

St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

January 2010



Upcoming Events

- Jan. 6 – Spelling Bee 12:45 PM
- Jan. 11 – 7:00 PM Home and School Meeting
- Jan. 18 – NO SCHOOL – Staff Development
- Jan. 21 – Kindergarten Parent Information Night
- Jan. 22 – End of Quarter 2
- Jan. 25 – NO SCHOOL Teacher workday
- Jan. 31 – Pre-K-8 Open House & Registration
- Jan. 31 – Feb. 5 – Catholic School's Week

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.

From the Principal's Office

I hope you and your family had a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a joyous new year. We are looking forward to 2010 at St. Mary's School as a time to grow our enrollment, develop our campus, and deepen our Faith. January will be a busy month that includes planning for the next school year and recruiting new students. Please join us for an Open House on January 31.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some information about the St. Mary's School budgeting process. As we talk about ways to ensure our financial stability, it is important to understand how our funding is obtained and how our funds are spent. We currently receive most of our 2009-10 Budget of \$1,774,914 from two sources, tuition and parish subsidy. Tuition makes up 45% of our budget and the parish subsidy covers 39%. Another 12% of our funding is available from fundraising and gifts and the remaining 4% comes from the CEMF (Catholic Education Memorial Fund) and other miscellaneous areas.

Last year the spending budget was reduced by \$110,000 and our fund balance is projected to be 1% by the end of the school year. Salaries were frozen and many areas were reduced or eliminated. The current economic state has required all businesses to tighten their belts and evaluate their spending. St. Mary's has and will do this also. We are also looking for ways to increase our revenue. Our best opportunity for this is to attract new families to St. Mary's.

Please help us with this by sharing your story about St. Mary's School with friends, family, and neighbors. The Open House on January 31 would be an excellent time to introduce a family to the benefits of a Catholic education.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact me or one of the school board members.

Blessings to you and your family for 2010,
Mary Hawkins, Principal



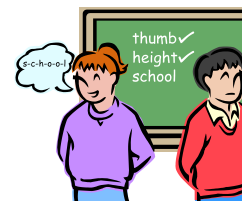
You are invited -

Open House/Registration Sunday on January 31, 9AM – noon.

- Tour the school – see the updates
- Meet the staff
- Register your child(ren) Registration forms will be mailed by mid-January
- Enjoy a pancake breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus (free will offering accepted) from 8AM – noon.

Spelling Bee

St. Mary's annual spelling bee will be held on Wednesday, January 6 at 12:45 in the school cafeteria. Classroom winners from grades 5-8 will be competing. All are welcome to attend and cheer on our competitors!



Auction Update

With the holidays behind us, our auction preparation kicks into high gear. We are working on some great packages, and continuing the sale of the "Car and Cash" raffle tickets. First and foremost though, is to be sure that you have **Saturday, April 17th 2010** reserved on your calendar our big fundraising event, the St. Mary's School 2010 Night of Knights Auction.

We are introducing our new **Hawaiian theme**. There will be new decorations and food to enjoy, in a fun and festive atmosphere.

The "**Car and Cash**" raffle tickets are selling! Tickets are \$50 each, and only 900 are available for purchase. Don't wait to get yours! If you would like to purchase a ticket, or if you could help us sell a few tickets, please contact one of the auction members listed below. The winner will be drawn

during the Live Auction on April 17th. Just to remind you, the Grand Prize is your choice of a 2010 Ford Fusion or \$15,000 cash! 2nd prize is \$1,000, and 3rd prize is \$500. Hurry and get your "winning ticket"!

Please remember to keep St. Mary's Auction in mind as you shop the after Christmas sales. This is a great time to make your purchase for a donation to the auction. The donations that St. Mary's families make are very important to the success of the auction every year. If you need ideas, or if you have a new unique idea you would like to share with us, please contact a committee member! Thank you in advance for your help and support!

Business Solicitations will begin in January. It will be a busy month as we organize our business solicitation volunteers. Auction solicitors will be

provided with their contact list of businesses and our auction donation forms soon. Thank you to all our volunteers who help with this very important task. Our auction success depends heavily upon our business donors. Year in and year out, they provide us with great items that make our event so special - household goods, travel packages, dining experiences, or cash to put toward other auction purchases. Be sure to thank them on our behalf for their support of St. Mary's School. If you could help out with business solicitations please contact Kris Dublin at 455-9678, or Tanya Henson at 451-5189.

We are looking forward to making this year's auction a great evening for all!

2009-2010 Night of Knights Auction Committee Members:

Bill & Kris Dublin	455-9678	dubsmn@charter.net
Bryan & Roberta Shaver	413-0364	robertafs@charter.net
Carol & Phil Daley	444-0946	carol.daley@allina.com
Chris & Jill Prohaski	451-5000	icprohaski@charter.net
Dave & Cathy Effertz	446-0258	ceffertz@gmail.com
Garret & Tanya Henson	451-5189	tanyadhen@yahoo.com
Kara Martin	457-2557	kara.k.martin@wellsfargo.com
Kelli & Craig Larson	446-4064	cdklarson@msn.com
Lynn & Tim Gorski	456-1725	lgorski@myclearwave.net
Shannon & Steve Prostrollo	451-5200	sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org
Tim & Elaine Truelson	444-0908	timt@ci.owatonna.mn.us
Amy & Adam Martinez	446-0085	adamamymartinez@q.com

January Liturgies

- Jan. 6– 8:10 AM All School Mass
- Jan. 13 – 8:10 AM Jr. High Mass
- Jan. 20 – 8:10 AM Elementary Mass
- Jan. 27– 8:10 AM All School Mass

All masses are at Sacred Heart Church.
Parents and guests are welcome.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Sacred Heart

Mrs. Lori Jerpbak	451-1060
Mr. David Mulert	451-3550
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mr. Rich Gerdts	456-8324

St. Joseph

Mr. Chris Herzog	451-2890
Mr. Phil Clubb	451-1049
Mr. Jed Ebner	455-2876
Mr. Jon Hanson	455-1689

NURSES NOTES

By Mary Herzog RN

Welcome back from a long and hopefully restful Christmas vacation.

We are moving into the peak influenza months. If you have not taken advantage of any of the H1N1 clinics offered through Public Health, I would recommend calling the clinic and getting your vaccination. Also, don't forget your shot for the seasonal flu.

Please remember to let us know why your child is absent. I am required to report outbreaks of influenza, chickenpox and shingles to the MN Dept. of Health. It is also helpful to send letters home if there seems to be a concentration of an illness in a particular grade level.

Letters will be going out shortly to 6th grade parents concerning immunizations needed before students enter 7th grade this fall.

Parents and all who work with kids are welcome to attend:

"ParenTeen"

Bridging the gap between teens and their parents"
Hosted by Young Life and Trinity Lutheran Church

Featuring Chap Clark

Senior editor of *Youthworker Journal*, contributing writer for *Sojourners Magazine*, author, speaker and professor of *Youth, Family, and Culture* at Fuller Theological Seminar
www.parenteen.com

Seminar on Adolescence
Monday, January 18, 2010
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church

St. Mary's Staff will attend a District 761 In-service on Monday, Jan. 18 for OHS staff and all area schools and community professionals -
"The Adolescent Experience" featuring Chap Clark

Kindergarten Information Night

This information night is for parents with children entering kindergarten in Fall of 2010. It will provide an opportunity for you to visit St. Mary's School and meet the Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Kathi Wolfe and Mrs. Terri Lambaere

The meeting will be held the evening of **Thursday, January 21, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.** Information presented will include curriculum, class times, registration, St. Mary's Extended Day Program, and busing. St. Mary's is pleased to offer all day/every day kindergarten beginning in October. We will also be offering the St. Mary's Extended Day Program for families that need all day care starting the first day of school.

Registrations will be accepted that evening.

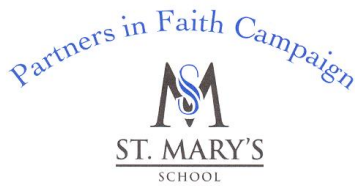
"Catholic School's Week"

Catholic School's week will be celebrated January 31 - February 5 with many events and activities.

Please watch for information that will be sent home with students soon.

After School Program Reminder:

The SMS After School Program will be offering all day "Fun Days" from 7:30-4:30 PM on Monday, January 18 AND Monday, January 25 to students who are enrolled in the program. Sign-up sheets and more information will be available within the next week when you pick your child up from the program. Questions – contact Anisha Pitzenberger at 507-456-5883



Partners In Faith Campaign Surpasses \$1.5 Million!

The St. Mary's School building campaign has raised \$1,553,000 to date with gifts from 310 donors. We hope others will join these donors in pledging their support and help us reach the \$2 million mark! If you have not received a pledge packet, or have misplaced yours, please contact June Rudolph in the office at 446-2300, and she will mail you one. Just a reminder that pledges can be paid over a 5-year time period.

Why are we excited about reaching the \$2 million mark? The current projected cost of our new addition is \$1.9 million. Once we reach that mark and have collected half of that in pledges, we can begin construction. We currently have about \$800,000 in cash and our hope is that we will be able to start construction on our new entry and classroom addition as early as next spring!

Remember, no gift is too large or too small. We need everyone's support to reach our goal. If you have any questions about the campaign, please feel free to contact Mary Hawkins at St. Mary's. And thank you for your continued support!

Jr. High Solo/ Ensemble

On Saturday, February 6, St. Mary's Jr. Band students will participate in a solo/ensemble festival at Wells.

Approximately 300 students from area schools will perform solos and/or small ensembles from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Participating students will receive a schedule of the event sometime during the last week of January. We will travel by bus to Wells.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kuklok.



Snow Hill

A reminder to St. Mary's students and parents that the snow hill west of the school building is off limits for the students during the school day. This includes before school as well as after school.

School Closing Information

St. Mary's School, because of busing, follows the same schedule as District 761 for late start and school closings. They follow these procedures.

Notification of school closing or a late start will be posted on the following information systems no later than 6:30 a.m.

- Local district 761 website
- Education channel 21
- Local radio stations KOWZ, KRFO, KAAL, KDHL
- Television stations: KSTP Channel 5, KARE Channel 11, and KMSP channel 9, WCCO Channel 4.
- **School closing and other emergency information will also be sent to parents via voice mail using the Honeywell Instant Alert System. If schools are closed or delayed because of weather emergencies, Instant Alert calls will be made.**

Watch Me Draw

Registration forms were sent home with students in K-5 for the upcoming Paint and Create on Canvas afterschool classes that will be held in February and March. Class size is limited so please register early. This program is offered in cooperation with SMS and Watch Me Draw Coordinator for Southern MN, Shelley Pedersen.

St. Mary's School
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