



# FYI *For Your Information*

## St. Croix Catholic School

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DECEMBER 3, 2009

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

A topic often discussed in the educational arena is charter schools. So exactly what are charter schools? Charter schools are public schools funded by public tax dollars. They are established by parents, community groups, educators or private organizations and operate according to a contract agreed upon under the state charter legislation. Charter schools were created with the idea of being more effective schools than the traditional schools, providing parental choice. One of the primary reasons for establishing charter schools was to give teachers and parents more autonomy over the curriculum taught to students and to provide an alternate choice of schools from the traditional neighborhood schools, particularly if the neighborhood schools were not performing well. I believe the first charter school was founded in Minnesota in 1992 (Education Week, 2004).

Charter schools were created to allow parents and educators the opportunity to explore innovative teaching methods and curriculum with increased autonomy and flexibility. Charter schools do not allow for the explicit and integrated faith and moral education that is the foundation of a Catholic school. Often a charter school mimics a Catholic school since it includes a clear, focused mission, more innovative teaching practices and greater parental and community involvement. Visible signs such as school uniforms and dress codes may suggest a Catholic connection but there is no such connection. What the charter school lacks is the great legacy for our Church and our nation, a gift that has been here in the United States since the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century spanning multiple generations and secure for our next generation.

*(Part of this information was taken from NCEA Notes Vol. 43 No. 1-September 2009)*

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I would also like to share with you an article by Dr. Steve Kahn that I found timely in these times when so many of us experience stress and anxiety when parenting our children. I have posted it on the SCCS web site, <http://stcc.webaloo.com/files/stcroixcatholics/files/FYI%200910/December/Three%20Wise%20Women%20-%20Dr%20Kahn.pdf>

### Marathon Final Challenge ! !

THANK YOU to everyone. With the help of SCCS families and a very generous anonymous donor, the SCCS Marathon has reached an amazing \$80,000 ! ! That means, as promised by Home and School and our Board of Directors, SCCS students will have an extra day of Christmas vacation. **NO SCHOOL on Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

Thank you also to the Solanus Casey Knights of Columbus for their part in helping the SCCS Marathon reach the goal! We recently received a check for \$1,030 from them. This represents the proceeds from the September Breakfast they sponsored for the Marathon. THANK YOU to all!



### **Christmas Time is Here!**

presented by the kindergarten and first grade children on

**Thursday,  
December 3  
2:30 pm  
SCCS Gym**

Students will share songs of the season

Refreshments hosted by our Home and School Association will be served in the cafeteria after the program.

***Saints and  
Songs of the  
Season***  
will be presented on  
***Thursday,  
December 10  
6:30 pm  
St. Michael's  
Church***

Students in grades  
2 through 5 and the  
Middle School  
Liturgical Choir will  
join together to  
share songs of the  
season and lessons  
of the saints in a  
special service to  
ready our hearts for  
the coming of  
Christ. The SCCS  
orchestra and band  
will each play  
fifteen minutes of  
prelude music.

***Students should  
wear dress  
clothes and be in  
their classrooms  
at 6:15 pm.***

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Writing Extravaganza Excitement! by Mrs. McCarron**

On Monday, November 16, St. Croix Catholic School held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Writing Extravaganza, and all the students wrote enthusiastically to the prompt "Write about your best day ever!" This school-wide writing assessment day gave students the opportunity to write on a fun topic without teacher intervention or the stress of grading.

As the students wrote their stories or essays about their best day every, they enjoyed a glass of apple cider. Later in the day, they appreciated being able to read their final drafts out loud to their class.

The idea is to have a writing day in the fall and in the spring, so that teachers can take a look at writing development over the school year. This opportunity for assessment is helpful to both the students and the teachers. Both writings will be put into a literacy file for each student, and will be available to his or her future teachers.



Here are a few teacher comments from the Writing Extravaganza follow-up survey:

*"The kids love it and work so hard to complete their writing in a way they can be proud of!"*

*"They enjoyed the entire process!"*

*"I had a lot of students asking to share with the entire class when we were all finished. That was neat to see!"*

There is joy in writing, and we want that excitement to continue at St. Croix Catholic School.

## **Operation Christmas Child**

On Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, SCCS Student Council members organized, counted, and loaded **311** Operation Christmas Child gift boxes for delivery to Samaritan's Purse for distribution to children all over the world. WOW! This exceeded last year's collection by more than 100 boxes!



Thank you to everyone who participated in this worthwhile project. Also thank you to Mr. Chuck Glaser for once again transporting our boxes to the drop off location.

## **Thank You Middle School Students Who Collected Quarters for Feed My Starving Children! by Carrie Sandquist, SCCS Home and School**

Last week we took all the quarter-filled M&M tubes to the bank and had a check cut for *Feed My Starving Children* as a follow up to the Middle School Marathon service project in October. We collected over \$302.00! This money will provide 1,770 meals for starving children across the world. Way to go middle schoolers! You are a wonderful example to the younger students at SCCS. Thank you for your participation!

## Meals on Wheels

### Meals on Wheels

is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help please call Kathy Krsiean at 439-1840 or email

[kkrsean@netzero.net](mailto:kkrsean@netzero.net)

by December 6<sup>th</sup>. The recipients are truly grateful.

Thank you, Kathy

### Opportunity to Support Our School From An SCCS Parent

Need mascara, hand cream, lip gloss, skin care or Christmas gifts? During the months of November and December, 30% of your Mary Kay purchases through Martha Klein (an SCCS parent) will come directly back to SCCS. You can order online at [www.marykay.com/malklein](http://www.marykay.com/malklein) or contact Martha via email [malklein@marykay.com](mailto:malklein@marykay.com) or by phone 651-436-7816. If you already have a consultant, you can make a one time purchase or Martha can work with your consultant to have funds donated from to SCCS.

## Quiz Bowl 2009 by Sister Maria Frassati

On Monday, December 14 a team of four SCCS 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be representing our school in the annual Archdiocesan Academic Quiz Bowl at the University of St. Thomas. They are: **Nicholas Brevitz, Sarah Lentz, Henry Luloff and Nathan Purdie**. Please keep our team in your prayers as we continue to study and practice for this event.

## Sharing and Caring Hands Toy and Gift Collection

As we did last year, SCCS is answering a request from Dominique Boczek, an SCCS graduate who volunteers at Sharing and Caring Hands and Mary's Place Shelter and is the Service Chairperson for the Hill-Murray National Honor Society, to help collect toys and household items for the children and families who use their programs. Almost 400 of their residents are children. A list of requested items can be found on the school web site:

<http://stcc.webaloo.com/files/stcroixcatholics/files/FYI%200910/December/Sharing%20and%20Caring%20hands%20gift%20ideas.pdf> However, **any** toys or other gift items can be used. Our response to this last year was wonderful. We will collect items in the main hallway through December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Light Their Way Receives \$10,000 Donation! by Mrs. Sue Campbell

On behalf of St. Croix Catholic School and the Light Their Way committee, we would like to extend an extremely grateful thank you to an anonymous donor who contributed \$10,000 to the event. Upon request of the donor, all funds will go directly toward the school's tuition assistance program, enabling the school to continue its tradition of a strong Catholic education for all. Through this extraordinary gift, the Light Their Way event was able to raise over \$50,000 for the students of St. Croix Catholic School!

## What do I Give the Teachers and Staff for Christmas? Hmmm by the Home and School Committee

The Home and School Committee is again sponsoring the Christmas Wish Tree. The Wish Tree project is an excellent opportunity for parents wishing to give a Christmas gift to their child's teacher; to give one that proves both beneficial to the teacher and students. Each tree is hung outside the teacher's classroom indicating items that the teachers would like to have in their classrooms. Specialist and other staff member trees are hung on the wall across from the library. Feel free to stop by the school and select an item tag. Please bring your Wish Tree gift to the box in the teacher's classroom or other staff member location prior to the Christmas break. If you have any questions, please call Sandy Murphy at 715-549-5719. Thank you for your support!



## Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea Our Catholic Faith...learn it, live it, love it!

You will find this interesting....pull out a few Bibles and try this at home!

In Middle School, the students study *GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE – THE OLD TESTAMENT* in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, then *JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE – THE NEW TESTAMENT* in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and *LORD GIVE ME ETERNAL LIFE, HISTORY OF THE CHURCH and SPREADING AND DEFENDING THE CATHOLIC FAITH – and CONFIRMATION* in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



### Calling all Kindergarten Girls!

I am interested in putting together a Kindergarten Girl Scout Troop. If you are interested in being a part of this fun and exciting group please let me know. I would love for someone to co-lead the group with me as well. If we get enough interest we will put together an information meeting before the Christmas break so please respond by December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Marlo Eder  
[edersplace@usfamily.net](mailto:edersplace@usfamily.net)  
651-275-1490



Throughout grade school at SCCS, students learn about the various Bible stories, Sacraments, doctrines of the faith and then how to apply what they learn to their lives.

Catholic Bible Studies are available for parents every year with daytime, evening and weekend options through programs offered by the St. Croix Valley Faith Formation. This is a great way for parents to learn more and to apply it to their own lives as well. The children love it that their parents have homework too! This year, several SCCS parents are taking the Book of Revelation bible study being held at St. Mary's every Wednesday after the all school Mass at St. Michael's. Recently these parents learned of an interesting connection between Mary and the Ark of the Covenant. The parents had their kids try this at home during family prayers.

*Why do Catholics call Mary the Ark of the New Covenant?*

Answering that question will take us on a thrilling journey through the Old and New Testaments. Have one child read from 2 Samuel chapter 6 and another child read from Luke chapter 1. Notice the similarities!

1. 2 Sam 6:2 and Luke 1:39 - set out to hill country (towns in Judah)
2. 2 Sam 6:9 and Luke 1:43 - How can the ark of the Lord/Mother of my Lord come to me?
3. 2 Sam 6:16 and Luke 1:44 - David leaping for joy/ baby (John the Baptist) leaps for joy
4. 2 Sam 6:11 and Luke 1:56 - Mary remained 3 months/ Ark remained 3 months

(Verses taken from the New American Bible / St. Joseph Edition)

To learn more, go to <http://www.catholic.com/thisrock/2005/0510fea5.asp> and <http://www.scborrowmeo.org/papers/mother.PDF>

## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, December 3

**NO buses in the morning; buses run as usual in the afternoon**

- 9:00 am Ark of Angels Preschool Family Open House for Thursday class
- 2:30 pm Kindergarten and grade 1 Advent Program  
SCCS Gym

### Friday, December 4

- 9:00 am Ark of Angels Preschool Family Open House for Friday class
- 1:30 pm Reconciliation for grade 5

### Tuesday, December 8 – Feast of Immaculate Conception

- 9:15 am Mass – grades K – 5 will attend
- 12:15 am Mass – Middle School students will attend

### Wednesday, December 9

- 9:45 am Climb Theater Presentation on “Respect” for students in grades 5 - 8
- Junior Great Books sign-up forms due (check the web site if you need another form)



**Ark of Angels  
Montessori  
Preschool**  
will be taking  
2010 – 2011  
preschool class  
registrations for  
younger siblings  
of St. Croix  
Catholic students  
beginning  
January 4<sup>th</sup>  
through January  
13<sup>th</sup>. Applications  
will be processed  
on a first come,  
first serve basis  
and can be  
turned in at the  
SCCS office or at  
Ark of Angels  
Preschool.

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**Congratulations  
to SCCS alum  
Rachel  
Landsem**

Recently, *Rachel Landsem*, a 2008 graduate of SCCS, was named one of nine *November Students of the Month* at Stillwater Area High School. These students are selected based on their outstanding character, academic success, and leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Thursday, December 10**

6:30 pm          Advent Program  
SCCS Band, SCCS Orchestra, students in grades K – 5, and  
Liturgical Choir  
Church of St. Michael  
*Students wear dress clothes and should be in classrooms at 6:15 pm*

**Friday, December 11**

Report Cards sent home

**Tuesday, December 15**

1:30 pm          Reconciliation for grades 7 & 8  
6:30 pm          Board of Directors Meeting

**Wednesday, December 16**

9:15 am          All School Mass  
1:30 pm          Reconciliation for grade 6

**Thursday, December 17**

10:00 am        SCCS Band and Orchestra Concert for grades K – 5

**Monday, December 21**

No Uniform Day – Wear Red and Green  
Principal's Hot Chocolate Treat

**Tuesday, December 22**

9:15 am          All School Mass  
Last Day of School

**Wednesday, December 23 through Friday, January 1 – Christmas Vacation**

**Monday, January 4 – School resumes**