



# 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)

DECEMBER 10, 2009



### ***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 be playing at the start of the program.

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

### **From the Principal's Desk - Communicating with Parents by Mrs. Epperly**

SCCS offers a variety of formats of communication with parents. At the all-school level, we have our weekly newsletter, the *FYI*. We have an extensive website, which can be accessed at [www.stcroixcatholic.com](http://www.stcroixcatholic.com). We offer a variety of parent opportunities to connect with school at *Coffee With Cressy*, *Family Fun Nights* and *Town Hall Meetings*. Each year a Mid-Year Report is prepared in support of the Board of Directors' commitment to strengthen communication with the school's tri-parish communities.

All grade levels send home newsletters, the formats just look different. Grades K-2 send individual classroom letters on a weekly basis; grade 3-5 send home bi-weekly newsletters from the grade levels; grades 6-8 prepare a monthly communiqué in the form of the *Smack Dab in the Middle*, and on a trimester basis Middle School students prepare the *Mid Knight Express*.

Parents of students in grades Kindergarten and 2 - 8 should also review students' daily planners for homework, upcoming tests, etc. Primary and secondary teachers utilize their grade-level Web pages, including showing you what's going on at school with updated photos. Be sure to regularly visit your children's classroom Web pages.

The PowerSchool system is used on a daily/weekly basis at the Middle School level (Grades 6-8). Intermediate teachers (grades 3-5) post updated grades bi-weekly and at the end of the trimester. Some classes post daily assignments, upcoming tests, and project deadlines. Scores on individual assignments and tests are regularly posted.

All teachers welcome phone calls and e-mails any time parents have questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact your teacher(s) at any time. They will respond to you as soon as they are able.

SCCS recognizes that strong communication between school and home is critical to students' achievement. We are open to your suggestions. We welcome your questions and comments. Please contact Mrs. Epperly at 439-5581 (ext.238) or Mrs. Novack at (ext. 245).





### 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.

## Congratulations Robo Knights and Knights of the Brick Table!

The SCCS First Lego League teams competed Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, in the FLL regional tournament at Crosswinds School in Woodbury. *The Knights of the Brick Table* (Cris Bradley, Phoebe Wing, Jimmy Thomson, Adam Larson, Joey Landsem, Sophie Hannig, and Josie Wing) and the *RoboKnights* (Lucas Bechtold, Andrew Frenchik, Mathew Peterson, Daniel Riehm, Kevin Stanich, and Andrew Stanislaw) competed against twenty-eight other teams in the all day event.



The teams have been preparing for this tournament since early September. They worked together to build a robot and program it to perform the tasks laid out in the 2009 Lego League Smart Move Challenge. Each team also researched a project related to the transportation of people, objects, or information. Teams were evaluated on their robot's design, programming, and performance, the research project, and teamwork.

Judges commented to the RoboKnights: "It's great that you have figured out how FLL can help you through research, computer skills, and teamwork." To the Knights of the Brick Table they said: "Excellent knowledge of transportation to Mars. Researched alternative and new methods of space travel."

Congratulations to all the team members and coaches on a great tournament! It was an event that combined science, communication skills, teamwork and lots of fun!

Be sure to check out other pictures of the teams in action on the board in the office.

## Sharing and Caring Hands Toy and Gift Collection



Your response to our request for donations of toys and gift items for *Sharing and Caring Hands* and *Mary's Place Shelter* has once again been fantastic. We will be collecting through the end of this week.

Here is just a sampling of what we have been collecting.

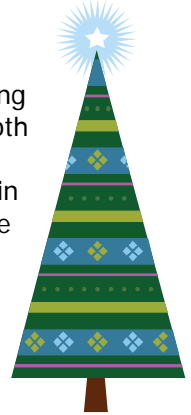




**Ark of Angels  
Montessori  
Preschool**  
will be taking  
2010 – 2011  
preschool class  
registrations for  
younger siblings  
of St. Croix  
Catholic students  
beginning  
January 4<sup>th</sup>  
through January  
13<sup>th</sup>. Applications  
will be processed  
on a first come,  
first serve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

## 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!



## How Are Our Graduates Doing?

SCCS strives to educate the whole child, and it is evident in the success of our graduates that we are truly fulfilling that mission. It is in developing the whole child, including the child's spirituality, that produces a legacy of conscientious, hard-working, morally courageous leaders who succeed in the classroom and beyond. Last week, it was announced that Rachel Landsem, 2008 SCCS Graduate, was named 1 of 9 outstanding students at Stillwater High School.



**Last spring, we celebrated the Graduation of 40 outstanding young people from SCCS. Of those 40:**

- 24** continued their education at 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Stillwater Junior High
- 5** moved on to Hill-Murray High School
- 3** are continuing at St. Thomas Academy
- 2** chose Visitation
- 2** moved on to Mahtomedi High School
- 4** are enrolled at St. Croix Prep for their high school years

**This week, we share with you some statistics of the 2009 Graduates who moved on to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade at Stillwater Junior High.** Periodically, we will be sharing with you more stories as we gather in the Good News of SCCS Graduates.

**In the 2009-2010 school year, there are 341 9<sup>th</sup> graders at Stillwater Junior High**

- 24 are SCCS grads
- 7%** of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade population are SCCS grads

**65 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are members of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), maintaining a GPA of 3.75 or better**

- 9 of these students are SCCS grads
- 14%** of the National Honor Society are SCCS grads

**Congratulations  
to former SCCS  
student  
Matthew  
Yancheck**

Recently, Matthew Yancheck, a Hill-Murray 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who attended SCCS from Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade was chosen as the recipient of the Hill-Murray "Science Wizard" award for the month of October.

Each month Hill-Murray awards students with certificates and recognition in their academic departments. The awards are based on performance and participation in class.

Way to go Matthew . . . It is always fun to see how our SCCS students continue to shine after moving on in their academic careers.



**Recent Eagle Awards:** This prestigious award is given only once a year in a specific subject area. So far, SJHS has honored students in three subject areas: Science, English, and Spanish. In all three cases, SCCS grads have shined brightly.

Of the total 341 9<sup>th</sup> grade students eligible for the Eagle Award, it is given to **2 to 4 students (1% or less of the population)** for each subject area.

Within this elite group:

**2 of 4 Eagle Awards in Science** were awarded to SCCS grads: Mary Hooley and Emily Kiolbasa

**1 of 2 Eagle Awards in Honors English** was awarded to SCCS grad: Anna Wessel

**2 of 2 Eagle Awards in World Languages-Spanish II** were awarded to SCCS grads: Megan Mezera and Aaron Romportl

Congratulations to our graduates, their parents, and the teachers of SCCS.

**Chess Classes and After School Chess to Return This Year!  
Hold the Dates! by Mrs. Doeksen**

As we did last year, SCCS is again offering Chess Club classes beginning in January. All K - 5 students will attend an informational assembly on Monday, January 4, from 2:15 - 3:00 in the Social Hall. Parents are welcome to join us!

After the assembly, a flyer will be handed to each student with registration information. Although Middle School students will not be attending the assembly, they are invited to sign-up for the classes as well. The Chess instruction for Beginner and Intermediate players will be after school from 3:30 – 4:30 and will run for 5 Tuesdays beginning January 19 and ending February 16. The cost of the Chess class is \$50. Registrations and payments need to be returned by Friday, January 8.



After the Chess classes are completed there will be three more Tuesdays of drop in Chess playing after school (February 23, March 2 and March 9) for anyone who would like to come and play. . . no cost for those 3 Tuesdays.

**Other Chess News from Mrs. Doeksen**

This year the Chess Club of Minnesota has a new Winter Break Chess Camp planned. It is located at the Hopkins Pavilion in Hopkins Minnesota, located at 11000 Excelsior Blvd. The dates are December 28 & 29, 2009, with camp running from 8:30 to 4:30 each day. The cost is just \$80 for the two day camp, and includes a round robin tournament with awards, blitz, bughouse, lecture, puzzle competitions and more. For most activities, the class is split into two groups: beginners and intermediate/advanced players. Space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. A two-day, half-day rate of \$25 per day (\$50 total) is also available.

**Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea  
Keep Track of Your Blessings During Advent!**

Advent should be a time when Christians keep track of the little blessings they receive each day, blessings that are signs of God's love, Pope Benedict XVI suggested.

"To keep a kind of 'inner diary' of this love would be a beautiful and healthy task," the Pope said Nov. 28 as he celebrated evening prayer to mark the beginning of Advent.

God enters the life of each and every person, Pope Benedict said. But in daily life, most people seem "to have little time for the Lord and little time even for ourselves. One



*Dear God,  
Thank you for  
the gift of this  
day. We thank  
you for the gift  
of each other.  
During these  
days of Advent,  
help us to be  
people of Hope,  
people of  
Patience, people  
who want to be  
Followers of  
Jesus.  
Amen*

ends up being absorbed in doing things," he said.

Taking a little time each day to recognize signs of God's love reminds people that "God is here; he has not withdrawn from the world; he has not left us alone," the Pope said. Pope Benedict said that if people live each day with their eyes open to the signs of God's presence, they will be filled with joy as they await the final coming of the Lord.

"The contemporary world needs hope above all; people living in developing countries need it, but those in economically advanced countries do, too," he said.

"Seeing so many false certainties fail, we become aware that we need a hope we can trust in and that is found only in Christ," the pope said. "Anyone yearning for freedom, for justice and for peace can stand tall and raise their heads, because in Christ freedom is near." <http://www.americancatholic.org/news/report.aspx?id=1929>

## **Upcoming Events**

### **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 in 2009!

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

### **Monday, January 4 – School resumes**

2:15 pm          Schoolhouse Chess assembly for grades K – 5  
St. Michael's Social Hall