



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Character, Compassion, Values"

August 2007

Administrator's Corner

By Jerry Kent

St. Mary's School will begin the 2007-08 school year with a projected 360+ students in the K-8 program plus a full preschool program of approximately 55 students. We anticipate this growth to be approximately 3% higher than the previous school year.

Any parents who wish to review the ITBS or CAT test results with school administration prior to the fall conferences can do so by contacting school administrator, Jerry Kent.

During this past school year the curriculums of Language arts and Spanish have been reviewed and updated. During the 2007-08 school year the curriculums of physical education and social studies will be reviewed. St. Mary's School will also begin the process of developing the self study document for MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association). St. Mary's School will undergo a reaccreditation review during the 2008-2009 school year. If you are asked to serve on one of the committees or complete surveys for this document, please do so.

The annual stakeholder letter which highlights the results of the Minnesota Nonpublic Accrediting Association School Improvement Plan for the past year will be distributed during the First Day Program on August 30, 2007. This document is one piece of information the school must provide each year as they renew accreditation. In an upcoming newsletter areas of the school improvement plan that will be addressed during the 2007-078 school year will be included.

Included in this newsletter will be information on the hot lunch program. Prices for the 2007-08 school year will be the same as those this past year.

A group of staff members have worked on ways to improve the culture and climate at St. Mary's School. Some of the areas that have been addressed this summer with information forthcoming will be modifications in the lunch room to hopefully make the lunchroom work more effectively, and also to lower the noise level. To provide better after school/before school supervision of students, designate areas after school with students who are in an unsupervised capacity will now be in a supervised space to provide for better child safety and less behavior difficulties. Discussions will also be held to improve general student behavior and also to provide ways to address student storage area especially near the shelves by the gymnasium.

I look forward to seeing the St. Mary's families at the Steele County Free Fair. Please remember that we will be having the 9th annual Spelling Bee beginning at 2:00 PM on Thursday, August 16. Please come and

watch the students from SMS as well as students from other schools throughout Steele County. I also urge you to consider stopping to play Bingo at the Bingo Tent sponsored by Home and School Association. If you are asked to volunteer your time to help out, please consider doing this very fun activity. We will be providing colorful T-shirts to identify all SMS workers at the Bingo Stand and also are providing some new prizes in addition to the cash prizes that will be awarded. I look forward to seeing you all soon as we begin a new school year.

New Staff Members

St. Mary's School will begin the 2007-2008 school year with Emily Borgerding joining the SMS staff. Emily will be replacing Julie Schultz in the kindergarten program. Julie and her husband, Grant, now have a baby girl, Isabella with whom Julie is going to be staying home with during this next school year.

St. Mary's School will soon be offering a contract to a replacement for Gia Plate as school social worker. We thank Gia for her many years of service to SMS. Gia has accepted a full-time social worker in the Medford School District. We will miss Gia but look forward to the newest St. Mary's hire which should be announced by the middle of August.

Bingo

By Katy Kreutter

Come play Bingo at the Fair! It is sponsored by the SMS Home and School Association. The proceeds go to a very good cause – OUR SCHOOL!!!

The volunteers who offered to help have started calling workers. If you haven't been called and would like to work a little – please call Katy Kreutter at 455-1247. We'll find you a time to work. Thank you and we'll see you at the Fair.

Magazine Drive

Please save your magazine orders for the St. Mary's Magazine Drive this fall. The kick-off date is Friday, Sept. 7.

Students in grades 5 through 8 will be selling QSP magazines and music selections. There are hundreds of items available and they all make money for the operation of our school. Thank you.

Home & School News

It's that time again, and we are having our "Meet Your Teacher Day" on Monday, August 13 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Come and join us to see who your teacher will be next year, have a popsicle and meet your Home and School members.

In addition, we will be looking for volunteers to be room parents for all grades and workers for the carnival, which will be coming up quickly. Please think about volunteering your time to help in either of these areas; it is a great opportunity to get involved and meet other members of our St. Mary's family.

This year we are hopeful that attendance at Home & School meetings will grow and are inviting all of you to join us the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Our first meeting is September 10th and we are excited to have our new line of St. Mary's shirts and sweatshirts available to view and order at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I look forward to having a great year!
Molly Titchenal

Home & School President
and would like to work a little – please call Katy Kreutter at 455-1247. We'll find you a time to work.

Thank you and we'll see you at the Fair.

Carnival News

It is once again Carnival time. This year's school carnival is Sunday, September 23rd. Our planning has begun. We are looking for new ideas and new faces to help. When out school shopping, please keep us in mind. We would like each family to donate items such as pens, pencils, markers, crayons, coloring books, notebooks, folders, stationary, bubbles, playing cards, notepads, novelty erasers and books. We also will need baked goods for the "Cake Walk" so get those recipes ready.

This year we will need help with lining up workers, decorating, kitchen help and working at the games. It's a great opportunity to meet St. Mary's school families and have fun too. Volunteers make the school carnival a success. Please contact the carnival Chair people: Shelly Rohwer at 528-2392, Tammy Ginter at 451-8929 or JoAnne Hartmann at 446-8299 with questions, comments or if you would like to help. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

School Social Worker

Many of you may have read in the classified ads a job opening for a School Social Worker at S1. Mary's. Yes, that position was my position. I have recently taken on a new position at Medford Public Schools. I will be working as a part-time School Social Worker for grades K -6th.

It has been a privilege to serve the St. Mary's family for the past seven years. This move will be difficult for me, as I have grown to love and appreciate all of you. I do intend to assist in the transition of the new School Social Worker this fall. My intent is also to meet with the children that I have spent time with this past year, to say good-bye.

I want you to be assured that we will make every effort to make this transition a smooth one for your child. If you have any special concerns regarding your child, please call the main office and they will

direct your call appropriately.

Thank you again for allowing me to spend time with your children.

Gia Plate, LSW

Nurse's Notes

By Mary Herzog RN

A quick note for things that need to be taken care of before school starts.

7th Grade Immunizations – There are a number of students who have not turned in their shot records to me. All students need a tetanus booster and some need a second MMR. A second chickenpox shot will be mandatory next year so I would recommend that you get it at this time. Minnesota law states that any 7th grader who does not have the adequate immunizations will not be allowed to enter school until they show proof of coverage. Please make sure your child is up to date and let me know what their immunization dates are as soon as possible.

Medications – If your child will need medication during the school day, now is the time to get the Doctor's Medication form filled out and medications refilled. Renewal forms for those children with asthma were mailed out this summer. Please make sure they are signed and returned. I will not be able to give any medications until I have a doctor's OK to give them.

Kindergartners – Turn in your health records to me **as soon as possible**. Please do not wait until the first day of school to turn them in. Let me know if there will be any special needs for your child and if there are any allergies that we should be aware of.

Sports physicals – Physicals have been set up for Tuesday, Sept. 4th for boys and Wednesday, Sept. 5th for girls at the Owatonna Clinic Southview location. Both days will start at 6:00 p.m. You **must wear shorts and loose fitting t-shirts** or you will not be able to have your physical done. Don't forget to wear your glasses or contact lenses. Physical forms will be in the First Day packets. The parent section **must** be filled out and signed before coming to the Clinic. I will need a parent volunteer for both evenings. If you are interested, please call me at school or at home (451-0552).

Scrip

Each St. Mary's family is asked to generate a minimum of \$200 profit from the Scrip program each year. This is a continuation of a policy that St. Mary's has had for a number of years. After a family exceeds its goal of \$200, they can direct excess funds to other school activities or towards the new school building. Excess funds can also be directed towards your parish. This only requires a change in buying patterns; it does not cost any additional dollars to come from people's pockets. I urge all St. Mary's families to reach their goal of \$200 and urge you to be supportive of this in the two parishes, and encourage friends, neighbors, and fellow parishioners who are not part of the SMS school family to consider doing this, if not for the school, for their parish.