

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

September 30, 2009

Dear Parents,

Last week the sign-up form for families to have the St. Francis Cross at their home for a week, was inadvertently excluded. You will find the sign-up form at the end of today's family. Those who have the cross at their home are asked to pray the prayer for vocations each day that will come with the cross. Families may also include other intentions and prayers.

This week during morning announcements are eighth graders are sharing information about St. Lawrence Ruiz and his companions, the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, St. Jerome, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, and the Guardian Angels.

All grades except kindergarten and second will be doing standardized testing between October 5 and October 27. In preparation for IOWA and MEAP testing, during Mass yesterday Fr. Bob blessed the students and the pencils. Please pray for our students so that they are able to do their best during October testing. Students in grades 1-3-5-7 will take the IOWA basic skills and its CogAT standardized test beginning October 5. Grades 3-5-7 also take the Archdiocesan Religion Test. 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. It is important that our students have the opportunity to participate in both the IOWA and MEAP as it helps to prepare them for testing towards high school and college scholarships. Below is a chart for you to refer to regarding these tests.

	Grade 1	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
10-5/10-9				IOWA		IOWA	
10-5/10/14	IOWA	IOWA					
10-13			MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA
10-14			MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA
10-15			MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA	MEAP ELA
10-19			Make-up	Make-up	Make-up	Make-up	Make-up
10-20			MEAP Math	MEAP Math	MEAP Math	MEAP Math	MEAP Math
10-21			Make-up	Make-up	Make-up	Make-up	Make-up
10-22			MEAP Writing	MEAP Science	MEAP Soc. Studies	MEAP Writing	MEAP Science
10-26			Make-up	Make-up	Make-up	Make-up	Make-up

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. I encourage all of you to remember these students in your prayers so that they are able to do their best.

Motivational speaker, Bruce Goguski uses the *D.R.I.V.E.R* system to help remember six crucial elements that enable peak performance for test taking as well as enhancing performance in other areas like sports, business and personal well being. **Diet:** high protein and complex carbs, stay away from soda pop and food loaded with sugar. **Relax:** Breath deep, yawn, exercise. **Individuality:** Discover your individual learning style and use it to be successful. **Visualizing confidence:** Develop a powerful belief system about learning. Visualize being a peak performer and turn it into reality. **Energy and brain states:** Humans are capable of creating specific energy states that allow for peak performance. Activate your "brain switches" for a peak performance. **Remember:** Use good memory techniques and get a good night's rest.

EMERGENCY PHONE CHAIN:

Today you are receiving a 2009-2010 Emergency Phone Chain. Because you may not be calling the same family you did last year, please keep this current phone chain handy in the case of an unexpected closure. Families are asked to call the family to the **right** of their name. If your name is at the end of a row, you do not need to make a call. If you have any questions or need further explanation, please call the school office.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Thursday, October 1 (PHYS ED)

- Last magazine and cookie dough turn in. Help is needed at 7:45 a.m. to count orders and money.
- PTO Meeting 7:45 a.m. in lunchroom

Friday, October 2 (ART)

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

Saturday, October 3

- Protecting God's Children, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Monday, October 5 (PHYS ED)

- IOWA Testing, grades 1-3-5-7
- School Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6 (MUSIC)

- No 8:00 a.m. Mass
- IOWA Testing, grades 1-3-5-7
- Grade 8 visits SMCC

Wednesday, October 7 (PHYS ED)

MAGAZINE DRIVE:

Tomorrow is our final magazine/cookie dough turn-in day. For every two magazine or cookie dough purchases, students will receive a chance for the *Last Chance Pizza Drawing*. Students also receive one ticket for each order they bring in to put in one of five buckets for the great prize baskets. The five baskets are on display in the display case outside the school office. 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 Kelly Vandenbrink and Laura Mackenzie who helped count last week. Thus far we have 250 orders turned in toward our goal of 650. Congratulations to our kindergarteners who are leading the way with orders turned in. Thank you to those who have supported this fundraiser.

PTO:

The first PTO planning session of the PTO board and other interested parents will be tomorrow, October 1 at 7:45 a.m. in the lunchroom. Please plan to attend and share your ideas with our PTO board members. The focus of this group is to enrich the educational, spiritual, and community spirit of St. Patrick School by providing additional activities for our students and staff. I thank our board members who are graciously sharing their leadership skills.

PTO HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL WORKER BEE:

Our worker bee will be on Thursday, October 15 at 7:45 a.m. Donations for the Halloween goodie bags are now being accepted. Next week you will be receiving information as to the number of students in each grade to help with your shopping. Thank you to all who support this event through donations, volunteering time, and baking for the cake walk. This is a favorite activity for our students each year.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

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

WELLNESS PROGRAM:

A wellness team at our school that included staff, parents, health professionals, and school committee members established the following guidelines last year:

- Unhealthy foods or beverages will not be used in the classroom as rewards for academic performance and good behavior.
- Parents are encouraged to send healthy snacks and water bottles with their children.
- Classrooms are encouraged to have birthday treats on a specific day each month. However, individual birthdays can be celebrated on the birth date if plans are made beforehand with the teacher. Always consult with the teacher before sending in treats since a student in that class may have food allergies.
 - Each treat should be brought in individual containers (possibly a zip lock bag) with enough items for each student in the classroom. (This cuts down on lost instructional time, eliminates the need for teachers to locate knives for cutting cake, etc. as well as any student being left out.)
 - Only one food that does not meet the healthy standards (cupcakes, cookies, candy, etc) should be given out. The other snacks should be a healthy snack item. Ex: cupcake, juice box, and fruit for three persons celebrating birthdays in the same month.

- On a student's actual birthday, the student may choose to donate a book for the classroom or school library. His/her name will be placed on a donation label in the front of the book. A picture will be taken with the student and book. The picture will be displayed on the birthday board for the remainder of the year. Students donating books will also be listed in the kudos section of the newsletter. This is optional.
- Parents are encouraged not to send pop to school for students as this is listed on the *unhealthy food list*.
- A list of healthy food items will be distributed to parents each year in the fall.
- Halloween treats will be sent home and distributed at the parent's discretion.
- Teachers and other staff members are to serve as positive role models for the wellness policy.
- Teachers will encourage movement during the school day.

Teachers may use physical activity during the day as a share

WEATHER:

As the colder weather approaches, please make sure your child is dressed for the outside weather at recess. On gym days it is helpful if students wear their gym shorts under their sweat shorts in case they become overheated.

STUDENT PICTURES AND SCHOOL ID CARDS:

School pictures were sent home today with your child. Also included in the picture envelope is your child's school ID. Students in grades 7 and 8 will need this ID for admittance to Monroe Vicariate dances that are held throughout the year. If you wish to have your child's picture retaken, please return the entire package to the school office. You will be notified once a retake date has been schedule.

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.

SCRIP:

During our scrip period of May 08 – October 08, school families earned \$1,603. From May 09 through September 25, 2009, school families earned tuition credits of \$1,492. We are setting our fall goal at \$2,000 in tuition credits. As you can see, we are not far off. The current scrip period ends October 30, 2009, so please remember to shop through our scrip program. You may also use the Visa Scrip card for those retailers who do not participate in the scrip program. You earn 1% of the discounted amount in tuition credit.

Suggestions to keep in mind include:

- Ask your family members or friends who shop at Kroger's to link their Kroger Plus card to St. Patrick School. Our school number is #83292. Feel free to request instructions on how to link their card online.
- Remember to et your Busch's rechargeable card and use it for all those shopping trips...big or small.
- You may pay your Kohl's charge with Kohl's scrip.
- Use your \$25 or \$100 WalMart scrip cards at our new Super WalMart. These cares may also be used at Sam's Club stores.
- If you shop at Meijer's you can earn a higher percentage by using the new VISA gift card. Purchase a VISA \$25, \$50, or \$100 card through the scrip program. At Meijer's, purchase a \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift card (this avoids having to keep track of your balance). Use the gift card at check out. The remaining card balance is on your receipt. By doing this you will earn 2% from the VISA card rather than 1% from Meijer where you have to use their credit card, or .5% when you use your debit card or cash.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION:

Our 11th Annual Benefit Auction will be held Friday, December 4, 2009. Enclosed you will find a letter from our Auction Chairperson regarding our upcoming auction. The success of our auction depends on each person supporting this event. It is important that we increase our revenue to help compensate for the lack of a tuition increase this year. If you are able to help and have not selected an area, please contact Erika Alessandrini and she will help place you in an area of need that matches your talents.

GIRL SCOUTS:

If there are any girls interested in joining Girl Scouts this year, please contact Carol Frazer at 587-3642.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up. *Jesse Jackson*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISSI CROSS

Request for Cross

_____ My family would like to have the St. Francis of Assissi cross sent home for a week.

Family Name: _____