



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

APRIL 1, 2010

Volunteers Needed

SCCS parents are needed to staff the Knights of Columbus Benefit Breakfast on April 18

Help is needed to set up, clean up, and to bus tables during the breakfast. Shifts still needed are from 7 – 9:30 am (set up and bus tables) and 11:30 – 1:30 (bus tables and clean up). Contact dpolley@stccs.com if you can help.

SCRIP Sales

The SCRIP program is in need of volunteers to sell SCRIP after weekend masses during April and May. If you have a credit background check (or are willing to have a check done) and would like to help the school by being trained to sell, please contact Jeanne Crea at 651 275-0100 or jcrea@comcast.net

From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

IT'S TESTING TIME!

SCCS students in grades 3, 5, and 7 will take the MCA-II reading and math tests between April 19th and 22nd. "The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-II) are the state tests in reading and mathematics that meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. These tests are given annually to measure student performance on the Minnesota Academic Standards, which define what Minnesota students should know and do in a particular grade. The Reading and Mathematics MCA-IIs began in 2006" (*From the Minnesota Department of Education*).

Students have been preparing for these tests all year long at school as they follow their regular curriculum, but parents can help prepare them too. You can find some sample test items and answers from the St. Paul Pioneer Press for students in grades 3 – 8 on our school web site, www.stcroixcatholic.com. Look under your child's grade, then Important Forms (on the right hand bar).

For more Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments sample test items, go to the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-II) Item Samplers from the Minnesota Department of Education: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Accountability_Programs/Assessment_and_Testing/Assessments/MCA/Samplers/index.html

Even though your child might not be in a grade that takes the MCA this year, there are samples for all grades 3 – 8.

Testing Tips for Parents - MCA-II Test Preparation Suggestions

General Preparation

- Provide your child with a study area and encourage her to practice good study habits.
- Set aside time every day for homework.
- Be sure your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast before testing.

Reading Tests (Grades 3, 5, 7)

- Read to your child and encourage him to read to you.
- Have your child try crossword puzzles and news quizzes in the local newspaper.
- Encourage your child to read the daily newspaper and general interest magazines.
- Discuss the events and stories you read about in the newspaper.

Math Tests (Grades 3, 5, 7)

- Encourage your child to use mathematics every day - practice by creating a grocery budget, explaining charts and graphs from newspaper and magazine articles, dividing food portions, using rulers to measure objects, measuring a recipe, or adding prices on a shopping trip.



THANK YOU

**YOUTH
ADVANTAGE
Equipment
Drop-Off**

We had a great response to the YOUTH ADVANTAGE Used Equipment Drive this week. If you have any other items – sports related or musical instruments to donate we would be happy to take them in the school office.

The community will really benefit from your support of this new program.



- Play games that involve numbers or computation.
- Encourage children to connect what they are learning in math class to their hobbies, other classes, and everyday life.

Adapted from Test Preparation Suggestions for Teachers and Parents (Minnesota Department of Education)

Grandparents and Special Friends Day



Grandparents and Special Friends Day is coming up on Friday, April 23. SCCS students are inviting their Grandparents and/or Special Friends to join them for the afternoon. We will begin the day at 11:30 am and will conclude with an All School Mass beginning at 1:45 pm. Grandparents and/or Special Friends are invited to visit their special students. Some of the activities include Bingo, our Spring Art Show, touring classrooms with students, lunch, and Mass. New this year will be a Photo Booth in the gym for taking pictures to remember this special day.

Two invitations for the day were sent home with the Youngest Child in your family last week. Note that the invitation has a section to return to the school. Help us to plan for our guests by returning an RSVP by Tuesday, April 13. Additional invitations are available in the office or can be printed from the web site under SCCS Parents > FYI *or* > Important Forms.

The Garden Beckons from Mrs. Thomas *Life Began in a Garden*

We are now past the vernal equinox, and the earth awakens revealing the green of new life as it springs from the soils of the school garden. It is now up to the stewards - the gardeners - to prune and till, plant and weed. This is a summons to those of you who can spare a few hours of your time to dig out those weeds, prune those bushes, rake up last years litter, and spruce up the school garden for another summer's blessing.

Mrs. Thomas will be taking the 5th graders out on some weekday afternoons after school, however much of the harder labor – hauling and laying mulch, rock path work, and pruning needs to be done by adults.

If you are able and wish to donate some of your time, please contact Mrs. Thomas at 439-5581 ext. 335. The first cleaning is tentatively set for Saturday, April 24. More current information will be given as the time draws nearer. Please help out if you can. If you are logging Parent Participation Hours for this year (through April 30) or next year (beginning May 1), this activity qualifies. Last year we had a wonderful crew that made the work go much faster. Also consider being a summer caretaker, as the Mohr family did the latter part of last summer. The garden thanks you.





Stepping Into Spring

**SCCS
17th Annual Style
Show and
Luncheon**

**Saturday, April 17
11:00 am– 1:30 pm**

**\$15 Adults
\$10 Children
And/or \$100 for a
table of 10**

**All proceeds go
directly to St.
Croix Catholic
School**

**sponsored by the
Catholic Aid
Association**

Menu:

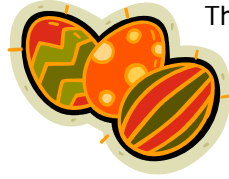
**Sausage Minestrone
Soup**

**Cranberry Chicken
on Croissants and
Cole Slaw**

**Chocolate Molten
Cakes with
Raspberry Sauce
and Ice Cream**

Invitations went home last week. If you need more info, please call the school office.

11th Annual Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt



The Eleventh Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Solanus Casey Council #1632 Knights of Columbus will be held on Saturday, April 3rd, 2010 at Washington Square Park in Stillwater located just north of Lakeview Hospital. Additional parking is available in Lily Lake Park.

The egg hunt will begin promptly at 3:00 pm. The Easter Bunny is scheduled to appear for photos from 2:00 to 3:00 and again immediately following the Egg Hunt - so bring your cameras. This event is open to the public for kids of all ages.

We are accepting donations for this event, if you would like to donate, please call the KC Hall at 651-430-3274 or Dan Eder at 651-491-4044 for more information or send an e-mail to dan.eder@stillwaterkchall.com

You can also visit our website at www.stillwaterkchall.com for event info.

Knights of Columbus Solanus Casey Council 1632 and St. Croix Catholic School

Invite you to

A Spring Grand Breakfast Buffet

on

Sunday, April 18

8:00 am—1:00 pm

Knights of Columbus Hall
1910 South Greeley Street
Stillwater

to help fund the SCCS Religion curriculum

French Toast

Cheezy Hashbrowns

Scrambled Eggs with assorted toppings

Sausage

Coffee, Milk, Juice

Adults are \$7.50 Children (12 and under) are \$4.00

Everyone welcome!

If you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation, checks can be made payable to the Knights of Columbus and mailed to the above address by April 18th. Any questions call 651-430-3274.

Volunteers are still needed for the two shifts: 7 – 9:30 am (set up and bus tables) and 11:30 – 1:30 (bus tables and clean up). Contact dpolley@stccs.com if you can help.

Save The Date
by Jean Batterton

Mark your calendars
for the
**12th Annual SCCS
Golf Tournament**

**Saturday,
August 21, 2010**
Applewold Hills
Golf Course

Spring is finally
here and along with
it the anticipation
for summer and the
fun-filled Annual
SCCS Golf
Tournament.

Planning is just
getting underway
and we are looking
for people who are
interested in joining
the team to plan
the event.

We are also looking
for any donation of
time, talent or
items your family or
business may have
for golf prizes or for
the silent auction.
All proceeds from
this event benefit
the SCCS
Endowment Fund.

Registration and
more information
coming SOON! If
you are interested
in volunteering for
this event or have
any questions
regarding donations
please contact Jean
Batterton at 351-
9056 or
[jean.batterton@co
mcast.net](mailto:jean.batterton@co.mcast.net)

Second Annual Writing Extravaganza by Mrs. McCarron

On March 25, the school held the spring portion of the 2nd Annual Writing Extravaganza. That day all of the students at SCCS wrote to the same prompt: Write about the first time you met a good friend (person or pet). There was also a school-wide writing day in the fall.

These two writing days are a part of an ongoing assessment project that gives SCCS teachers the opportunity to see individual writing development from fall to spring. It also helps the teachers see if the students have grasped certain writing concepts taught during the year.

The students have fun with the writing assignment, which is ungraded and has no teacher intervention. They are given time to work on a first draft and then a final draft, so they can turn in their very best work.

When the Writing Extravaganza started in the fall of 2008 at SCCS, literacy files were set up for each student. After the fall and spring writing days, the teacher puts these writing pieces in the student's file, which will be available to his or her future teachers.

Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

Keeping Holy Week Holy helps us to have a happy and joyful Easter.

Holy Thursday is the day that Christ celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples, four days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Only hours after the Last Supper, Judas would betray Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, setting the stage for Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday.

This feast, however, is more than just the lead-in to Good Friday; it is, in fact, the oldest of the celebrations of Holy Week. And with good reason: Holy Thursday is the day that Catholics commemorate the institution of the Eucharist, the priesthood and celebrated the first Mass. During the Last Supper, Christ blessed the bread and wine with the very words that Catholic priests use today to consecrate the Body and Blood of Christ during the Mass and the Divine Liturgy. In telling His disciples to "Do this in remembrance of Me," He instituted the Mass and made them the first priests.

Holy Thursday readings <http://www.usccb.org/nab/040110b.shtml>

Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, commemorates the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. No Mass is celebrated on Good Friday; instead, the Church celebrates a special liturgy in which the account of the Passion according to the Gospel of John is read, a series of intercessory prayers (prayers for special intentions) are offered, and the faithful venerate the Cross by coming forward and kissing it. The liturgy concludes with the distribution of Holy Communion. Since there was no Mass, Hosts that were reserved from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday are distributed instead.

Good Friday is a day of strict fasting and abstinence. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Good Friday.

Good Friday readings <http://www.usccb.org/nab/040210.shtml>

Congrats to an SCCS Grad

Emily Schirvar, a 2007 SCCS graduate and a current student at Stillwater Area High School won first place in the MHSPA (Minnesota High School Press Association) Annual Arts Review writing contest. Her review was on the Guthrie Theater's performance of "Macbeth".

Emily is the Managing Editor of the SAHS newspaper, *The Pony Express*.

You can read her winning article by going to:
<http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/onstage/87156662.html?elr=KArksUUoDEy3LGDI07aiU>

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and is a 9 day prayer that ends on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11.

Divine Mercy Novena http://catholicism.about.com/od/divinemercury/p/Novena_DM.htm

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated at St. Michael's on April 11 at 1:30 pm. For more information please visit <http://www.stillwatercatholics.org/> and click on Divine Mercy Sunday.

On Holy Saturday, Christ's Body lies in the tomb, the Sacrifice offered up once for all. The Old Covenant, St. Paul tells us in this reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, has passed away, replaced by the New Covenant in Christ. Just as the Israelites whom the Lord led out of Egypt were denied entrance into the Promised Land because of their lack of faith, we, too, can fall and deprive ourselves of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass is one of the most beautiful Masses of the year to attend. Holy Saturday readings <http://www.usccb.org/nab/040310.shtml>

Easter is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Catholics, Easter Sunday comes at the end of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving known as Lent. Through spiritual struggle and self-denial, we have prepared ourselves to die spiritually with Christ on Good Friday, the day of his Crucifixion, so that we can rise again with him in new life on Easter.

Easter is a day of celebration because it represents the fulfillment of our faith as Christians. St. Paul wrote that, unless Christ rose from the dead, our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:17). Through his death, Christ saved mankind from bondage to sin, and he destroyed the hold that death has on all of us; but it is his resurrection that gives us the promise of new life, both in this world and the next. Easter readings can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/nab/040410.shtml>

All of this is done by our Lord for forgiveness of our sins, and for life everlasting with Him. God so loved us, that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us, so that our sins may be forgiven.

For Mass times for Holy week, go to <http://www.stillwatercatholics.org/> and click on Tri-Parish Lenten/Easter Schedule.

SCCS Graduates Achieve SuCCesS by Qualifying for the National Junior Honor Society

On Monday, March 29, several SCCS 2009 graduates were inducted into the Stillwater National Junior Honor Society. To qualify, these 9th grade students must have maintained a 3.75 GPA or above throughout 7th, 8th, and 9th grade. **An amazing 42% of 2009 graduates who moved on to Stillwater Junior High 9th grade (10 of 24 students) made this exclusive group!** Congratulations to the following graduates:

Madeline Brandon
Micaela Chesnut
Maggie Craig
Ryan Henschell
Mary Hooley

Emily Kiolbasa
Megan Mezera
Lauren Olsen
Chad Schlosser
Anna Wessel

The more we learn about SCCS graduates, the more we realize how well SCCS prepares its students. If you are aware of how our graduates are doing at other high schools or into college, please send information to Diane Polley dpolley@stccs.com. It's hard for us to track all the high schools, but we sure want to hear and share the

Good News! It's very apparent that a quality faith-based education equips these young people with the maturity, confidence, and academic edge they need to consistently land at the top of the class. Congratulations to all!

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Some other former students of SCCS were also recognized at the Stillwater National Junior Honor Society ceremony: Samantha Brown (9th grade), Katie Markert and Katie Koenning (8th grade), and Emily Corbid and Natalie Jantschek (7th grade). Our congratulations to these students as well.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday – NO SCHOOL

Monday, April 3 – Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, April 6 – Friday, April 9 – NO SCHOOL for K - 8

SCCS Teachers will be attending the NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) Conference in Minneapolis

Ark of Angels Preschool IS IN SESSION

Monday, April 12 – School Resumes

Tuesday, April 13

6:30 pm Home and School Meeting – ALL parents are invited. Come learn more about Home and School.

Wednesday, April 14

9:15 am Mass

Thursday, April 15

No AM Buses – Parents Drive

Saturday, April 17

11:00 am – 1:30 pm **Stepping into Spring !** Style Show and Luncheon

8:00 am – 5:30 pm Boy Scout Paper Drive – St. Michael's Parking Lot

Sunday, April 18

8:00 am – 1:00 pm Knights of Columbus Spring Breakfast to benefit St. Croix Catholic School

8:00 am – 2:30 pm Boy Scout Paper Drive – St. Michael's Parking Lot

Tuesday, April 20

4:00 – 7:00 pm Dairy Queen SCCS Family Night

Friday, April 23

11:30 am Grandparents and Special Friends Day begins!

1:45 pm Grandparents Day Mass

