

## ***St. Patrick School Family Newsletter***

November 24, 2009

Dear Parents,

On behalf of our staff I express heartfelt gratitude to you and the many other generous people who share their prayers, time, talent, and treasures with our school community. We rejoice with grateful hearts with all the blessings that God provides us with each day. We also join in prayer and remember those who are dealing with the challenges of employment, health, and family concerns at this time.

As we begin our final countdown days to the auction, I would like to offer special thanks of gratitude to our auction chairperson, Erika Alessandrini, and the many individuals who are working on the auction, as well as the businesses and non-school families who support us. We have received a check from the Foresters Group through Mr. M. Langton for \$2,000. This is an increase of \$500 from last year. The Foresters specialize in financial investments and insurance. Suburban Septic and Sewer has graciously donated \$500 toward two \$250 scholarships, to help two of our school families for the 2010-2011 school year. To be eligible for this scholarship, the family must be in attendance at the auction. In addition, many other businesses and parishioners have responded to our auction appeal by taking out ads and donating items. I also thank the St. Patrick Men's Club, Altar Society, Boosters, Staff, and PTO for their generous donations. Please remember to thank all who support our school.

As of this writing we are nearly sold out on our dinner tickets. If you are in need of tickets, please contact Mrs. Sroka who keeps the tally for these tickets. Thank you to all those who will be attending the auction on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The count for sold and returned *Ultimate Christmas Tree* raffle tickets is now at 182. Please use the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends to sell your remaining raffle tickets. You are asked to return all sold and unsold raffle tickets by Monday, November 30, as we need to account for all tickets with the State of Michigan Gaming Division.

Many changes are being made at the Archdiocese of Detroit central offices due to restructuring and the elimination of personnel. At our principal's meeting last week we were informed that Sr. Mary Gehringer will no longer be the superintendent for Catholic Schools. The associates who will continue working for the Catholic Schools Offices include Susan Leslie, Mary Swinkey, Georgene Wojciechowski, and Bernadette Sugrue. I ask for your prayers for all employees who have been affected by these changes and for a smooth transition as the Central Offices are reorganized.

The Strategic Planning Committee has been working on the development of a vision statement for our school. This is a component that was never developed at our school. Both the School Committee and teachers have had an opportunity to review suggestions and provide their own ideas for our statement. The following vision statement is the result of collaboration and discussion: Before it is presented to the School Committee and Parish Council for a vote, I encourage you to review the statement. If you have any input to offer, please send an email or written note to me.

### ***St. Patrick School Vision Statement Draft Recommendation***

*Inspired by our Catholic faith in Christ and together with our school families, parish members and community, the St. Patrick Catholic School and Parish leadership commit to creating a school environment that allows each person to reach their full potential in body, mind, heart, and spirit.*

*Everyone in our school community is a unique creation, made in the image of God and deserves to be cared for unconditionally and valued equally. In our learning, in our work, in our relationships with each other, and in the ways in which we organize our community, we are committed to be a school that:*

- *Pursues excellence in all fields of learning.*
- *Supports innovation and creativity.*
- *Respects and reinforces cultural identity and diversity.*
- *Cultivates an environment that promotes high quality experiences and opportunities for students, staff, and the community.*
- *Lives the Gospel message through prayer and service.*

Mrs. Koziol and her family will be visiting veterans at the Veterans Hospital on December 1<sup>st</sup>. If you and your family would like to make Christmas cards for the veterans, she would be happy to deliver them. Cards need to be at the office or to Mrs. Koziol on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a parish mission at St. Joseph Maybee with Fr. Ed Vella C.Ss.R during the first week of Advent. The mission will begin on Sunday night, November 29 and continue on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights and conclude on Thursday night. The mission begins at 7:00 p.m. each night. Fr. Vella will be offering a Mass for our students on Thursday, December 3 at 9:30 a.m. Please attend this Mass if you are able.

In today's family envelope you will find information about the Children's Liturgy that will be celebrated on December 24 at the 4:00 p.m. Mass.

This coming Friday, SMCC will be in the state finals at Ford Field in Detroit. Tickets are available at SMCC on Wednesday during the school day.

We received word from MANS that our Helen Casey Grant application was approved. This grant is for \$475.00 and will be used toward a social justice project that grade 6 will be doing with their kindergarten buddy class. It will assist in the purchase of several fairy tale books, art supplies, and money toward the purchase of a document camera. Thank you to our teachers for taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity for our students.

Technology provides a variety of opportunities to improve student learning. For several years our school has purchased access to the *Study Island* web site. Students in grades 3-8 have access to this site at home. It provides opportunities to review skills in math and language arts. It is also available for those grade levels that have MEAP testing for science and social studies. The questions support the Michigan Standards and items that are found on MEAP testing. With the extra time students have during the upcoming holidays, I encourage you to have students visit [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com). Call the office for the login information and password. To provide additional support, our school is also purchasing access to the *Brainpop.com* website. There is a section "Brain Pop Junior" that provides educational movies for K-3 learners and addresses a wide range of appropriate topics. There are games, activities, and a variety of educational material. The *Brain Pop Junior* area reads all content aloud so that young students can browse this site alone. *Brain Pop* has curriculum based contents for older students. *Brain Pop Espanol* provides *Brain Pop* content in Spanish. All contents on this site is aligned with our state standards. All students will have access to these sites at school. If you would like to have 24 hour a day access at home as well, this can be purchased at a reduced rate of \$3.00 for the family. This will provide a 12 month combo school access and home subscription for your family. If you would like to have your family to have home access to *Brain Pop*, please send in \$3.00 and we will provide you with the user name and password.

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Wednesday, November 25**

- No School

**Thursday, November 26**

- No School
- Happy Thanksgiving

**Friday, November 27**

- No School

**Monday, November 30 (ART)**

- Sold and unsold raffle tickets due

**Tuesday, December 1 (PHYS ED)**

- All School Mass – 8:00 a.m.
- Student treasure book orders due

**Wednesday, December 2 (MUSIC)**

**HOT LUNCH NEXT WEEK:**

We have not yet received the December hot lunch menus but know that next week's menu is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Dog on a Bun	Chicken Nuggets w/Roll	Pizza	Chicken Patty on Bun	French Toast Sticks
Fish Sticks & Roll	Dino Pasta	Turkey/Cheese Wrap	Ham & Cheese Sand.	Hamburger on a Bun
Garden Salad	Chef Salad	Garden Salad	Chef Salad	Garden Salad
Whole Wheat Jelly	Sub Sandwich	Whole Wheat Jelly	Sub Sandwich	Whole Wheat Jelly
Bagel & Cheese	Bagel & Cheese	Bagel & Cheese	Bagel & Cheese	Bagel & Cheese

**LATCHKEY:** The school benefit auction will be held on Friday, November 4 with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Because latchkey personnel will be attending the auction, we are asking that children be picked up from latchkey by 5:00 on December 4<sup>th</sup>, if at all possible.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The St. Patrick School Christmas Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Students in grades 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and the St. Patrick Singers will perform in this concert. Students should be dressed in Church attire and arrive at 6:00 p.m.

**SANTA SECRET SHOP:** Next week you will be receiving information and a sign-up sheet for the upcoming Santa Secret Shop that will be held on Wednesday, December 16. We are in need of a person to oversee the shop or co-chair. Please call the school office if you are able to assist in that capacity.

**NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT:** Thank you to all who participated in this month's service project. We will continue to collect coats through Monday, November 30. I also thank the Jones family for volunteering to transport the coats and other warm apparel to the Capuchin Center in Detroit.

**SEMESTER EXAMS:** Students in grades 7-8 will take their semester exams in reading, English, and math during the week of December 7<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be giving students information to help them prepare for these exams.

**STUDENT TREASURE BOOKS:** Orders are now due for those wishing to purchase *Studenttreasure* books. If you forgot to send in your order please leave a message on the school answering machine and send your payment in Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Once the manuscripts are sent in, you will no longer be able to purchase books. When you place your order, it is important to remember that there is a \$2.95 shipping charge per book that must be added to your total. Checks should be made payable to *Studenttreasures Publishing*. If you do not wish to purchase a book, please return the slip with the "no" box marked with your signature.

**SCHOOL BELLES WINTER SALE:**

We have received word that the winter sale is now in progress until January 3, 2010. Deep discounts from 25% - 50% off select items is available. Go to their website at [www.schoolbelles.com](http://www.schoolbelles.com) for additional information

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

The course of human history is determined, not by what happens in the skies, but by what takes place in our hearts. *Sir Arthur Keith*

Ruth Meiring

**A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

J. Rupp

Out of the Ordinary

*May an abundance of gratitude burst forth as you reflect upon what you have received. May Thanksgiving overflow in your heart and often be proclaimed in your prayer.*

*May you gather around the table of your heart, the ardent faithfulness, kindness, and goodness of each person who is true to you.*

*May the harvest of your good actions bring forth plentiful fruit each day.*

*May you discover a cache of hidden wisdom among the people and events that have brought you distress and sorrow.*

*May your basket of blessings surprise you with the rich diversity of gifts and its opportunities for growth.*

*May all that nourishes and resources your life bring you daily satisfaction and renewed hope.*

*May you slow down your hurried pace of life so you can be aware of, and enjoy, what you too easily take for granted.*

*May you always be open, willing, and ready to share your blessings with others.*

*May you never forget the generous One, who loves you lavishly and unconditionally.*