

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER
www.stpatsmi.com

September 8, 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. Our school community celebrates 161 years since Father Smulders brought our first two teachers, Mr. John Sheehan and Miss McKenny, to our community which was known as the Stony Creek Settlement in 1848. We also celebrate 141 years since the arrival of the IHM sisters to our parish. The IHMs provided educational and spiritual leadership to St. Patrick School from 1868 when Sister M. Ignatis, Sr. M. Clara, and Sr. M. Zita arrived, until 1994 when our kindergarten teacher, Sr. Marge Fogarty IHM, completed her teaching assignment.

The creation of a Peace Garden is a wonderful tribute to above individuals as well as the many others who have sacrificed and prayed for the success of our school community which began so many years ago. Our Peace Garden remains a work in progress. It is our hope that it will be completed some time in September at which time it will be blessed. There has been many inquiries about the engraved bricks. If your family would like to purchase one, please contact the school office for an order form. We are also taking monetary donations for shrubs, etc. for the garden. I sincerely thank my brother, Tom Meiring, for organizing and implementing the construction of the Peace Garden. I also thank the many others who have been actively involved in this project through the various phases of construction.

This year our theme is CROSS...Continuously Reaching Out Spiritually and Scholastically. Thank you to the School family who submitted this suggestion last May. Pope Benedict has also declared this year as the "Year of the Priests". Our school community will do a variety of activities to remember those in the discernment process, as well as those who have made a commitment to serve the Catholic faith as priests, deacons, brothers, and other religious. Today at Mass students received a cross keychain to put on their book bags as a reminder to "continuously reach our spiritually and scholastically" this year.

Each month our school will focus on a positive character trait. For the month of September, we encourage students to show respect, as well as the support of values of acceptance and kindness. Respect can be achieved by treating everyone, including yourself, with dignity.

We are happy to announce that all of our teachers will be returning for the upcoming school year. This year our special subject teachers will be Ms. Brown (art), Ms. Birkey (phys ed), and Mr. Vandergriff (music). Airport has initiated a four day rotating schedule for special subjects. All students will be having the same special subject on the same day. Because special subjects are on a four-day rotation, there will no longer be a "specific" day for a particular special. The monthly calendar will show what special class will be held on each particular day. While somewhat confusing, it is hoped that we can adapt to these changes with minimal effort. This rotating schedule will allow all students to receive a special subject each day. Wednesday, September 9 and 11 will be physical education days. Thursday, September 10 will be art day. Please refer to the monthly calendar to determine the classes that will be held the remainder of September.

Thank you to all who have worked to prepare our school for the upcoming school year. All students will be using a new Religion textbook for the upcoming year. The *Faith First – Legacy Edition* includes parent and student resources online. You may reach the website at www.faithfirst.com. This religion series complies with the curriculum standards of the Archdiocese of Detroit. It also has been approved by the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference and correlates with the catechism of the Catholic Church and Catholic social teachings. A scope and sequence may be found for your review outside the school office. I sincerely thank our teachers, School Committee, and other parents for their input in helping to review Religion textbooks.

Many improvements have been made on the parish campus this summer. Two new heatilators have been purchased and installed in grades 7/8 homerooms. This will address heating issues that were experienced last year in the upper elementary building. In third grade, the ceiling has been reinforced with new ceiling tile added. The two kitchens and back storage room in the gym have a new washable ceiling. The gym floor has received a major overhaul with rotten boards replaced and new paint and varnish applied. The convent has been demolished to address any issues of black mold on our school campus. In the upcoming months the church roof will be replaced as well.

Today, September 8 at 1:00 p.m. the president will speak to our nation's school children about persisting and succeeding in school. This is the first time an American president has spoken directly to the nation's youth. I encourage you to use this historic moment and join with your children to watch this event and focus on beginning a strong school year. It will be broadcast live on the Whitehouse website www.whitehouse.gov at 1:00 p.m.

Please remember tonight, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the gym, parents have an opportunity to receive a wealth of information about school and classroom procedures, as well as other pertinent information. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, visit his or her classroom, and learn more about the success of our school curriculum. Classes with 100 percent parent attendance, or the class with the highest percent of parents in attendance, will receive a jean day pass. Please be sure to sign in so your child's classroom will receive credit. A representative from the Boy Scouts will also have a booth to provide information. All art projects that were displayed at the Monroe County Fair will be shown and may be taken home that night by the parents.

Thank you to our parents and staff who assisted at the festival this year. I also thank all those who attended our worker bee on Monday, August 24 and to the PTO for providing a *Back-to-School* lunch for the staff. In addition I recognize our staff for their many hours of preparation in the classroom, as well as the time spent in professional development

Remember that the prayer board outside the school office is available for your prayer requests. Please notify the school office if you know someone who should receive a card for an accomplishment, recent illness, encouragement, etc.

CAMP STORER:

Fifth and sixth grade students will attend Camp Storer September 21 – 25. All forms and payment need to be turned in this week.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Tuesday, September 8

- ***Back to School Night*** - 6:00 p.m. in the gym. Classes with 100% or the class with the highest percent of parents in attendance will receive a jean day pass.

Wednesday, September 9 (PHYS ED DAY)

- **Hot Lunch Begins** – See more information below.
- **Latchkey Begins** – See more information below.
- **Magazine Drive Assembly**, 2 p.m. Please return the form below if you are able to help count orders and money. Postcard books should be returned tomorrow for special prize.

Thursday, September 10 (ART DAY)

- **Picture Day** for PreK-8. This is a dress-up day for all. Be sure to send in your picture order form on Wednesday or Thursday with payment made to *Lifetouch*.
- **Preschool Open House** 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
- **Magazine Postcard Books due**
- **Hearing & Vision** – in the afternoon

Friday, September 11 (PHYS ED DAY)

- **Grade 7/8 Monroe Vicariate Dance at St. Pat's** from 7 – 10 p.m. The cost is \$6.00 (pizza and pop available for purchase). Parent chaperones are needed...please contact Mrs. Grinn or Mrs. Zochowski if you are available. Students must sign and return the *Code of Conduct* prior to attending the dance.
- **Hearing & Vision** – in the morning

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, September 15

- **Mass** 8:00 a.m.
- **Preschool Begins:** Four-Year-Olds 7:50 – 10:50 a.m.; Three-Year-Olds 12:45 – 2:45 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- **Heritage Day:** 12:45 – 2:15 p.m. Our theme will center around corn. Donations of corn muffins are needed. Return the form below if you are able to assist with activities.

Friday, September 18

- **Family Potluck** 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the gym. All families are invited to attend and are asked to bring a dish to pass. Hotdogs will be provided by the staff and the PTO will supply beverages, plates, cups, and silverware. Help is needed to cook hotdogs, set-up and clean-up. Please complete the form below if you are able to come.

FORMS DUE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:

- Picture Day Order Form
- Camp Storer Student and Cabin Leader Forms
- Latchkey Registration Forms
- Vision Forms (grades 1-3-5)

FORMS DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 (K-8):

- Emergency Medical Treatment Release Form
- Authorization for Student Pick-up Form (in case of Fermi emergency)
- St. Patrick School Handbook Acknowledgement Form
- School Directory Authorization Form
- Pesticide Notification Form (only if you need prior notification regarding application of pesticides)
- Technology Use Policy Form
- Student Transportation Form (for those riding an Airport bus). If your child rides the bus to daycare after school, please contact Mrs. Sroka for a Daycare Transportation Information form.
- Yellow Festival Work Form (if you have not already turned one in)
- Criminal Background Check Form (for those who have not yet completed one)
- Free and Reduced Lunch Application (if applicable)
- Gym Uniform and Embroidered Wear Order Forms (for those who wish to place an order)

RECESS AND LATCHKEY HELP:

There are paid recess and latchkey positions available. Please contact the school office for more details.

HOT LUNCH:

Hot lunch begins on Wednesday, September 9. We welcome back Mary Wickenheiser who will again be serving lunch to our students. There is a new administrator for the Airport Sodexo program, Glen Newa. A hot lunch menu for the month is enclosed. The cost remains \$1.75 per lunch, which includes milk. Students who bring a lunch may purchase milk for forty cents per carton. Sodexo asks that payment be made in advance for the month. Check should be made payable to *Airport Community Schools*.

LATCHKEY:

Our after school activity club (latchkey) will begin Wednesday, September 9. We welcome back the ladies who will serve as latchkey supervisors. Families who used this service in the past are receiving registration papers in today's family envelope. Please complete the forms and return by Wednesday, September 8 if you plan to utilize the program this year. To comply with Archdiocese and State regulations, those using the latchkey program will need to complete the registration process each year, including a registration fee for those who are using this program. If you have not used this service in the past and are interested in it this year, please contact Mrs. Sroka or stop by the school office for a packet.

AIRPORT BUS RIDERS:

If your child rides an Airport bus, please return the enclosed Student Transportation Information form. If your child rides the bus to another location other than your home, you will need to complete a Daycare Transportation Form which can be picked up in the school office. If you have any questions as to what bus your child will be riding, please call the Airport Transportation Office at 654.3433.

MAGAZINE DRIVE:

This year students are selling magazines and cookie dough. All orders need to be prepaid. Customers may also order online using the St. Patrick School code. Additional information will be sent home.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE:

All students attending St. Patrick School receive student accident insurance benefits while at school or school related activities. This is an excess policy which provides medical assistance with deductibles and co-pays within the parents health system. Student Assurance Services also provides parents an option to purchase 24-hour coverage. If you wish to purchase additional coverage beyond what Michigan Catholic Conference provides, you may obtain an enrollment form on their website at www.sas-mn.com. Click on “K12Students/Parents” then look up St. Patrick School and chose “Michigan” where Michigan Catholic Conference will appear. The menus then allow you to choose the information you desire.

MEDICATION:

Under the Archdiocese of Detroit School Policies and Guidelines, if prescription or non-prescription medication must be taken during school hours, a signed permission release form must be on file in the school office. **The form needs to be signed by a physician** and include the drug name, dose, time to be administered, etc. This includes cough drops and Tylenol. Please contact the school office if you need a form. Parents may come to the school to personally administer medicine to their child without having this form on file.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN:

The Archdiocese of Detroit requires that all school volunteers attend a three hour training session on the topic of *Protecting God’s Children*. The next session offered in Monroe County will be Wednesday, September 16 from 6 – 9 pm. A light dinner will be provided. You may register online at www.virtus.org and click on “registration.” Please provide the office with a copy of your certificate once you receive it. To view additional dates and location, visit www.virtus.org and click on “registration”. If you have any questions or need assistance registering, please call the school office.

WILL OUR TEENS HAVE FAITH?

Presented Monday, September 21 at St. Charles Gym from 7 – 8:30 p.m. This presentation will explore the findings of the *National Study of Youth and Religion* concerning the religious and spiritual lives of today’s youth. This talk will examine the crucial role of parents and family. All those concerned with the faith life of today’s adolescence “parents, parish staff, commissions, and councils” should attend.

CAPRI SUN POUCHES RECYCLING:

This year our school community will be collecting empty pouches from Capri Sun. Straws are to be taken out of the pouches before they are placed in the recycling bin in the lunchroom. We receive 2 cents for each returned pouch. Thank you to Carrie Beaudrie for sharing this opportunity with us, and to the Johns family for providing the recycling bin.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Respect is the restraining side of morality; it keeps us from hurting what we ought to value. *Thomas Kickona*

Ruth Meiring
Principal

MAGAZINE DRIVE

- _____ I am able to help count money on Thursday, September 17.
- _____ I am able to help count money on Thursday, September 24.
- _____ I am able to help count orders and money on Thursday, October 1.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

**Heritage Day
Tuesday, September 15**

- _____ I am able to provide 1 – 2 dozen corn muffin for Heritage Day
- _____ I am able to help with activities from 12:45 – 2:-15 p.m.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL POTLUCK
Friday, September 18**

Family Name: _____

Number of adults attending _____ Number of Children Attending _____

Our family is **unable** to attend _____

_____ I am willing to cook hotdogs.

_____ I am willing to set up the food table.

_____ I am willing to help clean-up.

_____ I am willing to organize games.