning sun stir you from the bed
May the winds of March move you on the road
May the rains of April renew your strength
May the flowers of May captivate your sight
May summer heat inflame your zeal
May autumn color stimulate your dreams
May the silver moon make you wiser yet
May you never be with yourself content.
May Jesus and Mary keep you young
Full of life and laughter and an Irish song.*

In January our students will have a new speech therapist. She will begin after the approval process is completed at Airport Community Schools. Additional information will soon be provided to the parents of students receiving speech services.

Next week is Vocation Awareness Week. Students will be creating cards for religious communities and seminarians to acknowledge their religious vocation. Teachers will also be talking with students about the vocation each baptized Catholic has to live their faith either as a single, married, ordained, or religious sister or brother. During the week we will have our parish Vocation Chalice at school. It will be at the weekend Masses of January 7 & 8 and then in each of our classrooms during the week of January 9th. Our Parish Vocation Committee led by Susan Tibia has organized the Vocation Chalice program. I am grateful that this opportunity to host the chalice and share additional prayer for vocation discernment has been provided to our students and staff.

Our school was officially notified by the *National Geographic Kids* magazine that documentation for our participation in the attempt to break the Guinness World Record has been accepted. We are now included amongst the 300,265 people who achieved the Guinness World Records title for the Most People Doing Jumping Jacks in a 24-Hour Period on October 11-12, 2011. Thank you to Ms. McDowell and other staff members for organizing this event, as well as those who served as the official recorders. Congratulations to our students, staff and others who participated and can now claim to hold a Guinness World Records title.

Thank you to all who participated in the telephone recycling project sponsored by our school and AT&T. Together Monroe County schools recycled 12.43 tons of phone books. St. Patrick School took 3rd place by recycling 1.64 tons. It is my understanding that our school along with the other participants will be invited to attend a meeting of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners to be acknowledged for our efforts. In addition to receiving many individual prizes for our students who participated, our school will also receive a monetary award. Below are the final totals for this contest.

1 st place -3.91 tons	Summerfield Elementary	5 th place -1.17 tons	St. Joseph School
2 nd place -2.27 tons	Waterloo Elementary	6 th place -1.03 tons	Dundee Elementary
3 rd place -1.64 tons	St. Patrick School	7 th place -.55 tons	Monroe Country ISD
4 th place -1.36 tons	North Elementary	8 th place -.50 tons	Sodt Elementary

Congratulations to the class winners of the Student Council drawing contest held in December. These students received a Tiffany Pizza Certificate.

Today students gathered for the January Student of the Month assembly. The character trait for January is being respectful. Students will receive recognition for their best effort in science during January. Students were acknowledged for their effort in art during December. Others received the Principal's Award for good behavior outside the classroom.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

January 8-14 is Vocation Awareness Week. The Vocation Chalice will be at the weekend Masses and then at our school all week.

Wednesday, January 4

- PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 5

- Quiz Bowl, 1:00 p.m.
- School Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 6

- Grades 7/8 SMCC French Enrichment
- First Friday Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 10

- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Grades 7/8 Semester Exams

Wednesday, January 11

- Grades 7/8 Semester Exams

Thursday, January 12

- Grades 7/8 Visit IHM Motherhouse
- Scholastic *Click!* Interactive Learning Club Orders Due

Friday, January 13

- Geography Bee, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 14

- Confirmation Enrollment, 5:30 p.m. Mass

FRENCH ENRICHMENT CLASS AT SMCC: There will be French Enrichment Class at SMCC on Friday January 6 and Friday, January 20. There will be no class on January 13. A school mom has invited any French Enrichment student needing to wait for the SMCC bus to sit in her vehicle on Friday mornings. She will be parked in front of the Church in a white van.

FRENCH ENRICHMENT FOR GRADES 3-6: Mrs. Wickenheiser will be coordinating a six-week after school French Club for students in grades 3-6. Sessions will be held on the following Thursdays: Jan. 19, Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 2, and March 1. There will be no class on Feb. 2 due to the science fair. The cost for this six-week program is \$25.00. If your child would like to participate, please return the form found at the end of today's newsletter with payment.

SANTA SECRET SHOP ITEM: If a dad received an empty box on Christmas morning, you can claim your present in the school office!

CLICK! INTERACTIVE LEARNING CLUB: A flyer with order form is enclosed in today's family envelope for those who may be interested. The flyer offers a mix of programs that cover a wide range of skills: reading, geography, early learning, critical reasoning, math, science, history, foreign languages and more. All bonus points earned will be redeemed for software for our computer lab. The educational materials purchased with bonus points will be available for student use in the computer lab. The due date for this order will be Thursday, January 12. Checks should be made out to Scholastic.

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.

PAPER RECYCLING: Thank you to all who continue to support our paper recycling program. For the month of November we saved 19.32 cubic yards of landfill space and received \$92.30 for our efforts.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Thank you to those who send in the Box Tops for Education and provide extra funds to our school. I also thank Jen Carmack who coordinates this program and all who help with the trimming and preparing of the box tops. We have received a check for \$553.10 for all of the box tops submitted by November 1, 2011. Please continue to send in those box tops and help provide extra funds for our school. Don't forget to send in cell phones and computer cartridges as well.

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT: During January our school will be collecting 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. Today one in three homeless people in the United States is under the age of 18. Your donation will help these young people. In four years this drive has collected over 1.5

million jeans for homeless youth. If you do not have jeans to donate, you may donate several non-perishable items which will be given to the local food bank. The jean day for those who participate will be Friday, January 27th.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is, and respect for what he may become. *Louis Pasteur*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

AFTER SCHOOL FRENCH CLUB

Grades 3-6

Six Weeks beginning Thursday, January 19 (excluding Feb. 2)
3 – 4:30 p.m.

My child(ren), _____, will participate in the six-week after school French Club. I have enclosed the \$25.00 fee.

Parent Signature: _____