

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

September 23, 2009

Dear Parents,

All grades except kindergarten and second will be doing standardized testing between October 5 and October 28. Students in grades 1 – 3-5-7 will take the IOWA basic skills and CogAT standardized tests beginning October 5. The Archdiocese of Detroit requires all Catholic school students to be tested in these grades. At St. Patrick School, students in grades 4-8 also take the MEAP beginning on October 13. In the past, the Michigan legislature has provided scholarship money for high school students who score well on the MME (Michigan Merit Examination, the high school level state test). The opportunity to participate in MEAP helps to prepare our students for the MME, as well as other standardized tests that enable students to receive scholarship money from the various colleges.

Teachers are now reviewing good test taking practices as well as basic skills in core subjects with their students. As part of the preparation process for standardized testing, I encourage students in grades 3-8 to use the Study Island web site at: www.studyisland.com. The school purchased school and home access for students in grades 3-8. For students log in contact the school office. The content on this web site is related to items that will be on the MEAP test.

For the past three years our students have gone each month to Mass and visit with the IHM sisters. Due to the concerns about flu, the sisters are requesting that we not visit at this time. We are hopeful that later in the school year this may change.

For our theme this year (CROSS - Continuously Reaching out Spiritually and Scholastically,) our students have created a mosaic cross in the upper elementary hallway. Each student has shared two of their talents, as well as two of their goals, for the upcoming year. If you have time, please stop by and look at our students' creation. To support our theme, Fr. Bob has provided our school with a St. Francis cross and prayer card for our students to take home. If your family would like to have the cross for a week, please return the form at the end of the newsletter or call the school office. Families are asked to pray the prayer for vocations and any other prayers you would like, each day.

I sincerely thank our eighth graders for sharing their leadership skills and helping the new year to begin smoothly. Eighth graders do morning and afternoon attendance envelopes, they place our safety cones out at the end of the day, serve as morning and afternoon bell ringers, and assist the kindergarten students to their cars at the end of the day. Another important job includes our morning announcements. In addition to leading our prayers in the morning, these students also provide information regarding the saints celebrating feast days that week. This week students are sharing information about St. Matthew, St. Thomas Villanova, St. Padre Pio, St. Thecla, and St. Cergius.

Thank you to our fifth graders who have volunteered to help our youngest students in the lunchroom each day. Soon our fifth and sixth graders will also begin their volunteer service for banking which will be held every other Thursday.

Thank you to our staff and students who participated in identifying our staff through their baby pictures. These pictures are on display in the showcase. First place student identified nine of the twelve staff members and second place student correctly identified eight. These two students received a McDonald certificate for their success. Mrs. Fisk was the staff person most often guessed correctly with 68% of our students recognizing her.

Congratulations to the students who will be participating in Student Council this year.

Congratulations to this year's eighth grade class officers.

This year the St. Patrick Endowment Committee is providing our school with a donation of \$4,200. This is an increase from last year. I sincerely thank this group for their yearly support of our school. Since 1979, the endowment fund has made donations totaling \$130,387.00

Thank you to all who helped with the Heritage Day activities. Students had a fun afternoon with their games and enjoyed a corn muffin treat. I also thank Mrs. Monroe and Mrs. Koziol for organizing this event, our eighth graders for assisting at the games, and the many others who helped to make this day a success. Our first graders created group projects that contain pictures and written words about our Heritage Day. They provided the following summary: For Heritage Day the whole school goes outside and we play old-fashioned games. Our first game was "What's for Dinner?" For this game we capture food which is really toy animals by using rubber bands. It is important to play safely at this game. Our second game was "Corn Holes". You throw bean bags at a board to score points. We played "Kick the Can" in teams. When your number was called you tried to kick the can outside the lines. For jump rope we had eighth graders twirl a really long rope. The more we tried, the better we got at jumping. We had lots of fun jumping in the sack race. It was a wonderful Heritage Day!

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Peace Garden blessing. I also thank those who sent in muffins for Sunday and/or Monday. The students enjoyed having muffins after their prayer service Monday morning. Please remind students to treat the Peace Garden space with respect and reverence. If you are on campus during the weekend and see other younger visitors who need to treat this area with respect, please help to educate them as well.

Thank you to all who were able to attend the St. Patrick School potluck. The food was delicious and fellowship was superb. It was nice to see many new faces at our gathering. Besides our great cooks, I also want to thank our set-up and clean-up crews.

The back to school jean day winners, second grade, will receive their jean day pass on Friday, October 16.

A parent who attended the teen and faith workshop has provided the following website for teens: www.DisciplesNow.com. This interactive website is for Catholic teens. It helps teens see and live their Catholic faith. I have been on this site and it has a wealth of information including Saint of the Day, Thought of the Day, Quick Vote, the monthly intentions of Pope Benedict and information on Catholic Doctrine.

Through our daily contacts with Mrs. Forsyth and Ms. Blair, I am receiving positive reports about our campers. This evening I will be make my yearly visit with two of our teachers to check in with our campers. Last night our group participated in the *Underground Railroad* and had a very informative lesson on the realities of slavery.

MAGAZINE DRIVE:

Thursday is our next magazine drive turn-in day. For every four magazine orders or cookie dough purchases, students will receive a jeans day pass to be used prior to Thanksgiving. Students also receive one ticket for each order they bring in. These tickets will be placed in a raffle for several prize baskets. Help is needed to count magazine orders Thursday morning. If you are able to help, please come to the school office Thursday morning when you drop your child off. Thank you to the school mom who helped count last week.

SERVICE PROJECT:

For our September service project we will be collecting three (3) postage stamps or \$1.50 to purchase stamps which will be used to send cards to veterans in November.

ENGRAVED BRICK PAVERS:

Orders for brick pavers will be placed twice a year. The last order for this year will be placed October 1. If your family would like to purchase an engraved paver to add to the Peace Garden, you may obtain an order form from Mrs. Sroka or on our school website under "School Forms". The cost is \$35.00 for a 4" x 8" brick, or \$50.00 for a 8" x 8" brick.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, September 23 (PHYS ED)

Thursday, September 24 (MUSIC)

- Magazine Turn-In for Jean Day passes

Friday, September 25 (PHYS ED)

- Campers return at 12:00 noon
- Scholastic *Click-It* software orders due

Saturday, September 26

- St. Joseph Move Night “Journey to the Center of the Earth” following the 7:00 p.m. Mass with snacks and refreshments provided.

Monday, September 28 (ART)

- Second Grade Parent Reconciliation Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29 (PHYS ED)

- Mass 8:00 a.m.
- SMCC visits grades 5-7

Wednesday, September 30 (MUSIC)

- Service Project Jean Day

FAMILY DAY SEPTEMBER 28:

National Family Day is September 28. This national movement encourages parents to frequently eat dinner with their kids and be involved in their children’s lives. For more information and participation ideas, log onto www.CASAFamilyDAY.org.

GRADE 4 UNIFORM CODE AMENDMENT:

Since the fourth grade is located in the primary building where the wearing of belts is optional, it will be optional for this grade as well. In our handbook it states that fourth grade needs to wear a belt, however, it will be a parent option.

SUNNY D LABELS NEEDED:

The Kindergarten class is collecting the UPC labels from 128 oz, 96 oz, 64 oz, 48 oz, the outer wraps for 6 and 12 pack bottles or the cardboard wrap for 12 oz cans to receive free books. For each 20 Sunny UPC label kindergarten will receive 29 free books. Once kindergarten reaches its goal they will donate books to the Kids In Need Foundation.

SCRIP:

Scrip continues to be ordered every Friday. Remember to pick up your WalMart gift card when visiting the new Super WalMart. WalMart gift cards can be used to Sam’s Club too. We are still looking for the family who needs to be linked to Marla Meyer. Please contact the office if you know who this person is. All other names have been claimed.

REQUEST FROM ST. PATRICK BOOSTERS:

Volleyball parents are asked to stop in during volleyball practice to sign-up with your daughter’s coach for a time to help at the concession stand.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in our eyes, kindness in your face, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greetings. We are all but His instruments who do our little bit and pass by. I believe that the way in which an act of kindness is done is as important as the action itself. *Mother Teresa*

Ruth Meiring
Principal