



# FYI *For Your Information*

## St. Croix Catholic School

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JANUARY 21, 2010



### Val-O-Grams

Student Council will be selling Val-o-grams for 50 cents a piece. With a Val-o-gram you can send your friends and loved ones a message and a treat on St. Valentine's Day. We will be selling them on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Catholic Schools Week Open House from 9:00 - 12:00 noon in the Social Hall and outside of the computer lab. They will also be on sale February 1-8 from 8:30 - 9:00 am and 3:00 - 3:30 pm outside of the computer lab. Because Valentine's Day is on a Sunday this year, the Student Council will deliver the Val-o-grams and treats on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Dear Friends,

St Croix Catholic School and Ark of Angels Montessori Preschool are beginning a celebration of Catholic Schools Week on January 24. Many students look forward to this week each year because it includes fun, meaningful events and special treats. But it's also a time for us to celebrate the enduring values of Catholic education and focus on the many gifts that it provides to America's young people. During Catholic Schools Week, we reach out to the community to build awareness of what our school offers. And we thank all those who work hard every day to make our school excellent: students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, community supporters and you – our tri-parish members.

One of the most important roles of a parish and its families is preparing young people for fulfilling lives of love and service to their families, their communities, and the Lord. That is why the 2010 Catholic Schools Week theme is particularly fitting. "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life" underscores the long-standing tradition of Catholic education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles in life. Now, more than ever, a Catholic education is truly an investment in the future that is worth the consideration of every family.

We invite everyone to take part in our Open House events on Sunday, January 24 from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. Come visit our classrooms, meet our teachers and many of our students, visit our Book Fair, enjoy breakfast at our Pancake Breakfast in St. Michael's Social Hall, and see what a busy, vibrant school we have. Also take a look at the attached Catholic Schools Week brochure for details about events all week long.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



### DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

#### Sunday, January 24 *Celebrating Our School*

Students are participating in liturgies at the parishes of St. Michael, St. Mary, and St. Charles  
8:30 am — 12:30 pm

#### Open House (ALL ARE INVITED)

featuring: Book Fair, Science Fair, Classroom visits and displays; Registration for 2010 — 2011 Kindergarten and Ark of Angels Preschool; CSW Picture Scavenger Hunt

#### Pancake Breakfast in St. Michael's Social Hall

*Pancakes, Sausage, Juice and Coffee*

*Free Will Donation — suggested \$5 adults/\$3 children or \$20 max per family*

**To All  
Supporters of  
Zach Sobiech**

We appreciate all those whom have contributed so far to the surprise gift for Zach Sobiech. We are half way to our goal for the guitar amp of Zach's dreams. We would like to remind those who are still thinking of contributing to please do so soon. To be most effective, please submit your donations by February 11, 2010. We would like to present the Special Amp Gift to Zach prior to his surgery which is now scheduled for February 18th.

Thank you and God bless,  
Reed Redmond  
(friend of Zach) and  
Joe Schertz  
(friend and guitar  
teacher of Zach)

**SCCS Can Make a Difference** by Mrs. Epperly

**Relief for Victims of the  
Earthquake in Haiti**



In the face of the earthquake that has hit the developing nation of Haiti, SCCS has the opportunity to become a powerful witness of the human family. It is a very simple thing we can embrace and make a difference.

A Minnesota home grown international relief effort known as *Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)* is a major supplier of food to the children in Haiti. Of the 10 million packages a year that FMSC provides, 2.5 million are sent to the Haitian people. Our Middle School students have already partnered with FMSC during this year's Marathon service project.

Did you know that it takes just:  
\$.17 to provide one meal  
\$1.70 to provide 10 meals  
\$17.00 to provide 100 meals  
\$51.00 to provide 300 meals

We can do the math and know that this call is quite simple. And everyone can do it. Even just one student at SCCS can do it to feed another child. How many of those who have nothing can we feed?

FMSC is ready to double and triple what they have previously packaged, but they need our financial support. All SCCS students and staff are being asked to bring in donations through the end of January in support of this need. Our goal for each classroom is \$60.00.

Checks can be made out to SCCS with FMSC in the memo line.

**Spelling Bee**

Nine St. Croix Catholic School 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students battled for the title of SCCS 2010 Spelling Bee Champion on Thursday, January 14. This year's winner, who will represent SCCS at the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee on January 23, was Daniel Riehm. Daniel is in 5th grade. The second place winner and the alternate representative is Josie Wing from 4th grade. GOOD LUCK to Daniel on Saturday!



Spelling Bee participants with Principal Cressy Epperly. Top row, left to right: Mrs. Epperly, Molly Frisch, Andy Valerius, Matthew Crea  
Front row, left to right: Daniel Riehm, Caroline Alessi, Tommy Steveken, Kendra Middleton, Josie Wing, Ben Ogren

**Day of Penance  
for the Sin of  
Abortion**

All SCCS students and their families are encouraged to attend The Living Rosary at St. Charles Church in Bayport on this Friday, January 22 at 6:00 PM. Father Kasel will begin the evening with Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the Living Rosary in which everyone will take turns praying The Hail Mary's and placing a red rose in a vase by the statue of Our Blessed Mother. It promises to be a beautiful and moving evening and an edifying way to participate in the Day of Penance. The roses will be furnished. Just come with your Rosaries.

**Wall of Courage**

As part of our Catholic Schools Week events, students and staff are creating a "Wall of Courage" in the SCCS cafeteria. The wall will include pictures of relatives and friends who are serving, or have served in the armed forces, community helpers such as police, fire, and emergency medical personnel. On Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> students will acknowledge the sacrifices of the loved ones during lunch periods.

Bring in your pictures now! Even a drawing is great. We want to see our wall grow every day!

**Lights, Camera, Action! by Mrs. McCarron**

Last week, Mrs. McCarron's Middle School Communications classes went on a field trip to the Valley Access Channels' TV studio where they produced their own videos. They were the technical directors, camera operators, and on-camera talent. Before heading to the studio, the students learned the basics of video communications and how to write a script. Their assignment was to create a short video that would persuade others to change a behavior that could make this world a better place. For example, there were topics like recycling, exercise, adopt a highway, and sponsor a child.



Thanks go out to the following parents who helped drive: Mrs. Dierberger, Mrs. Wessel, Mrs. Vogel, Mrs. Riehm, Mrs. Wallerich, and Mrs. Schraut.

Thanks also to the staff of Valley Access for helping our students with the video productions.



**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



## February is I Love to Read Month

February is traditionally I Love to Read Month and plans are underway for month of reading fun. The theme this year is *Book a Trip for a Reading Adventure!*

*Some of the plans include:*

- Book Journeys - Primary and Middle School students will receive "passports." The goal of the passports is to read a book whose setting takes place in, or whose author is from, each of the continents. Students write a mini book report in their passport; those who complete the project can receive a no-uniform pass.
- Intermediate students and other classrooms who choose to may send a book on a "Book Journey."
- A Western themed lunch in the cafeteria, paired with books such as Pecos Bill and How I Spent My Summer Vacation, will be served. Western day will be a No Uniform Day with western wear being the them for the day. Date to be announced.
- "Get Caught Reading" by Mrs. Epperly, on February 1, 2, 3, 4, 22, 23, 24 and 25
- DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read) on Fridays in February.
- *Guess the Character* contest for students in K-5.
- Trivia about the 50 United States read on the announcements each morning.



Watch for more details in classroom and grade level newsletters about activities your child's class is participating in.

## 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 PM, Social Hour 6:30 PM, Dinner 7:30 PM

Individual Tickets: \$15.00; Alpaca Package: \$175.00 (*includes a table for eight, a special gift, premium seating and recognition at the event*)

## Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

### Celebrate Catholic Schools week with St. Thomas Aquinas!

St. Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church, patron of Catholic schools, colleges and students. His feast day is January 28th. He is a great saint to remember and celebrate during Catholic Schools Week!

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.

#### Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas:

Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct pleasing to you,  
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally embracing you.  
Amen.

**Remember . . .  
Monday, January  
25 is another  
NO BUS day**

Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> is another day when there will be no bus service in both the morning and afternoon.

Parents will be responsible for transporting students.

As on past no bus days, students can be dropped off either in front of the school or in the back at the gym doors.

**In the afternoon, families with last names beginning with A – K are asked to use the front of the school for pick-up and families with last names beginning with L – Z are asked to use the back parking lot. In the back, please enter from the north entrance and proceed to the gym doors to pick up your child/children.**

Please be sure to communicate with your child and your child's teacher about your arrangements for picking them up on both of these days.

Thank you for your help in making these parent drive days run smoothly and safely.

## **Herberger's Community Day Event by SCCS Home and School**

St. Croix Catholic School's Home and School Association has again joined with Herberger's for a wonderful opportunity to go shopping and support SCCS at the same time. 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 throughout the store. 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 27<sup>th</sup>). If you plan to purchase more than one item, you can purchase multiple books (however, only one \$10 off coupon may be used **per** item). 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/FYI%200910/January/Herbers.pdf>. Books may also be purchased through the school office, at the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and during conferences on February 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued support of SCCS Home & School!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Friday, January 22**

Return Conference Request forms for February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> conferences

Students and teachers – remember to bring in pictures for the *Wall of Courage*

### **Saturday, January 23**

Archdiocesan Spelling Bee – our All School Spelling Bee winner, Daniel Riehm, 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

8:00 am – 2:30 pm Boy Scouts Paper Drive  
St. Michael's Parking Lot

### **Monday, January 25 – Friday, January 29**

**SCCS Celebrates Catholic Schools Week**

**Scholastic Book Fair all week**

**See the Catholic Schools Week brochure for details**

### **Monday, January 25 - Celebrating Those Who Help Us**

No AM or PM buses today – parents drive

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Book Fair open

### **Tuesday, January 26 – Celebrating Those Who Keep Us Safe**

3:30 – 4:30 pm Chess Club

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Book Fair open

## **New Library Policy Put Into Effect**

Over the past several months, a committee of parents, staff and Father Kasel and Father Miller have met several times to talk about new guidelines for ensuring the appropriateness of all materials in school library and in our Book Fairs. We want to thank all of them for the time they have spent researching, discussing, and creating a new policy.

Copies of the policy are available in the school office for parents to read and will be posted on the school web site by next week. The Parent Handbook will also be revised to include the policy.



### **Wednesday, January 27 – Celebrating Our Faith**

9:15 am All School Mass – Father Peter Williams presiding

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Book Fair open

### **Thursday, January 28 – Celebrating Community Service**

No Uniforms today – wear Red and Blue today – the colors of the Haitian flag

Conference Confirmation Forms come home today

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Book Fair open

### **Friday, January 29 – Celebrating Our Students**

No Uniforms today – wear school colors – Blue, Green and Gold

2:30 pm Catholic Jeopardy in the SCCS Gym

8:30 am – 4:00 pm Book Fair open

### **Tuesday, February 2**

6:30 pm Home and School meeting in the SCCS Library

### **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