

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

November 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

There will be no school tomorrow as all school staff will be visiting St. Valentine Parish in Redford to view their guided reading and team teaching programs. After this we look forward to seeing you at the Parent/Teacher Conferences from 2:30 -6:00 p.m. On Thursday a Professional Day is scheduled by the Detroit Catholic Schools Office to learn about the web based student management system *Power School* that will be installed at St. Patrick School. Mrs. Wickenheiser, Mrs. Sroka and I will attend this training session. On Friday our school and parish community will host the veterans for the annual Veteran Mass at 8 a.m., followed by a flag raising ceremony and reception. Please join us on Friday to thank our veterans for the many sacrifices they made for our well being. I thank our students for the many veteran cards that were made and sent to local veterans. If you know a veteran who should receive a card please call the school office with their name and address.

This afternoon Mrs. Shuman announced to her students that she is pregnant. We congratulate Mrs. Shuman and her husband on this wonderful news and wish her family good health as she prepares for the expected June arrival of their first child.

When visiting the school, please take a moment to view our showcase by the office. A poster displaying St. Patrick School activities that was used at the SMCC Open House is now located in the showcase. I thank one of our moms and a grandma for creating this photo poster for our school. Also included in the showcase are the November birthdays and other student highlights.

Last Friday our students in grades seven and eight attended their first weekly French class at SMCC. Their instructor, Madame Denise Wiederhold, is teaching our students the French alphabet, words and phrases as well as French culture. Transportation for this first hour class is provided by SMCC bus. French is spoken in more than fifty six countries on five continents by over 200 million people. It is a natural third language for Spanish-speaking students. Studies have also shown that students who take French often improve their English skills because a third of the words in the English language come from French. French students also score higher on the verbal section of standardized tests like the SAT and ACT. Since all students need to take a high school Foreign Language this experience helps familiarize our students with a foreign language and determine if French is a good fit for their high school foreign language. I thank SMCC for providing this enrichment opportunity for our students.

We are currently planning an After School French Club for grades three through eight sometime in January. Mrs. Wickenheiser, who speaks fluent French, will be our instructor for learning the French language, culture, and our Colonial French roots.

Last Friday the Red Wings organization presented a character education assembly that focused on education and dedication. Our presenters led the staff and students in a variety of learning experiences and physical challenges. The highlight of the assembly was a shoot out between staff and students. The student goalie held the staff players, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Wickenheiser, Mrs. Shuman, and Mrs. Grinn scoreless. The staff goalie, Ms. McDowell, was not as successful as our 3rd grade student who scored a goal to lead his team to victory. Thanks to the other student players. All students received a Red Wing folder, magnet, and information on how to join the Red Wings Kids Club. The school was given a Red Wing banner to hang, as well as two goalie helmets and pads, two sets of hockey sticks, two nets, and balls for our physical education program. I thank Debbie Lambrix for bringing this event to our school and organizing the Red Wing fundraiser. The top sellers received an autographed hockey stick for selling 79 tickets and the school will receive \$1,300 from the ticket sales. I hope everyone attending Friday will have a great time!

Congratulations to our students who were local winners in the *Smoky Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest* sponsored by the Swan Creek Garden Club. Our 2nd grade student was awarded third place and our 3rd grader received first place. On Friday a representative of Swan Creek Garden Club will be visiting our school.

Just as important as the success students achieve while attending St. Patrick School is the success that happens for each after they graduate from our school. Congratulations for a job well done to our SMCC Senior who designed the posters used to advertise the SMCC Open House last weekend. Those attending the open house received a folder containing a booklet about SMCC. Two of our graduates, Olympic speed skater, Jilleanne Rookard, and Assistant Professor of History and Faculty Fellow of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, Paul Ocobock, were pictured on page two. Several of our graduates were also pictured on the posters and in the booklet as well. I also acknowledge all of our students who had a successful season for fall sports. Part of the SMCC golf team which tied for fourth place in the state golf finals was Holly Laginess. SPS graduates who competed at the State level in Cross Country included Alex Belinky (Airport), and Jessica Kapolnek (SMCC). Sarah Brent continues to shine for the SMCC Volleyball Team as they move forward from district champs to the next level of play in their quest for two back-to-back state volleyball championships.

Last Saturday Mrs. Sroka, Mrs. D, and I attended a CPR and First Aid Class with the St. Joseph Erie staff at St. Joseph School. This joint training provided us with a cost savings for these required courses. On Friday, November 11, St. Charles bus will provide transportation for our students in grades 5-8 to and from an assembly at St. Charles on anti-bullying by Ron Bachmann. St. Joseph School students will also be in attendance. These collaborative activities are an expanded effort with St. Joseph and St. Charles schools to provide enrichment opportunities at reduced costs for the staff and students at all three schools.

Once again school supporters are providing a monthly lunch to our staff. This is a much appreciated treat and I thank Mrs. D for organizing it. I also thank the two parishioners for providing the first lunch in October and moms who provided it last Friday.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

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
- *Extended Day* Ending Time - 5:00 p.m. due to Red Wing fundraiser

- Red Wing Fundraiser

Saturday, November 12

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

Monday, November 14

- Girls on the Run

Tuesday, November 15

- Mass 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 16

- Girls on the Run

Thursday, November 17

- Grandparent/Special Person Day

Saturday, November 19

- Placement Test at SMCC

COOKIE DOUGH DELIVERY: I thank the moms and grandma who sorted cookie dough orders this afternoon. I also thank the mom who helped in assisting those picking up their orders between 3 – 4:30 p.m. today.

VETERANS MASS: Please join us for our Veterans' Mass on Friday. If you know a veteran, please encourage him or her to come for this special celebration. 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: If there are grandparents or special elders that will be attending our special celebration on Thursday, November 17, please notify the office if you did not yet send in the yellow reservation form. The following is the schedule for that day:

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Sign-in and Visit Classroom

9:00 – 9:25 a.m. Prayer Service in Church

9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Refreshments and Activities

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*.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION RECESS CLUB: This week students signed up for the next set of clubs. Physical Education Clubs for second quarter for primary students are phys ed games, basketball, and Frisbee. Upper el students have two sessions of basketball and Frisbee. For those who will be in the PE Club at recess, students need to bring tennis shoes to change into if the PE club is held on a non-PE day since all activities will be in the gym this marking period. Primary students may leave a pair of tennis shoes at school for the week. Today parents are receiving a slip showing what days your child(ren) attend a physical education club so you can make sure students have tennis shoes for those days.

PHONE BOOKS NEEDED: St. Patrick will be collecting old phone books for recycling between November 14 and December 12. A contest sponsored by AT&T will allow 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.

AUCTION UPDATE: This week we are in particular need of items for the personal care basket and wine basket. We also need two wreath stands, five extra large gift baskets, and a roll of the wider cellophane (about 48"). Thank you to this week's auction donors.

AUCTION DINNER TICKETS: Please join us for fun, food and friends at our auction on December 2nd. 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.

AUCTION RAFFLE: If your family is able to sell more than the five raffle tickets sent home, there are more in the school office. Since only 500 tickets will be sold, we need everyone's cooperation and participation. Thank you to those who have already returned their tickets.

LATCHKEY END TIME ON NOVEMBER 11 AND DECEMBER 2: Due to the Red Wing fundraiser this 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.

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.

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 the 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 call the school office for a contact person.

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.

ALTAR SOCIETY PUMPKIN ROLL BAKE SALE: If you would like to order a pumpkin roll please contact the school office for contact person. . The cost is \$12 each. Orders may be picked up after the weekend Masses of November 19 & 20.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off. *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Ruth Meiring, Principal