



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

JANUARY 7, 2010

A Message from the Music Classroom

Do you have a piano keyboard (24-60 key) that you are not using? Consider donating it to the SCCS music room. Ms. Kaup is seeking to build a classroom set of smaller piano keyboards. Donations of new small piano keyboards would also be welcome. Thank you for your help in creating more diverse opportunities and experiences for students in the SCCS music program.



From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

One of the 15 DWP skills developed with all students at SCCS is *sharing*. Learning to share is one of the most important lessons parents can teach children. Parents can also build a foundation for sharing beginning at a very young age.

When playing with other toddlers, let your child pick out three or four toys he or she is willing to share. Put the rest out of sight.

- a) If you are unable to anticipate which toys your child will want to play with and arguments occur, take the toys in question away.
- b) If the toddler screams or carries on, give him/her a time out or sit with the child and talk about what is causing the lack of cooperation.
- c) Use a time clock to indicate how long children can play with a toy before it must be shared.

Along with these tactics parents can model the language of sharing for children. "Would you like to share those with me?"..."May I take a turn?"...or..."When will it be my turn?" Compliment your children for sharing with you or others.

As your children develop, adopt some sharing principles the entire family can use: consider these three.

- 1. If you want to use something that belongs to someone else ask first.
- 2. When someone asks you for something, you do not have to say, "Yes" but if you say "No" give the person a reason or suggest an alternative. Example: "That's my very favorite sweater but you can use any of these."
- 3. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Consider how you would like someone to respond to you if you wanted to borrow or use something your friend has.

As we enter into a new year what better time to initiate a conversation with your children about the many ways you and they can practice the skill of sharing.

(from Vol. #15 Issue 5 A Developmental Approach to teaching Self-discipline. Dec. 2009-Jan. 2010, www.selfdisciplinedwp.com).

Congratulations Mrs. Epperly !!

Mrs. Epperly recently received the following notice from the National Catholic Education Association of an exciting award she has received.

*Congratulations! You have been selected as the North Central Region awardee of the 2010 NCEA Dr. Robert J. Kealey **Distinguished Principal Award**. This award is presented annually to twelve principals in the United States by the department of Elementary schools of the National Catholic Educational Association.*

Oops... Honor Roll Corrections by Mrs. Novack

The Middle School Honor Roll was originally published in the *Smack Dab in the Middle* distributed before Christmas break. We would like to acknowledge a few errors and re-publish. We apologize for omitting 6th grader Emma Benson and 7th graders: Tommy Alessi, Alex Eder, Matt Mancuso and Clare Olsen from the Honor Roll. Also, 6th grader Andrew Burt and 7th Grader Marta O'Malley were accidentally listed on the Honor Roll and they both should appear only on the High Honor Roll. Please look at the attachments of this *FYI* for the corrected Trimester 1 Honor Rolls. (The St. Croix Catholic Honor Rolls will also be submitted to the Stillwater Gazette next week.)

Your contributions to Catholic education over the past 11 years as principal are truly impressive, as well as the years you served as a Catholic school teacher. The letters of recommendation that were received indicated your service and commitment to Catholic Education. You have touched many lives and inspired them in your years as their "Principal".

This prestigious award will be given Tuesday evening April 6, 2010 on the opening night of the NCEA National Convention in Minneapolis. You will receive your award along with eleven other principals at a special banquet in your honor.

We are truly blessed to have you as our Principal Mrs. Epperly!

Upcoming Events at SCCS – Help Us Spread the Word to Friends and Neighbors

During the month of January many local schools will be holding Open Houses. SCCS is also geared up for this recruiting season, and we need YOU to help us spread the word to prospective families.

Kindergarten and Ark of Angels Montessori Preschool Open House

Monday, January 11

6:30 p.m.

Introduction in St. Michael's Social Hall, followed by activities and visits with teachers in classrooms.

Children and adults welcome.

Middle School Information Fair

Thursday, January 14

6:30 p.m.

Middle School Commons

Parents and students currently in grades 5 – 7 are invited to come enjoy a dessert bar, hear from recent SCCS graduates, gather with other Middle School families, visit interactive stations and displays, and learn more about the Middle School experience. This is for currently enrolled families as well as any new families.

All-School Open House, Pancake Breakfast and School Participation Masses

Sunday, January 24

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm

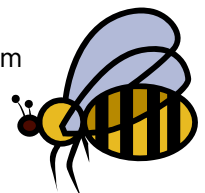
Home and School sponsored Pancake Breakfast in St. Michael's Social Hall, SCCS open for classroom visits; Scholastic Book Fair, the entire St. Croix Valley community is invited. This event is a kick-off for Catholic Schools Week.

Spelling Bee

SCCS students in grades 4, 5 and 6 are once again in the midst of testing their spelling skills. Their ultimate goal is the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee on Saturday, January 23. This week students in 4th through 6th grade are participating in grade level spelling bees in their classrooms. From each grade the top three students will move on to an All School Spelling Bee.

The All School Spelling Bee will be next Thursday, January 14 at 1:30 pm in St. Michael's Social Hall. Families are welcome to come watch and cheer on the contestants.

The All School Spelling Bee winner will then have the privilege of representing SCCS at the Archdiocesan Bee on January 23 where students from 25 area Catholic schools will compete. Best of luck to all our students.



**Healthy Habits
Vikings To Visit
from Mrs. Slusher
in the SCCS
Kitchen**

On January 20, 2010, SCCS will be privileged to have a visit by a member of the Minnesota Vikings Organization.

A 45 minute presentation will take place sometime between 1:30 - 3:30. (More info to come as we learn more.) The Viking Organization member will address the *whole school* on the importance of physical activity and moving during daily activities. They will also be promoting good nutrition, especially the benefits of fruits and vegetables.

This visit is courtesy of the Minnesota Dairy Association and the Minnesota Vikings. They are cooperating in effort to promote good health among children.

Chess Classes and After School Chess Returns to SCCS

Your Kindergarten through 5th grade students may have come home on Monday excited about the Chess Assembly they attended that day. It was a presentation by the SchoolHouse Chess organization about the game of chess. As follow-up to this presentation, SCCS is again offering Chess classes beginning January 19.

Each student received a flyer with registration information. Although Middle School students did not attend 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 should be returned by Thursday, January 14. A copy of the registration form can also be found on the school web site: http://www.stcroixcatholic.com/chess_club.aspx



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.

School Participation Masses Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24, 2010 SCCS Students Needed to Host Masses

It's time again for School Participation Sunday! School Participation Sundays are scheduled once per trimester throughout the school year as part of our ongoing effort to expand SCCS student involvement in parish life.

Our next School Participation Sunday will coincide with Catholic Schools Week and will be on Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24. We are looking for student volunteers from all three parishes for all of the weekend Masses (including Saturday and Sunday evening). We need students to read the petitions, bring up the gifts, and hand out bulletins. Students who participate are expected to be in uniform; however, they will receive a no-uniform pass to be used on a school day.

Please complete the attached form to let us know when and how you and your child can be involved. Please return the bottom half by Friday, January 15.

*Glenda Houle – St. Michaels and St. Marys
Jerome and Geri Wasinger – St. Charles*

Supporting Zach

Zach Sobiech, a 2009 graduate of SCCS and current Faith Formation member, was diagnosed with ostiosarcoma in late November. The cancer was found in his hip joint. He has already started a strong course of chemotherapy and will need hip replacement surgery in March. Reed Redmond, a friend and guitar buddy, along with Zach's guitar teacher, Joe Schertz, started a fund-raising effort to raise money for a new guitar amplifier for Zach. Laura Sobiech, Zach's mom, has sanctioned this idea. We want to keep it a secret from Zach so it will be a surprise. Attached, you will find a copy of a letter drafted by Joe Shertz and Reed Redmond in support of this effort. Please consider helping if you can.

Dairy Queen SCCS Family Night

Our next Dairy Queen SCCS Family Day is Tuesday, January 19th. With the winter months, the Dairy Queen has shortened hours. They are now open from 11:30 am until only 6:00 pm each day. The hours in support of SCCS will now be from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

Why not plan to stop by right after school or before evening sports for a fun DQ snack!

Hope to see you there.

Middle School Winter Dance



All Middle School students are invited to a Winter Dance on Friday, January 15th,

from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the SCCS gym.

Admission is \$5.00.

The night will include Mr. Slaikeu as the DJ, along with plenty of snacks, pop and fun. If you are a Middle School parent and can help with this event and/or chaperone, please contact Laura Ogren at 439-1806.

Home and School Pancake Breakfast Volunteers Needed

by Karen Bechtold

The Home and School Association is again sponsoring a pancake breakfast on **Sunday, January 24th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm** in St. Michael's Social Hall to kick off Catholic Schools week. Over 500 people attended last year's event. The cost is a free will donation with suggested amounts of \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, or \$20 per family.

My job is to find the volunteers. Do you know your way around a kitchen, perhaps with some special pancake-making skills? Can you clear a table in seconds? Are you cleared for handling cash? We need you. We will need volunteers to help with set up, food preparation, collecting money, table monitoring and clean up. Each shift requires a minimum of 14 helpers. Kids (second grade and above) are encouraged to help in support of Catholic Schools Week, but a parent should also be available to supervise. The kids should be in uniform (or appropriate dress attire for non-SCCS helpers) and will receive a non-uniform pass. The parent time will count towards Parent Participation Hours if you have participation requirements.

Breakfast is served from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. The shifts will be as follows:

Shift 1: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Shift 2: 9:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Shift 3: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please call or email me (651-275-3947 or kmbechtold@yahoo.com) if you are available to help. Please indicate your preferred shift, the names of the people who will be helping, and your preferred job (kitchen help, line help, table setters/clearers, ticket sellers, set up or clean up). I will try my best to accommodate your request. I am in particular need of one adult to supervise the kitchen per shift.

Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

Merry Christmas! We are still in the church's liturgical season of Christmas!

This coming Sunday marks the official end of the Christmas season, with the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on January 10. Ordinary time begins on January 11 and goes Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2010.

The Catholic Church has a fascinating and very meaningful liturgical calendar, in which all the seasons of the church, and special feast days, and holy days are listed. I have listed a few of the many resources available to learn more about the Liturgical year and how to incorporate that into our faith life.

<http://wf-f.org/LiturgicalCalendar-info.html> lists the seasons of the liturgical year with devotions and daily prayers for each day of each month!

http://www.catholicmom.com/church_calendar.htm book recommendations for helpful tips for families to learn and celebrate

<http://www.stgeorgebooks.com/product.cfm/product/3642/An-Introduction-to-the-Liturgical-Year/> A book that can be ordered through the SCVFF. Contact Camille Kiolbasa at ckiolbasa@comcast.net to order.

**SCCS Readers
and the
Minnesota
Timberwolves!**



In November, the Timberwolves kicked off another season of their Read to Achieve Starting 5 Program, whose purpose is to encourage at-home reading. Students who read at least 500 pages between Nov. 9 and Jan. 15 will receive a special Timberwolves prize package. This package includes: a Timberwolves special gift, bookmark, poster, and one ticket to a Wolves game on March 28 or April 3! During Library or English class, SCCS students in grades K-8 who were interested in participating in this program received an informational flyer/bookmark on which they record their pages read. Please remember to turn these bookmarks in to either your child's homeroom teacher or Mrs. Koenning beginning the week of January 18. All bookmarks are due by January 22! Enjoy some good books!

Fifth Annual Chimbote Dinner

to support St. Michael's and St. Mary's sister parish in Chimbote, Peru

Saturday, February 6, 2010 in St. Michael's Social Hall

Mass 5:30 p.m.

Social Hour 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Individual Tickets: \$15.00

Alpaca Package: \$175.00 *(includes a table for eight, a special gift, premium seating and recognition at the event)*

Please read the attached flyer for more details and reservations.

Basketball Teams Heat Up a Cold January

A New Year's Basketball Tournament was held on January 1st, 2nd and 3rd at St. Jude of the Lake in Mahtomedi. Congratulations to the SCCS 6th grade girls and boys whose teams earned trophies at the tournament.



The SCCS 6th grade girls lost their first game in the last seconds of the game by one basket, but won the next two games, earning a consolation Champion trophy. The girls are coached by Dan de St. Aubin and Greg Krenz.

The SCCS 6th grade boys won their first two games and lost their last game. They earned a 2nd Place Trophy this past weekend! The boys are coached by Steve DeMeuse.

Congratulations to both teams!



6th grade boys photo:
Standing: Matthew Crea, Mikey Osmian, Chris Bradley, Ben Olsen, Tim Koenning, Davis DeMeuse
Sitting: Eddie Kiolbasa, Colin Corcoran, Temesgen Wessel, and Andy Valerius.

6th grade girls team players are:
Back Row: Carrie Brevitz, Alexa Thurmes, Allison Wasinger, and Molly Frisch
Front Row: Mariah LeRoux, Megan de St. Aubin, Theresa Romportl, and Ari Krenz
Missing: Alex Ouradnik
Coaches: Dan de St. Aubin, Greg Krenz



**Annual
Knights of
Columbus Free
Throw Contest**

Sunday,
January 10
in the SCCS Gym
for boys and girls
ages 10 – 14

Registration
begins at 1:00 pm

Contest is from
2 – 4 pm
at SCCS gym

Questions call
Steve Diemler at
651 439-9098



**St. Michael's
Boy Scout
Troop 132
Paper and
Aluminum Can
Drive**

Saturday
January 23
8:00 – 5:30 pm
&
Sunday
January 24
8:00 am – 2:30 pm

Box Tops for Education – an easy way to help

Our school just received a check for **\$1,367.80** from General Mills for our latest collection of Box Tops for Education. All of this goes to classroom and office use for supplies. Thank you to everyone who collects the labels; it really pays off.

Thanks also to Box Tops coordinators Ann Tomek and Deb Frericks who collect and count the Box Tops from classrooms, then bundle them up and send them off for redemption. Please help them by trim your box-tops nicely, check the expiration dates, and send them to your child's teacher.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 11

6:30 – 8:00 pm Kindergarten and Ark of Angels Preschool Information Night
St. Michael's Social Hall
Parents and students invited
Kindergarten registration for next year begins

Tuesday, January 12

9:45 am 7th grade Communications class 1 to Valley Access

Wednesday, January 13

9:15 am All School Mass

Thursday, January 14

Chess Club registrations due

9:45 am 7th grade Communications class 2 to Valley Access

1:30 pm All School Spelling Bee
St. Michael's Social Hall
Parents Welcome

6:30 pm Middle School Information Fair
Middle School Commons
All 5th, 6th, 7th grade students and parents encouraged to attend

Friday, January 15

School Participation Mass forms due

7:00 – 9:00 pm Middle School Dance
SCCS Gym
\$5.00 per student

Monday, January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

No AM or PM buses today – parents drive

Tuesday, January 19

3:30 – 4:30 pm Chess Club
Meet in the cafeteria

3:00 – 6:00 pm SCCS Family Day at Stillwater Dairy Queen

6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 20

9:15 am All School Mass

PM (TBD) MN Vikings *Healthy Habits* Assembly for K - 8

Saturday, January 23

Archdiocesan Spelling Bee – our All School Spelling Bee winner will represent SCCS

8:00 am – 5:30 Boy Scouts Paper Drive
St. Michael's Parking Lot

Sunday, January 24 – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE AT SCCS

8:30 am – 12:30 pm Open House, Pancake Breakfast, Book Fair, Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

Monday, January 25 – Friday, January 29
SCCS Celebrates Catholic Schools Week
Scholastic Book Fair all week

Monday, January 25

No AM or PM buses today – parents drive

Tuesday, January 26

3:30 – 4:30 pm Chess Club

Wednesday, January 27

9:15 am All School Mass