



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

WELCOME

Back

Information Night for Parents

**! TONIGHT !
Thursday
September 3
6:30 – 8:00 pm
St. Michael's
Social Hall**

This evening will be an opportunity for parents to meet with Administration, our Board of Directors, Home and School, Endowment Committee, and Booster Club representatives. We will be presenting goals and highlights of the upcoming 2009 – 2010 school year.

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From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time. Enthusiasm and expectations are high. Parents, students, teachers and the community share the common hope that this school year will bring outstanding achievement in education, in community spirit, and in affirming our faith in God.

Realization of that hope requires both commitment and a plan of action. Your prayers, your participation, and your spirit of cooperation are essential to our success. We plan our curriculum to meet the high standards that characterize Catholic education. Our goals focus on areas of knowledge to be studied, skills to be acquired, and habits and attitudes to be developed.

We will continue to focus on differentiated instruction which supports our population of diverse learners, on assessment for learning that supports student growth, and to collaborate with the Minnesota Writing Project with Mrs. Ann Thompson as our in-house consultant. With today's emphasis on learning standards and standardized testing, and now having in place two test tools (MCA II and NWEA), we are able to use assessment procedures **for** learning. SCCS teachers will attend the NCEA conference that is being held in the Twin Cities in the Spring. These ongoing foci strengthen our already strong academic and faith-based educational programs offered at SCCS. At SCCS the whole child is provided an education that meets the needs of each individual and an environment where they are treated with the dignity that ought to be given to a child of God.

This year SCCS welcomes 387 students in K – 8 and 64 students in Ark of Angels Preschool. There are 233 families represented at SCCS and 56 at Ark of Angels Preschool. In particular we want to welcome 21 families who are new to Ark of Angels Preschool and 15 families who are new to SCCS. We also welcome Sr. Mary Bethany as our new first grade teacher and Becca Kaup as our music teacher. We also welcome Julie Lubitz who is returning to SCCS and will be overseeing the Creative Kids Club program in the afternoon.

We are excited as we begin the new school year.

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Last Thursday the school hosted the Meet the Teacher afternoon and evening sessions. At this event students were able to meet their teacher, see their classrooms, and get a feel of what it's like to be back at school. Parents in K-5 were given information packets as resource for the ins and outs of each child's grade. In these packets you should find information that relates to class schedules, curriculum, homework policies, classroom expectations, etc. If you were unable to attend, this packet of information should have been sent home with your child on the first day of school. All Middle School students received their information on the 1st day of school.

Why did I receive a paper copy of the FYI?

This first **FYI** of the year has been given as a paper copy to all YIF (Youngest in Family) children at SCCS. It is also being emailed to the families who indicated that they would like to help us by having the **FYI** emailed to them. Thank you for doing that – it will help us to save a considerable amount of paper and time.

After today the families opting for email delivery will ONLY receive the **FYI** electronically. If you expected to receive an email with the **FYI** today and did not, or if you would like to add your name to the email list, please call or email Diane Polley (439-5581 ext 236 or dpolley@stccs.com.)

Each week's **FYI**, along with past copies of the **FYI**, are always available on the SCCS website, www.stcroixcatholic.com.

Spotlight on Our New Teachers

Welcome to Ms. Rebecca Kaup Our New Music Teacher

Just before school started, Ms. Diane May (who became Mrs. Diane Lee this past summer) was offered a position teaching music at a school and parish closer to her home.

We were very fortunate and excited to find Ms. Rebecca Kaup to take on the music position for the kindergarten through 5th grade students as well as the Middle School Liturgical Choir group.



Miss Rebecca Kaup moved here from West Hollywood just last week. She has been teaching music for fifteen years, and is a graduate of UW River Falls and California State University Los Angeles. She plays piano, organ and sings. In Los Angeles she was cantor at a large church in the Los Angeles archdiocese, pianist/organist at a second church, and a teacher (music, drama, art, 5th grade, and audition coach). She has been on the UCLA faculty for 5 summers as vocal coach for the Theater, Film and Television department. Miss Kaup loves music and sharing her passion for the arts with students of all ages. She is very excited to be here at St. Croix Catholic School and would like to thank everyone for being so kind.

By the end of this week, all students should have had a chance to meet Miss Kaup. Please welcome her when you see her in the hallways or helping with dismissal in the afternoons.

Transportation and Busing

Thank you to everyone for making the effort to drive students to and from school during our first week. With only a few small glitches, students and drivers have found each other. Thanks especially to volunteers Al Liehr, Bill Vogel and Camille Kielbasa who have helped direct and keep traffic moving on Third Street.



In the future:

On days when we have no buses in **both the morning and afternoon**, we will follow the same plan of drop-off by car in the front and pick up by last name in either the front or the back. Those days are: November 6, January 18 and January 25.

On days when we have no buses **in the morning**, we will continue to have drop-off in the front of the school. Those days are September 22, October 19, December 3, February 16, March 3, and April 15. Look for reminders in upcoming FYIs about these days.

Busing through the Stillwater School District #834 begins next Tuesday morning. In the morning, buses will be dropping off students in the back of the school. Parent drivers should continue to drop students off in front of the school on Third Street. PLEASE DO NOT DROP STUDENTS OFF IN THE BACK PARKING LOT ON REGULAR SCHOOL BUSING DAYS.

In the afternoon, buses will load in the back of the school. Parent drivers should pick up students in front of the school or park on side streets and meet your children in front of the school. PLEASE DO NOT PARK OR PICK UP STUDENTS BY CAR IN THE BACK PARKING LOT ON REGULAR SCHOOL BUSING DAYS.



Booster Club

As SCCS parents, we are all members of the Booster Club. We encourage and support all extra-curricular activities. The Booster Club Board meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm.

Please join us in September to see what the Booster Club is all about. We are actively seeking new board members for this school year. Remember, time spent as an active board member can fulfill your Participating Parent Program requirement.

For questions, please contact Terry Mikutowski at 651 430-9358.

We have learned from the District #834 Transportation Department that in the afternoon most of our students will be riding on transfer buses to the new St. Croix Preparatory School at Stagecoach Trail and 47th Street. From there, students will transfer to their assigned buses for transport home. For the first several days, we plan to have at least one staff person from SCCS and a couple of parent volunteers at St. Croix Prep to help students find their buses. As students become familiar with this routine, we hope to have parent volunteers available at St. Croix Prep each afternoon. A few SCCS students will board buses here at SCCS and ride directly home without going to St. Croix Prep.

Please be patient during the first week or two of busing. Students are learning to find their buses and drivers are learning their routes and getting to know their student riders. Some delays usually occur and some route adjustments may be necessary. Concerns can be addressed to either the District #834 Transportation Department at 651 351-8377 or MN Central Bus Company at 651 430-3311.

Any parent who is interested in helping with student transfers at St. Croix Prep should call or email Mrs. Epperly. We would appreciate your help!

Would you like to help?

Volunteers are still needed in these positions:

- AM and PM traffic monitors (1 person/day from about 8:35 – 9:15 am) and (1 person/day from about 3:15 – 3:45 pm)
- AM bus monitors (1 or 2 people per day from about 8:35 – 9:15 am)
- PM bus helpers at St. Croix Prep (1 or 2 people per day from about 3:35 – 4:00 pm)
- Lost and Found organizers (your own schedule)

SCCS parent, Suzie Schulte, has stepped forward this year to help coordinate volunteers for playground, lunchroom, transportation and safety monitors, and Lost and Found. THANK YOU TO SUZIE.

She is still looking for additional volunteers to help with before and after school traffic and bus monitoring. This job includes helping students get out of cars, helping students find their rides, and signaling drivers when it is safe to pull into traffic.

In the morning, we also need parent volunteers (1 or 2 per day) to check off buses as they arrive and supervise students arriving by bus in the hallway by the gym until it is time for them to go to classrooms.

Once a week or so, we need a parent to clean out the Lost and Found cabinet – organizing and folding items and looking for any items with names that can be returned to their owner.

If you can help one day a week (or more) for any of these tasks, please contact Suzie at 651 983-4077 or suzie.schulte@comcast.net

Also needed: When buses begin next week, we need 1 or 2 parents each afternoon to help supervise students as they transfer from shuttle buses to their own buses at St. Croix Prep. (See the Transportation article on pages 2 and 3.) Please call Mrs. Epperly if you can help with this job or would like more information.

Remember that ANY and ALL volunteering counts for parents who have required Parent Participation Hours to fulfill. These positions require that you have a background check, Virtus training, and a signed Volunteer Code of Conduct.

Mrs. Epperly will be presenting a Volunteer Orientation again at her *Coffee with Cressy* on Friday, September 18. See page 4 for details.

Virtus Training Coming Up

Thanks to the potential volunteers who have signed up to complete the upcoming *Virtus, Protecting God's Children* class.

The next class at St. Michael's is on September 22nd in the Social Hall.

If you are planning to volunteer at the school or the church any time in the future and have not yet taken this class, please consider signing up. If this location and time doesn't work for you, there are many times and locations where the class will be offered throughout the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Register for a class or view available times and locations by going to www.virtusonline.org.

You can print a sheet of instructions for registering online from the SCCS web site: www.stcroixcatholic.com
> SCCS Parents > Important Forms and Documents > For Volunteers

THANK YOU FOR
VOLUNTEERING

The SCCS Service Marathon Is Here Again !

We're off to a great start. SCCS has already collected \$3,075 towards our goal of \$75,000 for this year's Service Marathon. The \$75,000 goal was set when we were anticipating fewer students at SCCS and we hope that we will now be able to surpass that goal. Anything over this goal will help to meet the great need for tuition scholarships and help reduce the budget shortfall. **As an added bonus, if we exceed our goal and raise \$80,000 or more, Christmas break will begin one day early.**



A Kick-Off Assembly for the Marathon will take place on Friday afternoon, September 4 at 2:40 pm in the Gym. All families should have received their Family Marathon Packet with a Marathon Funds Turn In Sheet (in your Registration folder). If you are missing your packet, you can pick up a new one in the office.

Our first Marathon Collection day is next Thursday, September 10. Be sure to send your Marathon money along with the first page of your Marathon Family Funds Turn In Sheet with the youngest child in your family at SCCS in your family Marathon envelope. The envelope will be returned to you for next week's collection.

Once again this year for the SCCS Service Marathon, students will perform age appropriate service projects during our Marathon Service Week of October 5 through October 9. Students in grades K-2 will prepare a music program to be performed at Linden Nursing Home. The students will go to Linden on Monday, October 5.

Students in grades 3-5 will do clean-up projects at St. Michael's Cemetery in Bayport, on Wednesday, October 7 with a rain date of Friday, October 9.

The Middle School students will help prepare meals for children in third world countries when they visit Feed My Starving Children in Eagan on Tuesday, October 6 or Thursday, October 8.

Some great alternative ways for students to raise pledges could be lemonade stands, bake sales, lawn mowing, and baby sitting.

Our first Marathon Funds Collection day is next Thursday, September 10.



School Picture Day is Thursday, September 17th



On Thursday, September 17th, photographers from Enstrom Studios will be at SCCS to take student pictures for all students in K – 8 and the Thursday Ark of Angels Preschool class. Envelopes for ordering are coming home today with each student. Please return your envelope with your order and payment on Picture Day – **September 17th**. Students must have payment **when pictures are taken** for Enstrom Studio to process your order. If you forget to send money or your child is absent, there will be a retake day in October. Retake day will be scheduled after the finished pictures are returned.

Picture Day is a No Uniform Day. Parents are welcome to bring younger siblings to have pictures taken in St. Michael's Social Hall beginning at 8:45 am.

Reporting Absences

When your child will be absent or late, please report this to the school office before 9:00 am. You can call the school office at 651 439-5581. If you get voice mail, choose # 1 and leave a message. You can also send an email to us at attendance@stccs.com.

With the added concern about the H1N1 influenza, it is very important that you let us know WHY your child will be absent. If he or she is ill, please let us know if it is an Influenza-like Illness (defined as a fever of 100 degrees or more, and a cough or sore throat).



For more information about the H1N1 flu and how Stillwater schools (including SCCS) are handling potential outbreaks, please see: http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us/Influenza_Updates.html

School Participation Sunday Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20, 2009 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 first School Participation Sunday will be on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20. 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.

We will also have students taking up a Marathon Collection on behalf of the pastors this weekend, and are asking for volunteers for that as well.

Please complete the sign-up form to let us know when and how you and your child can be involved. Please return the bottom half by Friday, September 11. We are also looking for parent volunteers from each of the three parishes to help with scheduling the students at the masses. Please call Glenda Houle at 439-5352 if you are interested. Thank you.

St. Mary's Wild Rice Festival SCCS Students Needed for Dining Room Help

This year, we are hoping to expand the school's presence at parish events to include not only Student Participation Masses three times a year, but also the three parishes' annual festivals.

On Sunday, September 13, SCCS students, 3rd grade and older, are asked to help support the St. Mary's Annual Wild Rice Festival by volunteering in the dining hall. SCCS students are asked to wear their school uniform and sign up for a 2-hour volunteer time slot. We will help in St. Mary's dining hall, assisting with table clearing and refilling of water, milk, bread and butter, relish trays, etc. An adult volunteer will meet with your child 15 minutes in advance of your shift and show you what to do. It is easy and fun!

Please send your child's name, grade and desired shift to Holly Mezera, hmezera@msn.com by September 4. * We will confirm your child's assignment by email and look forward to seeing you all there! Remember: All students should be in complete uniform and will receive a no-uniform pass as a thank-you for service.

Shift times are:

10:30 am – 12:30 pm
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

*A special thank you to Holly Mezera for offering to coordinate SCCS students for this event. We are seeking a co-coordinator for this project, as Holly's daughter, Megan, graduated last year and their family is no longer officially at SCCS. (Thanks for coming out of retirement, Holly!) Please step forward ASAP if you can shadow Holly and learn the ropes of coordinating student volunteers for this festival, as well as for the three Student Participation Masses (one each in Fall, Winter, Spring). Preferably, this adult volunteer would be a St. Mary's parishioner and SCCS parent or grandparent.

Technology at SCCS

Have you heard about the new iMac computers in our computer lab? Students (and Mrs. Donlon) are having a great time with the bigger, better resolution screens and added capabilities.

The school was also set up this summer for wireless connectivity throughout the building. This means our mobile laptop lab can be used anywhere in the school. The new iMac computers are being leased for \$10,000 a year and the cost for the wireless was \$2,000.

Thanks to the many parents who have already made tax-deductible contributions to the SCCS Technology Fund this year. These funds are what make our technology improvements possible. We have collected \$6,315 in donations so far from 42 families and hope to collect at least that amount again by the end of 2009. Please consider making a donation and looking into employer matching contributions to double your gift.

11th Annual SCCS Golf Outing a Success



The St. Croix Catholic School (SCCS) Endowment Committee celebrated its 11th Annual Golf Tournament, held August 22nd at Applewood Hills Golf Course in Stillwater.

Every year, this golf and dinner event gives people an opportunity to come together as a community in a fun venue and support a worthy cause. This year was no exception. Approximately 115 people participated on a day handmade for a round of golf and raised nearly \$25,000 for the SCCS Endowment Fund. A key reason for the success of the event were the number of local businesses, organizations and families who sponsored the event through hole sponsorships, donations to the silent auction and other support. Event organizers would like to thank the sponsors, participants, and the many volunteers who helped to make this year's tournament a fundraising success.

Those who supported the SCCS Endowment Golf Outing are listed on an attached sheet. We ask that you please support these businesses who so generously give to our school community.

Proceeds from the tournament go directly to building the school's Endowment Fund, established to provide a long-term source of income to SCCS. All contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested, generating investment earnings for the school's benefit.

For more information about the SCCS Endowment Fund, becoming a member of the Endowment Committee or making a donation, please call Dave Faust at (651) 748-8442.



SCCS SCRIP

**HAS MADE \$14,000 SINCE FEBRUARY 2009
HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF THIS ???**



Scrip has been going all summer long and is still bringing in great revenue for our school - even when we only have about ¼ of the school families participating. This is an easy way for you to support SCCS. Scrip is a fundraiser that costs no extra money out of your pocket and is extremely easy. You purchase gift cards at face value and redeem them at their full face value at retailers you are already shopping at. The money brought in is helping close the budget needs at SCCS without costing you anything extra!!!! There are many different ways to purchase your cards...the easiest is ordering online at www.shopwithscrip.com and entering the SCCS Enrollment Code LEA75CE48226. You can then shop for gift cards at over 400 participating retailers. We also have a handful of local retailers available to purchase at the SCCS office at all times, or after all Tri Parish Masses on the weekends. There is also a paper order form available in the SCCS office or on the SCCS website which gives you a small number of retailers you can order from and then return it to the office. Many of our local retailers have been VERY generous in their return to our school and we should all thank them by patronizing their businesses when we can. If you haven't participated yet, now is the time to get started at the beginning of the new school year ... only orders bring the school money!! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Ogren, 439-1806 or Amy Gag, 439-0888.

Coffee with Cressy



Each school year, Mrs. Epperly has 2 or 3 days when parents are invited to come to an informal morning gathering to discuss topics and issues of interest to many parents. The first *Coffee with Cressy* this year will be on Friday, September 18th at 9:15 am.

Anyone who would like to learn more about volunteering at SCCS and was unable to attend the August 25th Volunteer Orientation is invited to attend.

Enjoy a cup of coffee, meet other parents, and learn more about the school during this informal gathering in the Edith Stein room in the St. Michael's Parish Offices.

Childcare is available BY RESERVATION. Call the office at 651 439-5581 or email dpolley@stccs.com if you need childcare.

Instrumental Music Opportunities at SCCS

Our families are fortunate to have several options available for students who would like to play instrumental music: the onsite SCCS Orchestra, the District 834 Orchestra program and the Hill Murray Band program.

Hill Murray Band Program

Ms. LeVesseur came to SCCS today, Thursday, September 3, to demonstrate instruments and pass out band information to new and returning band students. All fourth graders and any interested students in grade 5-8 will be bringing home a yellow letter providing information about the program and parent meeting dates and times.



All students who were in the SCCS Band last year will be bringing home a folder of registration materials. The first lesson for returning band students will be Thursday, Sept. 24.

Band students meet for an individual lesson and a large group lesson on Thursdays during the school day. Tuition for band is paid to the Hill-Murray Band Program. The tuition is \$590 for the year, collected in two semester payments of \$295 each.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. LeVesseur at hlevesseur@hill-murray.org or 651-748-2414.

SCCS Orchestra

The SCCS Orchestra, now in its fourth year, will begin rehearsals for returning students with director Jim Woodhouse on September 9. Both beginning and experienced string instrument players are encouraged to join this exciting musical ensemble!



Beginning Orchestra, open to 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students, will meet on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:15 - 8:50 a.m. Lessons will be on Thursday mornings and a combined rehearsal with Advanced students will on Fridays. Beginners will have their first lesson on Thursday, September 24.

Advanced Orchestra, open to all students through grade 8 with previous playing experience, will meet on Wednesdays from 8:15 - 8:50 a.m. and Fridays from 8:15 - 8:50 a.m. for the combined rehearsal. Tuition for the Orchestra Program is \$250/semester or \$500 for the year. Mr. Woodhouse welcomes students working with Dr. Okner to join the SCCS Orchestra in addition to lessons through the District program. Scholarship funds may be available.

A meeting with new students and parents (or anyone looking for information) will be on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:15 pm in the Band and Orchestra room. Information will also be available on instrument rental.

If you cannot attend the meeting, or would like further information, please contact Jim Woodhouse at 651-439-8388, or email at musicmanjim@comcast.net.

District 834 Orchestra

The District 834 Orchestra program is open to students in 5th and 6th grade and meets at Oak Park Elementary with Dr. Marla Okner. Advanced Orchestra for students in 7th and 8th grade is available at Stillwater Junior High School. Students enrolled in the District Orchestra meet with Dr. Okner at Oak Park Elementary one day a week and are transported by bus during the school day for small and large group lessons. Arrangements can be made for Junior High orchestra students to meet a couple of times a week with the Stillwater Junior High Orchestra. Work missed at SCCS during



Junior High Orchestra classes can be made-up by working with SCCS teachers. There is no charge other than instrument rental for the District Orchestra programs.

Families may choose whichever Orchestra program best meets their needs – or can take part in both.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 3

6:30 – 8:00 pm Welcome Back Night for Parents (see page 1)
St. Michael's Social Hall

Friday, September 4

2:40 pm Marathon Kick-Off Assembly

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day – NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 8

Busing begins

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

Thursday, September 10

First Marathon Money Turn-In Day – turn in any money collected with the youngest child in your family in your family envelope. Be sure to include your 4 part Family Funds Turn-In Sheet. (from your Marathon packet found in your Registration folder)

Friday, September 11

9:15 am Rosary for Peace
St. Michael's Church – families are invited to join us.

Monday, September 14

NWEA testing begins for all students in grades 2 – 8

Tuesday, September 15

6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting
St. Michael's Parish Board Room

7:15 pm SCCS Orchestra Information Meeting and Sign-Up
Band and Orchestra room #102

Thursday, September 17

School Pictures for SCCS students and Ark of Angels Thursday class. This is a *No Uniform Day*. Parents can bring younger siblings for pictures at 8:45 am.

5:30 pm Ark of Angels Family Potluck
St. Michael's Social Hall

Friday, September 18

9:15 am *Coffee with Cressy* – Volunteer Orientation – if you missed the volunteer orientation on August 25th, please consider coming today to discuss volunteering at SCCS. Childcare is available, but please RSVP to the office to reserve a spot for your child.

