



FYI *For Your Information*

St. Croix Catholic School

621 South Third Street

Stillwater MN 55082

651.439.5581

www.stcroixcatholic.com

SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

Coffee with Cressy



Come have coffee with Mrs. Epperly and other SCCS parents while learning more about volunteering at SCCS. The first *Coffee with Cressy* this year will be on Friday, September 18th at 9:15 am in the Edith Stein room in the St. Michael's Parish office area.

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

From the Principal's Desk by Mrs. Epperly Looking Forward to a Very Good School Year

Good information was shared at the Town Hall Meeting last Thursday. Reflections were given of the many successes of last school year -- raising over \$93,000.00 for our Marathon and providing countless hours of community service led by our hard-working Home and School; four of our 8th graders representing SCCS at the Archdiocesan Quiz Bowl took first place among 48 schools, SCCS sponsored three Lego League teams one of which earned the top Teamwork Award and Robot Design Award while also earning 2nd place for Research and Programming. Collectively SCCS' three teams earned the First Lego League team Spirit Award. In June SCCS graduated 40 outstanding students who in Mrs. Lynch's words are "*very strong academically, confident in their abilities, committed to Social Justice and always willing to serve the needs of others*".

It was also noted that over the past year much time and effort was spent by teachers and parent representatives collecting facts on the school's strengths and challenges for the purpose of guiding continual improvement. Three of the sources of information used were the Annual Parent Survey, Exit Interviews and our School Report Card. From those sources, priorities for the 2009-2010 school year were defined:

- providing a safe environment that respects the dignity of all;
- aiming for academic success for all students;
- leveraging our resources;
- growing our school community;
- building cohesiveness within our tri-parish community.

Throughout the month of September, these priorities will be addressed in our FYIs. Please note that it was mentioned at the Town Hall Meeting that the Discipline Policy would be ready for distribution this week. However, due to the need for more time to discuss the implementation of the Discipline Policy with all staff and the training of our volunteers, this distribution will occur next week. Parents will receive the Discipline Policy by their usual FYI distribution method – email or hard copy - and will be asked to sign-off that they and their children understand and will abide by the policy.

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.

School Picture Day

(for all K – 8 students and Ark of Angels Thursday Class)

Thursday, September 17

Picture Day is a No Uniform Day

Picture envelopes have been distributed to students. Please remember that an order envelope and payment are required at the time pictures are taken.

Parents are invited to bring in younger siblings for pictures beginning at 8:45 am.



Technology at SCCS by Mrs. Novack

We are very happy to share with you some technology changes that occurred over the course of the summer.



The computer lab is now home to 25 new iMac computers and 5 new MacBooks. The new hardware will support the enhancements made to the computer curriculum to ensure that SCCS is following International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) National Educational Technology Standards.

To support the new laptops and our current laptop lab within the classrooms, the entire campus is now wireless.

Additionally, two new SMARTboards were mounted, one in Mrs. Berry's Kindergarten classroom and one in the Middle School History classroom where four different teachers will be sharing the SMARTboard for History classes.

In the next few months we hope to purchase some Senteos. The Senteo Smart Response System is a wonderful addition to the classroom. Senteos allow teachers to instantly see if students are understanding information by allowing the students to independently and electronically respond to questions posed in class. Results are instantaneous for the students and class results are quickly computed for the teacher as well. A fun fundraiser to help raise the \$3,100 needed to buy two classroom sets of the Senteo system is being planned. For scapbooking and craft enthusiasts, this sale is not to be missed. Please see the *Scraping for Senteo* flyer sent home last week or check the FYI portion of the web site.

What is Farm2School?

Farm to School programs are popping up all over the U.S. These programs connect schools with local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local small farmers.



Instead of using produce shipped over long distances, schools use fresher, more nutritious produce from local growers. Our very own Paul and Deb Roth have been providing us with cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, onions, etc. for several years. Please thank Paul and Deb Roth for their hard work and dedication in growing and caring for these healthy foods.

SCCS also uses produce from other local growers including Axdahl's and Costa Farms. These growers market their produce through Bix Produce, one of SCCS' suppliers.

Virtus Training Coming Up

Remember – to volunteer at SCCS in any capacity working with children, you are required to have completed the *Virtus – Protecting God's Children* training class.

43 spaces are still available for the training at St. Michael's on September 22. The class time is from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

Register for this class or any other class at another time and location 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

SCCS Service Marathon Update

A Kick-Off Assembly for the Marathon was held last Friday afternoon, September 4th, and as always, Marathon Man was there getting the students excited about Marathon! This Friday, the candy-filled Marathon trophy will go to the class with the highest average funds per student collected for the week. This traveling trophy will make its way to different classes each week based on homeroom collections.

Our first Marathon Collection day was today, and we will continue to collect funds each Thursday through October 1st. Be sure to send your Marathon money along with the appropriate page of your Marathon Family Funds Turn In Sheet with the youngest child in your family Marathon envelope. The envelope will be returned to you for next week's collection. 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.

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.

Would you like to help? Volunteers are still needed

We are still in need of a few volunteers for these positions:

AM and PM carpool traffic monitors

1 person/day from about 8:35 – 9:05 am and 1 person/day from about 3:15 – 3:45 pm

This job includes helping students get out of or into cars, helping students find their rides, and signaling drivers when it is safe to pull into traffic.

AM bus monitors (1 or 2 people per day from about 8:35 – 9:05 am)

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.

The traffic or bus monitor positions would be ideal for a parent who is bringing a child early to patrol or waiting in the afternoon for your patroller to finish.

Playground and Lunchroom Monitors

Needed from about 11:45 – 1:25 especially on Tuesday and Thursdays. Substitutes for all days are also needed.

SCCS parent, Suzie Schulte, is coordinating volunteers for playground, lunchroom, transportation and safety monitors, and Lost and Found. 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



St. Mary's Wild Rice Fall Festival this weekend!

Sunday, September
13, 2009
St. Mary's Church
11:00 am –
4:00 pm

Kids and Teens'
Games, Homemade
Quilts, Bingo, Silent
Auction

Wild Rice and
Chicken Dinner

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

St. Michael's CCW is looking for people who would be interested in volunteering their time to help deliver "Meals on Wheels" the week of Sept. 28th-Oct. 2nd. This is greatly appreciated by all the recipients. If you are interested please call Kathy Krsiean at 439-1840 or e-mail at kkrsiean@netzero.net



Thank you from Father Gonzalo's School

Last year Erin Hooley, a 2001 graduate of SCCS, spent one month in Montevideo, Uruguay working with students and staff at the Liceo Jubilar Juan Pablo II Catholic School where Father Gonzalo, who spent a couple of weeks visiting SCCS in February of 2008, is the principal. Erin took along a couple of very big suitcases filled with school supplies donated last spring by SCCS students and families. The school is in a very impoverished area and the need for these supplies was great.

The students at Liceo Jubilar sent their thanks back to SCCS on three handmade thank you cards. You can view these cards on the SCCS office door.



Focus on Faith by Jeanne Crea

Did you know that there are adult Catholic Bible Studies available through the St. Croix Valley Faith Formation? Go to http://www.scvff.org/bible_study.aspx to learn more.

Jeff Cavins is an excellent teacher and makes learning the Bible seem so easy! Our SCVFF (St. Croix Valley Faith Formation) has purchased several of his classes on DVD and regularly offers Bible Studies to all in the St. Croix Valley. This year a study of the book of James is offered on Tuesday evenings and a study of the book of Revelation is offered on Wednesday mornings after the all school Mass. Please know that you are most welcome to join!

- A video study of "**James**" will be meeting on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. for **11 weeks** beginning September 22, 2009. Sessions will be held at St. Mary's Education Center. Jeff Cavins will lead the group through the book of James in this 10 week bible study. The cost of this program is \$30.00 and includes materials needed for this study. (Bring your own Bible)
- A video study of "**Adventures in Revelation**" will be meeting at St. Mary's Education Center on Wednesday mornings for 11 weeks beginning September 23, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Jeff Cavins explores Revelation to demonstrate how the Kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven. The cost of this program is \$40.00 and includes materials needed for this study. (Bring your own Bible). For more information please contact Dennis or Nancy Scheppe at 351-0621.
- Apologetics class starts Sept 12, for more information see <http://www.scvff.org/apologetics.aspx>
- Catechism classes begin on Sept 21 in Husdon and Sept 24 in Stillwater. For more information see: http://www.scvff.org/catechism_of_the_catholic_church_mens_womens_catechism.aspx

Eucharistic Procession and Miracles Display

The Churches of St. Michael and St Mary will host their annual Vespers and Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, September 27th. Vespers will begin at 4:00 p.m. at St. Michael's. Our guest homilist this year will be Archbishop John C. Nienstedt. After prayer, the Blessed Sacrament will be processed to St Mary's Church where we will end with Benediction. In conjunction with the procession there will be a display of Church approved Eucharistic Miracles of the World in St. Michael's Social Hall. Display hours will be Saturday, September 26th from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and again from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, September 27th the display will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. This display is free and open to the public. We will keep the display up on Monday, September 28th for students at SCCS to view.



Something
New!



**SCCS Night
at DQ
(Dairy Queen)**

**September 22
4:00 - 7:00 PM**

*Dairy Queen
supports education
and encourages
students to strive
for excellence.*

**Take time to
enjoy a blizzard
or a meal at
Dairy Queen in
downtown
Stillwater, and
DQ will support
SCCS with a
donation of a
percent of the
proceeds.**

*Look for SCCS
Nights at DQ on the
2nd to the last
Tuesday of each
month and join
other SCCS families
and friends for an
after school snack
or a dinner out.*

Men's Retreat / Day of Reflection September 26, 2009 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

- Holy Mass – 8:00 am
- Morning Break – Coffee & Rolls
- **First Conference *Be the man God wants you to be***
by: Fr. Mark Moriarty; Pastor of the Church of our Lady of Peace, Rogers, MN.
- **Second Conference *Men and the Holy Mass***
by: Fr. John Paul Erickson; Director of Archdiocesan Office of Worship
- Lunch
- **Third Conference *Be a man of prayer***
by: Fr. Randal Kasel; Parochial Administrator of the Church of St. Charles
- **Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**
- **Confession, Rosary and Benediction**

Cost of the retreat is pre-registration of \$10.00 per person or \$15 on the day of the retreat. Cost includes morning coffee & rolls and lunch. Men of all faiths are welcomed. Please your name and registration fee to the St. Charles Men's Club: Church of St. Charles, c/o St. Charles Men's Club, 409 North Third St., Bayport, MN 55003

Upcoming Events

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.

Sunday, September 13

11:00 am – 4:00 pm St. Mary's Annual Wild Rice Fall Festival

Monday, September 14

Scrip orders due by 9:00 am

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

Wednesday, September 16

9:15 am All School Mass
Family and friends, please join us.

**Thank You
to the
Target Take
Charge of
Education
Program**

SCCS has just received a check for **\$ 2,175.13** from Target Corporation as a part of their Take Charge of Education program. When parents, teachers, and other school supporters use their Target REDcards, Target donates up to 1% of their purchase to their designated school.

Thank you to all of you who have signed up for this program. If you would like to learn more about the program, go to Target.com/tcoe. St. Croix Catholic's School ID # is 9144.

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.

Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20

School Participation Masses
2nd collection to benefit the SCCS Service Marathon

Tuesday, September 22 - No AM buses today – parents must drive

4:00 – 7:00 pm SCCS Night at Stillwater Dairy Queen

Wednesday, September 23

9:15 am All School Mass
Family and friends, please join us