



# FYI *For Your Information*

## St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

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[www.stcroixcatholic.com](http://www.stcroixcatholic.com)

OCTOBER 29, 2009

### A message for parents of students in grades 2 – 8

Watch for your child's NWEA Parent Report to come home on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The reports will be in an SCCS envelope addressed: "To the parents of:"

### A message for parents of students in grades 6 - 8

SCCS Middle School teachers have decided to offer the opportunity for parents of 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to sign up for scheduled conferences on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please see the letter and form enclosed with your child's NWEA Parent Report. The form can also be found on the SCCS web site under *Middle School > Important Forms and Documents*.

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

### Homework Time

Some children like to start homework right after school. Others prefer to relax first. Some children listen to music when they study, while others need silence. Which homework routine is best? They are all fine! With help from their parents, students have discovered what works for them. The following strategies will help your child find a winning homework routine.

*When and Where?* Try planning a regular time each day when family members do quiet activities. You will help your children focus by limiting distractions. For example, they can do homework in the kitchen after school while you cook. Or everyone can read in the living room at night while they work in their room.

*Take a break:* Schedule short periods of work to fit your child's attention span. If they have an hour of homework, they can do 30 minutes and then take a break before finishing up. *Tip:* Have them stay on task by setting a timer to signal their break.

*First things first:* Before they start, help your children put their assignments in order. Have you noticed they get more done when they do the written work first? If so, they can complete their math worksheet, then practice spelling words and, finally, study science. *Idea:* Suggest that they rank homework from hardest to easiest and tackle the more complicated first.

### Parent Power

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your child brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time send a thank-you note or an e-mail.
- Contact your child's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed at school.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.

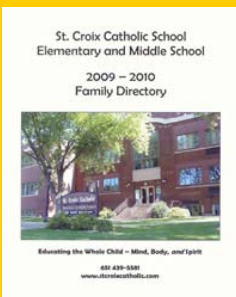
### Reminder - No Buses in the AM or PM next Thursday, November 5

Next Thursday, November 5 is our next day this year when we will have no busing available for students in both the morning and the afternoon. As we did during the first week of school, we suggest that families with last names ending in A – K drop-off and pick-up in the front of the school and families with last names ending in L – Z drop-off and pick-up in the back of the school. Please be sure that your child knows where you will meet him or her at the end of the day. For younger students, it would be very

**SCCS Family Directories Were Distributed Last Week**

The 2009 – 2010 Family Directories were given to the *Youngest Child* in each family last week. For families with two households, the student should have received two. If you did not receive your copy, please ask your child or check with your child's teacher. Extra copies are available in the office for \$3.00 each if you should misplace yours during the school year.

If you have corrections to any information in the directory or any updates you would like mentioned in an FYI, please let the office know, [dpolley@stccs.com](mailto:dpolley@stccs.com)



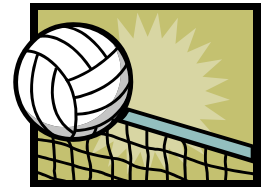
**LOST AND FOUND**

We have quite an accumulation of items in our Lost and Found. Please check the display table in the main hallway during conferences to see if you can identify any items.

helpful to send a note to your child's teacher about your pick-up location. Thanks for your cooperation and your commitment to keeping kids safe.

**Volleyball Team Wins**

With a win at St. Michael of West St. Paul last Thursday evening, the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade girls CAA Suburban C volleyball squad, with team members Megan de St. Aubin, Ari Krenz, Elizabeth Krsiean, Jordan Swanson, Teresa Romportl, Tori Vogel and Allison Wasinger, ended their regular season with a record of 8-1. Way to go, girls!



**Mrs. Epperly Rules from the Roof!**

On Tuesday of this week, Mrs. Epperly made good on her promise to *Rule from the Roof* of the school as a reward for the students making their Marathon goal of \$75,000. Mrs. Binford's third graders helped pick a beautiful day - the sky was blue and the sun was shining. After climbing through Mrs. Berry's classroom window, Mrs. Epperly was interviewed and photographed by the Stillwater Gazette. A hot cup of coffee, a portable heater from Mrs. Daniels, and lunch from Jimmy John's helped make the roof as comfortable as possible.



5<sup>th</sup> graders waving to Mrs. Epperly during recess.

Mrs. Epperly literally had a bird's eye view of the playground – and a whole new perspective on playground supervision. She even had the opportunity to toss down a playground ball when a second grader had the nerve to throw it up to her! There were rumors that students were plotting to get sent to the principal's office, just so they could go out on the roof too, but everyone behaved themselves despite the temptation.

Thanks to everyone who made this fun day possible – the students, parents, and teachers who participated in Marathon, Diane Polley, Diane Ktsanes and Millie Bruning for all their hard work in assisting the Home & School Board with the details of Marathon, and the world's best principal, Mrs. Epperly!

**Herberger's Community Day Event Saturday, November 14**

St. Croix Catholic School's Home and School Association has again joined with Herberger's for an 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Additional  
VIRTUS  
Training  
Planned at St.  
Michael's**

**Monday,  
November 9<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

For any parents, grandparents or friends wishing to volunteer at SCCS working directly with children – this includes in the classroom, chaperoning field trips, coaching sports, helping with events such as the Spring Carnival – you have another local opportunity to complete the required Virtus training.

The Archdiocese requires that all volunteers having direct contact with students, must attend a 3 hour training on "Protecting God's Children."

Pre-registration for the class is required. To register for this training, go to <http://www.virtusonline.org>

If you would like to read instructions on the registration process, you can find an instruction sheet on the SCCS web site:

<http://www.stcroixcatholic.com/files/stcroixcatholic/files/Virtus/VIRTUSregistrationinstructions.pdf>

## St. Croix Catholic Adds New Technology to Classrooms



Thanks to everyone who supported our *Scrapping for Senteo* sale and especially to *Gartner Studios* who donated the products for the sale, we now have two new Senteo Student Response Systems for use in our classrooms. These handheld answering devices spark the interest of students because they are so much like the handheld games they enjoy. Yet they are using the Senteos to learn. The system was introduced at our Family Geography Night where it was used for a multiple choice

Geography game. All ages, from kindergartners to their parents had a chance to answer questions.

When used in the classroom, the class and teacher can instantly see what percentage of the class answered correctly and what percentage did not. Each student can see on their own device if their answer was correct. However, only the teacher can see which students answered incorrectly and can then adjust the lesson or give some students additional help.

Mrs. Novack's first period pre-algebra class were the first "guinea pigs" to test her skills in creating her own lesson plan and worksheet using the Senteos. There were a lot of "wow" and "this is cool" comments heard in the classroom as the students discovered how to sign-in and personalize the Senteo to recognize them by name and keep a record of their scores.



The Senteo systems work in conjunction with the SMARTboards we already have in several classrooms or can be used with a computer and projector in classrooms without SMARTboards. Other teachers will be learning to use the system and introducing them to their classrooms in the upcoming weeks.

## Geography Night



Many SCCS students had a great time on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Geography Family Fun Night. From a Continent "Cake Walk" to "Pin the Barge on the Great Lake" students of all ages learned fun Geography facts, made maps, played games, and much more while having a great time.



We are collecting

### Operation Christmas Child Gift Boxes

through Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Watch the Christmas tree in the main hallway near the Library next week to see how close we are to our goal of 250 boxes!*

If you have any questions you can go to the website, [http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack A Shoe Box/](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack_A_Shoe_Box/).

## From the SCCS Kitchen: Lunch Around the World by Mrs. Slusher

Have you ever wondered what students around the world eat for lunch? I was curious and traveled the Internet to find out. In November, we will "travel" to Italy and France to try some of their favorite foods. To help you translate the "Around the World" menu:

### November 4<sup>th</sup> – Tour of Italy

Main Line: Pasta with Red Sauce and Meatballs, Green Salad, Fruit, Bread, Yogurt, Milk  
Alternate: Minestrone Soup and Sandwiches

### November 18<sup>th</sup> – Tour of France

Main Line: Beef in Gravy over Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Yogurt, Bread, Cookie, Milk  
Alternate Line: Ham and Cheese on a Croissant and Ratatouille

## From the Health Room by Mrs. Millie Bruning

A BIG THANKS to the volunteers who helped with this years Vision Screening:

Jean Batterton	Carrie Petronack
Marlo Eder	Liz Sullivan
Denise Faust	Bill Vogel
Deb Mariana	Susie Corcoran
Laurie O'Keefe	Michelle Harrington

Also a Special Thank You to:

Jane Slusher for making delicious cookies and coffee

Frank Rumpf for setting up the tables and chairs we needed in the Social Hall

It went very smoothly-----thanks to all of you!!!!

## Winter Parking



Winter parking restrictions for the city of Stillwater go into effect on Sunday, November 1. Please take note of this information when you are parking around the school (these rules are in addition to the posted signs and are in effect whether or not there is snow). The following information is from the city of Stillwater website, [www.ci.stillwater.mn.us](http://www.ci.stillwater.mn.us).

*Beginning 12:01 am November 1, through midnight April 1, all vehicles parked on City streets must be parked on the side of the street that bears addresses that are odd and/or even according to the day. (The school address is odd – 621. The John and Mary building address is even - 218)*

*On odd numbered days, vehicles must be parked on the odd addressed side of the street. On even numbered days, vehicles must be parked on the even addressed side of the street. . . . If your vehicle is found to be in violation of this ordinance, you may be issued a summons and your vehicle may be towed. This ordinance is necessary to allow proper snow plowing. If your car is not moved to the correct side of the street on the appropriate day, you are in violation of this parking ordinance. Any questions regarding enforcement please contact the Stillwater Police Department (651) 351-4900.*

## Opportunity to Support Our School From An SCCS Parent

Need mascara, hand cream, lip gloss, skin care or some Christmas gifts? During the whole month of November, 30% of your *Mary Kay* purchases through Martha Klein (an SCCS parent) will come directly back to SCCS. You can order online at

**Catholic Order  
of Foresters**



**Carnival**

to benefit St. Croix  
Valley Faith  
Formation  
Programs

**Friday,  
November 13**

**6:00 – 8:30 pm  
St. Mary's  
Education Center  
and Great Hall**

Games

Ring Toss

Lolli-Pop Tree

Face Painting

Dance- Dance  
Revolution

Ice Cream

Hot Dogs

Tacos

Chips

Pop

[www.marykay.com/malklein](http://www.marykay.com/malklein) or contact Martha via email [malklein@marykay.com](mailto:malklein@marykay.com) or by phone 651-436-7816. If you use Mary Kay and have a consultant you can make a one time purchase or Martha can work with your consultant to have funds donated from your purchase to SCCS.

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, October 30

No Uniforms – Orange and Black Day

Check your newsletter or communication from your child's teacher for specific information on parties and/or special dress guidelines for your child's class.

### 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 (*please see the article on page 1*)

4:00 – 8:30 pm K – 5 scheduled Parent - Teacher Conferences  
Middle School Parent – Teacher Conferences – scheduled and walk-in conferences

### 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 Meetings

### Saturday, November 7

10:00 am – 2:00 pm St. Michael's Merry Mall

**Monday, November 9 and Tuesday, November 10** – Ark of Angels Preschool Conferences

### Tuesday, November 10

9:45 am 6<sup>th</sup> grade plays performed for grades K – 4

### Wednesday, November 11

9:15 am All School Mass

### Thursday, November 12

9:45 am 6<sup>th</sup> grade plays performed for grades 5 – 8

2:00 – 2:45 pm Ronald McDonald presentation "Good Choices" – Grades K – 5