



# FYI *For Your Information*

## St. Croix Catholic School

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Stillwater MN 55082

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FEBRUARY 25, 2010

### SCCS Town Hall Meeting

Please see page 2 for a report of the Town Hall Meeting presented by Father Miller and the SCCS Board of Directors this past Tuesday, February 23. You can also find the content of the meeting on the SCCS Web site (on the Home page). <http://stcc.webaloo.com/files/stcroixcatholic/files/BOD/0910/SCCS%20Town%20Hall%20feb%2023%202010.pdf>

The topics discussed included the structure of tuition for the 2010 – 2011 school year and a pre-registration time-line.

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

This week we wrap up our annual focus of *I Love to Read Month* - a month set aside to focus on the positive aspects of reading. It prompts me to put forth the following message from Dr. David Walsh the president of the National Institute on Media and Family.

Children's screen time, not counting computer use, is at an all-time high---32 hours per week! While it's true that kids are actually watching less TV, the slight decrease from 28 to 25 hours a week is more than offset by the seven hours a week that the average child plays video games. Research by the National Institute on Media and the Family found that more than half of American children have TVs in their bedrooms, and that these kids watch an *additional* five and a half hours every week, compared to children without bedroom TVs.

What this means is that many of our children spend the equivalent of a full-time job as couch potatoes. Pediatricians have sounded the alarm that children's lack of physical activity is a major cause of juvenile obesity and diabetes. Educators have sounded another alarm. These couch potatoes can't read!

The problem isn't so much what they're doing while watching television or playing video games. It's what they're not doing that zaps children's reading development. TV and video games offer instant rewards-no prerequisites required and no effort needed. Reading, on the other hand, offers delayed gratification because it takes four to five years to master skills.

Reading is a self-reinforcing activity for both good and struggling readers. The children who work diligently at mastering reading skills begin to reap rewards. They enjoy reading and they want to read more. And the more they read, the better their reading skills become. Unfortunately, this cycle also works in reverse.

Improving the reading skills of our children is critical, so let's start paying more attention to how children spend their time when they're not in school. Reading is a healthy and positive alternative to sitting in front of the television and video games – an alternative which will last a lifetime.

\* \* \* \*

This week marks the beginning of the third trimester. For students and teachers it provides a time to reflect on what has been accomplished and reassess and evaluate movement forward. For parents it signals an opportunity to look over the Parent Handbook. The St. Croix Catholic School Parent Handbook, on [www.stcroixcatholic.com](http://www.stcroixcatholic.com) is your tool to use to answer, clarify and spell out the inner workings of the school. It is intended to provide information about expectations, policies, and programs.

## Supply Pack Orders for 2010 - 2011



Order forms for **School Tool Boxes** for the 2010 – 2011 school year have been distributed. If you need another form, it can be printed from the SCCS web site. Look under your child's grade for **next year** and School Supply Lists on the right hand bar.

Orders are due by March 12<sup>th</sup>. As always, you have the option of purchasing your supplies in this convenient way, or picking up supplies on your own.

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

## Did You Miss the February 23 SCCS Town Hall Meeting? by the SCCS Board of Directors

Not to worry! Log onto [www.stcroixcatholic.com](http://www.stcroixcatholic.com) and view the presentation. <http://stcc.webaloo.com/files/stcroixcatholic/files/BOD/0910/SCCS%20own%20Hall%20feb%2023%202010.pdf>

### Mid Year Highlights

- ✓ Did you know we welcomed 34 new families this school year?
- ✓ Did you know SCCS has one of the highest concentrations of SmartBoard technology in the classroom in the area? Log on to read more about the impressive results of our technology integration.
- ✓ How much has the new SCRIP program generated so far?
- ✓ Take a guess at how many all-school prayer sessions, weekly Masses, and Mass buddy partnerships we have celebrated at SCCS so far this year.
- ✓ Did you know SCCS graduates are *literally* at the top of their high school classes?

### Learn the "True" Cost of Educating Each Student at SCCS and the income sources needed to meet this total cost.

\$ 1,200 Parish Subsidy  
\$ 3,695 Tuition (2010-2011 base rate)  
\$ 250 Marathon  
\$ 115 SCRIP (per student) (per family=\$225)  
\$ 40 Other Fundraising

=====  
\$5,300 "True" Total Cost (*it's not just tuition!*)

### New for 2010-2011!

#### Multiple Student Scholarship Plan (automatic – no application):

\$100 off second student of the family

\$300 off third student of the family

\$500 off fourth, fifth, and sixth students of the family

*Parent Participation will be expected – details will be in pre-registration packets, which will be distributed in early March.*

#### Continuing!

#### Scholarship Assistance Plan (must apply for this):

**This is a needs-based fund.** Scholarship Assistance, a highly confidential program, is the fund that assists families who need a greater tuition break than the Multiple Student Scholarship Plan provides. It's also available to one-student families, if they qualify. (Note, families will be in EITHER the Multiple Student Scholarship Plan OR the Scholarship Assistance Plan, but not both.) *Parent Participation will be expected – details will be in your pre-registration packets, which will be distributed in early March.*

#### Two Initiatives that offset tuition for all of us:

**School-Wide SCRIP Program:** Our newly expanded program is expected to contribute \$44,000 to next year's operating budget. Log onto the Web site to read about each family's responsibility toward this goal.

**Continuing! Annual SCCS Marathon:** This is a wonderful opportunity for families to RAISE money toward the total cost of educating their children. Read more about your responsibilities at [www.st.croixcatholic.com](http://www.st.croixcatholic.com).

#### Bonus!

Earn an extra \$100 off your total tuition bill if you refer a registering family to St. Croix Catholic School by the beginning of next year. Earn \$200 if the new family pre-registers by March 31, 2010. Details in the online presentation.

**ART  
MATERIALS  
NEEDED!**

I am in need of the following materials for art:

Ice cream pails with lids

Mosaic items such as old jewelry, broken dishes, etc.

Egg cartons

***Mrs. Fioritto***

**ART  
ADVENTURE  
HELP WANTED  
from Mrs. Fioritto**

Please consider becoming an Art Adventure Picture Person Coordinator for next year. I will be glad to train you in. Call or email for more information:

Pam Fioritto, ext. 313 or email:

[pfioritto@stccs.com](mailto:pfioritto@stccs.com)

Of course this will help fulfill any Parent Participation requirements you may have.

Thanks!

**Pre-Registration packets for 2010-2011 school year will be distributed in early March. The deadline for current parents to pre-register is March 31, 2010. Current parents' \$100 deposits, due at time of pre-registration, will be applied toward 2010-2011 tuition if received by 4:00 p.m. on March 31, 2010. Any deposits received from current families after this date will NOT apply toward 2010-2011 tuition. Don't delay! (New families' deposits will apply up to the beginning of next school year.)**

**SCCS Students in the News**

Sydney Schmelz, SCCS 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, qualified for the Junior Olympics in Downhill Skiing this past weekend at a meet in Marquette, MI. She competed against other 11 and 12 year old girls from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Northern Illinois. She will head to Winter Park, Colorado to compete in the Junior Olympics March 16 - 20.

WAY TO GO, SYDNEY. We wish you well in March!



**Sydney on the hills at Giant's Ridge**

**SCCS Students Receive Hill-Murray Scholarships**

Hill-Murray High School in Maplewood has announced the recipients of its 2010-2011 Presidential Scholarships. Two eighth grade students from SCCS are among the 17 recipients. Gabrielle Harvey and Sarah Lentz each were offered a \$2,500 award to be used next year at Hill-Murray.

Students were chosen based on their grade point averages. Hill-Murray President Joseph M. Peschges explains that the scholarships were created to honor those students whose work reflects the academic rigor and the Catholic values that characterize a Hill-Murray education. "We've just received our second ACT (American College Testing Program) award in three years for academic rigor. We wanted to underscore the commitment these students have made to those same ideals, and invite them to participate with us in their educational futures. These students share our values."

Congratulations to Gabrielle and Sarah.

Save the Date!

Thursday,  
March 11

for

SCCS  
Religion  
Family Fun  
Night

Fun craft and learning activities will be focused on Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade ages; however, older siblings are welcome to come along and are sure to have fun!



6:30 – 7:30 PM  
in the Middle  
School  
Commons

PLEASE CALL THE  
SCCS OFFICE OR  
EMAIL  
[dpolley@stccs.com](mailto:dpolley@stccs.com)

to let us know if your family will be attending. Please include a count of how many adults and children in your message.

## Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

I was preparing for Confirmation class this week and found a beautiful Lenten prayer that I thought SCCS families might like.

*Lord, as we begin this way of the cross, help us to join You in Your passion so that we may be lifted up in your Resurrection. Thank you, Jesus, for this opportunity to know You in Your suffering more intimately and through You be more united with everyone who suffers.*

*May our fasting unite us with Your suffering. May our almsgiving unite us with Your selflessness. And may our prayer unite us with Your heart.*

*May the spiritual steps we take in accompanying You, Jesus, in the way of the cross, lead us closer to You and through You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.*

*Mary, Blessed Mother, grace us with your faithfulness, your perseverance, and your hope, by clinging to God's promises so that we, too, may be faithful, persevering and full of hope.*

*We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Drop-In Chess Club – Everyone (all ages) invited to attend!

**We will meet two more times!**

**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.

## Thank You Catholic Aid Association and Father Kasel

Recently, Father Kasel wrote to the Catholic Aid Association asking for a grant to be used for technology on behalf of St. Croix Catholic School. We are excited to report that we just received a grant in the amount of \$500!

Keeping a school the size of SCCS current with technology takes a lot of effort and funding. We thank EVERYONE who has contributed to the school's Technology Fund this year. Remember that Technology Fund donations can be made at any time and are tax deductible. Contact the school office if you have questions about making a donation or would like to learn more about technology resources at SCCS.



Mrs. Epperly accepting the gift from Catholic Aid Association representatives



**CAA (Catholic Athletic Association) Baseball and Softball Registration Is Now Open**

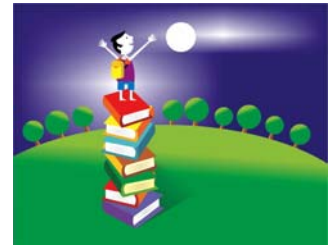
Registration forms have been offered to all 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students this week (8<sup>th</sup> grade students can pick up forms when they return from ELC.) The deadline to register is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Forms can also be printed from the SCCS Web site:

<http://stcc.webaloo.com/files/stcroixcatholics/files/Athletics/CAA%200910/Softball%20Baseball%20Reg%202010.pdf>

**I Love to Read Month**

The excitement of I Love to Read Month continues at SCCS. Mrs. Epperly has been busy making surprise phone calls to catch students reading from 7:00 – 7:30 in the evening. On Tuesday night, while Mrs. Epperly was busy at the Town Hall Meeting, Mr. John Kolnik was our Mystery Caller. Thank you Mr. Kolnik!



These students were caught reading this week:

**Monday:** Kyle and Sean Pineda; Mathew Peterson, Danielle Renteria; Cooper and Chase Schifsky; Nick Seeman; Grace, Theresa and Andrew Stanislaw; Lizzy and Matthew Theirl; Tony Tinucci; Tori, Ryan and Misty Vogel; Robbie Weides; and Josie and Phoebe Wing.

**Tuesday:** Dawson and Delaney Caroon; Kelly Colombo; Jackson, A.J., Blake, and Lucy Donar; Carson and Chase Glaser; Alex King; Andrew Langenberger; Sean and Colin Little; Emmet and Fiona Nath; Roman Ogren and Elizabeth Ogren

Remember, Mrs. Epperly will be calling for the last time on Thursday night (February 25<sup>th</sup> )

Watch for the Wednesday and Thursday readers to be listed next week.

**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, February 25**

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm Get Caught Reading – Mrs. Epperly will be making random calls to students tonight. Be reading between 7:00 and 7:30 pm in case she calls you! If you get caught, your name will be called the next morning and you will be able to pick out a book to keep.

9:45 am Grade 7 plays for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students  
*The Mystery at Throckmorton Manor*  
*The Soldier, the Witch, and the Tinderbox*

7:00 pm Grade 7 plays for families and friends  
*The Mystery at Throckmorton Manor*  
*The Soldier, the Witch, and the Tinderbox*

**Friday, February 26**

End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester

8<sup>th</sup> graders return from Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

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)

4:30 pm – 7:00 pm Men's Club Fish Fry in St. Michael's Social Hall

**Saturday, February 27**

Herberger's Community Day Sale – still time to get your coupon books for \$5 in the school office.

**Welcome to a  
New SCCS  
Family**

This past week we welcomed a new family to SCCS. We are excited to have them become a part of our school.

Please add their information to your school directory:

Michael and Tracy  
Platt  
1304 Whistler Point  
Road  
Woodbury MN  
55129  
651 337-1168

Michael's cell #:  
608 212-3180

Tracy's cell #:  
608 630-6036

Email:  
[mtplatt@comcast.net](mailto:mtplatt@comcast.net)

**Mackenzey**  
Grade 4  
Mrs. Buck

**Kiley**  
Grade 1  
Sr. Mary Bethany



**Sunday, February 28**

Second Sunday of Lent

**Tuesday, March 2**

7:45 AM – 3:00 PM 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to MCCL Student Day at the Capitol

3:30 – 4:30 Drop In Chess Club  
SCCS Cafeteria

6:30 pm Home and School Meeting

**Wednesday, March 3 – NO AM Buses – Parents Drive**

9:15 am All School Mass

**Friday, March 5**

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)

4:30 pm – 7:00 pm Men's Club Fish Fry in St. Michael's Social Hall

**Sunday, March 7**

Third Sunday of Lent

**Tuesday, March 9**

1:30 pm Reconciliation grades 7 & 8

3:30 – 4:30 Drop In Chess Club  
SCCS Cafeteria

**Wednesday, March 10**

1:30 pm Reconciliation grade 6

9:15 am All School Mass

**Thursday, March 11**

1:30 pm Reconciliation for grade 3

6:30 pm Religion Family Fun Night

**Friday, March 12**

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)

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Middle School Retreat at St. Mary's

4:30 pm – 7:00 pm Men's Club Fish Fry in St. Michael's Social Hall

Deadline to turn in School Tool Box orders for 2010 – 2011

**March 15 – 19 – Spring Break – No School**