

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

September 7, 2011

Dear Parents,

Thank you for making our beginning days of the school year a success. The staff greatly appreciated the many delicious items that were provided by PTO members for the luncheon. I also thank all those who donated items for our afternoon treat of corn muffins, jam, and butter on Heritage Day. It was wonderful to see the many items that our students brought to share their family heritage with classmates. I thank our eighth grade class for supervising the Heritage Day games, as well as the many others who made this a successful day for our students. As part of the day, our school family joined in prayer in the Peace Garden to thank God for the blessings of our school and parish community.

This is a reminder to all of our school families that the school start time is 7:35 a.m. Students arriving after this time will be marked tardy.

On Tuesday, Fr. Bob blessed the names of all the junior high students who volunteered to serve on our Student Council this year. After the blessing, three names were chosen to serve on the Student Council for 2011-2012. I want to congratulate the students who were selected to serve as Student Council representatives for the 2011-2012 school year. I also thank the remaining sixth, seventh, and eighth graders for their willingness to submit their names.

Congratulations also to the following students who were selected to serve as eighth grade class officers.

We are continuing to implement programs and make adjustments to schedules as needed. Our lunch time has now been changed to accommodate the special subjects schedule. Lunch begins at 11:20 a.m. for our primary students and 11:40 for upper elementary students. Next week we plan to begin enrichments opportunities for physical education and art. After school our special subject teachers are meeting with the classroom teachers to review schedules and plan for some sessions of team teaching. Today Ms. Hoffman and Ms. McDowell team taught a physical education/math unit. These combined classes will enable our students to better understand how to apply core subject skills with special subject activities. Team teaching classes are in addition to the special subject classes taught solely by a special subject teacher. This week we welcome our special subject teachers, Robert Vandergriff, Ann Maher, and Casey McDowell. Our speech teacher, Judy DeLano retired last year. An Airport speech teacher has visited and is in the process of coordinating with Airport administration and speech teachers as to when our students will receive speech services.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Wednesday, September 7

- Free Sport Physicals in Gym at 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, September 8

- School Pictures
- PreK Open House 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. with pictures

Friday, September 9

- Hearing and Vision Testing (Hearing – grades K-2-4; Vision – grades 1-3-5-7)
- CYO Night – SMCC Football Game

Monday, September 12

- PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13

- Mass, 8:00 a.m.
- Preschool Begins
- SMCC visits grades 5-8

Wednesday, September 14

- Auction Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 16

- Students may wear favorite team jerseys/tops with uniform pants

SPORT PHYSICALS TONIGHT: Dr. Nancy Sabal has graciously offered to provide physical examinations at no cost for students who will be participating in sports during the 2011-2012 school year. She will be in the gym at 6:15 tonight (Wednesday).

SCHOOL PICTURES: Students may wear appropriate dress-up clothes for their photos tomorrow. Students in grades 3 and 4 who have gym tomorrow may wear their gym pants and tennis shoes with their dress tops. They should bring a gym sweatshirt or t-shirt to change into after their pictures are taken.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, September 8 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. PreK-3 school pictures will begin at 10:15 a.m. and PreK-4 school pictures will be taken at 10:30 a.m.

HEARING AND VISION: On Friday, students in grades K-2-4 will be their hearing tested and students in grades 1-3-5-7 will have their vision tested. Parents are asked to complete and return the gold vision form sent home in last week's family envelope for their children who are in grades 1-3-5-7. If you would like your child tested for something he/she is not scheduled for, please send a note to the school office with your request.

AUCTION MEETING: All are invited to attend the first auction meeting next Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the computer room. You are asked to bring your ideas and suggestions. Discount coupons are needed for Michael's, Joann's, and/or Hobby Lobby to use for purchasing class auction project supplies. If you have any to share, please bring them on the night of the meeting, or send to the school office.

CAMP STORER: Last Thursday camp representatives met with grade 5/6 students and parents. Parents are asked to return completed health forms and final camp payment, if you have not already done so. Camp representatives misinformed parents that camp items should be ordered online. The camp *Trading Post* advises that students order from the form sent home with grades 5/6 students today. If your child wishes to purchase items, please return the form and payment by Monday, September 12.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL POTLUCK SURVEY RESULTS: Twenty-seven families responded to the survey regarding the *Back-to-School* potluck tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 7th. Twenty-two of the families responding indicated they would not be able to attend. As a result, we will cancel the potluck on October 7th. We are continuing to look at an alternative activity at a later date. It will be discussed at our PTO meeting.

PRESCHOOL-GRADE 2 PARENTS: To access the on-line parent support for our new Language Arts and Reading program your teacher needs a parent e-mail address to input into the class roster. Please fill out and return the form at the end of the newsletter with the e-mail address you would use.

HOT LUNCH: Parents have the opportunity to pay for their child's hot lunch or monitor his/her account online. The school office can provide your child's ID number that will be needed when you visit www.sendmoneytoschool.com. Click on "visit a school store". You will be asked to type in the zip code (48117)...and Airport Community Schools will pop up. You will be given the prompt to sign-up or log in.

GYM UNIFORMS AND CLASSES: Physical education classes began on Tuesday, September 6th. Each class will have two days of physical education. Grades K-6 will wear their gym uniforms on the days they have gym class. **Grades 7-8 will bring their gym uniform and tennis shoes to school and change before and after physical education class.** Grades 7 and 8 may bring their gym uniform and tennis shoes to school on Monday and leave them here until they go home on Tuesday. Gym classes are as follows:

Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2	Monday and Wednesday
Grade 3/4	Wednesday and Thursday
Grade 5/6, Grade 7, Grade 8	Monday and Tuesday

UNIFORM ORDERS: Many of the uniform items ordered this past week have been filled from the stock on hand and were sent home today. If you are missing items, it is indicated on the form returned with your order. Families still needing gym uniforms are asked to return their order form and payment tomorrow, September 8, as the order will be placed Friday morning.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE PROJECT: This month we are collecting three (3) stamps or \$1.50 to purchase stamps to send our veteran cards. The jean day for those who participate will be Friday, September 30.

CHANGES TO 2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR: Please make the following changes to the 2011-2012 school calendar found on the first page of the Parent/Student Handbook sent home last week:

- October 7 Back-to-School Potluck cancelled
- December 6 Christmas Concert (Classes performing TBA)
- May 29 Spring Concert (Classes performing TBA)

EXTENDED DAY CARE: This year the school is offering both a "before school" (6:55 – 7:25 p.m.) and "after school" (3:00 – 6:00 p.m.) extended day program for students in grades K-8. If your child(ren) will be using this service, please contact the office for a registration form if you have not yet done so. If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

MEDICATION: Under the Archdiocese of Detroit School Policies and Guidelines, **prescription and non-prescription** medication that needs to be taken during schools hours requires a signed permission release form signed by a physician. The form includes the drug name, dose, time to be administered, etc. This includes cough drops and Tylenol. The medication form can be obtained on the school website at www.stpatsmi.com or from the school office. If there is no medication form on file, parents also have the option to personally administer the medication to their child while he/she is at school.

HEALTH UPDATES: If your child has any medical concerns or other needs that the office and school staff should know please contact the school office. It is especially important for us to be aware of asthma, bee sting allergies, etc. that could affect gym participation or recess activities. Thank you to all who are so diligent in keeping us informed so we can attend to your child's needs.

GIRLS ON THE RUN: The school is offering "Girls on the Run" at St. Patrick School and is seeking girls in grades 3-8 who may be interested. *Girls on the Run* is an innovative, non-profit after school program that uses running to help prepare girls for a lifetime of self respect and healthy living. Their character-building program focuses on building self-esteem, confidence and improving physical and emotional health. Over the course of a ten-week season, volunteer coaches teach life-skills lessons such as handling bullies, dealing with body image and the media, making healthy decisions and contributing to the community. The program culminates in a non-competitive 5k event which gives the girls a chance to shine and an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. All shapes, sizes, and abilities are celebrated and welcome! The normal fee for GOTR is \$150, however, this organization is able to offer it in our area for \$125 due to the generosity of our local donors and sponsors. For those needing additional financial assistance, scholarships are available at the school office or online. The fee includes 20 lessons, healthy snacks, water bottle, t-shirt, celebration 5k, finisher's medal and an end of the season celebration. Full and partial scholarships are available to families in need. Registrations are available online at www.girlsontherunsemi.org. The last day to register will be September 12th. The fall 2011-12 season is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. with the culminating 5k event on Sunday, November 20. If you have difficulty registering online, please contact the school office.

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 following sessions are scheduled for Monroe County:
Saturday, September 24 from 9 a.m. – 12:00 noon at St. Mary's in Rockwood.
Saturday, October 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Temperance.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

The best motivation is the kind that makes a person want to do his best work- even when no one is looking. *Anonymous*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

REQUEST FOR EMAIL ADDRESS – To be used so parents can access the new reading program.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____