

## ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 2, 2011

Dear Parents,

This Friday students will receive their report cards for the first marking period. It is a standards based report card which includes academic subjects and a *Life Skills* section. *Life Skills* includes such areas as *follows directions, uses appropriate self-help skills, completes and returns homework on time, participates in classroom activities*, etc. It will list teachers and the academic area in which they instruct your child.

Under individual subjects, several standards will be listed. Students who master a standard or demonstrate consistent understanding and application of that standard will receive a "4". Students who are knowledgeable or demonstrate general understanding but are inconsistent in the application of a standard receives a "3". Those students who are developing or need to further develop the understanding and application of a standard receive a "2". A blank space means that standard was not accessed.

In the section titled *Life Skills*, a "4" means that a student is consistently achieving that particular skill. A "3" means the child usually achieves the skill, a "2" means sometimes, and a "1" ...rarely. Those students who have a written accommodation plan may receive a CP meaning *Continuous Progress*, instead of an academic letter grade. An "I" placed in the section for academic grades means that it is incomplete and a grade is not being given at this time.

Next to the core curriculum subject, students in grades 3-8 will receive an academic grade. All students in grades K-8 are eligible to receive citizenship. To receive citizenship, a student needs to receive 2, 3, or 4s in the life skill area, as well as the special subject areas. Students in grades 5-8 are eligible for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> academic honors. Additional information regarding criteria and grade point average can be found in the parent-student handbook, page 9-11. Please note that although it is listed in the handbook, the revised report card no longer use the letters "S" (satisfactory), "N" (needs improvement), and "U" (unsatisfactory).

This year our special subject teachers have also expanded the information for report card markings regarding student achievement in the upper grades. Many students will be receiving an academic grade for gym, art, and music with additional information provided on a separate report from our special teachers.

Parent teacher conferences will be on November 9 from 2:30-6 p.m. This year our art teacher, Ms. Maher and physical education teacher, Ms. McDowell will be in attendance at the conferences as St. Patrick is the main school they provide instruction. I encourage you to attend and spend time with your child's teacher to discuss his/her academic progress. This event serves as an opportunity to gather information and provide input in the formal education process for your child at St. Patrick School. It allows discussion time for recognition of your child's success, as well as areas in need of improvement. To prevent long-waiting lines, please limit your conference time to ten minutes per teacher. Those wanting an extended conference or a different meeting date for a conference, should contact their child's teacher.

Yesterday or today all classes visited the cemetery to offer prayers for deceased relatives, friends, and parishioners. Students also submitted names of people they wish to remember in prayer during November. Each morning the names of the deceased people that our students have chosen to remember during prayer will be announced and later posted on our Remembrance section in the upper elementary hallway. If you would like to include deceased friends or relatives, please send your names to the school office.

This morning our school gathered for the Student of the Month assembly. Thanks to the eighth grade Student of the Month helpers. At the assembly we announced students who were recognized for their academic success in music during October. Students who received the *Principal's Award* for good behavior outside the classroom. Those who received the *Principal's Award* did not receive the pizza certificate award as we are still awaiting word from the vendor. They will receive their award at a later date.

Both our October and November service projects support the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church which reminds us to show special care and concern for the poor. In October, over 464 non-perishable food items were collected. They will go to St. Joseph's Food Closet and Carleton Good fellows to assist families in the Carleton and Monroe area who cannot afford to buy food. During November we will be collecting warm outer wear to distribute through the Father Solanus Casey center in Detroit.

This marking period, our upper el students are being provided additional opportunities for academic enrichment. With parent permission, students in grades seven and eight will be attending SMCC for a French Enrichment class. Students depart at the church parking lot at 7 a.m. on the SMCC bus and return by SMCC bus after class. Students are scheduled to attend one day a week. Scheduled dates are November 4, November 18, December 2, December 9, and December 16. Additional dates published at a later time. In response to parent inquiries, French was selected because it was the only foreign language available. The public school does not offer this program. Students in grades five and six are now signing up to participate in a Quiz Bowl competition. Students will meet during recess and prepare for the Monroe County ISD County-Wide Quiz Bowl in April. Thank you to the parents who are supporting our efforts to provide additional opportunities for our students.

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE:**

#### **Wednesday, November 2 (All Souls Day)**

- Girls on the Run 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Thursday, November 3**

- Picture Retake and Group Picture Day, 8:30 a.m.
- Grade 2 Visits IHM Motherhouse
- School Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Friday, November 4**

- Grade 7/8 Leave at 7:00 a.m. for SMCC French Class
- First Friday Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Banking Day
- Red Wing Assembly, 1:30 p.m. – Parents Welcome to Attend
- Grandparent/Special Elder Reservations Form Due
- Report Cards Distributed

#### **Saturday, November 5**

- Moms Let Loose, RRCA 7:30 p.m.

#### **Sunday, November 6**

- SMCC Open House, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

#### **Monday, November 7**

- Girls on the Run, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, November 8**

- Cookie Dough Sorting, 1:00 p.m.
- Cookie Dough Order Pick-up, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 9**

- No School for Students
- Staff Professional Development for Team Teaching at St. Valentine's in Redford
- National Emergency Alert System Test – 2:00 p.m.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences, 2:30 – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Thursday, November 10**

- No School for Students

#### **Friday, November 11**

- Veterans Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Grades 5-8 Attend Ronnie Bachmann Assembly at St. Charles in the afternoon
- Uniform and Embroidered Wear Orders Due

#### **Saturday, November 12**

- High School Placement Practice Test at SMCC, 9:00 a.m. – No pre-registration or cost

**COOKIE DOUGH DELIVERY:** Thank you to the parents and grandparents who volunteered to help fill cookie dough orders on Tuesday, November 8. If you ordered cookie dough, please plan to pick up your orders between 3:00 – 4:30 that afternoon. If anyone is able to assist those picking up their orders between 3 – 4:30 p.m., please contact the school office.

**VETERANS MASS:** The Veterans' Mass will be held on Friday, November 11 (instead of November 8). I encourage you to mark your calendars and attend this special celebration to honor our veterans. If you know a veteran, please encourage him or her to come. After Mass we will have our reception line and flag raising ceremony. Veterans and their guests are then invited to the lunchroom for refreshments.

**GRANDPARENT/SPECIAL ELDER DAY:** Thank you to those who volunteered to provide two dozen cookies for the upcoming Grandparent/Special Elder Day. We are still in need of additional cookies. Please let us know if you can provide some. Thank you to the moms who volunteered to help with the reception.

**PICTURES FOR GRANDPARENT/SPECIAL ELDER DAY:** The photographer that does the sports teams will be here on Thursday, November 17 to take pictures of students with their grandparents/special elders. 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. Envelopes to purchase pictures are available in the school office. Checks should be made payable to *Sideline Photo*. If you have not yet returned the form included in last week's letter and your child has a grandparent/special elder that will be attending on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, please do so this week so we can plan accordingly.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION RECESS CLUB:** This week students will be signing up for the next set of clubs. For those who will be in the PE Club at recess, students will need to bring tennis shoes to change into if the club is not on their PE day, as all activities will be in the gym this marking period. Primary students may leave a pair of tennis shoes at school for the week.

**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL RECAP:** Congratulations to the Grade 5/6 for receiving the most votes in the pumpkin decorating contest. The class will receive root beer floats from PTO for having the winning entry. Thank you to the eighth graders and parents for assisting at the carnival and cleaning up afterwards. Our bakers out did themselves this year and all students received a prize from the cake walk if they participated. Thank you also to PTO for preparing the goodie bags, providing popcorn and juice for the students, and pizza for the parent helpers and staff.

**AUCTION UPDATE:** Enclosed you will find a letter from the Auction Committee regarding an auction update. In addition to the items specifically mentioned in the letter, we are in need of many more silent and live auction items. Items that are dropped off by Friday, November 18 will be included in the auction booklet. Thank you to those who donated items this past week. Thank you to moms who have been working with students on classroom projects. Help is still needed to sell auction dinner tickets after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, November 12. Thank you to parents who volunteered to sell at the other three Masses that weekend.

**AUCTION RAFFLE:** Thank you to those who have already sold their auction raffle tickets. Additional tickets are available in the school office if you are able to sell more.

**AUCTION DINNER TICKETS:** Please join us for fun, food and friends at our auction on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. A \$5.00 discount is offered to those who purchase their auction dinner tickets by Monday, November 14. Discounted tickets are \$40.00 and can be purchased in the school office. Some parents have requested they would like to sit with other parents in their child's grade. If you would like to join them, let Ms. Sroka know when you purchase your tickets so class tables can be arranged.

**UNIFORM ORDER:** If you wish to purchase gym uniforms or embroidered wear, you will find order forms enclosed in today's family envelope. Forms and payment are due by Friday, November 11. This will be the last order placed prior to Christmas. Please note that the embroidered fleece pullover is now available in youth sizes.

**LATCHKEY END TIME ON NOVEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 2:** Due to the Red Wing fundraiser on Friday, November 11 and the school benefit auction on Friday, December 2, we ask that latchkey students be picked up no later than 5:00 p.m. to allow school personnel to attend these functions.

**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 Mr. Bradley at 734-652-9982.

**FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD ITEM DRIVE:** *In the Spirit of Giving*, a ministry of the Monroe Catholic Vicariate Peace and Justice Committee, assists the Monroe County area homeless and working poor verified to be in need of furniture and household items. This organization is sponsoring a furniture and household item drive on Saturday, November 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Items needed include new or slightly used beds and mattresses, sofas, chairs, tables, lamps, pictures, vacuums, big and small appliance, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, sheets, towels, etc. No clothing, books or toys please. Items may be dropped off at the St. Mary Academy Gym, 502 W. Elm Avenue, Monroe, MI Pick up is available if needed by calling Lorie Bronson (734-241-6097) or Bill Conner (734) 693-0446).

**GUEST SPEAKER AT SMCC:** Jennie Bishop, author of *The Three Gifts of Christmas*, will speak at SMCC on Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Mary Catholic Central IHM Activities Center. Her talk, *It is Never to Early to Talk to Your Children About Purity*, is intended for parents of children of all ages. Jennie Bishop is best known as the author of the children's classics *The Princess and the Kiss* and *The Scroll*. She is also the founder of Purity Works, a not-for-profit organization that specializes in lifetime purity training. Through a methodology called Planned Purity, Purity Works teaches parents and individuals how to teach and embrace sexual purity by starting with the heart. This presentation is free and open to the public.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TEST:** On November 9 at 2:00 p.m. EST, FEMA will conduct a test to access the readiness and effectiveness of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and identify incremental improvements to serve our communities in the preservation of life and property. We will not be in school that day, however, this nation-wide test will involve broadcast, radio, and television stations, cable television, satellite radio, and television services and wire line providers across all states and territories. Please be aware of this upcoming test. The school will continue its safety drills throughout the year.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

One measure of leadership is the caliber of people who choose to follow you. *Dennis A Peer*

Ruth Meiring, Principal