

# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

December 2008



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## Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4 – K-5 Christmas Concert
- Dec. 11 – 6-8 Christmas Concert
- Dec. 22 – Jan. 2 Christmas Vacation

## NO late start at SMS

St. Mary's School **will not** be participating in Owatonna District 761's 2-hour late start on Monday, Dec. 8th.

The school day at St. Mary's begins at **8:00 AM**. Parents will need to provide transportation **to school** on this day. Busing is available for students to arrive at school by 10:00 AM if you cannot make other arrangements.

## Administrator's Corner.....By Jerry Kent

We will soon begin the new Church year of Advent. As we enter this very special time of the year I hope and pray that all of your families will have a wonderful and blessed Advent season - the season when we give thanks for all that we have received and are willing to share with those who are less fortunate than ourselves – this really is the reason for the season. I thank the many families who have helped with our recently completed food drive. Many pounds of food and dollars were raised for the Steele County Food Shelf to help those within our community who are in great need. Thanks to the many St. Mary's students who slept out in the cardboard boxes to show the support for those who are homeless within our community. We have much to be thankful for within our school and need to count our many blessings. I wish to remind the St. Mary's parents and students that we are a collection site for Tots for Toys again this year. This program will conclude on December 16. If you are able, we would ask that you bring an unwrapped toy and place in the container by the junior high entrance near the gym.

I thank the elementary parents who took part in conferences in November. Again we had a very high percentage of parents who have taken the time to visit with the teachers and to work to provide the best education possible for each child. I remind parents to attend the Christmas concerts on Dec. 4 for K-5 and Dec. 11 for 6-8 students. We look forward to seeing the many parents and grandparents who attend these concerts and get us in a real festive mood for the upcoming holidays.

Starting on December 11, students in grades 3-4-5 will be joining me in learning the wonderful game of cribbage for approximately 10 weeks each Thursday. We have set aside six weeks of learning this game to assist the students in basic math skills and also to have a lot of fun. I look forward to this opportunity to interact with the students and to help them enjoy this card game that I have played many times with my parents. It brings a lot of students in contact with other students as well as parents and grandparents who assist students in learning this fun game. I am looking forward to the opportunity of working with the 60+ students each year who participate in this activity.

There will be an informational meeting on January 15 for those looking to register for St. Mary's kindergarten program and a reminder that registration for the 2009-10 year begins on February 1. Please take the time to inform your neighbors and friends of the wonderful educational opportunities available at St. Mary's School.

St. Mary's School will also be hosting a school-wide open house during Catholic School's week. More information will be available about this activity at a later time.

I would like to thank the many 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have worked so hard on service projects during the first quarter. They have given their time gladly to assist others and it is heartwarming and wonderful to receive the results of the efforts of these students interacting with adults within our community. This really gets you into this Christmas

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**Administrator's Corner**  
(Continued on page 7 )

## Kindergarten News ..... *By Mrs. Lambaere & Mrs. Wolfe*

December promises to be a month of excitement and anticipation in kindergarten.

We begin the month focusing on the season of Advent. Activities are designed to help the children prepare for the birthday of Jesus. We will put emphasis on the giving aspect of Christmas.

Christmas Around the World will be our December Thematic Unit. The children will learn Christmas customs

of other cultures. We will also introduce maps and globes and incorporate mapping skills.

We continue to work on letters and sounds. The "little" books we complete help provide practice in reading words in our growing word list.

In Math we continue to investigate number and patterns. Students will work with simple and complex patterns. They will have

many opportunities to copy, create, and extend patterns.

Our biggest endeavor this month will be the Christmas plays that we will present to the parents. Please check your child's backpacks for important information.

It is a joy to part of Christmas spirit that is always evident in kindergarten!

## First Grade News.....*By Mrs. Haarstad, & Mrs. Peterson*

First grade has been a very busy place this past month! We have enjoyed our Reader's Workshop lessons focusing on retelling and using our "schema". The Daily 5 has proved to be an exciting portion of our reading curriculum! Thank you for keeping up with the Fluency Folders! The students have enjoyed bringing home a Just Right book.

We are finishing up our unit on the rainforest. We hope you enjoyed seeing our rainforest when you came for conferences. We also invited the junior high students in to help us with a macaw art project. We had a lot of fun learning about all the layers of the rainforest and which animals live there. It was helpful to find things in our homes that originated from rainforests and what we can do to help save them from destruction. Thank you for participating in the t-shirt sales to save the rainforest. We

will let you know soon how many acres we saved!

In math we are finishing up another unit. Keep working on coin counting. Be sure to visit the math section of [iknowthat.com](http://iknowthat.com) for some great math games!

Through December we will be making our wonderful, annual ABC Books of Christmas. This is a rather large project, one that will need continuous work on at home. Thank you for helping your child keep up with this project. You will be so proud in the end! They are a treasure!

We enjoyed our Thanksgiving feast together. We learned a little about how that first Thanksgiving took place and created a book to read about it as well. We are so thankful to have a class of such wonderful students and parents. Thank you very much for attending conferences to hear about your child's successes! Happy Thanksgiving!

## Second Grade News.....*By Mrs. Bastyr, Mrs. Connor, & Mrs. Pipitone*

Wow, the month of November just flew by! It was so nice seeing all of you at conferences. Thank you for visiting with us and for all of the extra support you have given us throughout the year.

Our nature unit came to a close. The Wild Christmas Reindeer, Annie and the Wild Animals, and The Mitten all written by Jan Brett will be our focus in reading in December. Continue to read and record your sheets for the Do It program.

We are excited about our fluency folders, which will come home weekly.

In math we finished up with unit two, which consisted of addition and subtraction facts. Unit 3, which is about place value, time, and coins, was completed before Thanksgiving vacation. Continue to work on the flashcards. We will begin our one-minute timed-tests in December.

In religion we are busy with preparing ourselves for First Reconciliation. A workshop for this will be held Wednesday, December 12 at St. Joseph's Nazareth Hall from 3:00-7:00. It takes from 45 minutes to one hour to complete

the stations. At least one parent needs to attend with their child.

Continue to pray the Act of Contrition, as we will also in school.

We have been enjoying the Smartboard in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. It has been used for math in place value, the 100 chart and making number models. In reading we made compound words and correcting sentences.

Enjoy the extra time that the holidays bring! Wishing you a blessed holiday season!

### Third Grade News.....*By Mrs. Chatelaine & Mrs. Johnson*

Advent greetings to all of the third grade families!

In Religion, we will prepare our hearts and minds for birth of Jesus by choosing and completing a daily task from our class Advent calendars. In addition, we will learn about the Advent and Christmas seasons through our religion books as well as great children's literature.

As we read the stories Family Pictures and When Jo Louis Won the Title, the children will continue exploring author's viewpoint and details. Ask your child to tell you about the characters, main events, and setting(s) of the Just Right book he/she is reading.

In Math, the first week of December brings the concept of measurement. Thank you for your continued support at

home in practicing math facts.

We are studying Native Americans in Social Studies. We will primarily focus on two different groups of native people, their customs, and their use of the resources in their environment.

Thank you for meeting with us in conferences! We enjoyed connecting with you on your child's progress.

May this time of Advent be a special opportunity to connect with your family as we await the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus.

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### Fourth Grade News.....*By Mrs. Gerdtz & Mrs. Wobschall*

Wow! We are well into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of school and our classes are working very hard. In math we are in the world of decimals. They are doing a great job and really seem to enjoy math each day. We are doing mini units on the rainforest in language arts. We have done a variety of activities that revolve around the rainforest story in our book, The Great Kapok Tree. We have been busy with other projects such as researching the animals of the rainforest and the products that

we get from the rainforest. In social studies we had our "Small Business Fair" and it was a huge success!

The students made over \$200 by selling products that they had made, bought, or recycled. This was to culminate our lesson on the United States free enterprise system. We will be deciding where we will be donating the money that we made. In health the students are learning about the food pyramid and healthy eating habits.

They have learned about good foods to eat and how many servings they need each day to be healthy. Thank you to all that donated food to the food drive at school. The food will be given to the local food shelter to help the people of our community have a better " holiday season. It is a great way to show the kids that we can make a difference!

Have a blessed holiday season.

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### Fifth Grade News..... *By Mrs. Kasper & Mrs. Lattery*

Happy Advent to You!

We will begin our celebration of Advent by exchanging Cathedrals that we have made into Advent Calendars. These calendars will be kept at school. Each day the children look at their "good deed" for the day. Doing all of these tiny service projects will help to prepare their hearts for the coming of our Savior.

Our first round of Literature Circles was very successful with some awesome conversations being had about the literature they were reading. We intend to start the next session at the beginning of December. Watch for these great

books to be coming home!

We are into our third unit of math, which is a pretty quick one. We are talking about angles and how to measure them. We will also be introducing tessellations, which the students really get into. Kudos to your students, their last assessments on multiplication were fabulous! Thanks for your help too!

Take time to enjoy the season and celebrate all the gifts God has given us.  
Happy Holidays!

## Sixth Grade News.....By Mrs. Vieths & Mrs. Barnes

6<sup>th</sup> graders are working on a number of projects during the beginning of December. Students will be writing a musical history research paper. This writing project incorporates music class with writing class. Mr. Ostermeier and Mrs. Kuklok will evaluate each child on a presentation they give from the facts of their research. Students will also be given a writing grade from their teacher.

We are working on making our relationship with God stronger. The season of Advent helps us to think about how we can become more like Jesus. We will spend time at Adoration, using the quiet to contemplate and listen for God's word.

Our first cycle of Literature Circles is complete. The students did an excellent job of assigning work, discussing, and executing final projects. We were very proud of their efforts and will begin new Literature Circles after the first of the year.

Students are also working on a menu. They are using the trait of word choice to create mouth-watering menus. We will read each one and students will vote on the top three "restaurants" in the grade!

In Science, body systems have been our focus. The nervous and endocrine systems have been our focal point. We will move onto the digestive system later in the

month.

There are many Christmas activities for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade this month. We will be collecting donations as a school, to buy gifts for the Toys for Tots campaign. We are all very blessed and we would like to give to those who need our help. The Jr. High Christmas concert will be on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will meet with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Buddies for a Christmas activity on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Our class Christmas party and gift exchange will be on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to a happy and busy month of December!

Blessings to you and your family this Holiday Season!

## Mrs. Nylund's Junior High News

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts (with Mrs. Stewart)

Right before Thanksgiving break we finished the book *Touching Spirit Bear*, which explores so many great themes. Their Tic-Tac-Toe project, which is their final assessment for this unit, is due on December 5. We look forward to the students showing us in a creative way the lessons that they learned from the book.

Leading up to Christmas Break, we will be dedicating different days of the week to some different areas: Mondays will be grammar, Tuesdays study skills, Wednesdays literature, Thursdays are library days, and Fridays will be spent cleaning up any areas that need more work from throughout the week.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders just completed a unit on solving equations and rates, ratios, percents, and proportions. Even without using the tip calculator on their cell phone, your child should now be able to figure out what tip you should leave at a restaurant. Challenge them next time you go out to eat!

The unit we are now moving into covers graphing, writing, and solving inequalities. It takes what they learned in Unit 2 and adds the concept of problems that might have more than one answer. An example of the types of problems they will see in this unit in a real life situation is as follows: Any person under the age of 18 cannot see this movie. Mathematically we would write that problem as  $x < 18$  and we know  $x$  could be anyone ages 17, 16, 15, 14, etc... It is those types of real life problems that I want the students to be able to relate this math to as we do it, rather than see it as some type of an abstract problem.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders just finished a very heavy unit, which began with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and decimals. The last half of the unit integrated those skills into two step equations and threw positive and negative numbers into the mix to boot. All of these areas on an individual basis can be tough for many students, so throwing them all together into one was quite challenging. I reassured them that they just got over one of the biggest hurdles in their 7<sup>th</sup> grade book and should be very proud of the hard work they put into it!

Our next unit is a nice reprieve, dealing with coordinate graphs, functions, and sequences. It definitely will not stress the students out as much as unit 2 did!

Enjoy the holiday season – treasure the moments with  
your family and friends!

## Mr. Smith's News

### **December Youth Ministry & Student Council Events**

- 12/3 EDGE Social Night 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym  
 12/10 EDGE Parent Night 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym  
 12/17 EDGE Club 6:30-8:00 PM @ SMS Gym  
 12/19 SMS Christmas Dance 7-9 PM @ SMS Cafeteria

### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Religion Class**

Students should be working toward 8 service hours for the second quarter, which ends on 1/16/09. Last quarter, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported 1,100 hours of service, that almost 15 hours per student!

Students should also be praying and learning their Boot Camp saints, prayers, and basic facts of Catholicism. Congratulations to Monica Hanson, Miles Mulet, and Logan Johnson for earning the highest scores for first quarter's test.

Students will attend a student created and led prayer service focusing on "heroes." This prayer service will be at 1:55 pm on 12/8/08 @ Sacred Heart Church. All are welcome to this prayer experience.

7<sup>th</sup> graders will continue to create a stop-action film based upon the life of a saint. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin their study of prejudice and discrimination and how our faith calls us to love.

11/30	Mark 13:33-37	Be alert! You do not know the time
12/7	Mark 1:1-8	Proclaim Christ's coming again in glory
12/14	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Testify to the Light
12/21	Luke 1:26-38	Respond to God like Mary

## Mrs. Slotsve's News

### **8<sup>th</sup> Language Arts**

We are reading the novel The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle written by Avi. This is a great coming-of-age story about a young girl during the 1832 who finds herself the only passenger aboard a ship called the *Seahawk*. Charlotte finds herself caught between the madness of a ruthless captain and the rage of a mutinous crew. How will it all end? This book is an ALA Best Book for Young Adults and a School Library Journal Best Book of 1990. Booklist states this book is "riveting...nonstop action on the high seas...a story hard to forget."

### **Junior High Social Studies**

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will begin studying the river valley civilizations of Ancient India and China. We will be looking for connections between the two as well as among Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. Civilizations all rise, prosper, and fall. How are these four similar and different?

The eighth graders will be learning about the Byzantine Empire and the beginnings of Islam. By learning about other cultures, we solidify our own faith and learn to accept that others have their own beliefs.

### **Geography Bee**

The 2008 school competition for the National Geographic Bee will be held in the school cafeteria on Friday, December 5 at 12:45 pm. The classroom winners from graders 4-8 will be competing. You are all welcome to attend and cheer on the competitors.

## Physical Education .....by Ms. Grose

Kindergarten: We will be working on locomotor movements; skipping, galloping, sliding, running, leaping, hopping and jumping. We will learn warm-up activities. We then will be working on the proper way to overhand throw and catch.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: We are working on a juggling unit. We have been juggling tennis balls, bean bags, rings, and scarves, thus working on our eye-hand coordination and manipulation. We will then work on jumping rope, both short and long ropes.

2-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: We have been working on a juggling unit. We will work on a rope jumping unit and then we will work on volleyball skills; serving and passing, then playing volleyball games.

Grade 5: We just finished the President's Physical Fitness test. We will be working on a volleyball unit. We will work on the skills, learn the rules and play games.

Grade 6-8: We are working on a volleyball unit. We will work on the skills, learn the rules, and play games. After volleyball our next unit will be basketball.

## Hoop News

Boys and girls basketball practices will rotate early/late by the week. Early practice runs from 3:30-5:00 PM. Late practice runs 5:00-6:30 PM. The week of Dec. 1, boys are late, girls early. This will rotate through the basketball season. You can use the SMS web page. It will show practice times, game schedules, and travel directions.

## Boys Basketball Schedule

Dec. 8 vs. Montgomery Holy Redeemer, A, here 4:15 PM  
 Dec. 8 vs. Lakeville All Saints, B, here 5:15 PM  
 Dec. 9 vs. Faribault Lutheran, B/A, here 5:30 PM  
 Dec. 16 vs. Northfield St. Dominic's, B, here 5:15 PM  
 Dec. 18 vs. Owatonna Christian School, A, here 5:30



## Girls Basketball Schedule

Dec. 8 at Medford, B/A (elementary gym) 4:30 PM  
 Dec. 9 at Faribault Lutheran, B/A 4:30 PM  
 Dec. 16 vs. Northfield St. Dominic's, B, here 4:15 PM  
 Dec. 18 vs. Owatonna Christian School, A, here 4:30 PM

## Winter Weather Reminder



As we enter the snow and ice season, I would urge that you drive very carefully up and down Marian Drive (the street between Sacred Heart Church and St. Mary's School). Please do not park in front of the glass doors to pick up or drop off students if there are other vehicles trying to go up or down the hill at the same time. This creates congestion in this area that could lead to an accident.

We also ask you to check your children's winter attire before they

leave for school. A warm coat, hat, and gloves or mittens are required for all students. For the elementary grades – boots are also necessary. (Snow pants for the elementary students would also be encouraged.) We would also encourage that the junior high students wear boots. Thank you for your cooperation.

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**Administrator's Corner.....Continued from Page 1**

season having that warm feeling for helping others. I wish also to thank our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and the students for their hard work on their academic performance during this first quarter. Again, we had over 90% of our student population achieve either A, B, or honorable mention levels. They are doing this because of a concerted effort between teachers and parents to make sure that students are getting homework done in a timely fashion and studying for the tests. The Internet quite frequently gets blamed for many things but this is a very good tool for communication with parents on a regular basis from our staff. I congratulate the students and staff on their hard work.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming Christmas concerts and hope that you have a blessed and wonderful holiday.

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## Non-Custodial Parent Rights

Non-custodial parents now have the right to make inquiries and be informed by school officials respecting a child's welfare, educational programs and status and to attend school and teacher conferences as a matter of statutory right regardless of the desires or requests of a custodial parent. The law states:

Family Law Chapter. 668. /, Sec. 12, Subdivision. 3 CUSTODY ORDER

a) Upon adjudging the nullity of a marriage, or in a dissolution or separation proceeding, or in a child custody proceeding, the court shall make such further order as it deems just and proper concerning:

- 1) The legal custody of the minor children of the parties that shall be sole or joint.
- 2) Their physical custody and residence, and
- 3) Their support. In determining custody the court shall consider the best interest of each child and shall not prefer one parent to the other solely on the basis of the sex of the parent.

b) The court shall grant the following notice to each of the parties, unless specific findings are made under paragraph

(c) And every custody order must include the following notice to

parties:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PARENTS:

Each party has the right to access and to receive copies of school, medical, dental, religious training, and other important records and information about the minor children. Presentation of a copy of this order to the custodian of a record or other information about the minor children constitutes sufficient authorization for the release of the record or information to the requesting party.

Each party shall keep the other party informed as to the name and address of the school of attendance of the minor children. Each party has the right to be informed by school officials about the children's welfare, educational progress and status, and to attend school and parent-teacher conferences. The school is not required to hold a separate conference for each party.

In case of an accident or serious illness of a minor child, each party shall notify the other party of the accident or illness, and the name of the health care provider and the place of treatment. Each party has the right to reasonable access and telephone contact with the minor children. c) The court may waive all or part of the notice required under paragraph (b) if it finds it is necessary to protect the welfare of a party or child.

St. Mary's School will, on request, send report cards or hold conferences with a non-custodial parent, unless there is a court order or legally binding instrument prohibiting such contact. Upon request, St. Mary's School will also send copies of the Newsletter and other information concerning children to the non-custodial parent. Our school complies to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. If you desire to have a copy of your child's report card sent to a non-custodial parent, please notify us where to send it and will accommodate your request.

We should also be informed of any legally binding document that bars a non-custodial parent from contact with a child, since we do have a number of visits to the school from non-custodial parents. Keeping the school informed of potential family problems or divorce allows us to be more sensitive to your child's needs at school.

If you feel we can help your family by better understanding your problems, please do not hesitate to contact school personnel.

## Christmas Concerts



The Elementary Christmas concert will be on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m. All students should be in their classrooms by 6:45 p.m. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students should report to the band room at 6:45 p.m. as well.

The Junior High Christmas concert will be on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. The choir students should be seated in the gym by 6:50 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students will meet in the band room at 6:40 p.m. The 7/8<sup>th</sup> band will warm up at 6:50 p.m.

Please remember to bring a dozen treats per family to each concert.

## Band Happenings...*By Mrs. Kuklok*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band is very excited to perform their first Concert on December 4. We have been working hard on learning to play together while listening for tuning and balance.

During the end of October and the first part of November, all of the band students explored instruments. We played in the dark (blind), played with our ears plugged (deaf), played with our noses plugged (smell how they use their senses while playing their), played right after tasting breath spray (taste), played with band-aids or mittens on our fingers (touch), and played with the instruments all mixed up (spatial). It was great fun and we learn a lot!

The Junior High Band students have been working on a special project for the Christmas Concert (December 11).

They researched the history of their Christmas Concert pieces, including the arrangers and the composers. Their projects will be on display outside of the gym during the week of the concert. Be sure to check out their awesome work! They also wrote program notes and created artwork for the Christmas Concert Program!

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are also doing music theory stations. Students work together in teams to complete music theory tasks using a variety of learning styles.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students are teaching the 7<sup>th</sup> graders music theory!! Each group works at their own pace learning intervals, scales, enharmonics, key signatures and all the different rhythm patterns.

## December Liturgies

December 3	8:10	Junior High Mass
December 8	10:00	All School Mass for the Feast of Immaculate Conception
December 17	8:05	Spirit Group

All Masses are held at Sacred Heart Church. Guests and parents are always welcome.

## Carnival Thank You

A big "Thank You" to all St. Mary's families, students and staff for making this year's school carnival a success! The Carnival Committee wishes to thank everyone for their support of this event. The families and volunteers make this possible with their generous time of volunteering and donations. It would not happen without you. The guessing jar winners were Taylor Savoie (MP3 Player), Jennye Savoie (Monster Basketball), Nolan Burmeister (Dance

Party Pop Star), and Reegan Lindholm (Barbie MP3 Player). If you have any suggestions for future carnival activities or are interested in being a part of this event, please contact Shelly Rohwer 528-2392, JoAnne Hartman 446-8299 or Tammy Ginter 451-8929.

## From the Social Worker's Office....By Gina Pohlen

Life Skills will be finishing up with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders this month. I will begin working with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class after Christmas break. Topics to be covered include Making Good Decisions, Coping with Anger, Developing Social Skills, Assertiveness, and Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention.

Since the beginning of the school year I have been going into one of the first grade classes, both 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and both 5<sup>th</sup> grades teaching Second Step Lessons. The Second Step Lessons teach Empathy, Impulse Control and Problem Solving, and Anger Management. With continued funding from the Peace Maker Foundation we were able to purchase the Second Step Curriculum for Kindergarten and a program called Steps to Respect for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Before the end of the school year I plan to have completed Second Step Lessons in both Kindergarten classes and the remaining first grade. I also plan on having both 4<sup>th</sup> grades complete the Steps to Respect lessons.

My office hours are M, W, Th from 8:30am-2:30pm. Please stop by my office or call me at 446-2300 if you have any questions or concerns related to your child at St. Mary's.

## Special Scrip

"Special" orders are placed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month. Additional dates are added during the holidays to help with your shopping needs. Special Scrip can be ordered on **December 1 & 8**. These orders must be in the school office prior to 8:00 AM Mondays to be included in that week's order and will be available for pick up on Thursday.

If there is a certain store that is not listed, call Connie Lembke (446-2300) to see if St. Mary's can purchase it. We cannot list all stores that participate because there are so many.

\*Just a note of concern: Because of the high demand of Scrip during the Holiday Season, backorders can occur. So order early!

## Volunteer Coordinator

....By Connie Lembke

Merry Christmas to all! Thanks again for all your volunteer help.

In January there will be volunteer needs for helping to judge the Science Fair, and help serve lunch. If you're interested, please contact Mrs. Stewart or me at 446-2300.

There is a need to help the 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders play cribbage on Thursdays in December & January. Times are 2:45-3:30 PM. Call Connie Lembke at 446-2300 or 456-6498 if you can help with any of these times for volunteering.

## Home & School

REMINDERS for ROOM PARENTS for DECEMBER events.

All room parents please check with your teachers to see how you can help with the classroom Christmas parties.

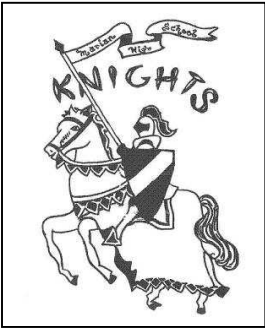
HAARSTAD and PETERSON room parents are responsible for serving snacks and cleaning up after the elementary concert on December 4.

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE room parents are responsible for serving snacks and cleaning up after the Junior High concert on December 11.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org](mailto:sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org).

Shannon Prostrollo  
Home and School President

## Auction Committee Update



Have you reserved **Saturday, April 18, 2009**, on your calendar yet for this year's auction? It is sure to be a great event as we celebrate our 23<sup>rd</sup>. year of the Night of Knights Auction, and our 3<sup>rd</sup>. year with a "fiesta" theme!!

Soon we will be having a "kick-off" for our **Car and Cash Raffle!!** We will be selling a limited number of \$50 raffle tickets. The first winner will receive a new Ford Fusion (tax and license fees paid) courtesy of Owatonna Ford or \$10,000 Cash, the second winner will receive \$1000, and the third winner will receive \$500. We plan to sell these tickets at the Christmas Concerts on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We will also be looking for a little help selling these tickets. If you think you could sell 5-10 or 15 tickets to co-workers, neighbors or family members please let us know! We are very excited about this addition to our auction! The winner will be drawn during the live auction on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

We welcome Garret and Tanya Henson, Kara Martin, Tim and Lynn Gorski, and Todd and Julie Valento to our committee this year!! We thank them for joining us and bringing their ideas and talents to our meetings. We greatly appreciate their commitment and participation!

If you have any questions or ideas for our auction committee, please contact any committee member. Remember that December and early January is a super time to purchase your auction donation items as virtually every retailer has their merchandise on sale!! A little planning now can really benefit the auction and St. Mary's School. Thank you in advance for your help in making this special event a successful fundraiser for our school.

May you all enjoy a wonderful Christmas season with your families

**Auction Committee**

Lori and Barry Butler [loributler1@charter.net](mailto:loributler1@charter.net)  
 Nic and JoAnn Matejcek [jomat@smig.net](mailto:jomat@smig.net)  
 Patrick and Kristin Haberman [Kristin@rconnect.com](mailto:Kristin@rconnect.com)  
 Todd and Kris Wishy [tkwishy@charter.net](mailto:tkwishy@charter.net)  
 Dave and Cathy Effertz [ceffertz@gmail.com](mailto:ceffertz@gmail.com)  
 Phil and Carol Daley [carol.daley@allina.com](mailto:carol.daley@allina.com)  
 Bill and Kris Dublin [dubsmn@charter.net](mailto:dubsmn@charter.net)  
 Garret and Tanya Henson [tanyadhen@yahoo.com](mailto:tanyadhen@yahoo.com)  
 Kara Martin [kara.k.martin@wellsfargo.com](mailto:kara.k.martin@wellsfargo.com)  
 Tim and Lynn Gorski [lgorski@clearwave.net](mailto:lgorski@clearwave.net)  
 Todd and Julie Valento [jvalento@bop.gov](mailto:jvalento@bop.gov)  
 Chris and Jill Prohaski [jcprohaski@charter.net](mailto:jcprohaski@charter.net)

**Nurse's Notes....** *By Mary Herzog, RN*

The absentee rate for November was unusually low but we did start seeing an increase in cases of strep near the end of the month. Please remember that your child should be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school to prevent the spread of infection.

With the ever-rising cost of medical care, our emphasis continues to be on prevention. Habits that your children form now will stay with them for a lifetime. Help them get into the habit of reaching for healthy snacks (fruits, vegetables, cheese, yogurt etc), getting plenty of exercise and enough sleep. Eating a good breakfast everyday has been shown not only to help students focus in the classroom, but also to maintain a balanced energy level and weight. Modeling healthy behavior is the best way to teach your children how to avoid many problems later in life associated with an unhealthy lifestyle: obesity, diabetes, some types of cancer and heart disease to name a few.

Have a blessed and happy holiday season!!



# Candy Cane Sales



The School Spirit Committee will be selling candy canes for \$.50 before school in the adjoining hallway and during lunch in the Cafeteria from December 8 – December 18. The candy canes will be delivered to students on December 19. If you would like to order for someone outside of those hours, fill out the form(s) below and give to Mrs. Nylund or put in her mailbox by December 18. (There are additional forms outside of Mrs. Nylund's room.)

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Message:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Message:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Message:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Service Project

Thank you to all who brought food or money for the Thanksgiving Food Drive, which was held November 17-21. **We collected 558 pounds of food and \$75.57**, which was donated to the Steele County Food Shelf.

Our Advent Service Project will be collecting items for the "Toys for Tots" Campaign. Items or money can be brought to school during the week of December 8-12. A flier with more information will be coming home at the end of the first week of December.



## School Board Members

### Sacred Heart

Mrs. Carla Kern	455-1544
Mr. David Mulert	451-3550
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mr. Rich Gerdts	835-3283

### St. Joseph

Mr. Chris Herzog	451-2890
Mrs. Dawn Ritter	451-8199
Mr. Jed Ebner	455-2876
Mr. Jon Hanson	455-1689

## Nurse's Notes...by Mary Herzog, RN

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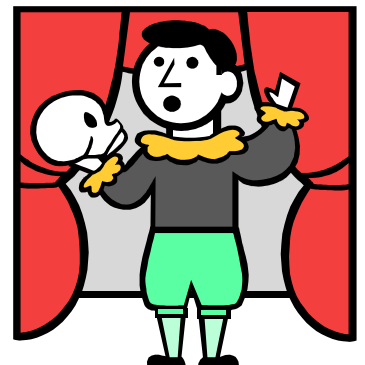
weight. Modeling healthy behavior is the best way to teach your children how to avoid many problems later in life associated with an unhealthy lifestyle: obesity, diabetes, some types of cancer and heart disease to name a few.

Have a blessed and happy holiday season!!

## ASSISTANT PLAY DIRECTOR STILL NEEDED!

Parents and/or Staff: If you've been considering the awesome job of Assistant Play Director, it's not too late! I am still looking for that special someone who can add their spark of creativity and fun to this year's St. Mary's School Play! I have picked out a terrific comedy this year, and have already had many students ask about it! Trust me, it's going to be a lot of fun! Please contact me at 446-9471 if you would be interested in helping with the play this year. I really need your help to make the show a success!

Thank you so much!  
Stacey Mulet



## Greetings from the Library!

### Welcome Kindergarten

With the start of quarter two we welcome Kindergarten to the library. They are so excited to be in their library and have the privilege of checking out a book of their choice! We start our library time with a story and end with free time to choose a book of interest. Helping your child remember to bring their book back on library day makes a BIG difference when it comes to check-out time.

### Seasonal Books

Our library has a wonderful collection of books for this Advent and Christmas season. Sit down with your child and their Christmas picture books and you might be in for a treat!

### Birthday Book Club

The Birthday Book Club "membership drive" was a success with over 35 new books donated. Thanks to those who were able to contribute. An invitation for your child will arrive in during the month of January. Your child will be invited to come up to the library with their lunch and be the 1st to check out the book. We all benefit from your membership!

### State Book Award

Students in grades 3-8 have been busy reading books from the list of Maud Hart Lovelace nominees. We currently have 33 students who have read the required 3 books to cast their vote. It certainly is not too late to start. Students must read just three books by mid-March to qualify as a voter for this award chosen by students across Minnesota. The book lists and summaries are located on our school library Website.

### Google Tips

Did you know the Google search bar has many uses? Try out these two handy little tips: \*In the search bar type "define:" followed by a word. Click "enter" and Google will offer you a number of definitions. Not a replacement for the dictionary; but a good tool for your toolbox. \*Need a mathematical answer quick? Use the search bar as a calculator. Simply type your equation in the search bar and click "enter". Google will give you the answer. Look for more handy tips in future newsletters.

### Kidsreads

Check out this great website for book reviews and lists of books that might interest your reader:

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

Mrs. Berg



1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Honor Roll**8<sup>th</sup> Grade****"A"**

Mari Bunkers  
 Jake Buswell  
 Lara Butler  
 Nicole Carlson  
 Michael Evans  
 Monica Hanson  
 Brody Hudson  
 Will Kreutter  
 Sarah Mulert  
 Miles Mulet  
 Kurtis Pierret  
 Kendra Schroeder  
 Katie Schroepfer  
 Kory Soukup  
 Trent Tucker

**"B"**

Lauren Chicos  
 Laura Ebeling  
 Gabrielle Edel  
 Anna Frank  
 Josh Gerdts  
 Joseph Kearin  
 Brittney Kramer  
 Abigail Kubista  
 Brooke Miller  
 Mitchell Mulert  
 Marcus Oyloe  
 Maria Palacios-Pirkl  
 Lizzy Prohaski  
 Jessie Sedivy  
 Marysa Storm  
 Katie Willinganz

**"HONORABLE  
 MENTION"**

Stephen Joachim

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade****"A"**

Erin Abbe  
 Lisette Betti  
 Jordan Borchert  
 Carissa Domeier  
 Emily Emanuelson  
 Emily Gebur  
 Jeffrey Johnson  
 Logan Johnson  
 Alexandra Liebl  
 Caitlin Morley  
 Antonia Nelson  
 Lisa Nguyen  
 Katlin Ptacek  
 Anna Rahrick  
 Madelyn Rysavy  
 Nikki Sedivy  
 Josi Segner  
 Colin Titus  
 Isaac Torres  
 Michael Zappa

**"B"**

Mary Ahlberg  
 Tim Cowell  
 Loryn Fox  
 Angie Higgins  
 Parker Hoen  
 Hayden Holland  
 Shelby Kern  
 Riana Kubat  
 T.J. Lembke  
 Erin Lindenbaum  
 Ariana Ptacek  
 Anna Redman  
 Miranda Schimek  
 Zach Shaver

**"HONORABLE  
 MENTION"**

Allison Grubish  
 Callie Rezac

**Grade 6****"A"**

Julian Bednar  
 Andrea Bothun  
 Daniel Boubin  
 Maria Chicos  
 Thomas Donlon  
 Anna Edel  
 Jacob Gallagher  
 Madeleine Haberman  
 Briana Hartmann  
 Sydney Kasper  
 Kayla Kniefel  
 Krista Kniefel  
 Madison Kramer  
 Dylan Lattery  
 Morgan Malo  
 Maddeline Menden  
 Kayla Moothart  
 Daniel Nolte  
 Hannah Olson  
 Margaret Sager  
 Dakota Schwarte  
 Rachel Smith  
 Kalley Soukup  
 Tim Starman

**"B"**

Paige Carlson  
 Michelle Evans  
 Stephen Leon  
 Nicholas Matejcek  
 Jade Miller  
 Michael Pfeifer  
 Megan Ritter  
 Joey Smith  
 Gregory Somers

**" HONORABLE  
 MENTION"**

Cole Butler  
 Logan Ferch

**St. Mary's School**  
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**507-446-2304 (fax)**  
**www.stmarys-owatonna.org**