

# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

January 2009



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## "Catholic School's Week"

Catholic School's week will be celebrated January 25-31 with many events and activities.

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

## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 12 – Home & School Meeting
- Jan. 15 – Kindergarten Parent Information Night
- Jan. 16 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
- Jan. 19 – No School
- Jan. 26 – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Science Fair
- Jan. 26 – School board Meeting
- Jan. 27 – Red Cross Blood Drive

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

On behalf of St. Mary's School I wish each of the members of St. Mary's School family a very happy new year. I pray that the blessings of the Christ Child of this Christmas season will be with you not only during this special season of Christmas but also throughout the year. I thank the many students, staff, and parents who have remembered my wife and myself with Christmas gifts, cards, and best wishes during this season. We greatly appreciate your many gifts and prayers during this time.

I wish to thank the St. Mary's family also for the great support of the Toys for Tots program. St. Mary's School dedicated it's gifts and cash donations in the memory of Eric Schwanke, who died in a tragic snowmobile accident over a year ago. I know that Eric is greatly missed by his family. I know that they greatly appreciated the gifts for this program that Mrs. Connor and I delivered to their house prior to Christmas. In total we had almost a 190 gifts and over \$550 in cash that was donated to Toys for Tots in memory of Eric. I thank all of you for being so generous to help others.

Registration for the 2009-10 school year will begin February 1. Registration information will be mailed out in late January following the school board meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> to set the tuition rate for the coming year. The two parishes and parents support St. Mary's school. Tuition pays approximately 50% of the cost of educating a child at St. Mary's. We ask that you please be very supportive of your parishes that likewise contribute greatly to Catholic education.

Respective kindergarten parents will be receiving letters shortly

inviting them to an information evening for parents only on January 15 to learn more about our kindergarten program. Additional information concerning this program will be mailed to those unable to attend. An Open House will be held in April for all registered kindergarten students for the 2009-10 school year. Remember that St. Mary's School is a full-day kindergarten program beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of each year. If you know of members of this community who are not members of our two parishes who would like to have a Catholic education for their children, please encourage them to attend this meeting at 7:00 on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our school staff is dedicated to providing the best opportunity for children in a very strong Catholic, Christian environment where we care greatly about students. To present members of the St. Mary's School family, I thank you for choosing St. Mary's School and I urge you to consider passing this information on to friends who you believe would likewise enjoy being part of our Christ-centered school family. Information concerning Catholic schools will be available during the upcoming month with an Open House on Sunday, January 25 for parents and their children to learn more about St. Mary's School as well as to appreciate the school environment that we have to offer. Catholic education will be celebrated January 25-31.

As we move into the New Year we move closer to the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Night of Knight's Auction on Saturday, April 18. During the

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**Administrator's Corner**  
(Continued on page 8)

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

We have been adjusting to life in Kindergarten again after the excitement of Christmas and winter break.

As we begin our winter/snow unit we are usually concerned about a lack of snow and cold temps. This year we can be confident that completing our fun science experiments will not be a problem! Writing about snow/cold is much more interesting when we actually have that weather outside.

We will also celebrate Martin Luther King Day and Catholic Schools Week in January.

Language arts units will include an author study and continued focus on letters and sounds, along with the growing list of words in our word bank.

Keep watching your child's classroom newsletter for any specific activities or updates in his or her classroom.

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

During the season of Advent, we did kind deeds to help prepare our hearts for Jesus. For each kind deed, we added a star to the sky above our manger scenes. We also completed our ABC Books of Christmas, Christmas gifts for our parents, and many beautiful Christmas projects.

During reader's workshop this month, we spent a lot of time working on making connections. We worked on making text to self and text to text connections. We also learned to make Venn diagrams to make comparisons between two books.

We went on two field trips during December; one to the public library and one with our spirit groups to go Christmas caroling! We had a great time at both.

We were blessed with a visit from Bishop Quinn. He was able to see our school and visit the classrooms. Each class did two pages for a scrapbook for him.

In January, we will begin our penguin unit! This is a favorite of both students and teachers!

We wish you peace and joy this holiday season and all the best for 2009!

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

Happy New Year from Mrs. Connor, Mrs. Bastyr and Mrs. Pipitone!

Can you believe we are through with the year 2008? December just flew by.

In reading we read The Mitten, Annie and the Wild Animals, and The Wild Christmas Reindeer, written by Jan Brett. We read some other stories by her, which always prove to be enjoyable.

In math we worked on ballpark estimation and finding actual answers to bigger problems. We continue working on the addition facts by taking one minute timed tests.

Each Monday we got together with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and had an Advent Prayer Service.

We will be finishing up our preparations for First Reconciliation. Please remember to say the Act of Contrition at home.

May this New Year bring much happiness to you and your family!



- **First Reconciliation---Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Church 3:15-4:15PM or 6:35-7:30PM**
- \* **If you cannot attend on Wed. there is one being held on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart from 9:00-10:00.**
- **First Eucharist Parent Meeting – St. Joseph's – Joseph Hall from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday, January 7.**
  - **Mark your calendars – First Communion dates**
  - **St. Joseph at the 11:00 Mass – Sunday, April 26**
  - **Sacred Heart at the 10:30 Mass – Sunday, May 3**

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

January is an exciting month in third grade! In Language Arts, we move onto the *Disasters!* unit with nonfiction stories about the *Titanic* and Pompeii. We begin Multiplication and Division in Math. Look for a set of multiplication flashcards to study at home in your child's binder. In religion, the children will be learning of types of prayer and God's new covenant with believers through Jesus. The third graders are continuing to enjoy discovering cursive!

While studying habitat and endangered animals in science, the students will be experiencing the process of writing a research paper! We look forward to sharing our Endangered Animal reports at the Home and School meeting in February.

May 2009 bring rich blessings to your family!

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

Happy 2009 to all of you! We are looking forward to great things in 2009! We will be very busy during the month of January. In math we are working on decimals and multiplication. The students learn many ways to multiply and they realize that there are many ways to do one problem. In language arts we will be in our 3rd theme. It is called "Super Sleuths" and all of the stories are detective type of stories. In science we will be finishing up nutrition and healthy lifestyles and digestion

and starting fire safety and the solar system. In Social Studies we will be concluding our studies of the Northeast region and starting the Southeast region. We are looking forward to the end of the month when we get to celebrate our wonderful school during Catholic Schools' Week. It is always a fun week to come together as a school family and enjoy different activities and celebrate Catholic Schools!

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

Happy New Year!!

I hope that your Christmas break allowed everyone to slow down and relax a bit. Hopefully an extra portion of family fun came your way too!!

We are excited to get back in the swing of things! Many new units will get rolling this first week back. In Social Studies we will begin the Revolutionary War. This is a lengthy unit that the students really get into. The teacher likes it too!!! In health they are one step closer to dissecting pig lungs. They are thoroughly preparing themselves for dissection by studying the respiratory system in great detail. In math, we will continue to work on division, eventually dividing with decimals.

We are glad to be back working with your wonderful children!

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

Welcome back to another wonderful year at St. Mary's School! It is always so nice to come back to your children after the long break!

Mrs. Pohlen will begin Life Skills with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders this month. This program teaches valuable skills to help students resolve conflicts and make wise decisions.

Math finds us measuring and drawing angles. We will also learn about coordinate geometry, isometry transformations, reasoning with angle measures,

and using a protractor to make circle graphs.

Our first round of self-selected Literature Circles was a huge success! The next literature selection is *Uglies!* This is a favorite of our students! This book allows us to explore how God made each of us unique and how to celebrate these differences instead of attempting to disguise our true selves.

The end of second quarter is January 16<sup>th</sup>! 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be

reflecting on their goals for the quarter and preparing any new goals for quarter 3. We will also hold our 6<sup>th</sup> grade auction! This is a special treat for all the students have accomplished!

Catholic Schools Week will be the last week of January. This is a special time for us to celebrate what it means to be Catholic through unique activities and projects.

We hope your New Year has gotten off to a splendid beginning!

## Mrs. Nylund's News

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

The month of December was spent doing a variety of things. We spent some time learning how to properly read a passage and highlight important information and then turn it into a short summary of what we read. We read and analyzed some short stories. We also looked at a variety of grammar topics with the students coming up with ways to teach their classmates about the grammar area to which they were assigned. In January, we will be continuing working with grammar and study skills. Towards the end of the month we will be looking at starting a new novel. We will also be conducting our classroom Spelling Bee to determine which students will advance to the all school bee on January 21.

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

Right before Christmas break, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders finished a chapter on graphs, functions, and sequences. They really enjoyed this lighter chapter after our last unit on fractions and decimals. I saw some awesome learning going on and this was shown on their unit test with their high scores! This week we are starting our new unit on exponents and square roots.

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

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders finished up their chapter on inequalities right before break as well. This chapter is a continuation of solving equations while throwing in greater than and less than signs. The students also learned to graph inequalities in the chapter. They always amaze me with the ways they come up with new little ways to remember different concepts and how they help their classmates remember the areas that are causing them difficulty. Our new chapter is on functions, which will get into reading and making graphs in relation to equations.

## St. Mary's Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee for grades 5-8 will be held on Wednesday, January 21 at 12:40 in the cafeteria. Four students from each grade will compete for the School Spelling Bee championship title. The students competing will be determined in the next week or so in their classroom spelling bees



## Jr. High Solo/Ensemble



On Saturday, February 2, St. Mary's Jr. High Band students will participate in a solo/ensemble festival at Triton Middle School in West Concord. Approximately 300 students from area schools will perform solos and/or small group 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 West Concord. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kuklok.

## Mr. Smith's News

### **Junior High Religion**

Students will continue their study of Sunday scripture and its link to Church teaching. The readings for the rest of January and early February are:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Gospel</u> | <u>Theme</u>                         |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/11/09     | Mark 1:7-11   | Beloved sons and daughters in Christ |
| 1/18/09     | John 1:35-42  | Chosen and called                    |
| 1/25/09     | Mark 1:14-20  | Repent, believe, and follow          |
| 2/1/09      | Mark 1:21-28  | Acknowledging the Lord's authority   |
| 2/8/09      | Mark 1:29-39  | Hope for healing in Christ           |

7<sup>th</sup> graders will wrap up the editing of their saint animation films. Please look for these films under the "My Videos" tab on the junior high website in early February. Once the films have been completed, students will begin studying Catholic Social Justice teachings through a variety of readings, activities, and experiences.

8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin researching and filming their prejudice and intolerance documentary projects. Students will be using the Mac lab a couple of periods each week while they are working on this project.

Catholic Boot Camp Tests will be given the week of 1/12-1/16. Deacon Adam helps teach this information to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders every other week. Please encourage your child to study if they haven't already started. Study guides are available at <http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/smsjuniorhigh/smith.cfm?subpage=672161>  
All service hour forms must be signed and turned in by 1/16/09 to receive credit.

### **Student Council and Youth Ministry Events**

1/7/09 EDGE Club Night 6:30-8:00 PM 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders @ SMS Gym  
 1/9/09 Night Games @ SMS 7-9 PM 6-7-8<sup>th</sup> graders @ SMS Gym  
 1/11/09 REP/CYO Pancake Breakfast @ SMS 7:15 AM-12:15 PM  
 1/14/09 EDGE Praise & Worship and Issue Night 6:30-8:00 PM 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders @ SMS Gym  
 1/16-17/09- Food Fast Service Project to benefit CRS 10 AM to 5 PM @ SMS  
 1/20/09 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reconciliation @ Sacred Heart 8:35 AM  
 1/21/09 EDGE Film Study Night (Bella) 6:30-8:30 PM 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders @ Sacred Heart w/Parents!  
 1/23/09 Junior High Winter Dance 7-9 PM 6-7-8<sup>th</sup> graders @ SMS Cafeteria

### **Hands & Feet Service Project**

All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents are welcome to participate in Food Fast on 1/16/09-1/17/09 to raise money for Catholic Relief Services and their efforts to alleviate suffering throughout the world. Each participant is asked to go without food for 24 hours. Each participant (or family) also needs to collect at least \$15 in pledges to participant in this event. Participants begin their fast on Friday evening by 5:45 PM. On Saturday morning at 10 AM, all participants will gather at SMS for a day of games, activities, learning experiences and prayer. We will end our fast with Holy Communion at 5 PM mass at Sacred Heart Church. Juice and gum will be provided throughout the day at SMS. Students can ask Mr. Smith for a pledge form and parental permission form.

### **Respect Life Film Study**

"Bella" will be shown on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 from 6:30-8:30. This film is rated PG-13 and deals with one man's efforts to convince a young woman to keep her baby. Small group discussions led by junior and senior high students will follow the film to help students process what they have viewed and how it relates to their faith. Parents are encouraged to attend this event with their seventh or eighth grade student.

### **Vocations Week**

***The question is not what do you want to do with your life, but what does God want you to do with your life.***  
 In observance of National Vocations Week, the Owatonna Area Serra Club has invited Fr. Loomis from Resurrection Parish in Rochester, MN to celebrate Mass and spend the day sharing his story with students on 1/14/09. All junior high students have already made a trip to either the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona or Good Counsel in Mankato to learn more about the priesthood or religious life.

## School Closing Information

St. Mary's School, because of busing, follows the same schedule as District 761 for late start and school closings. In speaking with Tom Sager from the District, they follow the following 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.**

## 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. If parents wish to bring their children back to use the snow hill in the evening or on weekends that is fine but parents need to assume all responsibility for their children. The hill becomes too hard from a liability issue with students at times don't behave appropriately and somebody may get hurt. I ask that you please remind your children of this.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Kent  
Administrator

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

Welcome back from a long and hopefully restful Christmas vacation.

We are moving into the peak influenza months. I will be making the rounds of the elementary this month with "Glo Germs". It is always a highlight for the students. They will learn about proper hand washing which is our best defense against winter illnesses.

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.

There have been outbreaks of pertussis in several communities statewide. Most cases are occurring in upper elementary through high school grades due to waning immunity. When your student has their 7<sup>th</sup> grade shots, make sure that their tetanus booster contains the pertussis vaccine. I will be sending letters home to 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents next month to let them know which immunizations they will need before entrance into 7<sup>th</sup> grade in fall.

## Advent Service Project

Thanks to all who brought money and toys for the "Toys for Tots" campaign. The students gave close to \$555 and approximately 175 gift items. Most of the toys were donated through the Schwanke family in memory of their son, Eric.

In January we will be collecting money for "Pennies for Patients".

### January Liturgies

- Jan. 7 – 8:10 AM All School Mass
- Jan. 14 – All School vocations Mass
- Jan. 21 – 8:10 AM Elementary Mass
- Jan. 28– 8:10 AM All School Catholic Schools Mass

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

## From the Library!....by Mrs. Berg

### **Maud Hart Lovelace**

It is a new year and not too late for your 3-8th grader to begin reading books from this selected list. Maud Hart Lovelace is the MN state book award. We are encouraging students in grades **3-8** to read at least 3 books from this list (you may also read them **to** your child) and vote in March. Students reading 3 books earn the right to vote, and those reading 6 or more (Scholar's Club) will be having their lunch in the library. We'll have some lively discussion about the year's winning books.

We started a new group for 3rd Graders – "3rd Grade Scholar's Club." This is similar to Scholar's Club except 3rd Graders will be expected to read 4 of the nominated books instead of 6. This adjustment has been made for our younger Maud Hart Lovelace readers to accommodate their reading levels. There are limited titles in the nominated books that are suitable for 3rd graders to independently read and enjoy. They are excited about their new self-reliance in reading chapter books and wish to be part of this process. A handful of 3rd graders has met their goal of 4 books and we hope to encourage more readers to participate at this level.

### **Birthday Book Club**

Look for a Birthday Book Club "Check-out Event" invitation this month if you participated in Birthday Book Club this year. Our gathering will be toward the end of January. Members of the BBC will have the 1st opportunity to check out their donated book, which will then be added to our collection for all to check out.

### **Caldecott & Newbery Medals**

Some of our classes will be studying the background behind these annual awards given for distinguished illustrating and writing. The awards are soon to be announced, and we'll have background enough to voice an "educated" opinion on the committee's decision.

### **Check Out Ed.Voicethread**

A number of students have participated in the creation of a voicethread through the SMS Ed.Voicethread account. This collaborative online network is designed for and restricted to K-12 students, educators and administrators. All of the content on the network is created by and for students and educators, creating a closed community that spans the globe.

Voicethread has created a place and tool for students to find and share their voices. The basic building block of the network is called a voice thread, which is a media player that allows students five different ways to comment on videos, documents, images and presentations. It is organized so that an entire complex group conversation can be represented on one simple page.

The content posted on Ed.Voicethread is visible to anyone. Only students, educators and people specifically invited by educators can comment. We want to encourage publishing and collaboration, and we want to make sure it is taking place in a safe and accountable environment.

View a sample of how we are *beginning* to use Ed.voicethread with our students: Visit the 3rd grade pages on the St. Mary's School Website. There you will find a link to Ed.Voicethread and samples of fractured fairy tales created by the 3rd Graders.

### **Google Tricks**

There are many clever lesser-known tricks when it comes to the Google search box. Here are some for you to consider:

- **Get the local time anywhere** – Just enter "what time is it dublin" (or any other major city in the world ) to get the local time there.
- **Convert currency, metrics and more** – Find out how seconds there are in a year simply by typing, "seconds n a year" or how many euros there are to 10 dollars by typing " 10 USD in Euro" Or, wondering how many cups in a quart? Type in "quarts in cups" for your answer.
- **Weather reports** – Find weather reports by typing in the zipcode. Example "weather 55060"

### **Helping Children Become Better Readers**

We all want our children not only to be good readers, but also to know the joy of reading. As our children become good readers, we are often tempted to push them or urge them to read books that are within their reading abilities but that are above their understanding. It is not enough that children can read the words; they must also have had enough life experience to understand what the author is trying to say. If they begin reading a book before they can understand it, they may have "lost" that book forever; many a good book has been overlooked under these circumstances.

### **Children's Book Council**

Check out [www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org) and find some great ideas in choosing books appropriate for your child's age level. At this site you will find guidelines for choosing books and lists to assist you in that choice. Many wonderful links are also available at this site for further exploration.

**Happy New Year!**

Administrator's Corner (continued from page 1)

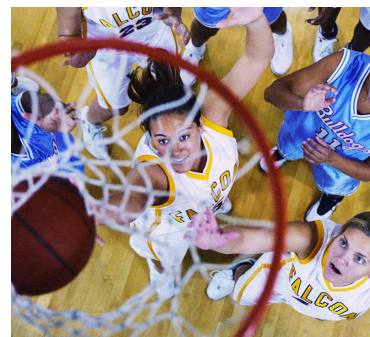
coming week you will receive information to help with the solicitation of donated items from our greater Owatonna community which greatly supports this activity and this evening. It is a very important fundraiser for St. Mary's School and I urge all of you to be supportive of this evening and to join other families in attending and having a wonderful time.

In the coming weeks you will also receive information concerning the remodeling project of St. Mary's School. We will begin to use funds from the Seeds of Faith Campaign to replace all windows in the school as well as remodel the major restrooms in our facility during the summer of 2009. A capital campaign will also be conducted to raise additional dollars to meet the other life safety issues that need to be addressed in our facility to bring it up to present building codes. The more dollars we raise will allow us to move in terms of adding new structure and facilities to provide for Catholic education not only presently but in the future as well. In 1950 a capital campaign was held to raise dollars to build a new St. Mary's School with follow-up campaigns in 1955 and 1957 to complete the job. We have a facility that needs to have much work done to bring it up to code and to make it more accessible to all people in our Catholic community. I urge all of you to be very supportive of the efforts. I realize that the task is great and the economy is not good but I believe that if there is a will, there is a way to make it happen, and I know that Catholic education is very important to you and to Owatonna that we need to upgrade these facilities. I ask for your support of our capital campaign.

I pray that you will have a wonderful new year.

### Girl's Basketball Schedule

|                 |  |         |
|-----------------|--|---------|
| Mon., Jan. 5    | vs. New Prague St. Wenceslaus, B/A, here   | 5:00 PM |
| Tues, Jan. 6    | vs. Randolph, B/A, here                    | 5:00 PM |
| Thurs., Jan. 8  | at MSAD, B/A                               | 4:30 PM |
| Mon., Jan. 12   | at Owatonna Christian School, A            | 4:30 PM |
| Tues., Jan. 13  | vs. Webster Holy Cross, B/A, here          | 4:45 PM |
| Thurs., Jan. 15 | vs. Lakeville All Saints, B/A, here        | 4:45 PM |
| Fri., Jan. 16   | at New Prague St. Wenceslaus, B/A          | 5:00 PM |
| Tues., Jan. 20  | vs. Faribault Lutheran, B/A, here          | 4:30 PM |
| Thurs., Jan. 22 | vs. Schaeffer Academy Rochester, B/A, here | 4:30 PM |



### Boys Basketball Schedule

|                 |   |          |
|-----------------|---|----------|
| Tues, Jan. 6    | at Randolph, B/A                            | 5:00 PM  |
| Thurs., Jan. 8  | vs. Lakeville All Saints, B, here           | 4:45 PM  |
| Sat., Jan. 10   | at Schaeffer Academy Rochester, B/A         |          |
|                 | <i>Round robin – A vs. Glenville-Emmons</i> | 10:00 AM |
|                 | - B vs. GE                                  | 11:00 AM |
|                 | - A vs. Schaeffer                           | 12:00 PM |
|                 | - B vs. Schaeffer                           | 1:00 PM  |
| Mon., Jan. 12   | at Owatonna Christian School, A             | 5:30 PM  |
| Tues., Jan. 13  | at Webster Holy Cross, B/A                  | 4:45 PM  |
| Thurs., Jan. 15 | at MSAD, B/A                                | 4:30 PM  |
| Fri., Jan. 16   | vs. New Prague St. Wenceslaus, B/A, here    | 5:00 PM  |
| Tues., Jan. 20  | at Faribault Lutheran, B/A                  | 5:30 PM  |
| Thurs., Jan. 22 | at Montgomery Holy Redeemer, A              | 4:45 PM  |
|                 | (game played at elementary school)          |          |
| Tues., Jan. 27  | at New Prague St. Wenceslaus, B/A           | 5:00 PM  |

### School Board Members

#### Sacred Heart

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

#### St. Joseph

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

## From the Social Worker's Office.....by Gina Pohlen, LSW

This month I am including a tipsheet from Wiredkids.org about online safety. I have talked with both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about Internet safety and will be speaking with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders when LifeSkills begins for them in January. This information is not just for the older grades though. Most of our children are very computer savvy at young ages. I recommend all parents be aware of what your child is doing on the computer. For those of you who have teenagers who are in social networking sites, use email, and instant message the recommendation is that the parent should ask for their passwords. Tell your children that you have the right to monitor their computer use and that if you suspect there is a problem, you will randomly monitor their Internet activities. Do not allow your child to have multiple e-mail accounts or create accounts without your knowledge. You should insist that your child gives you their e-mail and chat room passwords. The Internet is like a playground for kids. While playgrounds can be great fun, if unsupervised- bullying, fights and inappropriate conversations can take place.

### **Your Online Safety "Cheat Sheet"** **Basic Rules for You to Remember as a Parent!**

- Make sure your child doesn't spend all of her time on the computer. People, not computers, should be their best friends and companions.
- Keep the computer in a family room, kitchen or living room, not in your child's bedroom.
- Learn enough about computers so you can enjoy them together with your kids.
- Teach them never to meet an online friend offline unless you are with them.
- Watch your children when they're online and see where they go.
- Make sure that your children feel comfortable coming to you with questions and don't over react if things go wrong.
- Keep kids out of chat rooms unless they are monitored.
- Encourage discussions between you and your child about what they enjoy online.
- Discuss these rules, get your children to agree to adhere to them, and post them near the computer as a reminder.
- Find out what e-mail and instant messaging accounts they have and (while agreeing not to spy on them) ask them for their passwords for those accounts.
- "Google" your children (and yourself) often and set alerts for your child's contact information. The alerts will e-mail you when any of the searched terms are spotted online. It's an early warning system for cyberbullying posts, and can help you spot ways in which your child's personal information may be exposed to strangers online. To learn how to "Google" them, visit [InternetSuperHeroes.org](http://InternetSuperHeroes.org).
- Teach them what information they can share with others online and what they can't (like telephone numbers, address, their full name, cell numbers and school).
- Check your children's profiles, blogs and any social-networking posts. Social-networking Web sites include [xanga.com](http://xanga.com), [livejournal.com](http://livejournal.com), [facebook.com](http://facebook.com), [myspace.com](http://myspace.com) and [buddyprofile.com](http://buddyprofile.com). They shouldn't be used by preteens and should be only carefully used by teens.
- Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends.
- Warn them that people may not be what they seem to be and that people they chat with are not their friends, they are just people they chat with.

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## Physical Education.....By Ms. Grose

Kindergarten: We have been working on locomotor movements; skipping, galloping, sliding, running, leaping, hopping, and jumping. WE will be working on the proper way to overhand throw and catch. After that we will be working on a juggling unit. We will juggle 1-2 tennis balls, beanbags and scarves.

Grade 1-2: We just finished a juggling unit. We are working on a jumping rope unit, using short and long ropes. We will be working with hula-hoop and scooter. After that we will work on volleyball skills.

Grade 3-4: We will be working with pogo sticks, walking stilts, scooters, skip-its, walking on a buddy board, using balance discs and hula-hoops. The next unit will be volley. We will work on the skills and then play games.

Grades 5-8: We are working on a volleyball unit. We have been working on skills, learning the rules and playing games. The next unit will be basketball.



## Auction Update

With the holidays behind us, our auction preparation kicks into high gear. We are working on some great packages and are continuing the sale of the "Car and Cash" raffle tickets. First and foremost though is to be sure that you have **Saturday, April 18, 2009** reserved on your calendar to attend our big fundraising event for St. Mary's School.

We're going "South of the Border" again with our Fiesta theme. We had such a great response to our

Mexican celebration last year that we are bringing it back! We will include decorations, margaritas, chips & salsa and some special auction items to create a fun, festive atmosphere.

The "**Car and Cash**" raffle tickets are selling steadily! If you would like to purchase a ticket or if you could help us sell a few tickets, please contact Kris Dublin at 455-9678. The winner will be drawn during the Live Auction on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Just to remind you, the Grand Prize is a 2009 Ford Fusion or \$10,000 cash, your choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$1000, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 this month. 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 Cathy Effertz at 446-0258.

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

### Auction Committee

Lori and Barry Butler [loributler1@charter.net](mailto:loributler1@charter.net)  
 Nic and JoAnn Matejcek [jomat@smig.net](mailto:jomat@smig.net)  
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 Chris and Jill Prohaski [jcprohaski@charter.net](mailto:jcprohaski@charter.net)

## 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 School  
 730 S. Cedar Avenue

Phone (507) 446-2300  
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[www.stmarys-owatonna.org](http://www.stmarys-owatonna.org)