



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

FEBRUARY 11, 2010

Transportation Survey

Please be sure to take a look at the Transportation Survey either sent home with your youngest child at SCCS or emailed to you on Tuesday. The Board of Directors is looking for your input to report back to District #834, so please complete the survey and share your opinions. If you have misplaced your copy, the survey can be found at <http://stcc.webaloo.com/files/stcroixcatholic/files/FY1%200910/February/Transportation%20Survey.pdf>



From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

February is I Love to Read Month! It is a month packed full of good things to do when it comes to reading.

Learning to read is hard work for children, and is the largest curricular area at the elementary level. It involves the development of important skills that will stay with an individual throughout lifelong learning. It is the building block upon which all other curricular areas depend. Reading, an area of the Language Arts curriculum involves learning to:



- ❖ use language in conversation;
- ❖ listen and respond to stories read aloud;
- ❖ recognize and name letters of the alphabet;
- ❖ listen to the sounds of spoken language;
- ❖ connect sounds to letters to figure out the "code" of reading;
- ❖ read often so that recognizing words becomes automatic;
- ❖ learn and use new words;
- ❖ understand what is read.

Primary teachers set the stage for children to learn to read with some critical early skills. From there teachers take up the task of building the skills children will use every day for the rest of their lives. Intermediate grades continue to focus and strengthen the skills taught in the primary grades, allowing for students to become more independent in the learning process. Middle School grades begin the process of introducing the students to various disciplines found with the curricular areas. Students are challenged to respond to a variety of rich literature, offering the students opportunities to grow in knowledge.

As parents, you can help by understanding what teachers are teaching, and by asking questions about your child's progress in the classroom reading program.

You can help your child become a strong reader. Learning to read, and becoming proficient at reading, takes practice, more practice than children get during the school day.

The month of February is a great time to focus on developing a love of reading. Take a journey on these cold winter nights and curl up with a good book and a cup of hot chocolate this weekend and start turning those pages.

After School Drop – In Chess

ALL STUDENTS are invited to drop-in for some after school chess playing on three Tuesdays - February 23, March 2 and March 9 from 3:30 – 4:30 pm.

No registration is necessary for drop-in chess – but please let your child's teacher know that he or she has permission to stay after school. Also please be sure to pick up your child promptly at 4:30 pm.

There will be no instruction during these sessions – just the challenge of playing with new partners and having fun.

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

Sponsored by St. Croix Valley Faith Formation

Wednesday, February 17
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
St. Michael's Social Hall

A free will donation will be taken to benefit our tri-parish young people who will be attending World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain (August 2011)

February is I Love to Read Month Book a Trip for a Reading Adventure!

Who Was Caught Reading by Mrs. Epperly?

On Wednesday, February 3 and Thursday, February 4 these students were caught reading: Grace, Owen, and Louis Dinzeo; Alex Eberspacher; Mitchel Gutknecht; Trent Hauser; Anthony and Vince Ternes; Ari, Dominic and Joseph Krenz; Anna Landsem; Molly and Sophia Moller; Grace, Nick, and Catherine Seifert.

Mrs. Epperly will be calling again between 7:00 and 7:30 pm during the week of February 22nd. (On Tuesday, February 23rd there will be a **Mystery Caller!**)

Second Graders Learn Their Own Baptism Stories

This is a special year for second graders as they grow spiritually through preparation for their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. They learn a variety of prayer methods and are introduced to the Liturgical Seasons and the sacramental life of the church year.

Currently they are learning more about their own baptisms. Students are excited to share what they have learned about their own "history." They have made books or posters about their baptism or asked family members to tell stories about that special day in their lives. Each and every one of the children has learned so much about themselves and his or her faith as they did this project.



Some of the second grader's displays about their baptisms.

Herberger's Community Day

Remember that our SCCS Home and School Association is selling Herberger's coupon books for the February 27th Community Day Sale.

Each \$5 coupon book purchased contains one \$10 off coupon to use on a single regular or sale price merchandise item of \$10 or more. You're getting paid back twice the amount of your \$5 donation! Also included are six 20% off coupons and one 30% early bird coupon (good from 6:00-9:00 am on Saturday, February 27th).

100% of the \$5 for each booklet sold is ours to keep. We're hoping for another successful event!

Order your coupon books using the order form on the SCCS web site:
<http://www.stcroixcatholic.com/files/stcroixcatholics/files/FY1%200910/January/Herbergers.pdf>.

Books may also be purchased through the school office and during conferences on February 11th & 12th.

Coffee With Cressy Friday February 19 at 9:15 AM

Interpreting Assessment Tools and Using Data for Student Learning

Several times a year, Mrs. Epperly has an informal, informational get-together for parents. The topics discussed have to do with education or the school. The topic this month is on assessment. Assessment is the process of gathering information that tells us about student learning. The way it is gathered, the types of information collected, and what is done with all the types of information collected have an impact on how well our assessment practices provide a vehicle to inform those who make decisions on providing meaningful learning to our students.



Come meet with Mrs. Epperly and other SCCS parents to discuss this important topic. We will meet in the Edith Stein Meeting Room in the St. Michael's Parish Office. Childcare will be available; however, please RSVP by Wednesday, February 17th if you will be needing childcare.

SCCS Board of Directors Announces a Mid-Year Town Hall Meeting - Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 – 7:30 pm in St. Michael's Social Hall

- The SCCS Board of Directors will present their 2009 – 2010 Mid-Year Report.
- We will celebrate our recent accomplishments as a school and tri-parish community.
- We will address our challenges and opportunities as a school community.
- We will discuss 2010-2011 tuition rates and other financial components such as SCRIP, Parent Participation, and Scholarship Assistance opportunities.

ALL parents are encouraged to attend.

Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

February 11 is the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes. In 1858, in the grotto of Massabielle, near Lourdes in southern France, Our Lady appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, a young peasant girl. Our Lady revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, asked that a chapel be built on the site of the vision, and told the girl to drink from a fountain in the grotto. No fountain was to be seen, but when Bernadette dug at a spot designated by the apparition, a spring began to flow. The water from this still flowing spring has shown remarkable healing power, though it contains no curative property that science can identify.

Many miracles are attributed to visiting these healing waters. Last year Fr. Kasal invited a friend of his to one of our school Masses. His friend had many physical ailments and after visiting Lourdes, he was cured! His doctors couldn't explain the changes in his health other than a miracle!

Lourdes has become the most famous modern shrine of Our Lady. Read the whole story of the Miracles at Lourdes and about St. Bernadette at <http://www.catholic.org/clife/mary/lourdes1.php> Also, St. Bernadette's body has remained intact since her death in 1879 which is a miracle in itself! <http://www.catholic.org/clife/mary/body.php>

Adoration Chapel Help Needed

Our adoration chapel at St. Michael's needs help. We are inspired to ask members of all of our faith groups to please take an hour of adoration.

You might find a friend and adore with them or - split the hour with a friend so you adore every other week instead of every week.

Wives and mothers get much needed peace and quiet and nourishment for their daily work.

Husbands and dads get so much from this too and receive grace for their work and family.

Young adults and college kids bring their special gifts to the table. All are invited, aunts, uncles, sisters, friends, even if they are not members at St Michael's.

There are so many out there that simply need to be invited. Please help us with this.

Thank you and God bless you,
Deanne Wessel &
Rebecca Lorenz

There are many movies made about St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes. Consider watching one of these movies with your family this weekend; *"The Song of Bernadette"*, *"Bernadette, her vision became a legend"*, *"The Passion of Bernadette"*, and the 30 minute animated movie *"Bernadette, The Princess of Lourdes."* If you have cable, you can check to see if any of the movies are airing on EWTN (channel 21), otherwise you can talk to our librarian, Mrs. Koenning about borrowing "Bernadette", and "The Passion of Bernadette", (which is the sequel to "Bernadette") or the animated 30 minute movie. The K-3 teachers often show the animated movie to their classrooms during the day on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and/or the Feast of St. Bernadette.

Reclaiming the Culture of Marriage & Life February 22 – 7:00 p.m. St. Michael Social Hall

Fr. Ralph Talbot will explain the Biblical, philosophical and spiritual foundation of Christian marriage and the interconnectedness of procreation and protection of human life. Dr. Teresa Collett, renowned law scholar and consultant for the Pontifical Council for the Family, will give an eye-opening presentation on the cultural and legal battle being waged against traditional marriage and life. This event is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family and Life. This event is free and open to all.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 11

3:45 – 8:00 pm Grades K – 8 Scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 12 – NO SCHOOL

8:00 am – Noon K – 5 scheduled Parent – Teacher Conferences and MS Walk-in Conferences

1:00 am – 3:00 pm Staff Development

Monday, February 15 – NO SCHOOL – President's Day

Tuesday, February 16 – No AM buses – parents drive

Buses will run as usual in the afternoon

Thursday, February 18 – Transportation Surveys due

Friday, February 19

9:15 – 10:15 am Coffee With Cressy

Interpreting Assessment Tools and Using Data for Student Learning

Edith Stein Meeting Room; Call to reserve a space if you need childcare

Monday, February 22 through Thursday, February 25

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm Get Caught Reading – Mrs. Epperly will be making random calls to students each night, Monday through Thursday this week. Be reading between 7:00 and 7:30 pm in case she calls you! (On Tuesday, February 23rd there will be a **Mystery Caller!**) If you get caught, your name will be called the next morning and you will be able to pick out a book to keep.

Tuesday, February 23

3:30 – 4:30 pm Drop in Chess

SCCS Cafeteria

Contact Mrs. Doeksen at pdoeksen@stccs.com for more info

6:30 – 7:30 pm Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, February 27

Herberger's Community Day Event – buy your coupon books now in the school office