

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 16, 2011

Dear Parents,

You are asked to pray for our second grade students who will make their First Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday. These students are also preparing for their First Solemn Communion on May 5.

Our auction preparations are behind from past years. An information sheet about what has been accomplished and what is still needed is included in today's family envelope. Because of last year's strong support from our families and community, we were able to have our tuition for the 2011-2012 school year lower than expected, as well as offer additional tuition assistance. Please join all those who are working to make our auction this year a success. Without everyone doing a little extra for this event, we will fall short of the needed revenue. Additional support is needed in all areas....the selling of raffle tickets, additional live and silent auction items, workers, and attendees for the dinner. The reduced ticket price has been extended until Friday, November 18. Please take advantage of this savings now and join us on December 2nd! Auction donations would be appreciated by Tuesday, November 22 so they can be numbered and included in the auction book.

The Ultimate Christmas Tree Raffle ticket returns are slower this year. Please return your raffle ticket money as soon as possible so we have an accurate accounting of this segment of our auction. Our raffle is an important component of the auction and will make more than our silent auction if we sell all of the Ultimate Christmas Tree Raffle tickets. Only five hundred tickets have been printed for this raffle and all tickets must be accounted for. Those that are not sold need to be returned to the school office; however, it is important that families make every effort to sell these tickets. The upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends is a perfect selling opportunity!

I thank all who were able to attend our Parent /Teacher Conferences last week or made arrangements to conference at another time. Partnership between parent and school is vital for the success of every child and the time you spent meeting with our teachers is greatly appreciated. This year improved teacher and parent communication is a focus area for our staff. We will continue to work with you to provide current information on your child's progress and the development of individualized educational components to maximize educational learning. The teacher classroom wiki site, expanded progress reports, increased correspondence through the assignment notebook, e-mail, and telephone correspondence are just some of the tools that have been expanded to improve the parent/teacher link this year.

Our visit to St. Valentine School allowed us to view the components of their language arts program as well as other best practices that have been initiated by their administration and staff. Many of these practices such as reading journals, centers for language arts and math, as well as team teaching are being used at St. Patrick School. Our observations allowed us to see how other educators have successfully implemented these techniques into their learning environment. In particular we observed their guided reading program. The use of our formative assessments in language arts, and collaboration with St. Valentine and other schools will allow us to better develop a guided reading program at our school.

Teachers are working with your child to strengthen his/her understanding of the scientific method in preparation for our science fair which will be held on Friday, February 3rd. The date has been changed from Sunday February 5th. Students will bring their projects in on Thursday morning, February 2nd. The judging will take place after school with viewing during the school day on Friday and after school until 6 p.m. Students in grades 6 and 8 are required to do individual projects and other grades do group or class projects. All students are encouraged to do an individual project for the Monroe County Science Fair competition. The projects for Monroe County science fair are selected as part of the process in our school science fair. Students must complete an individual project for consideration for the county science fair and follow the guidelines of the county science fair which can be found on the ISD website. Ideas for science fair projects and additional information can also be found on Mrs. Wickenheiser's classroom wiki site:

<http://mmwickenheiser.wikispaces.com>. As students prepare for this event, language art teachers will be instructing upper elementary students on the techniques of writing a research paper which will be included in their science fair project. The steps of the scientific method are to:

- Ask a question
- Do background research
- Construct a Hypothesis
- Test you hypothesis by doing an experiment
- Analyze you data and draw a conclusion
- Communicate your results

This learning project exposes our students to the process used in the business world for research, gathering data, analyzing data, and producing a document that communicates to others his/her work. It allows our students to explore the many tools that are available to help them to create accurate data and publish how the findings relate to solving relevant issues. I encourage you to be positive and supportive with this educational activity. By being conscious of due dates and keeping a journal to record all activities related to the science experiment, students will complete each component of this process on time and not be overwhelmed when the final due dates nears. For additional information about the county science fair or your child's project, I encourage you to contact your child's science teacher.

On Monday a photographer from the Monroe Evening News was here to photograph some of our kindergarten and first grade students for the annual "Countdown to Christmas" that is featured each year in the newspaper. Students were randomly selected and will be featured on the following days: 26 days until Christmas-ML, 20 days-AG, 14-days BM, 8 days-SH and 2 days-KH.

Students in grades 5-8 attended an assembly at St. Charles by Ron Bachman on developing a positive attitude and being respectful to others. The sponsor of this assembly Monroe Dodge Superstore, provided our school with two Whaler ticket Vouchers for one of the 2011-12 regular season games. The Whalers play in Plymouth Township. If your child attended the Bachman assembly and is interested in attending a hockey game, please call the school office. If more than one family requests the tickets we will do a drawing for the tickets. Once you have the tickets you can call the Whalers Box Office to make arrangements to attend your selected game date.

At the December Student of the Month Assembly on December 7 at 7:45 a.m. we will acknowledge our two Woodsy Owl/Smokey Bear contest winners.. All students who participated in the contest will receive their picture and a participation certificate as well.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Wednesday, November 16

- Girls on the Run

Thursday, November 17

- Grandparent/Special Person Day, 8:30 – 10:45 a.m.
(see schedule below)

Friday, November 18

- No Grade 7/8 French Enrichment Class – SMCC semi-volleyball game in Battlecreek at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 19

- Placement Test at SMCC
- Grade 2 Reconciliation, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 20

- Girls on the Run 5K

Tuesday, November 22

- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Turkey Trot, 2:15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23

- No School

Thursday, November 24

- No School
- Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 25

- No School

GRANDPARENT/SPECIAL ELDER DAY: Tomorrow we are welcoming some very special guests to our school community. Thank you to all who are helping to prepare for this special morning. The following is the schedule for our guests:

- 8:30 – 8:50 a.m. Sign-in at Office and Visit Individual Classrooms (optional). The primary building will be closed during the remaining activities.
- 8:50 – 9:00 a.m. Guests gather in Church for prayer service. Students will join their guests after bathroom breaks. Students will sit with their guests for the start of the service at 9:00 a.m.
- 9:00 – 9:25 a.m. Prayer Service in Church
- 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Guests will travel with their special student(s) to a variety of activities. This includes refreshments in the gym and opportunity for a professional photo in the lunchroom. Envelopes will be available that morning for those who wish to have photos taken. The cost of pictures is 5x7 \$5.00, 4x6 \$3.00, or 4 wallets \$5.00. If you have questions you can call the photographer, Patty at 777-4239. Checks should be made payable to *Sideline Photo*. Other activities in the upper elementary building include *Grateful Blessings Cornucopia* art activity in the art room, interactive technology, math game, computers in action, and a reading center.

GIRLS ON THE RUN: Please join us in cheering the girls on as they run their first official 5K this Sunday, November 20 at Rynearson Stadium at Eastern Michigan University. Race begins at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, with festivities ending around noon. I thank the two moms and Mrs. Harris who have been working with the girls as they prepare for this event.

BOOKS ARE FUN: Books Are Fun has a display of discounted books and gift items outside the school office. You may view items through Monday, November 21. If you place an order, it will be filled on Tuesday, November 22.

TURKEY TROT: Students will participate in our annual *Turkey Trot* on Tuesday, November 22 at 2:15 p.m. For a \$2.00 donation students may wear jeans on November 22. All proceeds will go to our recess activity clubs for materials. Those not participating should wear tennis shoes with their gym uniform.

PHONE BOOKS NEEDED: St. Patrick will be collecting old phone books for recycling between November 14 and December 12. Our dumpster has arrived and we are now in the school phone book recycling contest sponsored by AT&T. This activity allows us to earn \$100 for 4th-8th place with \$400 going to the school collecting the most phone books. With only eight Monroe County schools in competition, we are assured some prize money. If you work at a business, please check to see if you can bring their phone books to our special recycling bin for the phone books.

SMCC FRIDAY MORNING PICK UP: If you are able to allow other students to sit in your car while waiting for the SMCC bus please contact the school office. Some of our parents are having difficulty waiting for the bus as they need to get to work. If you have room for a student(s) to sit in your car, please call the school office. There will be no French Enrichment Class this Friday, November 18 as SMCC will be dismissing early and using their abbreviated schedule.

AUCTION DINNER TICKETS: The \$5.00 auction ticket discount has been extended until Friday, November 18. If you have not yet purchased your tickets, please consider joining other school families for a night of fun and fellowship!

STUDENT TREASURE ORDER FORMS: This week you are receiving order forms for class books that are being compiled by each classroom. If you wish to purchase a book this year, it is important that your form and payment be turned in by Thursday, December 1. Checks should be made payable to *Studenttreasures Publishing*. If you do not wish to purchase a book, please return the signed form with the "No" box marked.

LATCHKEY END TIME ON DECEMBER 2: I thank the extended day families who were conscientious in picking up their children by 5:00 last Friday so we could attend the Red Wing fundraiser. On December 2 we will again ask that students be picked up by 5:00 so all school personnel may attend the annual school auction.

NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT: Our school is currently collecting new or gently used outer wear for distribution through the Father Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. Those donating gloves, hats, mittens, coats, etc. will receive a jean day on Friday December 2. We have also received a request from the Capuchin Center for new or gently used children's books for all age levels. If you have any books that you are able to donate they are most appreciated. Most of these November items will be given to children for the Holidays. Your gift will brighten the lives of poor children and we encourage you to be generous in giving.

MEN'S CLUB LOTTERY TICKETS: The St. Patrick Men's Club January 2012 lottery tickets are now available. Proceeds are used to support the elementary CYO sports program. Please contact Chance Bradley, Men's Club lottery chairman, or any Men's Club member to purchase your ticket. They make great Christmas gifts and/or stocking stuffers! For more information you may call the school office for a contact person.

MEN'S CLUB FEATHER PARTY: The Men's Club is sponsoring a Feather Party (Bingo) on Sunday, November 20. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Lightning bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. with regular bingo at 7:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MAYBEE ADVENT GATHERINGS: St. Joseph will host Reverend Richard Boever on November 27, 28, 29, and 30. Soup Supper is from 5:30-6:45 in Madonna Hall. Benediction with Fr. Rich's presentation on St. John Neumann follows at 7 p.m. At 8 p.m. coffee/hot chocolate will be available in Madonna Hall.

BEADS, MATERIAL, FOAM, AND OTHER CRAFT SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR RECESS ART CLUB: Our art club is looking for donations to use in the art room during their art club at recess. A group of students have been busy working with beads and creating jewelry. Some of these items will be sold at the Santa Secret Shop with proceeds going to purchase additional beads. If you have beads or other unused craft items please consider donating them to the art club.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you. *Althea Gibson*

Ruth Meiring, Principal