



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School
621 South Third Street
Stillwater MN 55082
651.439.5581
www.stcroixcatholic.com

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

A Message of Gratitude

With Thanksgiving approaching it is an opportune time to reflect on all of those who generously give so much to St. Croix Catholic School and Ark of Angels Preschool. We would like to thank the many parishioners, families, friends and supporters who have so freely shared their talents and resources.



Our school is blessed with a community of people who are committed to supporting our programs financially and to volunteering many hours of time. You help us every day on the playground, in the classroom, monitoring the traffic, serving on committees, praying for our students and staff, and in countless other ways. You make it possible for St. Croix Catholic and Ark of Angels Preschool to fulfill our mission to educate children in a faith-filled environment. Together we make a difference in the lives of our children today and into tomorrow. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Marathon Final Challenge ! !

Wow – many of you are continuing to bring in late pledges for the Marathon. Thank you for your dedication and continued work. At this point – including an anticipated \$1,000 from the Knights of Columbus for the Benefit Breakfast for the Marathon – we have raised \$78,067.00 !!

That is only \$1,933 away from our \$80,000 “secondary goal”. If we have raised \$80,000 by DECEMBER 1st – Home and School and the SCCS Board of Directors promised we could give everyone an extra day of Christmas vacation on Wednesday, December 23rd.

SCCS received an anonymous challenge that just might get us to the \$80,000 goal! If we can collect an average of \$2 per student by November 30th, our challenger will contribute the rest to help us reach our \$80,000 goal and Wednesday, December 23rd will be a no school day! Thank you for this generous donation. REMEMBER THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30th!

New Safety and Security Procedure – Please Take Note

We are continually working together with parents and St. Michael's parish staff to assure that SCCS is a safe and secure environment for all of our students. We have noted that one area of concern is the entrance to the school through the parish offices. This week we have started a new procedure that we hope will further improve security.



Christmas Time is Here!

presented by the kindergarten and first grade children on

***Thursday,
December 3
2:30 pm
SCCS Gym***

Students will share songs of the season

Refreshments hosted by our Home and School Association will be served in the cafeteria after the program.

**Saints and
Songs of the
Season**

will be presented on
**Thursday,
December 10
6:30 pm
St. Michael's
Church**

Students in grades
2 through 5 and the
Middle School
Liturgical Choir will
join together to
share songs of the
season and lessons
of the saints in a
special service to
ready our hearts for
the coming of
Christ. The SCCS
orchestra and band
will each play
fifteen minutes of
prelude music.

* * *

Ms. Kaup is seeking
the following items
for use during our
Advent Programs. If
you are able to
donate or help with
any of these please
contact her at
rkaup@stccs.com :

- craft sticks
(popsicle sticks) -
about 200 sticks
- rope - to tie around
waists
- costumes - any
fabric/costume
pieces you happen
to have that could
look like "robes"
that a Saint would
wear
- 2 fishing nets
and . . .
- someone to make a
beehive for St.
Ambrose to carry
(approximately 1
foot high - out of
paper or ?)

The best option for entering the school is through the Third Street entrance. However, we understand that sometimes it is necessary for visitors to enter through the parish office area. If you do enter that way, you will notice that parish staff at the main desk are now asking everyone going to the school to stop and sign in at their desk. From there you will still need to come to the school office, sign in at our desk, and pick up a visitor's pass.

We appreciate your understanding of this extra step. Please be assured that it is being enforced in order to further improve our school security.

Learning About Virtues by Sr. Maria Frassati

Virtues are the essence of the human spirit and the content of our character. Throughout this school year during the all school morning prayer we are introducing lessons about a new virtue every few weeks. Teachers follow-up in the classroom with additional curriculum about the virtue.

Over the next two weeks we will focus on the virtue of **compassion**. **Compassion** is the virtue by which we share in the sufferings of another. **Compassion** is more than pity or sympathy. It includes participation. It helps us in the process of learning to love. Love usually starts with self-love and then grows into love of family and friends. As we mature we are then able to love those people whom we may not even like to be around, or people we know who do not like us. Through the virtue of **compassion**, our love is purified so that we can love as Christ loves - to love all people. **Compassion** allows our love to grow so that we have a deep concern for the suffering or trouble of another and gives us the willingness to help them in whatever way we can.

The virtue of **compassion** working in us mirrors God's love for humanity. In scripture we are repeatedly told of His **compassion** for us. In having **compassion** for one another, we are bringing God's love and mercy to our world. It is the virtue of **compassion** that enables us to care when someone is hurt or troubled, even if we do not know them. In the Gospel of Mark, Chapter six, verse 34 it says, "As Jesus went

ashore he saw a great throng, and he had **compassion** on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."

Compassion helps us to listen, say kind words and to forgive. Self-sufficiency and anger can divide us, but **compassion** connects cultures and persons. It allows us to truly meet people where they are without judging them. **Compassion** builds bridges among people.

The life of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is a model of the virtue of **compassion**. Mother Teresa was born in Yugoslavia in 1910. She felt an early calling to serve the poor. She became a religious sister in 1928 and was a teacher for almost 20 years. Then, under God's inspiration, she founded a new religious order to serve the poorest of the poor. She devoted the rest of her life to serving the poor. She saw Jesus in everyone she encountered. She was able to look beyond the physical appearance and sickness of others to see their inner dignity as children of God. She was willing to walk with them and love them in their suffering. This is true **compassion** - being close to others who are in pain, loving them as Jesus does, even to the point of giving our lives for others. May we also, like blessed Teresa of Calcutta, have the courage to share in Christ's ministry of **compassion**.





We currently have collected 233 **Operation Christmas Child** gift boxes!

Thank you to everyone who has participated, to Student Council for organizing this collection, and for Mr. Chuck Glaser for delivering the boxes to Samaritan's Purse.

Opportunity to Support Our School From An SCCS Parent

Need mascara, hand cream, lip gloss, skin care or Christmas gifts? During the months of November and December, 30% of your Mary Kay purchases through Martha Klein (an SCCS parent) will come directly back to SCCS. You can order online at www.marykay.com/malklein or contact Martha via email malklein@marykay.com or by phone 651-436-7816. If you already have a consultant, you can make a one time purchase or Martha can work with your consultant to have funds donated from to SCCS.

Coffee With Cressy – Friday, November 20

On Friday, November 20 Mrs. Epperly will be having this year's second *Coffee With Cressy* get-together for parents beginning at 9:15 in the Edith Stein Meeting Room in the St. Michael's Parish Office area.

The topic for the morning will be a discussion of the many safety and security policies and procedures in place at SCCS. She will be giving information on how the procedures are practiced and how policies are developed. Parent input is always gladly accepted.

Childcare will be provided. Please call the school office, 651 439-5581, or email dpolley@stccs.com, to make a childcare reservation. Be sure to let us know the name and age of your child or children who will be coming.

Marathon Success Continues!

Wow – many of you are continuing to bring in late pledges for the Marathon. Thank you for your dedication and continued work. At this point – including an anticipated \$1,000 from the Knights of Columbus for the Benefit Breakfast for the Marathon – we are at \$78,067.00 !!

That is only \$1,933 away from our \$80,000 challenge. If we have raised \$80,000 by DECEMBER 1st – we have promised to take the last day before Christmas vacation (Wednesday, December 23rd) off of school. We are still waiting to see if we are able to reach that goal. So if you have any additional Marathon contributions, please send them in as soon as possible.

Health and Wellness at SCCS

Since a period of large numbers of students absent in early October, SCCS has rebounded for the past couple of weeks with unusually low numbers of students absent. Very few of the latest absences have been reporting flu-like symptoms. We hope that the efforts on the part of students, teachers and maintenance staff to keep our building and ourselves as germ free as possible have contributed to this.



We are optimistic that this trend will continue, but are well aware that health officials are cautious about a possible second wave of flu. We are continuing with reminders about healthy habits including hand washing, using hand sanitizers and recommending staying home if you or your child is feeling ill.

Last week information was sent home about a Saturday, November 21st, H1N1 Vaccination Clinic at the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater from 9:00 am – Noon. Complete information about the clinic can be found at: http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us/Influenza_Updates.html

Junior Great Books

Once again we are offering an opportunity for students in grades K – 8 to participate in a Junior Great Books group beginning in January. K – 4th grade groups will meet during the school day and 5th grade through 8th grade groups will meet before school. The groups will start in January. Letters with the opportunity to sign-up will go home with all students on Monday, November 30th.

Volunteers are needed to lead many groups. Training will be provided. If you have questions or would like to help contact Peggy Doeksen at 651 439-5581 ext 322 or pdoeksen@stccs.com.



SCRIP News

We have added on-hand cards for

ARISTO'S,
I-TUNES, and
MARCUS
THEATRES

Aristo's, the new Greek Restaurant in Stillwater, owned by an SCCS family, has now joined our SCRIP program. They are giving us a generous 20% return and are sold in \$25 increments.

Please remember to help support our local retailers that are so kind to help bring income to our school.

For shopping during the Holiday Season we have added \$15 I-Tunes and \$25 Marcus Theatre cards. They are now available at Masses and the SCCS office.

Bravo Sixth Graders! by Mrs. McCarron

On November 10 and 12, the 6th graders in Communications class did an excellent job performing their one-act plays, *Cupid's Website* and *Half a King is Better Than None*. The audience, including relatives of the 6th graders and SCCS students, were amused by the actors funny lines and antics throughout the two plays.

It was obvious the students worked very hard learning their lines and preparing great sets, costumes, publicity, and props. Besides good acting, all the students who worked behind the scenes - sound managers, stage managers, curtain pullers - helped to make both plays successful.

Thanks go out to the following parents who helped on production days in class when the students were painting sets, finding costumes, preparing posters, and choosing props:

Mrs. Crea
Mr. DeMeuse
Mrs. Kiolbasa

Mrs. Krsiean
Mrs. Laura Ogren

Also, thanks to the parents who helped the students get ready on the performance days:

Mrs. Bradley
Mrs. Speltz

Mrs. Crea
Mrs. LeRoux



Cupid's Website



Half a King is Better Than None

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 20

9:15 AM *Coffee with Cressy* – School Safety Policies and Procedures
Childcare available – please call 651 439-5581 or dpolley@stccs.com to reserve

Final Day to bring in Student Council Food Drive items

Tuesday, November 24

End of First Trimester

9:15 am All School Mass (**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A TIME CHANGE** – Due to a scheduling conflict, the All School Mass will be in the morning today.)

Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 30

Junior Great Books letters come home – return by Wednesday, December 9

Tuesday, December 1

1:30 pm Reconciliation for grade 3

6:30 pm Home and School Meeting
SCCS Library

Wednesday, December 2

9:00 am Ark of Angels Preschool Family Open House for M-T-W class

9:15 am All School Mass

12:30 pm Ark of Angels Preschool Family Open House for T-W class

1:30 pm Reconciliation for grade 4

Thursday, December 3

NO buses in the morning; buses run as usual in the afternoon

9:00 am Ark of Angels Preschool Family Open House for Thursday class

2:30 pm Kindergarten and grade 1 Advent Program
SCCS Gym

7:00 pm Dr. Okner's District Orchestra concert at Oak Park School

Friday, December 4

9:00 am Ark of Angels Preschool Family Open House for Friday class

1:30 pm Reconciliation for grade 5

Tuesday, December 8 – Feast of Immaculate Conception

9:15 am Mass – grades K – 5 will attend

12:15 am Mass – Middle School students will attend

Thursday, December 10

6:30 pm Advent Program
SCCS Band, SCCS Orchestra, students in grades K – 5, and
Liturgical Choir
Church of St. Michael

Friday, December 11

Report Cards send home

There will be no FYI next week due to the Thanksgiving break.