

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

October 5, 2011

Dear Parents,

In today's family envelope you are receiving a letter from the Archdiocese of Detroit regarding the new forms for the IOWA and Cognitive Abilities test for students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 are beginning this week.

Today at our Student of the Month assembly, students were introduced to our October Character Trait *Leadership*. Positive leadership sets a good example. It guides and directs others to do their best. I am very appreciative to all of our students who have stepped forward to assume leadership positions within our school this year. Yesterday at Mass our Eighth Grade class officers and Student Council members offered a prayer of commitment. Father Bob then a lit candle from the Pascal candle and presented it to each student. This action symbolized that as Jesus is a light to the world each individual is challenged to be a guiding light for others in our school community. At Mass upper elementary students also share their musical leadership skills by leading the congregation in singing as choir members. I want to thank the students who volunteered well as Mrs. Fisk and Mrs. Sroka for leading the music at Mass. Thank you to our students who assisted at the assembly this morning.

Today we acknowledged our September *Students of the Month*. Our academic focus was Religion, I congratulate the students who were recognized for effort or achievement in Religion class. The students received a Burger King Certificate of Merit and a free Whopper Junior. During October our academic focus will be music.

Congratulations to our students who were recognized this morning for good behavior outside of the classroom and received the Principal's Award.

After our School Committee meeting last Thursday, School Committee members took a tour of the school to visit classrooms and view science projects, student work, components of the new reading series Super Kids, religion and character essays, art projects, writing journals, social studies posters, etc. I thank our members for taking such an interest in the accomplishments of our students. I thank our teachers for the diverse learning activities that were evident. Each teacher found a "star award" with a note of appreciation from the School Committee when they arrived in their classrooms on Friday morning.

Through the Together in Faith process we have been challenged to share our future vision for St. Patrick Catholic School. The School Committee shared ideas which included expanded preschool, extended day care, and summer camp offerings. They also shared improvement ideas for our grounds and facilities. Strengthening components to develop our Catholic faith identity and community service activities were mentioned, as well as improving student skills through individualized testing and planning. Collaboration between teachers through team teaching and multiage instruction was also viewed as a positive component that we can continue to build upon. If you have additional items for a futuristic vision of our school, please send them to the school office.

I was recently informed that Pleasant Rowland, the founder and chairman of the Rowland Reading Foundation, will receive the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for her significant contributions to reading instruction in Catholic schools next Monday in Washington D.C. It is being presented for her Super School Initiative to help Catholic schools become centers of excellence in primary-grade reading instruction. Superkids, the K-2 reading program published by the foundation is now being taught in approximately 1,3300 Catholic classrooms across the nation and producing exceptional results. This is the reading program that we recently purchased. On Tuesday, October 18th a literacy coach from the Chicago based foundation will be with us all day to observe and work with our preschool through second grade teachers who are in the first year of using this program.

Our school has received a note of appreciation from Camp Storer leadership for our participation at camp during the week of September 19th. As principal, it is a welcomed joy to have our students' positive attitude and behavior and strong work ethic praised each year we visit Camp Storer. I thank our teachers and parent chaperones for their quality and caring attentiveness to our students during camp. Our lead teacher, Mrs. Shuman, does an excellent job of organizing this camp experience. The support provided by Mrs. Grinn and Mrs. Koziol with their time at camp enhances the experience for students.

Our parent chaperons are the best! Teachers, Camp Storer personnel, parents, and students all comment about the superb support our parent chaperones supply to insure that all of our students are safe, productive, and return with great memories of camp. It is not easy to rearrange work and family schedules for several days or a week. Yet it is done willingly while extended family members and other parents graciously volunteer to cover the daily responsibilities of our parent volunteers while they are at camp. It is uplifting to watch and listen as our adults prepare for departure on Monday. They share loading responsibilities and bag inspections to insure all baggage is labeled and secure. Packing strategies are reviewed by sharing what each has brought for the week: extra rope for drying wet clothes, flashlights, driving directions, sun tan lotion for hot weather, extra gloves for cold weather, etc. Past experience has proven that should something be missing or in short supply one of our parents will quickly make a trip to the nearest store and purchase whatever is needed. It is with great appreciation the St. Patrick Community acknowledges the sacrifices made by our parent chaperones. When our eighth graders share favorite memories at St. Patrick School, this experience always ranks near or at the top of the list. Thank you to this year's parent chaperones.

Students have just completed a picture and short essay entitled "How I Saw God" as a personal reflection on how God was present for them at camp. Some of these are posted on the WOW board at the school entrance. Others can be found outside the grade 5/6 classroom. Please take a moment to read these student compositions. They highlight the blessings received by our youth who attend faith based schools and the freedom to share their relationship with God at school and camp.

This year grades 3 and 4 will be learning to play the recorder. The students have received their recorders and books and are very excited to begin playing this instrument.

Yesterday was the feast of St. Francis of Assisi who had a special love for all of God's creation. Those who share his respect for God's creatures often choose this time of year to ask for God's blessing upon their pets and all animals through prayer.

O God our creator, everything that has the breath of life gives you praise. We ask you to watch over our pets and animals. Keep them in good health. Guard them against trouble. May the wisdom of St. Francis and our love for these animals deepen our respect for all of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After the Week at a Glance dates, we will now list the special memorial days of our church calendar.

Thank you to everyone who stepped forward to serve as a room parent this year.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Wednesday, October 5

- Girls on the Run, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
- Auction Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - **CANCELLED**

Thursday, October 6 - Memorial of St. Bruno, a priest and Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher.

Friday, October 7 - Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

- First Friday Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Monday, October 10

- Girls on the Run, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11

- There will be no school Mass on this day as Father Bob will be unavailable.
- Magazine Drive Ends

Wednesday, October 12

- Girls on the Run, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 13

Friday, October 14 - Memorial of St. Callistus I, a pope and martyr.

HALLOWEEN GOODIE BAGS: We have been asked to include the number of students in each grade for parents wanting to donate something for the Halloween bags for students in a specific grade. Extra items sent will be used for carnival game prizes.

Kindergarten (13) Grade 1 (14) Grade 2 (18) Grade 3 / 4 (19) Grade 5 / 6 (23) Grade 7 (11) Grade 8 (11)

STUDENT COUNCIL SEEKING PUMPKINS FOR HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL: We are looking for 11 medium sized pumpkins for our classes to decorate for the Halloween Carnival Pumpkin Contest. Please contact the office if you can make a donation. We would like to have the pumpkins turned in by October 17 and the Student Council will distribute them the following week. When you come to the carnival you can vote for your favorite pumpkin.

PTO UPDATE: Thank you to all who attended our meeting yesterday. Please complete and return the bottom portion of the PTO letter in today's family envelope. This will help the PTO prepare for our Halloween Carnival on Friday, October 28th. We are seeking 125 medium sized treat bags with handles for the Halloween Carnival. If you have any questions, please call the school office for contact number. The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 8 at 6:30 p.m. Don't forget to mark you calendar for our Santa Secret Shop set-up on December 15 after school and the shopping day, December 16th.

SCHOOL PICTURES: School pictures were sent home with your child(ren) today. If you would like your child to have a retake, please return the entire package to the school office with a note stating the reason. You will be notified once a retake date is scheduled.

MAGAZINE DRIVE AND COOKIE SALE: Don't forgot to return your magazine and cookie sale orders by Tuesday, October 11. Help is needed to count magazine/cookie sale orders and money next Tuesday, October 11 beginning at 7:45 a.m. Please contact the school office if you can lend a hand that morning.

AUCTION UPDATE: The meeting scheduled for tonight has been postponed until Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m. We are in need of auction donations. A weekly update will be included in next week's newsletter to acknowledge businesses and individuals who have contributed items to date. It will inform our families as to the types of items that are being donated. Thank you to those who have committed to helping on an auction committee. We are in need of additional workers especially in the area of selling tickets after Mass on November 12/13, transporting items and set-up on Thursday, December 1, and clean-up and tear down after the auction. Please contact the school office, or one of our chairpersons to offer your assistance. If your name was inadvertently left off the list please contact the school office.

PARENTS IN GRADES 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, AND 8 HELP PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH A POSITIVE TESTING EXPERIENCE: During the next few week these grades are taking the IOWA or MEAP test. Please help you child by making sure they get enough rest at night and start the day with a healthy breakfast. Students also need to have a water bottle and healthy snack for the day. Remember to provide encouragement and support during testing days.

THANK YOU PARADE FLOAT DONORS AND PARTICIPANTS: Thank you to all who assisted so our students could be part of the SMCC homecoming parade. The theme of our truck was Irish Blessings. I acknowledge the school family who drove their truck, Another school family for making and donating our vinyl banners for the truck, parent chaperones who rode in the truck with our students. I also thank our spirited students and siblings who exceptional in representing our theme, Irish Blessings.

MASS OF THANSIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL II: On Saturday, October 22 there will be an outdoor prayer service at 4:30 p.m. at the Shrine to Pope John Paul II beside Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Wyandotte followed by Mass in church at 5 p.m. The celebration and prayers will be both in Polish and English.

LOST: A blue/cloth titanium necklace was left in the gym after volleyball practice on last Wednesday. If found, please return to the school office.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

- To the Mitchell family on the death of Dan Mitchell's father.
- Father John LaCasse, former pastor of St. Joseph, Ida.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching. *St. Francis of Assisi*

Ruth Meiring
Principal