

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

March 3, 2010

Dear Parents,

Last weekend Fr. Bob's homily focused on the finances of the parish and school. In collaboration with the Archdiocese of Detroit, Fr. Bob has approved a multi-year plan for our school which will be presented next week to the School and Strategic Planning Committee members and teachers. This meeting is a closed session and you will be receiving additional information next Wednesday.

On Monday, March 8 Bishop Reiss will be visiting our school. A 2:00 Mass is scheduled and you will be invited to join us.

This past Monday, Fr. Bob and Fr. Rich administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation for all students eligible to receive this sacrament. This week our junior high students began their practices for the Living Stations. I thank all the students who volunteered this year.

Yesterday I visited classrooms to recognize Dr. Seuss's birthday. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about students favorite stories, as well as to share a pretzel birthday treat. Our sixth graders were able to identify thirty-three of forty-eight books written by Dr. Seuss. Our eighth graders were able to name thirty books and our third graders are also avid Dr. Seuss readers and provided the titles of twenty-eight of his books. It was most impressive to see how much our students at all levels have enjoyed the many books of Dr. Seuss.

Our school has planned additional activities for March is Reading Month. This includes our book fair this weekend. Beginning March 12, each Friday classes may receive clues to solve the mystery of the *Case of the Missing Bookcase*. To receive the clue, students are required to complete a specific amount of time spent reading. We will also have our school-wide read-a-thon on March 31. You are invited to join staff and students from 2:20 – 3:00 for our read-a-thon. We will begin with a story read by Mrs. Harris and then have silent reading time. Please join us and bring your favorite book and blanket to the gym.

This weekend after all the Masses the book fair will be held in the Church Meeting Room. Students will also be able to purchase books on Monday, March 8 in the morning. Our volunteers will arrive early so that parents may shop between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. before students attend with their class. All proceeds from this event go to purchasing books for the classroom or libraries. Thank you to Mrs. L for chairing this event, as well as the many other parent volunteers who are assisting.

This month our service project will also focus on reading. Students and staff are invited to participate in the *Read to Feed* Heifer program. *Read to Feed* allows children to get involved in a real hands-on way to solve the global problem of hunger and poverty. Children are asked to get sponsors for books they will read during the month of March. Our goal is to raise money to buy gifts of livestock for struggling families who have few resources and need an ongoing source of income. Each sponsor may set a pledge amount for each book a student reads, or a one-time donation. At the end of the program children collect their pledges from their sponsors and return it to the school by Monday, March 29. When the funds have been tabulated, students will have an opportunity to select the animals that will be purchased to assist impoverished families to move towards self reliance. As a result of our efforts, less fortunate children around the world will have an ongoing source of food and hope for a better tomorrow. You may find additional information about the work of Heifer International on their website www.heifer.org. Any amount students are able to collect for their reading efforts will be greatly appreciated. Students will also receive a Jean Day on March 31st for their efforts.

This week we received word that Mr. Sanders will no longer be our gym teacher. A substitute is being assigned to this position during the transition process.

Earlier this year our supply of Tiffany Pizza certificates that is used for the Principal's Award each month was depleted. The Carleton Tiffany Pizza restaurant has been very gracious in supplying these certificates for many years. When we did not receive a response from our request, I assumed that due to the economy, they were unable to continue with this program. Recently I received additional certificates from the company so that the Tiffany Pizza certificates may once again be included for the Principal's Award. During the absence of the Tiffany certificates, I began awarding a Jeans Day pass. Some students preferred this new award. To resolve the dilemma as to what the Principal's Award will be in the future, students were invited to complete a survey on their preference. The choices included receiving the pizza certificate, receiving a jeans day pass, or allowing the individual student to choose their preference. By an overwhelming majority, the students selected to have the option of choosing either a jeans day pass or Tiffany Pizza certificate. When students receive the Principal's Award, they will now receive a certificate and a coupon on which the student will indicate his or her preference. This coupon should be returned to the school office and redeemed within thirty days. Please remember to thank Tiffany Pizza Carleton location for their continued support of our school with their donation of certificates.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, March 3 (MUSIC)

- Little Caesar Pizza Kit Orders Due
- Drama Club 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, March 4 (PHYS ED)

Friday, March 5 (ART)

- First Friday Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Book Fair Preview
- Men's Club Fish Fry

Saturday, March 6

- Grade 2 *Jesus Day*, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- Book Fair after all Masses in Church Meeting Room

Sunday, March 7

- Book Fair after all Masses in Church Meeting Room

Monday, March 8 (PHYS ED)

- Book Fair
- Mass with Bishop Reiss, 2:00 p.m.
- Spirit Wear Orders Due

Tuesday, March 9 (MUSIC)

- Mass 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 10 (PHYS ED)

Thursday, March 11 (ART)

- Pizza Kits Delivered 2:00 – 4:15 p.m.

LITTLE CAESAR FUNDRAISER: Little Caesar Pizza Kit orders were due today. If you still have an order to turn in, please contact the office tomorrow, Thursday. The items ordered will be delivered on Thursday, March 11 and can be picked up between 2:00 and 4:15 p.m.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE: Mark your calendars for the preschool and kindergarten open houses that will be held on Monday, March 15 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. If you know of someone who has a preschooler or kindergarten age child, please invite them to attend this event.

SPRING SPORT SIGN-UPS: If there are students in grades 5-8 who want to play softball or baseball this spring but did not sign up yet, please call our athletic director, Mr. Rouleau.

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.

MEN'S CLUB FISH FRIES: The next Men's Club Fish Fry will be this Friday, March 5. If you are able to provide a dessert for this dinner, please drop it off in the gym sometime Friday. There will be two more fish fries on March 19 and March 26.

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 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 the office.

AN EVENING WITH MR. SMOOTH: Plan to the Booster Club for an *Evening with Mr. Smooth* on Saturday, March 27 in the St. Patrick gym. Tickets are \$6.00 in advance or \$8.00 at the door. Come alone or bring a partner. For more information you may call the school office.

SCRIP NEWS: Please continue sending in your orders so that we can meet our goal for the current scrip period. Order forms and the national retailer list can be found on the school website or in the box outside of the school office. If you want to earn a little extra credit from your Kroger shopping, consider purchasing a prepaid Visa. These are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 denominations. You can use the Visa cards in combination with your Plus Card that is linked to St. Pat's. Just inform the cashier of the amount that is on your Visa. This will help you earn 7% back which will be split between the school and your tuition account. It adds up quick!

ROAST BEEF DINNER HELP NEEDED: If there are any girls in grades six and above who would like to help serve at the Roast Beef Dinner, please call the school office. In particular, they are in need of second shift workers.

NEEDED: The Drama Club is in need of hangers for their costumes.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Wisdom will add years to your life. You are the one who will profit if you have wisdom and if you reject it, you are the one who will suffer. *Proverbs 9:8*

Ruth Meiring, Principal

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI CROSS

Request for Cross

_____ My family would like to have the St. Francis of Assisi cross sent home for a week to pray for vocations and other special requests.

Family Name: _____