

## *St. Patrick School Family Newsletter*

October 7, 2009

Dear Parents,

Students and staff have had a great start to our annual standardized testing season. During my visits with students, I've seen a positive attitude along with the sharing of many helpful suggestions for success! Students greatly appreciate the healthy snacks their parents are providing. For those forgetting to bring a snack, our school is most grateful to the Thompson family who donated apples for students needing a snack during standardized testing.

Please remember that students should not be dropped off at the primary building in the morning unless special accommodations have been made for medical reasons. There is no supervision and students are instructed not to be in the front of the building unless a teacher is with them.

In today's family envelope you are receiving a small promotional sheet about a program sponsored by the National Dairy Council and the NFL. *Fuel Up to Play 60* encourages our youth to take control of their health and wellness by making smart choices through eating healthier and getting more physical activity. Additional information including available individual prizes for participation can be found at [FuelUpToPlay60.com](http://FuelUpToPlay60.com).

This week our eighth graders provided our school with a greater understanding for these role models of the Catholic Faith: St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Simeon, and St. John Leonardi.

Thank you to all who participated in the Magazine/Cookie Sale Drive. We reached our goal and sold over 650 items. Magazines may still be purchased online at [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com). We have not heard when the cookie dough will be in but we will keep you informed. Tabulations of orders are still being done for the raffle drawing, as well as the pizza lunch. Both will be held on Wednesday, October 28.

Each year one of our service projects is a community outreach to the poor and homeless in Detroit. Last year food items were collected and taken by our seventh graders and winter coats were collected and delivered by the Jones family to the Fr. Solanus Casey Center. This year we will support the ministry of Sr. Judie Ann by decorating paper bags and donating items that will be used to provide sack lunches to the homeless of Detroit. You can find out more about Sr. Judie Ann's ministry by visiting the following website <http://www.clsisters.org/default.html>. Please see the section below for more information for this month's service project. Thank you to the two moms who are helping us to organize this service project and will deliver the items for us. Later in the year we will also be having our collection of outerwear items for the Fr. Casey Solanus Center. I thank Jones family who have volunteered to deliver the outerwear to the Fr. Casey Solanus Center again this year.

Today we welcome Mr. Doug Sanders to our school as the physical education teacher. Airport administration has informed us that Mr. Sanders will be our gym teacher for the remainder of the year. Thank you to Mrs. Birkey who had this position previously.

Thank you to those who were able to attend the PTO meeting last Thursday. The next scheduled activity will be preparations and hosting of Halloween Carnival.

Today was the first time to distribute our *Student of the Month* awards. Due to testing at various times, I went to each classroom. Normally our *Student of the Month* presentations are done at the end of our weekday Mass once a month. For September we recognized students for their achievements or efforts in music. Students received a Burger King junior whopper certificate. Students are also recognized for good behavior outside the classroom. Those selected for this honor receive the *Principal's Award* and a certificate for a small Tiffany's pizza. Each week teachers also submit names of students who have had good behavior during the week in the classroom. Three of the submitted slips are pulled out and these individuals receive a free kid's meal from Applebee's. I encourage you to thank these establishments when students redeem their reward certificate. The names of the students who received these awards this month can be found in the *KUDOS* section below.

This year we will also be recognizing a class or individuals from a class for their efforts to demonstrate the character of the month trait. For September the trait was *Respect*. One grade from the primary building and one grade from the upper elementary building will be selected and display a cross in their classroom for the month. For September the kindergarten class will receive the cross for the respect they have shown in church toward others and God. A nomination was also received for the kindergarten class for their respect and reverence in the peace garden by praying extra prayers for all the names on the bricks. Grade 8 will receive the cross as a result of a student sharing the names of two 8<sup>th</sup> graders who always treats him with respect. Another student from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade was nominated for his respectful attitude toward school property. Other areas of respect shown by eighth graders were the supervision of Heritage Day games and their behavior on their recent field trip to SMCC. Anyone may nominate individuals or a class during the month to receive this award. This month the character trait is *Responsibility*. The classes receiving the award will be selected at the end of the month. If you would like to nominate someone, please include the name or class, the reason you are nominating them, as well as your own name.

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Thursday, October 8 (ART)**

**Friday, October 9 (PHYS ED)**

**Saturday, October 10**

- Grade 2 Reconciliation Enrollment – 10:00 a.m.

**Monday, October 12 (MUSIC)**

**Tuesday, October 13 (PHY ED)**

- Mass 8:00 a.m.
- MEAP ELA Grades 4-8
- Strategic Planning Meeting

**Wednesday, October 14 (ART)**

- MEAP ELA Grades 4-8

### **PROGRESS REPORTS:**

We are at the half-way mark of the first quarter. Progress reports will be sent home for all K-8 students on Friday, October 9.

### **PICTURE RETAKES:**

Our picture retake date will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at 9:00 a.m.

### **PTO HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL:**

The Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 23. Each student will receive a Halloween goody bag and enjoy all of the games and refreshments. Students will also receive ice cream sundaes after lunch. At this time, families are asked for donations to help fill the goody bags. If you would like to donate items to a specific grade, please mark items accordingly. Below you will find a list of each grade and the number of students in each class. Although eighth graders run the games for the younger students, they still receive goody bags to take home. Please send the items in by Wednesday, October 14. Preschoolers do not attend the carnival as a group since they are not in school that day, however, they are welcome to attend the carnival and will receive more information from Mrs. Kemmerling.

The PTO will have a “worker bee” on Thursday October 15 at 7:45 a.m. in the lunchroom. We are also in need of good sized pumpkins for our *Pumpkin Decorating Contest*. If anyone has a pumpkin patch and would like to donate pumpkins, please contact the school office.

Grade	Boys	Girls	Total	Carnival Time
PreK-3	2	3	5	
PreK-4	5	6	11	
Kindergarten	6	12	18	8 – 9 a.m.
Grade 1	4	9	13	10 – 11 a.m.
Grade 2	4	6	10	10 – 11 a.m.
Grade 3	7	11	18	8 – 9 a.m.
Grade 4	7	4	11	8 – 9 a.m.
Grade 5	11	5	16	9 – 10 a.m.
Grade 6	7	9	16	9 – 10 a.m.
Grade 7	7	6	13	10 – 11 a.m.
Grade 8	8	12	20	

**HALLOWEEN COSTUMES:**

All grades will wear “character” outfits all day on Friday, October 24. Students need to come to school in their outfits and may not change into their outfits. Halloween outfits should not prevent students from performing their academic requirements throughout the day or hinder them at recess. Please remember that students need to be dressed appropriately for the weather at recess and wear safe shoes. **No masks or over the face material may be worn. Students should wear little or no face make-up.** The students may not depict violent or scary characters. Accessories such as fake guns or knives are not allowed.

**OCTOBER SERVICE PROJECT:**

The Sisters of Christian Love distribute sack lunches to the homeless of Detroit who are living on the street or in abandoned buildings. They are currently assembling and delivering 80 lunches per day and still they run out before everyone on their route is served. A year ago they were making 50-60 lunches per day. Volunteers bring supplies, help make lunches and distribute lunches. They pack each lunch in a brown paper bag on which is written a notation such as “God Loves Us Constantly”, “You Are Loved”, “Jesus Loves You”, etc. Each lunch includes a sandwich, fruit (banana, applesauce or fruit cup), drink (usually a bottle of water), treat (pretzels, crackers, day-old donuts, cookies, cakes, etc.), and a napkin. They ask each person to pray for them as they hand them nourishment for their bodies. When possible, they provide socks, underwear, t-shirts, hygiene bags, blankets, as well as other needs. Sr. Julie Ann can also use the cardboard drink holders that you get at fast food restaurants which is used to deliver hot chocolate in the winter.

During the month of October, we will be collecting items to include in the bags such as peanut butter, jelly, napkins, bottled water, fruit or applesauce cups, plastic spoons, small boxes of raisins, **x-large** paper lunch bags (approx. 6 1/8 x 4 x 12 3/8”), canisters of powdered hot chocolate, 10 oz or 12 oz foam cups with lids, new or gently used (men’s & women’s) socks, hats, gloves, underwear/undershirts, t-shirts. Students are also encouraged to decorate the paper lunch bags with notations such as “God Loves Us Constantly”, “God Believes in You”, “May God Bless You”, “Jesus Loves All of Us”, “God Thinks You’re Special”, or “You Are Loved”.

**EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION:**

Confirmation for eighth graders has now been scheduled and will take place on Thursday, March 25 at the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

**SCRIP:**

An updated scrip order form is now available. In an effort to cut costs, forms will no longer be sent home each month in the family envelope. Forms are available on the school website under the “Scrip” tab. You may also contact the school office to have one sent home. We have been informed that Cold Stone Creamery gift cards are not redeemable at the Monroe Tim Hortons/Cold Stone Creamery. Keep sending in your scrip orders! This past week school families purchased \$2,349 in scrip.

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION:**

Our auction is less than two months away. Please help us in the solicitation of auction items and advertisements for the auction booklet. The raffle this year will be changed from a monetary prize to a package of items and gift certificates that will have a greater value than the cash raffle. More details will be coming soon. Dinner tickets are now available for the upcoming auction which will be held on Friday, December 4 and can be purchased in the school office. The cost is \$40 with a \$5.00 discount offered if they are purchased by November 16. The early purchase of tickets enables us to provide an accurate count to the hall in compliance with our agreement.

**YEARBOOK:**

We are in need of a person or persons to create our wonderful yearbook for the 2009-2010 school year. Our past coordinator who has done this for many years, is unable to chair it this year. I am sure she willing to provide helpful information to our new coordinators. Lifetouch has contacted us and we have the opportunity to create our yearbook digitally. For those who have expertise in this area, please consider sharing your talents with our school community. A final decision on having a yearbook needs to be made soon. You are asked to contact the office as soon as possible if you are able to help in this area. I thank the past coordinator for sharing her creative talents with us these past several years.

**INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP:**

On Wednesday, November 18 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. an *Internet Safety Workshop* for parents will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Temperance. This workshop will be conducted by James Dec, head of the computer crime division for the City of Toledo Police Department. I encourage parents and others who are concerned about Internet safety and how to keep you and your children safe while using the Internet to attend this meeting. Judge Costello was invited to speak at St. Patrick School on this subject, however, he is unfamiliar with some of the components involved in Internet safety so there will be no presentation at our parish.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

Ideas don't work unless we do. *Anonymous*

Ruth Meiring, Principal