



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

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Supply Pack Orders for 2010 - 2011

Can it really be time to begin thinking about the 2010 – 2011 school year?

YES!

Order forms for **School Tool Boxes** for the 2010 – 2011 school year were distributed by teachers at conferences last week. Middle School students who did not receive a form during conferences will be bringing one home this week.

Forms can also be printed from the SCCS web site. Orders are due by March 12th. As always, you have the option of purchasing your supplies in this convenient way, or picking up the supplies on your own.

Those who order the **School Tool Boxes** will be able to pick them up on Uniform Sale Night, July 22nd.

From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

Tips for Parents: Reading Fluency

When Steve and Suzy read, they instantly recognize most words. They read sentences smoothly, understand what's happening in the story, and have good expression. Steve and Suzy are *fluent* readers - their reading sounds like speech. Here are some ways to help your children read fluently.

Be a role model. When you read to your children, have them read along with you. Don't be surprised if they try to match their voices to yours. You can also alternate paragraphs or pages, or take turns reading for different characters.

Choose the right book. Your children should recognize most of the words (one to two unfamiliar words per page are okay – that will keep them challenged). If they are having trouble reading smoothly, try picking an easier book.

Use expression. Punctuation marks are clues that tell us how to read something. Encourage your children to sound excited when they see an exclamation point, and make their voices go up or down for a question mark. Teach them to pause briefly at a comma and slightly longer at a period.

Check for understanding. If your children do not understand the book, they will sound choppy. And if they are reading one word at a time, they'll have a tough time following the plot. As they read, ask them questions to make sure they understand the story.



Fun with Words: Dictionary Games

You can help your children practice dictionary skills and build vocabulary with the following activities.

Word Race. Write down several words, and time your child to see how fast she/he can find each word in the dictionary.

Word of the week. Ask your child to find one word each week that's new to him. Post the word on the refrigerator, and challenge her to use it as often as possible during the week.

Mixed up definitions. Write down a new word. Then, write out two phony definitions for it, along with the true meaning. Read the three choices to your child, and see if he can guess which definition is the real one. ♥

These thoughts were taken from the *Reading Connection*.

Mrs. Epperly will be making ♥ **I Love to Read** phone calls next week between 7:00 pm and 7:30pm.

I LOVE TO READ

On February 23, the theme of the day is **Western!**



Students are invited to dress in Western gear, and enjoy a Western lunch* in the cafeteria that day! This all ties in with our *I Love to Read Month* theme, which is "Book a Trip for a Reading Adventure."

In Library classes, K-5 grades read [How I Spent My Summer Vacation](#) by Mark Teague. It's about a boy with a vivid imagination who has to write an essay about his summer vacation. He describes being captured by cowboys and becoming a cowhand on a cattle drive. When the bulls start to stampede, can Wallace save the day? Did this really happen during his summer break, or was it his imagination? Read the book to find out!

**Round-up Chicken, Spuds, Cowboy Beans, Salad, Fruit, Biscuits*

or

Rattlesnake Chili & Hot Dog

Lenten Devotions at SCCS

Lent provides all of us the opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection. At SCCS students are taught prayer as a way to connect with God. We become aware of God's presence within us. From birth, all of us learn to communicate, and through these efforts, we establish a connection and bond with one another. Prayer is a way of communication with God that allows us to establish a relationship with Him. Something in each of us wants to know God.

During the season of Lent, students and teachers at SCCS will take the time each Friday to pray the Stations of the Cross and think about Jesus as he went to die on the cross. The Stations show us how much Jesus loves us.

Middle School will be attending the parish-wide Stations of the Cross at St. Michael's at 12:15 pm each Friday. Students in grades 3 – 5 will attend at 9:15 am on Fridays, and Primary students in grades K – 2 will attend age-appropriate Stations each Friday at 2:00 pm. Please feel free to join your children at any of these times.

Middle School students are also encouraged to attend Friday morning mass at 7:30 am at St. Mary's every Friday during Lent. Students can walk to SCCS after Mass, have a snack provided by the school, and do homework or reading in the Middle School Commons until school begins.

Because of these activities, all students will be required to be in uniform (Spirit Wear is okay) on Fridays from February 19 through March 26. The exception will be on March 12th for the Middle School students. MS students will be having a retreat day at St. Mary's and can wear retreat T shirts along with jeans that day. All other SCCS students should be in uniform on March 12th.

Hello Zach Sobiech Supporters,

Congratulations and thank you to all who donated money to surprise Zach with the "Amp of His Dreams!" We were able to purchase a \$1,200 amp for Zach's electric guitar and surprised him with it on Sunday, February 14. I think Zach described this moment as "the best Valentine's Day of my life!"

Thank you to the Sobiech family for allowing us to be a small part in Zach's road to recovery. We will be with you in prayer throughout his upcoming surgery on Feb. 22nd.

God bless,

Reed Redmond & Joe Schertz



Joe Schertz, (Zach's guitar teacher), Zach, Joe's son, Reed Redmond

St. Croix Catholic/St. Michael's Families Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children by Denise Faust

Several families from St. Michaels and St. Croix Catholic School spent part of President's Day volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Egan. This is an annual tradition for the St. Clare's CCW group. Along with a generous donation from St. Michael's CCW, the group brought in over \$500.00.

Over 20,000 meals were packed during the 2-hour session. Those meals will be shipped to Haiti and will feed 54 children for one year! It was a great day of volunteering, fun and fellowship.



* * * *

SCCS recently received an update from Feed My Starving Children. In it, Mr. Mark Crea at FMSC shared a note written to him by a partner of FMSC based in Haiti at an organization called Love A Child. It shows the way monetary donations and volunteering of time by SCCS families is having a positive effect on the Haitians.

Mark,

Just a quick note. Thank you so much for all the FMSC food. We had three containers come in yesterday. One this morning and three last week. I believe we'll have three more next week come out of customs (A total of 2,678,640 meals).

We distribute food everyday from Port Au Prince (PP) to all over! Today the mayor from PP will come to pick up an additional 72,000 meals. The poor Haitians are so hungry, especially the children.

We have been passing out food since the day after the earthquake down in PP. People have been coming to Love A Child by the hundreds to receive the FMSC food! The meal

Thank You . . .
from SCCS staff
to the parents who provided food and served the Thursday night dinner during conferences last week. We feasted on Thursday AND for lunch on Friday during our Staff Development Day.



If you haven't picked up your dishes, they can be found in the work room across from the office.

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/EY1%200910/January/Herbergers.pdf>.

Books may also be purchased in the school office.

barrel has not gone dry! The FMSC food is just pouring out of the warehouse to the Haitian people!

We also feed the thousands of sick and injured people in our compound three meals a day. We cook it and take it to their tents. They are so happy and thankful.

I just wanted to say thank you for all your wonderful food. It could not be coming at a better time.

The UN and the USAID are still holding back on most of their food! They are still trying to analyze and do protocol. We were there the day after the earthquake passing out FMSC food. FMSC was there on the spot feeding God's people!!

*Blessings,
Bobby*

Since the initial check given to FMSC by SCCS, we have collected another \$30.06. In about a week, we will send this on the FMSC.

**The collection jar is in the office for those who would still like to contribute.
Thanks for your support!**

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 if you will be needing childcare.**

SCCS Board of Directors Announces Mid-Year Town Hall Meeting - Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 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.

**Congratulations
To SCCS
Alumnus
Caitlin Long**

Caitlin was chosen as one of the eight Stillwater Area High School Students of the Month for February.

These students are recognized for their academic excellence, leadership, and exemplary positive attitudes.

Save the Date!

Our next

**SCCS
Family Fun
Night**

will be

**Religion
Night**

Activities will be focused on
Preschool – 5th grade
ages; however, older
siblings are welcome
to come along.



**Thursday,
March 11
6:30 – 7:30 PM**

Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

These Forty Days of Lent

Lent is the forty day period before Easter, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday). The Sacred Triduum consists of the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday), Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday).

Please visit the EWTN website and you can read a Lenten meditation for every day of Lent! <http://www.ewtn.com/faith/lent/index.htm>

Why is Lent forty days long? Because forty days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty days (Exodus 24:18 and 34:28), the spies were in the land for forty days (Numbers 13:25), Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (1 Kings 19:8), Nineveh was given forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4), and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting (Matthew 4:2).

Since Lent is a period of prayer and fasting, it is fitting for Christians to imitate their Lord with a forty day period. Christ used a forty day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for his ministry, which culminated in his death and resurrection, and it is fitting for Christians to imitate him with a forty day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (the day of the resurrection).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning' [Heb 4:15]. By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." (CCC 540).

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/ANSWERS/LENT.HTM> for more information about Lent.

Chess Club – Everyone (all ages) invited to attend!

We will meet the next 3 Tuesdays

February 23, March 2 and March 9 from 3:30 – 4:30 in the cafeteria



No registration and no cost 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.

**Don't Miss the
7th Grade
Communications
Class Plays**

***The Mystery at
Throckmorton
Manor***

by Eileen Taddonio
and

***The Soldier, the
Witch, and the
Tinderbox***

adapted by
Craig Sodaro

Both plays will be
performed on the
SCCS stage:

**Tuesday,
February 23**

for kindergarten –
3rd grade students
at 9:45 am

**Thursday,
February 25**

for 4th – 7th grade
students at 9:45 am

and

for family and
friends at
7:00 pm



(Parents are
welcome to attend
any of these
presentations.)

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. Dr. Teresa Collett, renowned law scholar and consultant for the Pontifical Council for the Family, will give a 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 and is free and open to all.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 18 – Transportation Surveys due

Friday, February 19

7:30 am Mass at St. Mary's – MS students encouraged to attend

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**

9:15 am Stations of the Cross (grades 3, 4, 5)

2:00 pm Stations of the Cross (grades K, 1, 2)

12:15 pm Stations of the Cross (MS)

Monday, February 22 through Friday, February 26

8th grade students to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (ELC)

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 – No Uniforms – Western Day!

9:45 am Grade 7 plays for Kindergarten through 3rd grade

3:30 – 4:30 pm Drop in Chess
SCCS Cafeteria
Contact Mrs. Doeksen at pdoeksen@stccs.com for more info.

6:30 pm Town Hall Meeting for parents
St. Michael's Social Hall

Wednesday, February 24

9:15 am All School Mass

Thursday, February 25

9:45 am Grade 7 plays for 4th – 6th

7:00 pm Grade 7 plays for families and friends

Friday, February 26

7:30 am Mass at St. Mary's – MS students encouraged to attend

9:15 am Stations of the Cross (grades 3, 4, 5)

2:00 pm Stations of the Cross (grades K, 1, 2)

12:15 pm Stations of the Cross (MS)