



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

OCTOBER 22, 2009



Geography Family Fun Night

Thursday,
October 22
6:30 – 7:30 PM
SCCS Middle
School Commons

Your whole family is invited to come spend a fun evening doing Geography related activities.

Please let the office know if your family plans to attend.
651 439-5581 or
dpolley@stccs.com

Scrip and Herberger's Community Day Books will be for sale at Family Fun Night !!!

From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

PCYI (Protection of Children and Youth Initiative)

SCCS along with the parishes of St. Michael, St. Mary and St. Charles have over the past seven (7) years offered volunteer training in the Virtus: Protecting God's Children initiative. In conjunction with that initiative SCCS also began teaching its students about personal safety and personal abuse prevention.

The safety of our children is always uppermost in our minds. We have taken many steps in recent years to do our part in ensuring that your children will be in a safe place. Each year all students at SCCS are instructed with age appropriate materials that allow for developmental instruction so children can acquire knowledge and skills to make smart choices to ensure their safety. This instruction complies with the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People (PCYI). This Charter, established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in June 2002, sets forth a comprehensive set of procedures for creating a safe environment for children and young people.

Initially SCCS implemented the *Harrisburg Formation in Christian Chastity* curriculum and SCCS has now incorporated *NetSmartz: Know the Rules* to supplement the Harrisburg program with an additional developmentally age-appropriate curriculum. Archbishop Flynn approved *NetSmartz: Know the Rules* materials for use in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These materials are copyrighted by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

As always we rely heavily on parents as the primary teachers of their children. The efforts of parents are further supported by classroom work to provide moral principles we live by, and a spiritual life to sustain our young people as they mature. More information will be sent home from classroom teachers as instruction takes place during the year.

No Boots in Classroom Notice

With new trends ever cropping up, uniform compliance is oftentimes a tedious endeavor. Over the past few years, we have noticed improvements in many aspects of adhering to SCCS' Uniform Policy and we thank parents, students and staff for this support.

With the onset of the colder weather, we bring to the attention of students and parents, the issue of proper footwear in the classroom. As noted on page 33 in the Uniform Policy section of the 2009-2010 Parent and Student Handbook: **"Boots are not to be worn in class. Students should bring or leave a pair of shoes at school to change into when boots are worn outside."** This includes snow boots,



SCRIP

We are adding new on-hand cards for the holiday season

Because the holidays are quickly approaching, we have added a few new cards to our on-hand supply.

Starbuck's (reloadable) \$10

Barnes & Noble \$10 & \$25

Bath & Body \$25

These cards will now be available after Mass and in the SCCS office. We will add other retailers to our on-hand supply each week throughout the Holiday Season.

rain boots, UGG boots, fashion boots, or boots of any nature. Last school year, because there was not a specific mention of boots in the 2008-2009 Uniform Policy, we allowed UGG boots and like-fashion boots when the question arose in the winter months. At the beginning of this school year, however, the policy was changed to clearly state no boots in the classroom. **Effective with this 10/22/09 notice: Any student coming into the classroom with boots on will be asked to change into appropriate shoes.**

There is a reason for uniform policies. In keeping with a long tradition with Catholic education, uniforms lend dignity and discipline to the process of education. Uniforms provide students an identification and connection to their school. Uniformity eliminates the elitism that is often associated with brand names and the latest trends, and fosters a sense of mutual respect among students. Additionally, we have found at SCCS that the supporting community is very supportive and appreciative of our uniformed image. Many public schools have, in recent years, implemented dress/uniform codes for these same reasons.

Much time on behalf of the parent representatives was spent developing the uniform policy at SCCS. Parents and students are asked to be fully informed on the policy. Visit the school's website www.stcroixcatholic.com, select SCCS Parents from the top menu, then Dress Code and Uniform Policy from the side menu.

It is the school's expectation that parents and students will cooperate in adhering to this "no boots in the classroom" expectation. It is possible, as we continue to look at the Uniform Policy throughout the year, that additional changes, clarifications, or reminders may also be needed. Such notices will be communicated through the FYI. Thank you, parents and students, for your cooperation.

Safety and Security

A couple of incidents in the news about school security - a bus stop incident in Hudson and a women who entered empty classrooms and took personal objects belonging to teachers at a couple of area schools, including Lake Elmo Elementary (*the women has been apprehended – see KSTP.com for an update*) - prompts us to remind parents that SCCS periodically reviews our own security policies and procedures and makes adjustments if we see the need. We are currently working together with St. Michael's Parish office to explore how we can make the entrance to the school through their offices as secure as possible.

Scraping for Senteo Was a Huge Success

So far we have raised \$4,696 from this event! Thanks to everyone who shopped and thanks especially to *Gartner Studios* for donating and delivering ALL of the products.



We have already purchased and received two classroom sets of the Senteo Student Response System to be used in our classrooms with SMARTboards. The Senteos will be used at Geography Family Fun Night – come see how they work!

The additional proceeds will be kept in a fund to purchase more SMARTboards. As of today, the excess proceeds from the sale are a little less than half the amount needed to purchase a SMARTboard with a projector and installation. The entire package costs approximately \$3,800. We currently have SMARTboards in use in 3 Middle School classrooms (Science, History, and Mrs. Novack's Math) and in both Kindergarten rooms. Our goal is to eventually have a SMARTboard in every classroom!

We still have a good supply of 12" X 12" scrapbook paper. You can fill a bag for the reduced price of only \$10. Stop in the school office for a bag and directions.

Merry Mall
November 7th
10:00-2:00
St. Michael's
Church

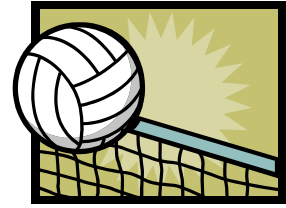


Merry Mall organizers are looking for donations for the Kid's Area at Merry Mall. If you are able to donate any of the following items, please drop them off before Friday, November 6th in the workroom at SCCS or call Amy Gag at 651-439-0888 to arrange a pick up/drop off!

- Thank you!
- 2-liter pop bottles
 - Variety of suckers: dum-dums, tootsie pops, etc...
 - Bags of candy

Volleyball Team Wins

The 6th grade volleyball team won their match against Transfiguration on Tuesday night. Team members include Carrie Brevitz, Alexa Thurmes, Alex Ouradnik, Catherine Seifert, Molly Frisch, Mariah LeRoux, Sydney Schmelz, and Lauren Greeder. Congratulations to these young ladies!



2009 – 2010 Middle School Student Council Members Announced

On Wednesday, October 14th the Middle School voted for this year's 2009-2010 Student Council. After listening to the speeches of all the candidates, they elected the following students:

President – Sarah Lentz

Advisory Representatives:

Vice President – Carly Glaser

Mrs. Glaser

Brian Treacy (7) & Andy Valerius (6)

Secretary – Patty Dierberger

Mrs. Lynch

Jamie Purdie (7) & Eddie Kiolbasa (6)

Public Relations – Sophia Wallerich

Ms. Lass

Catherine Wessel (7) & Mikey Osmian (6)

Mrs. Donlon - Joey Fedor (7)

Congratulations to all of our winners and a thank you to all of those students who ran for student council. Please keep our Student Council in your prayers.

Home and School Marathon Committee Congratulations to All SCCS Students and Families!

We made our Marathon goal! Our goal was to raise \$75,000 which goes to the school's regular operating budget. To date with all contributions and expected matching gifts we have reached **\$76,857**. Achieving that \$75,000 goal means that Mrs. Epperly will be "Ruling from the Roof" one day soon. (We hope the weather cooperates and gives us a reasonably warm day for this.) Mrs. Binford's class is checking with the weatherman to help us pick a day. "Ruling from the Roof" means that Mrs. Epperly will have an auxiliary office on the small roof above the gym doors (right outside of Mrs. Berry's classroom) and/or the small roof in front of the school at the front of the gym (above the Green Room).

Thank you to all the parents (and grandparents!) who chaperoned our service projects the week of October 5th. We apologize if anyone was missed – we truly know how fortunate we are to have such a generous parent community. The service trips would not have been possible without the help of the following people:

Grades K-2 walk to Linden Nursing Home:

Teresa Alessi, Karen Bechtold, Marlo Eder, Heidi Franke, Kim Gozum, Dawn Mohr, Katie Kaari, Camille Kiolbasa, Deb LeRoux, Sandy Murphy, Kathy Pearson, Dennis Petronack, Carol Schmelz, Juliana Sedgley, Judy Stanislaw, Monica Still, Amy Vagle, Jackie Valerius, Deanne Wessel, Lee Winter

Grades 3-5 cleaning at St. Michael's Cemetery:

Teresa Alessi, Ken Alessi, Karen Bechtold, Lisa Clark, Jerry Colburn, Amy Dinzeo, Brian

Are You In Need of Used Uniforms?

If so, come check out the selection in the Band/Orchestra room.

Home and School organizes and keeps a great supply of used uniforms available. The room is open every day for you to visit during school hours, but please try to avoid Thursdays and before school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday because the room is used for band and orchestra during that time.

Prices are:

Jumpers - \$5

*Vests, Pants,
Sweatshirt, Skirts,
Skorts and*

Spirtwear - \$4

Shorts, Shirts - \$3

*Socks and
Accessories* - \$1

Payment can be made in the school office.

Donar, Denise Faust, Gary Faust, Sue Faust, Deb Frericks Amy Gag, Chuck Glaser, Ann Heimerman, Katie Kaari, Kathy Koral, Kathy Krisean, Stephanie Landsem, Dawn Mohr, Ann Ogren, Laura Ogren, Kathy Pearson, Iris Peterson, Mary Riehm, Katie Rolf, Shannon Runyon, Coleen Siegfried, Judy Stanislaw, Robert Stanislaw Jr., Sue Steveken, Monica Still, Anne Ternes, Becky Thomsen, Helen Tinucci, Ann Tomek, Jackie Valerius, Paul Valerius, Danny Valerius, Bill Vogel, and Lee Winter.

Grades 6-8 food packing at Feed My Starving Children:

Teresa Alessi, Rosemary Burt, Jerry Colburn, Susie Corcoran, Sue Faust, Deb Frericks, Kim Gozum, Camille Kiolbasa, Lisa Olsen, Jim Purdie, Mary Riehm, Mary Rolf, Carrie Sandquist, Suzie Schulte, Louise Stevens, Jackie Valerius (both days!) and Jerome Wasinger.

The KC Pancake Breakfast to benefit Marathon on Sunday, October 11th was a great success! Thank you to all of the parents and students who volunteered to set and clear tables during the breakfast. We had a wonderful, hard working group who helped to make this event another successful fundraiser for the Marathon. A special thank you goes to Dan, Marlo, Alex, Ali and Abby Eder, Tom, Glenda and Rachel Houle, Jerry, Diana, Shane and Ryan Colburn, Tim Albers, Chris Lentz, Tom Harrington, Gary Peterson, Tom, Sarah, Isaac and Luke Rooker, Karen, Lucas and Mary Bechtold, and Bill, Cheryl, Misty, Ryan and Tori Vogel. Thanks as well to Amy Dinzeo who created a wonderful display of pictures of the SCCS Students hard at work during their service projects.

All students who met their individual or family Marathon goal should have received a Take Home Thank You Treat last Wednesday. Each student's envelope of no uniform passes was included in these packages as well. Students may use their no uniform passes as early as this Friday, October 23rd. Thank you to all the students and families who worked so hard to make goal!

We would also like to thank the Rooker family for donating candy to fill the traveling Marathon trophy – we know how much the children appreciate this. Thank you, as well, to the Gartner family and Stillwater Dairy Queen for donating the free cone tokens for the Take Home Thank You Treats. Lastly, please thank Gina at Chili's of Maplewood when you use your Pepper Pals free kids meal certificates – they were very generous as well.

We're still hoping we can reach our secondary goal of \$80,000 to earn December 23 (the last day before Christmas vacation) as an extra no school day. As of now we are about \$3,300 away from that goal. We are anticipating a donation from the Knights of Columbus from last Sunday's pancake breakfast to go to the Marathon. That amount along with any late donations could possibly bring us to that goal. If we reach \$80,000 by December 1st, we will still award that day off – so be sure to send in any checks from family and friends that are still coming in.

Thank you to every family and every student who made the commitment to SCCS through your contribution of time, money, and prayer. Every one of you makes SCCS a wonderful community to be a part of!

Basketball Registration Is Now Available

Basketball registration forms for the 5th – 8th grade Boys and Girls CAA (Catholic Athletic Association) teams have been offered to all 5th – 8th grade students. Remember to get your registration in by Friday, October 30th. Forms are available in the kiosk outside of the computer room and on the school website, www.stcroixcatholic.com under Athletics > CAA.

Herberger's Community Day Event

Saturday, November 14



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, November 14th). 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!

An order form is attached to paper copies of the FYI or can be printed from the link in the FYI email (this links to the SCCS web site). Books may also be purchased at the school office or during school conferences the evenings of November 5th and 6th.

Light Their Way from Laurie O'Keefe

To all volunteers, parents, and friends of SCCS:

Our Light Their Way Event is approaching fast, and in order to make it successful we need many volunteers. This is a fundraising dinner with speaker Mr. Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza, former owner of the Detroit Tigers, founder and Chancellor of Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida. It is on November 3 at St. Michael's Social Hall. All proceeds are going directly to SCCS.

We need help in these areas.

1. Prep for kitchen –salads, etc... need 6 to 8 people - 3 people be there at 3:30 and 5 people be there at 4:30.
2. Prep for serving and putting meals on plates etc... 6 to 8 people – be there at 5:45 PM (can be the same as prep for kitchen)
3. Servers /Waiters – at least 4 adult supervisors for the SCCS students serving the dinner be there by 5:30 PM
4. Wine servers – 8 be there at 5:45 PM
5. Clean up – 8 or more people – 6:30 to 10 PM

If you are able to help, respond to Laurie O'Keefe by Friday, October 23 at 430-3357 or laurie@lunchpailsports.com. Thank you helping to make this a successful event for our school!

Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

What are Holy Days of Obligation?

Holy days are sometimes regarded in terms of obligation and imposition. But should they not be considered even more as graced times of opportunity to mark a special mystery of our faith?

What is a holy day of obligation? A simple answer is that a holy day is an important feast of Our Lord, Our Lady or other saints that Catholics are morally obliged to observe by participating in the celebration of the Eucharist and by abstaining from unnecessary work. These days are made solemnities, like a Sunday in terms of festivity and observance, because of their special importance and meaning for the universal and/or local Church. In the United States, we observe six holy days each liturgical year. Holy days do vary from one country to another. The six holy days of obligation are:

- January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;
- Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter, the solemnity of the Ascension;
- August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
- November 1, the solemnity of All Saints;
- December 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception;
- December 25, the solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

American Catholics, and indeed all Christians, are called to demonstrate the overriding importance of God's unconditional love in our lives. How do we line up our priorities regarding God and Man?

Christianity is countercultural. The Church invites us in the observance of holy days to make a personal sacrifice that will witness to the centrality of Christ in our lives. Will we consider holy days as burdensome obligations, or as dynamic opportunities to grow in our faith?

Information taken from the following websites:

<http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/g&a/general/obligation.shtml>

http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=1371&CFID=17694345&CF_TOKEN=25193351



Operation Christmas Child

Once again, SCCS will be participating in this great program sponsored by *Samaritan's Purse*. This is a fun and easy way to make a difference in the lives of children in third world countries. It involves giving small gifts in shoeboxes. Last year the school collected almost 200 shoeboxes. Let's make our goal this year 250 shoeboxes (or more)!

If your family would like to participate, start collecting items to fill a shoebox with trinkets, toys, candy, etc. for a boy or girl. Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Boxes can be wrapped or decorated, but must be in such a way that they can still be opened. Samaritan's Purse also asks for a \$7.00 donation per box to cover shipping costs. However, boxes without the donations are still accepted and appreciated. The shoebox labels can be found in a brochure sent home this week with each child (or you can print labels from the Samaritan's Purse website, www.samaritanpurse.org.) We will be collecting boxes through November 16th.

Some suggested gift ideas are:

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

Please do not include: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans

If you have items such as school and craft supplies, small toys, personal hygiene items, etc that would work well in the boxes, and you would prefer to just send the items, our Student Council can add these items to boxes or put together several extra boxes. **All donations are welcome.**

Please bring your boxes to school between November 12th and 19th. On November 20th the Student Council will be organizing the boxes and Mr. Chuck Glaser will pick up our gifts to take to a regional collection location at the end of the week.

If you have any questions you can go to the website, http://www.samaritanpurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack_A_Shoe_Box/ .



Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 22

Vision Screening for grades 1, 3 and 7

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm **Geography Family Fun Night**
SCCS Middle School Commons
Please RSVP to dpolley@stccs.com

K – 5 Conference Forms go home

Friday, October 23

Ark of Angels School Pictures by Enstrom Studios

Volleyball pictures after school. Pick up an order form from Mr. Kolnik

Wednesday, October 28

9:15 am All School Mass

Friday, October 30

No Uniforms – Orange and Black Day

Tuesday, November 3

6:30 pm *Light Their Way* dinner and speaker – Mr. Thomas Monaghan
St. Michael's Social Hall

6:30 pm Home and School meeting

Wednesday, November 4

9:15 am All School Mass

Thursday, November 5

No AM or PM buses – parents drive

4:00 – 8:30 pm K – 5 Parent Teacher Conferences
Middle School Conferences – more information will be sent
home with students

Friday, November 6 - No School for K – 8; Ark of Angels Preschool WILL have school

8:00 am – Noon K – 5 Parent Teacher Conferences
Middle School Walk- In Conferences

1:00 – 3:00 pm Staff Development

Saturday, November 7

St. Michael's Merry Mall