



# FYI *For Your Information*

## St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

[www.stcroixcatholic.com](http://www.stcroixcatholic.com)

APRIL 15, 2010

### Transportation Registration for Next Year

All families wanting bus transportation for your SCCS students for NEXT YEAR are required to complete a **Transportation Registration Form**.

The form is due to the Transportation Office at Central Services by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Who is eligible?  
K – 6 students who reside more than 1 mile from school or grade 7 & 8 students who reside more than 2 miles from school.

The Registration Form can also be found on the SCCS web site under *SCCS Parents* and also on the Stillwater Schools web site:

[http://stillwater.k12.mn.us/Transportation\\_Enrollment\\_and\\_Decline\\_Forms.html](http://stillwater.k12.mn.us/Transportation_Enrollment_and_Decline_Forms.html)

Also, see page 5 for info about the SCCS Transportation Survey.

### From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

Last week all SCCS teachers and I attended the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA 2010) at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis. This three day event provided the opportunity for all of us to connect with religious educators from around the country, strengthening one another in our call to educate in a faith-based environment. This convention included the best of NCEA-inspiring liturgies, professional development opportunities, 200 exhibiting companies and networking among 8,000 colleagues and friends. We even were able to visit with Bishop John LeVoi! The Tuesday keynote speaker was Fr. James Martin, author of "My Life with Saints" and the "Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything".

On Tuesday evening I attended, as the North Central Region Awardee, the Awards Celebration along with teachers, principals, pastors and home and school associations from around the country who were honored for their work in Catholic education. It was a wonderful event and an evening I will always remember.

There was information in the Catholic Spirit the week of April 1st and more information can be found at [www.ncea.org](http://www.ncea.org).

The following teachers share their insights about what they found valuable at the convention:

- Ann Thompson-McCarron: *I went to a wonderful session called "Fine Arts in the School and Classroom." The main speaker was a priest from an outlying parish of Chicago. They incorporate the fine arts in many areas of their curriculum and see the value of students presenting their fine arts skills in a variety of formats. I was also able to get additional resources for play scripts from that session.*
- Sarah Hoppe: *I listened to David Walsh share why it is so important that children hear the word "no". It is amazing how one little word can teach them so much. He also stressed the importance of hard work and the need for kids to struggle. Our job as adults is not to make things too easy for our children.*
- Gwen Buck: *I went to a very good session called "Say Yes to No" given by Dr. David Walsh. He has written a book about saying "NO" to our children: when to say it, why to say it and how to say it. He had many wonderful insights on raising responsible, well-adjusted children. Much of his message was geared toward parenting, but it definitely carried over to the teachers.*
- Athena Novack: *I attended "Charting the Next Steps: Tier 2 in Catholic Schools". This session provided some background information for the Response to Intervention model that we are beginning to use at SCCS. Response to Intervention (RTI) works to improve education for all students and is based on research and is data driven. a few resources which were provided were <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resources.html> and <http://www.rtinetwork.org>*



## Stepping Into Spring

SCCS  
17<sup>th</sup> 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

Please call the  
office to RSVP if  
you have not  
done so already.

- Becka Kaup: *Jodee Blanco's presentation on her anti-bullying program was extraordinary. Through sharing her horrifying story of how her classmates tormented her throughout her entire school experience, she is raising awareness of bullying in schools across the country and more importantly, promoting methods to combat bullying. She is the author of bestseller, "PLEASE STOP LAUGHING AT ME and PLEASE STOP LAUGHING AT US". Bullying is real and present. It is not just "kids being kids" and it is crucial that we are all educated in the best methods of promoting self esteem and success for every student. Additional info is on her website at [www.jodeeblanco.com](http://www.jodeeblanco.com).*
- Karen McDermott: *The session that I found most informative was "How to Help a Bullied Child and the Bully." This was presented by Jodee Blanco, a NY Times best selling author, who experienced being bullied as she was growing up. Seeing it through her eyes gave me a totally different perspective about how to deal with a child who is being bullied and also how to help the one doing the bullying, who often bullies because of their own problems. Bullying is not just the mean things that you do, but also the kind things you never do. Bullying is not just a school issue, but often a community issue.*
- Katherine Bates: *After attending a session entitled "Strategies to Create Well-Developed Lessons for All Kinds of Students", I received several suggestions for developing and presenting well-organized lessons. The presenter shared a lesson plan using the book Too Many Tamales - I can hardly wait to share his ideas with my students!*
- Toni Lehman: *I attended a really interesting session called "ADHD and Executive Functions: A Developmental Perspective" by Holly West Jones who counsels and coaches students diagnosed with ADHD. She explained that current research finds that there is a delay in the brain's development, affecting learning and life. She discussed strategies that would be helpful in the classroom.*
- Ann Daniels: *Putting the Pieces together for Higher Mathematical Achievement" taught us how to use current research, differentiated instruction and brain based learning to increase student achievement and the application and extension of math concepts. We received excellent practical activities that are easily incorporated into our Math program.*

## 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.

**If you still need an invitation for a grandparent or a special friend, it can be found on the web site under SCCS Parents > FYI.** Note that the invitation has a section to return to the school. Help us to plan for our guests by returning an RSVP as soon as possible.

Please note that regular classes will be held until 11:30 am. Grandparents arriving before 11:30 are invited to have coffee and visit in the library until students are ready to visit.



Families and friends of 5th graders  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
for:

**Rock & Roll  
Forever  
Friday, May 21st  
at 2:00 in  
St. Michael's  
Social Hall**

As a culmination to our study of the history of Rock & Roll, the 5th graders would like to share a "work in progress" including songs and information from our study. Please join us for Rock & Roll Forever and celebrate our learning!

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>. Any questions call 651-430-3274.

### Take Your Daughter (or Son) to Work Day

Thursday, April 22 is the annual Take Your Daughter (or Son) to Work Day. While this is a wonderful opportunity for parents to share a part of their lives with their children and to educate young people about the adult world of work, it can also be a disruption to the school day.

If you choose to take your child to work with you on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we would like you to follow these guidelines:

- \* Inform both the teacher and the office in writing by Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- \* This will be counted as an absence; however, it will be excused if a note is received by April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Because late arrivals and early departures are disruptive to classes, we ask that students not arrive late or leave early from school. In other words, if your student will be visiting you at work only half of the day, we still ask that he or she not return to school for the remainder of the day. To help facilitate this, all absences for Take Your Daughter or Son to Work Day will be recorded as FULL DAY, regardless of the amount of time your child misses school that day.
- \* Teachers will not give schoolwork ahead of time to students. If assignments can be made up, work will be given to the student when he or she returns to school.

## Volunteers Needed 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](mailto:jcrea@comcast.net)

## Save The Date !

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SCCS Golf Tournament Saturday, August 21, 2010

Mark your calendars now for a fun-filled day on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SCCS Golf Tournament and Dinner at Applewood Hills Golf Course.

All proceeds will be used to help build the SCCS Endowment Fund. If you prefer not to golf, plan on enjoying the social hour, dinner and silent auction.

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@comcast.net](mailto:jean.batterton@comcast.net)

## Uniform Room Offers First Communion Clothing by SCCS Home and School

The SCCS Uniform Room has received its first donation of First Communion clothing! All donations will be offered to parents of SCCS second graders on a rental basis. If you are in need of a size 12 boys' suit, please stop by and see if this donation will work for your son. Items may be checked out for a flat fee of \$15 per outfit.



If you have a suit or dress your family no longer needs and you would be willing to donate it, please drop it off in the school office as soon as possible (First Communion days are scheduled for the end of April and early May). Laundered clothing will be due back in the Uniform Room by the end of the school year so that other families may benefit from this program in the future. All proceeds benefit the programs and events sponsored by SCCS Home & School.

Thank you for your help getting this service off the ground.

## Summer Tips for Parents – Keep the Learning Going with *Summer Bridge Activities™* Books

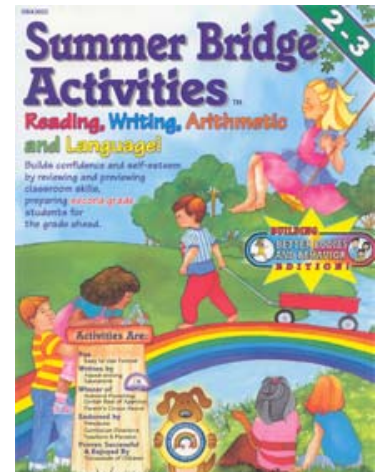
It is not too early to plan summer experiences that will maintain and enrich your child's learning.

All children experience some learning losses when they do not engage in school activities during the summer months. Studies reveal that the greatest areas of loss are in factual or procedural knowledge.

As always, teachers at SCCS are recommending that all students participate in some summer learning activities. This program worked well last summer and provided an easy way for students to keep their skills polished.

We are making available a *Summer Bridge Activities™* workbook specific to each grade level, K through 7. This series of workbooks makes reviewing classroom skills – including reading, writing, math, geography and language arts – fun and rewarding! The activities build confidence and self-esteem by reviewing and previewing classroom skills, preparing students for the grade ahead. Each book also includes a list of recommended books for summer reading. The exercises are easy to understand and are presented in a way that allows your child to review familiar skills and then be progressively challenged on more difficult subjects.

The cost of each book is \$14.00. The books can be easily ordered using an order form that is being sent home today with each family. The books are listed by two grades (Current Grade – Next Year's Grade) For example, if your child is just finishing grade 2 and entering grade 3 next fall, you want to order the 2 – 3 book. Multiple books can be included on one order form and paid for by one check. The deadline to order is Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and the books will be sent home before the end of the year.



## Transportation Survey

SCCS parent Karen Bechtold coordinated the Transportation Survey which was recently sent to all SCCS families. She has compiled the information and you can view the analysis on the SCCS web site under SCCS Parents > FYI Newsletter.

Karen, Mrs. Epperly and SCCS Board representation recently reviewed the results with the district. The consistent comment made was that the bus rides are too long due to the required shuttling through Prep. The district will be assessing the bus system using the existing scenario and using separate buses. They cannot, however, commit to making significant changes as they will be addressing school boundaries, start times, etc. within the next two years.

## Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

### Beyond Sports: Cheering on our children's faith lives.

*The following first ran in The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis. It was written by Sam Lucero, news and information manager, and then reprinted in the Catholic Spirit on December 9, 2009.*

[http://thecatholicspirit.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3048&Itemid=49](http://thecatholicspirit.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3048&Itemid=49)

In today's society, adults and children hold professional sports in high regard. Professional athletes are idolized, commercialized and emulated. Beginning at an early age, parents sign up their children for sports teams — at the local YMCA and then at their elementary school.

This begins a long-term commitment of ushering active children to practices, games and tournaments. Then start the volunteer duties: working concessions, assisting coaches and selling assorted snacks.

What parents won't do for their children. But is it enough?

Cheering on our children from the sidelines or bleachers as they race up and down the soccer field or basketball court is a ritual repeated over and over. Yet, how often do we spend time cheering on a child's faith development?

**Marking milestones.** I've been pondering these thoughts recently, now that my youngest child is up to her ponytails in school activities: basketball, Girl Scouts and Destination Imagination.

There are milestones that we celebrate in a child's faith development. These include the sacraments of initiation: baptism, first Communion and confirmation. Preparation and celebration of these important rites of faith, however, often don't match the intensity of a child's sports preparation. Nor does it lead to the hours of service offered by parents.

Perhaps it is time Catholic parents become cheerleaders for their children's faith development. Just as we take an active role in teaching our children how to play sports, we need to get involved with their spiritual growth.

Let's begin with the Sunday obligation: Think of it as Catholic game day. Attending Sunday Mass is the foundational task of every Catholic parent. Children need guidance and direction in their faith and it all begins with the celebration of weekly Mass.

Religious instruction is another core activity. Enrolling children in a parish religious education program helps parents teach the faith. Catechists are the Catholic version of coaches and these volunteers are trained to assist parents in religious instruction.

Catholic schools take religious education and turn it into an all-day affair. They also offer another advantage: the opportunity for children to attend school Masses and experience different ministries such as lectoring, offering prayer petitions and serving at the altar.

**Modeling faith.** When children have the opportunity to participate in these ministries, it's a chance for parents to cheer them on.

For example, my fifth-grade daughter served at the altar for the first time [on a recent] Sunday. It was a big deal for her family and she knew it. Even her grandfather and oldest brother from Texas were on hand to witness the big event.

**Attention all  
SCCS 8th Grade  
families  
2010 - 2011  
SCVFF  
Registration  
Kickoff Night**

April 28, 2010  
St. Michael's Social  
Hall  
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Please attend this  
parent  
informational night  
to learn more about  
our programs and  
next year's  
Confirmation  
program.

For any questions,  
please call the  
SCVFF offices at  
351-3175.



Showing children that faith is important to us begins with parents taking an active role. It's no different than the role we play in getting our children involved in sports. Watch the parish bulletin for opportunities to get children involved and sign them up. But don't let it end there. Support and encourage them.

Just as participation in sports can develop our physical health, involvement in faith enhances our spiritual health. One can lead to good health and a long life. The other may lead to eternal life.

## Upcoming Events

### Calendar Updates:

- **Please note that there is NOT an all school mass on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> as shown on the April calendar. The mass that week will be on Friday for Grandparents Day at 1:45 pm.**

### 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

### Monday, April 19 – Thursday, April 23

MCA II testing for grades 3, 5 and 7

### Tuesday, April 20

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

6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

### 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