

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

September 28, 2011

Dear Parents,

On Friday progress reports will be going home. This year each student will bring their reports for core subjects in a sealed envelope addressed to the parents. K-8 parents are asked to sign and return the reports. We have expanded the information on our progress reports and will continue to seek ways to provide relevant information on what your child is doing in the classroom. Teachers in grades 1-8 are providing information on the assignments and assessments that were used to determine the overall grade. When we adapt to the web based student management system, you will be able to review this information at any time from your home computer. Teachers have also done beginning of the year assessments in language arts and math to benchmark yearly growth. These assessments will not be included as academic grades for the progress reports or report cards. Preschool students will not receive progress reports at this time.

The Student Council held their first meeting this week. The officers positions for 2011-12 are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Next Tuesday at Mass these students along with the grade 8 class officers will be installed in their leadership positions. They will offer a prayer of commitment and receive a blessing from Father Bob. The Student Council is interested in creating a sub-committee which will focus on service activities.

On Tuesday at Mass, Student Council representatives Andrew Niemi and Jesse Langton explained the preparations students are now making for MEAP and IOWA testing. They reminded us that we prepare our minds by reviewing math and language arts skills and facts and prepare their bodies by eating healthy foods and getting enough rest at night. As Christians, students prepare spiritually by asking God to journey with them and ask for his help to do their best. Andrew and Jesse then assisted in passing out the POP (Prayed Over Pencils) that were blessed by Fr. Bob after Mass on Tuesday.

IOWA AND MEAP TESTING SCHEDULE

	Grade 1	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
10/3 – 10/12	IOWA	IOWA		IOWA		IOWA	
10/11			MEAP ELA		MEAP ELA		MEAP ELA
10/12			MEAP ELA		MEAP ELA		MEAP ELA
10/13			MEAP Writing				
10/18			MEAP Math		MEAP Math		MEAP Math
10/19			MEAP Writing		MEAP Social Studies		MEAP Science

Since standardized testing is an important evaluation tool used throughout a student's academic training, it is necessary that our students understand the importance of doing their best. They should also be comfortable taking standardized tests and learn good test taking skills. If your child(ren) will be tested this year, please encourage them to do their best. Before the test, teachers may provide practice tests and/or helpful hints that can be used during the test. Encourage your child to listen attentively during these sessions as well as when test instructions are given. A good night's rest and breakfast will also help. Additional suggestions can be found on a separate information sheet in today's family envelope. Next year the seventh grade results of these tests will be sent to the various high schools they select and will be one component used in determining which high school classes they take. By putting forth their best effort, students can make sure they will be assigned to a high school class level that matches their ability.

All students, school personnel, and parents were wished well as we begin another school year with the following:
"May the Holy Spirit give you all his wisdom and strength as you begin another year of learning and growing. God bless our students and teachers. The Motykas" Their note of support included the following prayer:

Last week our school improvement team met. It was decided that we will create a plan to move forward on becoming a *School of Distinction*. We are now working on writing our goals that will include data documentation to evaluate the success of our plan. Our focus will be on creating a student assessment plan that allows us to monitor the growth of each student and provide the academic learning environment needed for the student to excel.

Our seventh and eighth grade art class studied Mark di Suvero, an American artist. He is an abstract expressionist who has a large scale outdoor collection in the Hirschhorn and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. Using rolled paper cylinders, students worked together to create a maquette, a small scale model an artist creates to plan and organize for the completion of a large scale sculpture or piece of architecture. Students also completed information regarding the title of their sculpture, artist's name, size (height, width, length), color, and location it will be displayed. The sculptures are located in the upper el hallway and provide a glimpse at future engineers.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Wednesday, September 28

- Girls on the Run, 3 – 4:30 p.m.
- Grade 2 Parent Reconciliation Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

- School Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Spirit Wear Orders Due

Friday, September 30

- Service Project Jean Day
- Report Cards Distributed

Sunday, October 2

- Auction Worker Bee: 12 – 2 p.m. at Alessandrini Residence

Monday, October 3

- **Red Wing Ticket Orders Due**
- Grade 8 Visit to SMCC
- Girls on the Run, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4

- All School Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 5

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

Thursday, October 6

Friday, October 7

EMERGENCY FAMILY PHONE CHAIN: The Honeywell System provided by Airport Public Schools will notify you when Airport and St. Patrick School is closed due to weather. Should an incident occur where only St. Patrick families need to be informed of school cancellation or other unexpected events, we will activate the St. Patrick School chain provided in today's family envelope. Note that you may not be calling the same family that you did last year. You are asked to call the family to the **right** of your name. If you are unable to reach that family, please leave a message and continue the chain by calling the next name on the list. If your name is at the end of a row, you do not need to make a call. Families are also included on Airport Public Schools automated Honeywell system.

RED WING FUNDRAISER: As a reminder, Red Wing ticket orders for the November 11th game against the Edmonton Oilers are **due Monday, October 3**. The tickets being sold have a \$43.00 value and can be purchased for \$25.00, with \$5 being returned to the school. Every student who sells four or more tickets will be invited to Joe Louis Arena on a non-game day to take a tour, take a shot on the ice, and participate in an open skate and more! The student who sells the most tickets will receive an autographed collector's stick signed by a member of the 2010-11 team.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE PROJECT: Thank you to all who participated in this month's service project of three \$.44 postage stamps, or \$1.50 to purchase stamps that will be used for our Veteran cards. The jean day for this service project will be Friday, September 30.

MAGAZINE DRIVE: Our annual magazine drive and cookie sale began yesterday with a kick-off assembly in the afternoon. Thank you to those who completed the postcard booklets. Students who participated received prizes and were entered into a drawing and one person was chosen to take a trip inside the *money machine*. Mr. Colby, the QSP representative, explained this year's program to the students at a 2:15 p.m. assembly. QSP again provides an opportunity for customers to purchase magazines online. To place an order, customers may shop at www.qsp.com using the St. Patrick Code 1114276. Students receive full credit toward prizes for each magazine ordered online, as well as a duck to place on a lanyard. There will be one turn-in day on Tuesday, October 11. Help is needed at 8:00 a.m. that morning to count orders and money. Please contact the school office if you are available that day, or send in the slip included at the end of last week's family newsletter.

AUCTION INFORMATION: Your help is needed on Sunday, October 2 from 12 – 2 p.m. call school for information. No need special talents are required! If you have questions, you may email school for information. Thank you to the 1st graders family for the donation of denim jeans in response to last week's plea. Please plan to attend our next auction meeting on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Computer Room.

ROOM PARENTS: Room parents are still needed for the fifth and sixth grade classroom. If you are able to assist Mrs. Shuman as a room parents, please contact the school office.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY PHYS ED CLUB: If your child participates in the Phys Ed Club on a day that is not their gym day, you are encouraged to send tennis shoes so that students may wear them if they are playing an indoor activity. This is for safety purposes and also helps to prevent black marks on the gym floor that was recently refinished. If your child has an extra pair of tennis shoes that you would like to keep at school during the week, you may do so. Students may leave their shoes in their lockers, cubbies, or hallway space. Please have the shoes in a bag that is marked with their name.

CLASS VISITS TO THE IHM MOTHERHOUSE: This year classes will again visit the IHM retired sisters for Mass and an activity. Sister Marge Fogarty, a former kindergarten teacher at our school is our contact for this special arrangement and coordinates this service activity with the IHM community. To help you for planning to serve as a parent driver/chaperone, we are providing the class schedules: Kindergarten – October 6, Grade 2 – November 3, Grades 7/8 choral group with Mr. Vandergriff – January 12, Grades 3 / 4- February 9, Grade 1 – March 15, and Grades 5/6 – May 10.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN: School volunteers, coaches, chaperones, employees, etc. are required to attend a *Protecting God’s Children* workshop. If you have not yet attended one, the next session scheduled for Monroe County is Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Temperance.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Three kittens, approximately two months old, are available for adoption! Call the school office for information if you are interested

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

To begin with the end in mind means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It means to know where you’re going so that you better understand where you are now and so that the steps you take are always in the right direction. *Stephen Covey.*

Ruth Meiring
Principal