

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

November 11, 2009

Dear Parents,

Yesterday we honored our veterans, the men and women who sacrificed personal comforts to serve our country and keep us secure. It was wonderful to have the veterans and women's auxiliary join us for Mass. Afterwards there was a ceremony for raising the flag and all students and staff went through a receiving line to offer a personal thank to each veteran. Our distinguished veterans and their guests were given a reception and after that a school assembly was held. During the assembly the veterans explained several traditions to our students including the folding of the flag and the symbolic dinner table representing a missing in action or prisoner of war service person. All students received a flag to commemorate this day. I encourage our students to place their flag in a place of honor and to remember to pray for our veterans. I thank Ms. Werstein for planning the Mass, Mr. Vandergriff for working with the students on our closing song *Everyday Heroes*, as well as Mrs. Sroka, Mrs. Laginess and the many others who helped to prepare our reception. Thank you to our seventh grade boy scout representative who assisted with the folding of the flag at the assembly.

Yesterday was *Mix-It-Up-At-Lunch Day*. When the November calendar was made, *Mix-It-Up-At-Lunch* was incorrectly designated as November 17. This year our student council had our students select a holiday slip out of a bag. Students then joined with others from different grade levels who shared a common holiday. Thank you to all who participated.

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the National Garden Clubs *Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear* poster contest. This was sponsored by the Swan Creek Garden Club. Over 104 students in this area participated. Special thanks to Mary Webb who collected our school's entries and returned the winners. Posters will not be returned at this time as some will be submitted for the Little Red Schoolhouse in August. The winning posters will be displayed outside the school office.

Last Saturday at the 5:30 p.m. Mass, our eighth graders were enrolled in the Confirmation Preparation Program. Students provided a letter to Fr. Bob requesting Confirmation and received a blessing, as well as a New Testament. Thank you to our teachers, parents, and the many other positive role models who keep our young adults actively engaged in faith formation. Last weekend each bulletin contained the names of Confirmation candidates. If you received the name of a candidate, please pray for him or her, as well as the other young adults, as they prepare to become adult members of the Catholic Church.

Please support our school auction in whatever way possible as we begin our final push for a successful auction. Dinner tickets are available in the school office at a cost of \$35.00 each. Next week the cost of the ticket will be going up to \$40.00. Dinner tickets need to be purchased as soon as possible as the final day for purchasing tickets will be Tuesday, November 24. We have sold out the past three years and would like to make it four years in a row. Thus far, we have sold 230 dinner tickets. Each dinner ticket brings a chance for one of our school families to receive a scholarship. Families that are in attendance are eligible to win one of two \$250 scholarships that will be drawn that evening. These scholarships are donated by Suburban Septic and Sewer and I encourage you to thank the Reiser family at the auction for this generous donation and opportunity. Remember the more friends and family that join you at the auction, the better your chances to win! Thank you to those who sold dinner tickets, raffle tickets, and cookbooks at the weekend Masses and the Men's Club breakfast. The efforts of these hard workers resulted in the sale of 85 cookbooks, and 9 dinner tickets.

We are still in need of items for our live and silent auctions. If you have items to donate, please be sure to bring them into the school office no later than next week so they can be included in the auction booklet. Several of our classroom projects will be on display tonight at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Approximately 300 raffle tickets were distributed to school families with money received for 130 thus far. School families need to return raffle tickets and money by Monday, November 30. Please remember that the selling of our raffle tickets is an important component of making our auction a huge success. A sell-out of the 500 tickets will enable us to also make up part of the \$8,000 revenue that would have been generated from a tuition increase. Thank you to all those who have already generously donated to the auction. If you know business that might make an auction donation, please help with the solicitation of additional items.

Thank you to those who volunteered to help at a concession stand at the Detroit Auto Show. We submitted a proposal to do a Saturday or Sunday and will let you know if our group is selected. Thank you to the mom who provided this opportunity. We expect additional people will be able to help when/ if a final date is confirmed.

I have received word that the IOWA test scores will not be available for our teachers to review on Thursday as expected. Mrs. Leslie from the Archdiocese of Detroit cannot attend due to an important meeting for the Catholic Schools Office. This professional development will be rescheduled at a later date. At this time I do not expect it to cause any changes in our school calendar.

Last week our school community enjoyed participating in the *Are You Smarter Than a St. Patrick School Student*. Thank you to our guests who visited the classrooms for activities, as well as competed in a quiz show at the end of the day. It was a close contest, but the students were the winners. I especially thank all those who helped in the preparations and throughout the day to make this a fun-filled afternoon for all those involved.

Beginning Monday, November 16 all primary doors will remain locked until teachers bring students over from the upper elementary building at 7:30. Students arriving before 7:30 are asked to go to the office to wait for teachers. The doors are being locked so that students do not enter early as teacher supervision is not always available since teachers often run copies in the upper elementary building. If you are bringing birthday treats and need to deliver them early, please let the classroom teacher know so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Thursday, November 12 (No School)

- Staff Professional Development

Friday, November 13 (No School)

Monday, November 16 (ART)

Tuesday, November 17 (PHYS ED)

- Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Mix-It-Up-At-Lunch Day
- Strategic Planning Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18 (MUSIC)

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held today from 3:45 – 7:45 p.m. If you are unable to attend, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher for a phone conference or to schedule a more convenient time to meet.

NO SCHOOL:

There will be no school for students on Thursday, November 12 and Friday, November 13. There will also be no school on Wednesday, November 25, Thursday, November 26, or Friday, November 27.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION:

Tickets for the auction and dinner continue to be for sale at a cost of \$35.00. This is a \$5.00 discount that continues until November 16 when the cost goes to \$40.00. Dinner includes broasted chicken, roast beef, salad, potatoes, vegetable, dessert, coffee/tea, beer, and wine. The silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. when the doors open. Those attending can select a school family, or have Fr. Bob and myself to designate a family to receive one of two \$250 scholarships that will be drawn that evening. Plan ahead with your family and friends to reserve a table at the auction. Help is still needed to solicit auction items and ads for the booklet. If you are able to make follow-up calls, please contact the school, 654-2522.

AUCTION ITEMS:

Last Friday someone dropped off several bags of items in the hallway outside the school office which we assume are for the auction. The donor is asked to contact the school office, so proper credit may be given.

SMCC PLACEMENT TEST:

The SMCC Placement Test will be held on Saturday, November 21.

FEATHER PARTY:

The Men's Club is sponsoring a Feather Party bingo on Sunday, November 22. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to our eighth graders who will be working the concession stand for this fundraiser.

NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT:

During the month of November we continue to collect food for the needy and warm coats, gloves, hats, and scarves. Items will be collected through Tuesday, November 24.

YEARBOOK:

Your help is needed in providing photographs for the upcoming yearbook.

SCRIP:

If you need scrip for Thanksgiving break and Black Friday shopping, turn your order in by Friday, November 20 for delivery by Tuesday, November 24. Don't forget that Honey Baked Ham gift cards can be ordered. Ease up holiday cooking by ordering Tiffany's Pizza gift certificates to use the day before Thanksgiving. There are only 35 more days to do your Christmas shopping through the St. Patrick Scrip program. The last order date will be Wednesday, December 16 with a delivery on December 18. Please plan ahead to make your purchases through this worthwhile program that earns you tuition credit, while earning extra funds for the school as well.

VISA gift cards are increasing in popularity since these cards can be used almost anywhere VISA is accepted. When purchased through scrip, there are no activation or usage fees. You can use these cards for doctor copays or when visiting businesses that do not participate in the scrip program such as McDonald's or Target.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

The one thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.
Albert Schweitzer

Ruth Meiring