

# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

September 2008



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## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 5 – Magazine Drive kick-off
- Sept. 8 – 7:00 PM Home and School Meeting
- Sept. 17 – School Pictures
- Sept. 19 – Grades 1-8 Vision and Hearing Screening
- Sept. 22 – 7:00 PM School Board Meeting
- Sept. 26 – Kindergarten Vision and Hearing Screening

### Attendance:

Parents, *please* report a student absence or late arrival by calling the school office at 446-2300. Before school hours a message can be left on the answering machine.

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

On behalf of St. Mary's School I wish to welcome all the students, staff and parents to the 2008-09 school year. Each day I pray that this will be a wonderful year for all members of the St. Mary's School family.

St. Mary's School will begin the year with approximately 350 students in the K-8 program and a full preschool of over 50 students. The combined total of approximately 400 students at St. Mary's is down approximately 15 students from the previous year. St. Mary's School will have a number of teachers this year working on their Masters Program. In 2007-08 we had four teachers working on their program and this year we have another seven teachers who are beginning or continuing to work on their Masters Program. A great majority of St. Mary's teachers have completed or are completing their Masters work. This is a true testament to the dedication of all teachers at St. Mary's School to improve their skills. Many of the teachers spent a good portion of the summer educating themselves on the many new Smartboards that we have throughout our school and acquainting themselves with increased technology skills, to name two areas. Our staff development coordinators, Dee Johnson and Kathy Chatelaine, will again be working with a new area of Best Practice with our staff this year. The area identified this year will be Constructivism. The continued staff development program continues to make our teachers not only better in the classroom but also increases their love for teaching and looking for ways to make things even better in their classrooms. I urge you to check out the St. Mary's website and

also information about the qualities of our teachers and what is going on in the classroom each day.

The school board at its most recent meeting began to set the goals for the 2008-09 school year. Information will soon be shared with all members of the school family on these goals. One of the areas that I have asked the board to look at is to continue to keep tuition as affordable as possible for members of the St. Mary's School family. I strongly believe that the cost of tuition has been a deterrent to families choosing St. Mary's School this year. I hope that this can be addressed to make Catholic education affordable to all who wish to have it.

St. Mary's School will be going through an accreditation visit in April 2009. St. Mary's accreditation team has met during last year and will continue to meet this year to complete the document, which the visiting team will use to credit St. Mary's School. All members of the St. Mary's School family from students to staff to parents will be asked to be a part of this process. When you are asked, we urge you to participate as much as possible.

St. Mary's building project moves forward. The building team will make a presentation to the College of Consultors in September to secure approval from the diocese to conduct a capital campaign this fall. Some work was begun on our site this past summer and will continue to be developed with additional work being done in renovation of our existing structure in the summer of 2009. This is the home for St. Mary's School that has been the home since

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### Administrator's Corner

(Continued on page 9)

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

Our kindergarten rooms are ready for the 2008-2009 school year. The teachers are ready for the 2008-2009 school year. All we need are the smiling faces of our new students!

We were pleased to meet parents and their children during the interview process. This appointment provided an opportunity to build relationships that will last throughout the year. Students, parents, teachers working together make the kindergarten experience unforgettable.

During the first weeks of school we will be involved in get

acquainted activities. The new kindergartners will learn about their classmates, tour St. Mary's School and meet people who will be important to them during their kindergarten year. Eventually a class take home book will allow your child to introduce you to SMS and the staff they met on the tour.

It doesn't seem possible now but the Kindergarten year will fly by! We invite you to share in this experience with your child and enjoy these months to the fullest.

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



Welcome to second grade! It is going to be a year of faith, learning, and fun. It is a very special year for us in preparing for Reconciliation and the First Eucharist.

We welcome Mrs. Connor to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Due to higher numbers in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade she graciously accepted the 3<sup>rd</sup> section. She had been in this position eight years prior to this year. She brings much love, warmth, and caring to second grade. Mrs. Pipitone and Mrs. Bastyr are lucky to work with such a valuable teacher.

In reading our first theme is

about pets. We will be writing and reading all about pets people have or would like to have. In religion we will be discussing God's creation and how we should follow Jesus. Math will involve numbers and routines.

Tie those sneakers. Get ready to jump into a great year!

Please feel free to stop in or call if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

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

### WELCOME TO THIRD GRADE!

Thank you for attending the First Day meeting! We appreciate the interest you take in your child's education and look forward to partnering with you this year to meet your child's learning needs.

The third graders' days are filled with the excitement of learning! In Reading, we are beginning *Oink, Oink, Oink* – a unit on Fractured Fairy Tales, i.e. fairy tales with a twist! In addition, the children are exploring classroom books to find ones that are "just right" for their reading level. Our Writing curriculum is centered on the Six Traits; in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, we are beginning with the trait of ideas.

In Religion, our classes have begun the first unit, "Created for Community." On Fridays, we read and

explore the upcoming Sunday's readings with the goal of enhancing the children's participation in Mass.

As highlighted in the First Day meeting, we're excited about *Everyday Math*. Keep your eyes open for Family Home Links, including family math activities that will review concepts that your child is learning in class. Also, home flashcard practice will begin soon to master basic addition and subtraction facts.

Please remember that you are always welcome in our classrooms, as well as joining us for lunch and/or Mass. Thanks for contributing to a great third grade year!

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

It is time to start the school year and we are very excited for the upcoming year! We have many things that we will learn about in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Some of our main ideas that we study in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are multiplication, geometry, 10 Commandments, the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, 5 Regions of the United States, Oceans, Solar System, Insects, 6 traits writing program, and we read many great novels.

We are excited to implement the Smart Board in our curriculum. We know that the students will enjoy the - technology that will be at our fingertips. There are so many

things that the Smart Boards can do that we don't even know where to start. I am sure the students will be sharing with you each day.

Please remember to send a snack each day and check their binders nightly. We are excited to start the new school year and we look forward to working with your children.

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

Greetings Fifth Grade Parents,

Thank you for coming to visit with us during the First Day Program. It was great to meet some new faces and say hi to old friends. We are very excited about getting to know your children and helping them to grow throughout this school year.

This newsletter is one way to keep updated on what is happening in you r son or daughter's classroom. We also send home a detailed newsletter every other week. Watch for those in your student's Friday folder. You can check us out on

the web as well. Just go to our St. Mary's homepage and click on grade five. There you will find lots of information about past happenings as well as what's to come. Also feel free to write a note in your student's planner or give us a call. Together we can do amazing things!!

Don't forget to join us on October 1<sup>st</sup> for the fifth grade mass. We will celebrate St. Therese Lisieux and the examples that she gives us to follow the path of our Lord.

Happy Fall!

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

Helpful tips and reminders for a wonderful year!

- Check to see that your child's homework is done and then initial the planner each night.
- 6<sup>th</sup> graders are required to read 20 minutes each night. Please initial minutes read on the Reading Log each night.
- Please send a healthy snack with your child each day. No pop, candy, chips, or cookies.
- Book orders come home the first Monday of each month and are due the same Friday morning.
- Wednesdays are usually Mass Days. Please dress appropriately...no shorts.
- Gym shoes are required for PE.
- Band meets Tuesdays and Thursdays. Be sure to have your instrument!
- Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. [bvieths@stmarys-owatonna.org](mailto:bvieths@stmarys-owatonna.org) and [tbarnes@stmarys-owatonna.org](mailto:tbarnes@stmarys-owatonna.org)

We are looking forward to an awesome year with you and your child!

## Mrs. Nylund's News

I am looking forward to another fabulous year as I begin my 3<sup>rd</sup> year teaching junior high math and language arts at St. Mary's!!

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

Mrs. Stewart and I will be team teaching 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts this year. We will begin the quarter reading some humorous essays from the students' literature books. Students will be writing a humorous essay of their own to end the unit.

### Junior High Math

I am very excited to be starting a new math series this year in Junior High. We will now be using Holt math books, which is what the Owatonna Public Schools are

using. As a result, when our students enter high school they will be prepared for success in their high school math classes. These new books focus mostly on algebra, which is in alignment with the new MN Math Standards.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders' first unit is called "Principles of Algebra" and concentrates on writing algebraic expressions, integers, equations, and inequalities.

8<sup>th</sup> graders will start with their first unit called "Foundations for Algebra." This unit works with such concepts as powers and exponents, order of operations, simplifying expressions, and an introduction to functions.

\*\*\***REMEMBER**: your math textbooks are online at [go.hrw.com](http://go.hrw.com)!!! See me if you lost your password for getting on to this great interactive website!\*\*\*

## Mrs. Slotsve's News

As I'm sure many of you know, my husband and I were blessed with the addition of our son Grayson David on July 16<sup>th</sup>. I will be on maternity leave for the first couple weeks of school. I'm excited to have Mrs. Donlon as my long-term substitute. She is looking forward to getting you all off to a great start this year. I'm sure we will have a very educational and fun year.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Social Studies

We will begin the year with a quick review of general geography skills. Next we will focus on the lifestyle of the earliest humans – the food gatherers of the Paleolithic Age, or Old Stone Age. Following the Paleolithic Age is the Neolithic Age. During this Neolithic Age (New Stone Age) we study the beginnings of farming, the domestication of animals, and the formation of villages.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies

We pick up our studies where we left off in 7<sup>th</sup> grade with the end of the Roman Empire and the beginnings of Christianity. We will discuss the rapid growth and appeal of Christianity during 1<sup>st</sup> century. Our next unit will be the Early Middle Ages. We will begin by studying the Germanic peoples who replaced the Roman Empire with their own kingdoms.

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

Our first unit in Language Arts is short stories. While enjoying the short stories we will analyze plots, learn new vocabulary and grammar, and write stories of our own. During September, we will read Mona Gardner's "The Dinner Party", Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart", and Stephen Crane's "An Episode of War".



## Mr. Smith's News

Each week, students in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion classes focus on the upcoming Sunday scripture readings. Not only are students asked to relate the passages to their lives, but they are also asked learn Church teaching that flows from each passage.

### September's Gospel Passages & Church Teaching Themes

9/7/08	Mt 18:15-20	A repentant community of love.
9/14/08	Jn 3:13-17	Lift high the cross of Christ.
9/21/08	Mt 20:1-16a	God's generosity.
9/28/08	Mt 21:28-32	Faithful, obedient followers of Christ.

*"Christ has no body on earth but yours.  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes  
through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out;  
yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good;  
and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now."*

-St. Teresa of Avila

This year, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will need to perform 8 hours of service per quarter to receive full service hour credit. Students earning more than 8 hours in a quarter will receive 5 extra credit points for each additional hour of service, up to 7 additional hours (35 bonus points).

Hours can be earned before, during, and after school hours both at SMS and at other locations. How do you earn service hours for religion class?

- any ELC hour earning activity
- Library Assistants- helping with books and with students
- Hands & Feet service group leader who organizes service opportunities for other students
- SMS Student Council membership & active participation
  - Dance Committee
  - School Spirit
  - Activity Nights
- Liturgy Band & Choir- sing and play for the glory of God & Mrs. Kuklok
- Video & Camera Club- film class & school events for slide shows and DVDs
- Newspaper Staff- gather student art work and written work to be published in a monthly school newspaper
- Green Team- help our school develop recycling programs & conserve resources
- Media Exchange Manager- organize & review media materials for student media exchange
- Community Service- at our parishes, in our community, in our school, etc.

Don't know where to start? Mr. Smith will have additional information to help students decide which project or projects (it may take a combination of projects for students to get 8 hours) they would like to be involved with.

There will be a Service Activity form that students will be given to log their hours throughout the quarter. This form will also be used to describe each service activity and student thoughts and feelings about what they have experienced. These forms can be turned in at any time during the quarter.

Last year, SMS 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders reported 4,484 hours of service. St. Mary's School, Sacred Heart Church, St. Joseph's Church, and the community of Owatonna were positively impacted through their efforts. They brought the gospel to life by becoming the hands of feet of Jesus.

*"Christ has no body on earth but yours.  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes  
through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out;  
yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good;  
and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now."*

-St. Teresa of Avila

## 2008-2009 Lunch Prices

Grades K-5 - \$1.70 a day / \$8.50 a week

Grades 6-8 - \$1.8- a day / \$9.00 a week

½ pint of milk - \$.35

(For purchase of an extra carton with lunch or for purchase with cold lunch from home)

## A note from the Kitchen

You are always welcome to have lunch with your child. It would be really helpful if you could please call the office by 8:30 AM if you are planning to eat that day.

I am also looking for subs for the kitchen. The hours would be 10:00 AM to 1:15 PM. If you are interested please call me at school or e-mail me at [rfisher@stmarys-owatonna.org](mailto:rfisher@stmarys-owatonna.org)

Rita Fisher

## New Staff

St. Mary's School has had three staff changes during the 2008-09 school year. Jodi Hovden will be serving as the school art teacher and will work with students in grades K-6 on a weekly basis. Jodi is a graduate of OHS and completed her education work through Mankato State University. She is very excited about this new position at St. Mary's. Likewise Lisa Stewart has joined us and will be working with 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in science and language arts. Lisa also is a graduate of OHS and has taught in Owatonna and Austin public school systems. Lisa has also completed her Masters work through Mankato State University. We welcome these two new additions to our staff.

A second shift custodian will be hired as soon as possible. That information will be forthcoming as soon as it is available.

## Nurse's Notes

By Mary Herzog, RN

I am in need of 15 volunteers for grades 1-8 Hearing and Vision screening which will be held on Friday, September 19. There are many different opportunities for volunteering including vision screening, hearing screening, checking heights and weights or being a runner. Repeat volunteers are most happily welcomed. Screenings are done between 8:00 and 1:00. If you cannot volunteer for the entire time, you are welcome to help for any portion of the morning. I will also need about six volunteers for the following Friday, September 26 to

help with screening the kindergartners. This screening lasts from approximately 8:00 to 10:15. You can call me at school between 8:0 and 2:0 (446-2300) or anytime at home (451-0552).

If anyone has permission forms signed by their doctors for administration of asthma inhalers at school, please get them in to me as soon as possible. I cannot give out these medications without a doctor's signature. If your child is going to be carrying his/her own inhaler, I will need a waiver form signed by both parent and student. Please stop in my office for this form.

## September Liturgies

- Sept. 10 – 8:10 AM All School Mass at Sacred Heart
- Sept. 17 – 8:20 AM All School Mass at St. Joseph's
- Sept. 24 – 8:05 AM Spirit Groups

Parents and guests are welcome.

## 5 Band Lesson Schedule

Monday	1:30-2:00 2:00-2:30	Horns Flutes
Tuesday	1:30-2:00 2:00-2:30	Saxophones Trombone/Baritones
Wednesday	1:20-1:45 1:45-2:30	Clarinets ALL BAND
Thursday	1:30-2:00 2:00-2:30	Percussion Trumpets

## St. Mary's Carnival News

Thank you for supporting this St. Mary's School family activity. The Carnival is intended as a day of **fun and fellowship**. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**With the start of the new school year and some new carnival committee members. We have many exciting games and attractions planned. Some of them include The Goldfish Pond, Knights Castle and some returning games such as Plinko, Packer Passer, Fishing hole and the Cake Walk. Please make note of the new date and time of the Carnival it will be on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 7pm.**

This year's carnival will be held on **Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>** in the school gym and cafeteria, from 4 pm until 7 pm. The theme this year is "Ghostly Gathering". Food will be available. Since the carnival is an all school event, we are asking that **each family** donate items to the General Store and The Cake Walk.

1. **For the General Store** - A few suggestions are Books for all ages, stickers, puzzles, board games, stationary, bubbles, playing cards, jump ropes, stuffed animals, and Misc. toys for Boys and Girls. **NEW ITEMS ONLY, PLEASE.** The General Store is the most popular game at the carnival and prizes go quickly. So please be generous when donating because prizes run out early.
2. **For Cake Walk** - one or two cakes or pies, or baked goodies ... homemade go over the best but we are not picky. These items can be brought to the school cafeteria on Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 7pm or Saturday from 9 am – 12pm. We have run out of baked goodies early in the past and have had to shut the game down before the carnival end so please be generous. Also please put your goodies on/in pans, tins that don't need to be returned.
3. In order to make the carnival possible, we ask every parent to donate Two hour of time to work a game booth. (We will have sign up sheet at Meet the Teacher and The First Day Program.) Please note the end of this article, the Mark your Calendar Section – and please donate some time!
4. We need help to make the carnival look like Halloween. If you have pumpkins that you'd be willing to let us use, please contact a carnival committee member. They are listed below. If you wish the items be returned to you, they can be picked up or delivered to you after the carnival.

**Ticket Sales:** Thursday 10-23-08 & Friday. 10-24-2008 at 7:30 - 8:00 am in hallway at St. Mary's. Presale tickets are 5/\$1.00. Tickets purchased the day of the carnival are 4/\$1.00.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the carnival, feel free to contact any of the members of the carnival committee: Co-Chairs –Shelly Rohwer 528-2392, JoAnne Hartmann 446-8299 & Tammy Ginter 451-8929; Publicity - Joann Matejcek 446-8790 and Lynn Gorski 456-1725; Purchasing Committee – Kande Mullenbach at 444-9207 and Wendy Dahl 455-3331; Decorating - Janice Higgins 451-1247, Susan Gebur 455-3658, and Doris Domeier 451-4438; Food - Sara Borgerding 451-7150; Scheduling- Jami Johnson 330-2744.

### Mark Your Calendar!

- October 17<sup>th</sup>, Start sending donations for General Store to be dropped off in the school office
- October 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>, purchase presale tickets!
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Parents set-up 6:30 PM until? We need as many people as we can get to help haul chairs and set up things in the gym and cafeteria. We would appreciate some people who have helped in the past to help again.
- October 24<sup>th</sup>, Decorate and set up games from 4pm – 7pm.
- Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 7 pm. Enjoy the Fun! We would appreciate help tearing down after the carnival.
- 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders can work at the carnival and receive ELC hours.

## St. Mary's Is Getting "Smart" About Technology

Technology has changed the way we live our lives. Now it will be changing the way our teachers educate our students. This fall, thanks to several generous benefactors and the SMS Auction, SmartBoard technology will be used at every grade level in the school.

SmartBoards are interactive whiteboards that make learning fun. A computer and projector turn these whiteboards into a touch-sensitive educational tool that engages students in the learning process. Each teacher will have a SmartBoard to use for classroom presentations, science, math, music, and spelling - just about any subject you can imagine!

After having only one SmartBoard to use throughout the entire school last year – and seeing how much our students and teachers loved it – we decided to purchase eight more SmartBoards. All of our staff attended two training sessions this summer to learn how to use this new technology that will truly enhance the educational experience at St. Mary's.

We made several other investments in technology as well. We relocated and redesigned our computer lab so that it would be adjacent to our library, thus creating a media center. The room was also designed to make it more user and teacher friendly.

The final step was to create an Apple lab with six iMac computers. Initially, these computers will enhance the video production projects used by our junior high students, but will ultimately be used by all grade levels. The iMacs open a whole new learning dimension for conducting science experiments and collaborating with students on a global level!

The next time you're at school take a look around and see all of the interactive learning taking place. You'll be amazed at how "Smart" we have become!

## Girls Volleyball

Girl's volleyball is open to any 6-8 grade girls. They practice and play matches after school. They play in the Tri-County League in which they travel. The head coach is Sandi Kubista and the assistant is Linda Karnauskas.

## Volleyball Schedule

Sept. 15 at Faribault B.A. (in DMCS Gym), B/A 4:15 PM  
 Sept. 16 at Webster (Holy Cross), B/A 4:45 PM  
 Sept. 18 at Faribault Lutheran, B/A 4:30 PM  
 Sept. 22 vs. Lakeville (All Saints), B/A here 4:45 PM  
 Sept. 23 at Montgomery, B/A 5:30 PM  
 Sept. 25 vs. Northfield, B, here 4:00 PM  
 Tuesday, Sept. 30 vs. Randolph, B/A, here 4:30 PM

## Floor Hockey

Floor Hockey is open to any 6-8 grade boys. This is an intramural sports program that is offered after school. You will need a mouth guard if you plan on playing. Mr. Freundl will be the coach.

## Physical Education News

*By Terri Grose, K-8 Phy. Ed.*

Just a reminder that your child needs tennis shoes for physical education class. Phy. Ed. meets every other day. Parents can check with their teacher if you are unsure what days your child has Phy. Ed.

Grade 1 – They will be working on tee-ball skills; overhand throwing, catching and proper hitting form off tees. They will learn how to play tee-ball.

Grades 2 & 3 – They will be working on tee-ball skills and playing games. We will be working on football skills; catching, punting, and kicking off tees. We will then play games.

Grade 4 – We will be working on a Frisbee unit, learning

how to throw and catch Frisbees. They will learn how to play Frisbee golf and ultimate Frisbee. We will work with koosh ball and then we will work on football skills and then play games.

Grades 5 & 6 – We will be working on a soccer unit in which we are working on skills, rules and play games. They will also be tested on the President's Physical Fitness test on strength, endurance, speed, agility and flexibility.

Grades 7 & 8 – They will be working on a flag football unit. They will be working on the skills, learning the rules and playing games. They will also be tested on the President's Physical Fitness Test.

## Administrator's Corner (continued from page 1)

1877 and will continue to be on this site. We need to renovate and remodel this facility to provide the quality Catholic education people of our parishes and this community has come to expect throughout these many years.

A reminder to St. Mary's parents that St. Mary's School does NOT participate in the 2-hour late starts that the public school has each year. There will be six Monday's the public school will start 2 hours late. St. Mary's School will not be taking part in that late start program.

The St. Mary's School magazine drive will be occurring starting September 5 and running for 2 weeks at St. Mary's School. This longstanding tradition at St. Mary's School will continue to provide parents and other community members an opportunity to renew their magazines or purchase new ones through St. Mary's School. St. Mary's School will also participate in the Marathon for Nonpublic Education. This will involve all students and staff of St. Mary's School as well as parents if they so choose to participate in a walk to publicly state the importance of Catholic education. This march will be on Oct. 10, 2008. This will be a Friday and will be held in the morning involving students, staff, and parents of St. Mary's School.

This will be a fundraiser to help support St. Mary's School and will be headed up and conducted by Capital Campaign organizer Mike Randall as well as other members of the St. Mary's School staff.

I wish to thank the students, staff, and parents who worked with the Home and School Association Bingo tent at the Steele County Fair. This was a very successful event and generated many dollars for the Home and School Association. I wish to thank also the parents and staff who assisted in manning the information booth in the Four Seasons building of St. Mary's School. This was another opportunity to increase the exposure and also to answer any questions people have concerning Catholic education in Owatonna.

Information concerning the annual report submitted to MNSAA for the 2007-08 school year was included in the First Day packets presented to parents. Hopefully you can have an opportunity to review this and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give administrator, Jerry Kent, a call.

During this year, St. Mary's School will be involved in the Honeywell Instant Alert program. This will allow immediate access to the phone lines through Honeywell Corporation for necessary emergency or information items that will be forthcoming to

parents. This would include school closings or other emergency situations if parents need to know about to pick up their children or to not have them attend school. This will be the same program presently used by the public school district. More information will be coming out on this in the near future.

During the summer, the St. Mary's School technology lab was moved from the connecting hallway to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the junior high portion. This is located and connected to the library. Sharleen Berg will be serving as the curriculum/media technology person who will tie technology and curriculum at all grade levels more closely together. She will be working with staff and students to make technology more of a tool to make the students feel very comfortable in the use of technology. We have also created a Mac Lab, which will allow for many new opportunities for our students at grade levels to increase their technology skills. With the many Smartboards that have been added at St. Mary's we can proudly say that they have great opportunities for all of the students and staff available to them on a daily basis.

## Parking

When you are visiting St. Mary's, please park your vehicles south of the Sacred Heart Parish Center or facing the basketball hoops. This will allow full use of the parking lot for our physical education classes and recess.

Please do NOT park in the bus-loading zone on Cedar Avenue. Thanks for your cooperation

## Lost And Found

We are hoping to minimize the amount of lost clothing this year at school. We recommend that your child's name be written on the inside tag of all sweatshirts, jackets, boots, shoes, lunch bags etc. to help make sure that lost items are returned to their rightful owner. This is also true for junior high students as many items are left in the locker rooms and hallways. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 2008-2009 Asbestos Notification

As a result of recent Federal legislation, each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent inspection for asbestos and to develop a major plan for all asbestos-containing building materials. St. Mary's School is in full compliance with this law. St. Mary's School continues to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our students, staff, and parents.

Asbestos was used extensively during World War II in the construction industry and was also widely used in many factories, building and hospitals across the nation. In all cases, asbestos products work very well to provide fire safety. Since then, concern has been raised that, with time, asbestos-containing materials can break down and allow particles into the air. Heavy exposure to asbestos particles has been linked to certain

forms of cancer. Earlier Federal laws were passed requiring school districts to identify areas at which materials containing friable asbestos were used. More recent legislation (AHERA) required identification of all asbestos-containing materials and a plan to manage those materials.

In keeping with this legislation, accredited inspectors inspected all building owned or leased by the school districts and independent laboratories analyzed samples. Based upon these inspections, the school prepared and the state approved comprehension management plans for handling asbestos located within buildings.

St. Mary's School has asbestos containing materials within it, which are either under repair, removal, or being maintained on a regular basis.

Federal law requires periodic walk-through called surveillance every six months of each building containing asbestos. The last inspection at St. Mary's was in May 2008. Also the law requires that all buildings be re-inspected each three years.

Short-term workers (outside contractor's example, telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) are provided with information regarding the location of asbestos that they may come into contact with. All short-term workers shall contact the head custodial maintenance person before working within the building.

St. Mary's School has a list of locations; types of asbestos containing materials found in the school building and a description and timetable for the proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for you to view in the school office. Copies are available at \$.10 per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Dan Johnson, a designated asbestos management programmer through the Institute of Environmental Assessment under contract with Southeast Minnesota Cooperative at 507-281-6662.

## Notice Of Pest Control Materials

St. Mary's School utilizes a licensed, professional pest control service firm for the prevention and control of rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the school building. Their program consists of:

1. *Inspection and monitoring* to determine whether pests are present, and whether any treatment is needed.
2. Recommendations for *maintenance and sanitation* to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
3. Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening; and
4. Application of *EPA-registered pest control materials* when needed.

Pests can sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property, and spread disease; therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pest control materials, or the class of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per Federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review or copying at each school office. A similar estimated schedule is available for application of herbicides and other materials to school grounds. Parents of students may request to receive, at their expense, prior notification of any application of a pest control material, should such an application be deemed necessary on a day different from the days specified in the schedule.

## From the Library

### WELCOME BACK!

We have added many new books to our library collection thanks to the generosity of our Home/School Association and some personal donations. A number of students volunteered this summer to mend and reorganize portions of our collection. Thank you, Thank you!

### Birthday Book Club

Attached to the newsletter is our Birthday Book Club membership form. Last year many new books were added to our collection through this program. These books are labeled with special book plates and spine labels, shelved with the rest of our collection, and available for checkout to all of our students.

### Library Website

Check out the library page on our new St. Mary's Website: [stmarys-owatonna.org](http://stmarys-owatonna.org). Information you will find there:

- Library hours and procedures
- Sites for some of our favorite authors and books
- Homework sites/tools grouped by subject
- Maud Hart Lovelace reading lists and summaries

Look for updates as new sections are added this fall.

### MN State Book Award

Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in this program, which runs from Sept. – Mar. When a student has read 3 books from the selected titles they earn the "right" to cast a vote for their favorite. Votes are tallied here and sent to the MN Youth Reading Association. **If YOU read the books to your child; that counts too!** We have multiple copies of each title, and our Public Library will also shelve the same books. Students reading 6 or more of the books become part of the "Scholar's Club" and celebrate in the library when the state winner is chosen (Apr. 2008). Listed below are the nominated books for this school year. Or you can visit our school Website and find the list and book summaries.



## Maude Hart Lovelace 2008-2009 Nominated Books

### Division I

***The Penderwicks*** by Jeanne Birdsall  
***Mirror's Tale*** by P.W. Catanese  
***Lunch Money*** by Andrew Clements  
***Phineas L. MacGuire Erupts*** by Frances O'Roark Dowell  
***Flush*** by Carl Hiaasen  
***Jackie's Wild Seattle*** by Will Hobbs  
***Gossamer*** by Lois Lowry  
***Punished*** by David Lubar  
***Abby Takes a Stand*** by Patricia McKissack  
***Project Mulberry*** by Linda Sue Park  
***Three Good Deeds*** by Vivian Vande Velde  
***Princess for a Week*** by Betty Ren Wright

### Division II

***Mirror's Tale*** by P.W. Catanese  
***Flush*** by Carl Hiaasen  
***Jackie's Wild Seattle*** by Will Hobbs  
 \* ***Soldier Boys*** by Dean Hughes  
***Day of Tears*** by Julius Lester  
***Gossamer*** by Lois Lowry  
***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*** by David Lubar  
***Heat*** by Mike Lupica  
***Shackleton's Stowaway*** by Victoria McKernan  
***Monsoon Summer*** by Mitali Perkins  
***Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan  
 \* ***So B. It*** by Sarah Weeks

\*Title for mature readers. The nominee lists are not intended to be an automatic recommendation of the books.

Thank you again for your support in making our library a vibrant component of our school. We have a school population supported in its desire to read.

Have a wonderful school year!

**Sharleen Berg**

## 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

## Save Aluminum Cans All Year

By Terri Grose

Owatonna Metal Recycling

1210 Industrial Road

Owatonna, MN 55060

(Across from the Waste Treatment Plant)

451-1470

Owatonna Metal Recycling will collect aluminum cans for St. Mary's Sports Boosters all year. All you have to do is turn your cans in there and they will give you a slip. Take that slip to the office at the recycling center and they will keep track of the money owed to St. Mary's School. At the end of each month they will send St. Mary's a check for the cans collected. All the money will go towards St. Mary's sports.

This is a great way of getting rid of all those cans and not having to wait until our next pick-up date, which is in April. Any questions call Terri Grose at St. Mary's School or Wanda at Owatonna Metal Recycling. Thanks for your support.

St. Mary's next aluminum can pick-up will be the weekend of the school carnival in the parking lot.

# St. Mary's Magazine Drive



Please support our school by renewing or ordering new. 40% of price goes to the school. Over 800 titles to choose from!

## Sept. 5 - 19th