

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"Character, Compassion, Values"

October 2007

Administrator's Report

By Jerry Kent

St. Mary's School opened on the first day of school with 367 students in grades K-8. This is up 17 students from the closing number of the 2006-2007 school year. This is almost a 5% increase and I hope that this trend continues so we can see this type of growth for our school not only for the idea of filling the school with students but also as we move towards a possible "new" building site and having a new and far superior building for our students. It would be nice to have a number closer to 400 or beyond. We will definitely have the room if we move into a "new" facility. We also started with a full preschool of 54 students and a waiting list. As we moved into the first month of this school year, I appreciate the great support of the staff for working so hard to make this a wonderful start.

Our staff is working very hard to provide top quality education and I believe you would be very impressed with the hard work that we see amongst these teachers, not only in the classroom, but also staying after school to provide for better quality education. Our teachers are working very hard in the area of technology, looking to make better use of the new and wonderful web page. We need to thank our Webmaster editor, Kari Bunkers, for all her work in helping to update this great addition to our school. St. Mary's School recently purchased a Smart Board and the SMS teachers will be undergoing training to bring this additional technology piece within the classrooms. Hopefully we will be able to purchase additional Smart Boards throughout the years so that all students will have an opportunity to use this technology.

St. Mary's educational development coordinators, Dee Johnson and Kathy Chatelaine, are working very hard to help bring the "best practice" of collaboration into our classrooms and into school. Our staff is working very hard to collaborate not only with each other but also to work with parents as the primary educators of your children. There are many of our SMS teachers who are beginning or continuing their master of education programs this year. We appreciate their willingness to continually improve their excellent educational skills. I likewise will be joining the SMS staff by going back to school myself. I have been granted a scholarship through the MN Catholic

Education Association entitled Enhancing School Identity for Catholic School Administrators and I also will be taking a program through SE Service Cooperative on "how to create a culture of continuous school improvement."

St. Mary's building project continues. We have concluded three sessions with SMS parents and parishioners of the two parishes. The public school is carrying out a series of four meetings discussing the same topic. St. Mary's School will look to do a feasibility study to measure parish support and community support for possible move to part of the OHS building. Once this feasibility study is completed, we will seek approval from our local school board and this will be forwarded to the Bishop for his approval. Once that permission is granted, we will present this to the Owatonna School Board and hopefully we will be the option that they will choose as they go forward with their bond issue in the spring of 2008.

A thank you to the Owatonna Knights of Columbus Council 945 for their support this past month with our 7th grade students getting an opportunity to spend a day at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Center in Lanesboro and the 6th graders attending the Big Island Rendezvous. The monies for these programs come from the Knight's of Columbus. We thank them for their strong support.

I wish to also thank the Home & School Association for their great organization of the Carnival that was held on Sept. 23. By all accounts the carnival was a huge success and this is a way of uniting our school family closely. A big thanks to all those who attended. Please note that the carnival committee is proposing to the Home & School that the carnival be moved next year to the month of October and held on a Saturday evening to allow for hopefully more people to attend. Please plan on attending the upcoming Home & School meeting on Oct. 8 to voice your opinion on this possible change.

Please note also in this newsletter information concerning Grandparents/Special Friends Day that will be held on Oct. 17. This day precedes the MEA days off from school on the 18th and 19th. Thanks also to the many St. Mary's families for supporting the magazine drive this past month. I especially want to thank Mrs. Wacek for

her dedication to the magazine drive and to the school.

Lastly a thank you to Kim Degen for assuming the volunteer coordinator position during the month of September. Kim has determined that this has become more of commitment than she was able.

St. Mary's has advertised and will be looking to announce a new person for this position on Oct. 1. Thanks to all members of St. Mary's School families for their strong support as we begin this new school year.

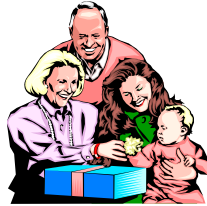
Grandparents/Special Friends Day

Wednesday, October 17

Schedule for the day:

- 9:00 a.m. Grandparents and Special friends gather in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Your grandchild or special friend will meet you in the Parish Center
- 9:20 a.m. Mass
- 10:20 a.m. Guests Move from Church to Sacred Heart Parish Center for refreshments sponsored by St. Mary's Home & School
- 10:40 a.m. Move to gymnasium for concert
- 10:45 a.m. Grandparents and Special Friends Day concert
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch is provided for all guests. A basket will be available for those who might like to make a free-will offering.
- 12:00 p.m. Open House in the classrooms begins

We're looking forward to spending the day with you.



Grade 7 And 8 Conferences

Mid-term Conferences for grades 7-8 will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 9 and Thursday, Oct. 11 from 3:30-7:30 PM. All 7 & 8th grade parents are urged to attend. Conferences will be held in the cafeteria and will not be scheduled. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

School Pictures / Retakes

Lifetouch will return on Friday, October 26th. Photographs will be taken of those who were absent on picture day in September or need retakes. Picture envelopes are available in the office. If you would like student pictures retaken, please follow the instructions in your picture packet.

October Liturgies

- ✓ Oct. 3 – 8:30 AM All School Mass at St. Joseph's. (If raining it will be at Sacred Heart)
- ✓ Oct. 10 – 8:10 AM Elementary Mass
- ✓ Oct. 17 – **9:20 AM** Grandparent's Day Mass
- ✓ Oct. 24 – 8:30 AM Jr. High Mass at St. Joseph
- ✓ Nov. 1 – 10:00 AM All Saints Day Mass

All Masses are held at Sacred Heart Church unless otherwise noted. Parents and guests are welcome

Jr. High Instrumental Master Classes

St. Mary's 7 & 8th grade band students are invited to spend the morning of November 3rd at a special 2½-hour master class. This is a great opportunity for students to spend time with a teacher who specializes in their instrument. Instruction will focus on good playing habits, tone production, and practice skills. See Mrs. Kuklok for more information and/or sign-up. The Master Lessons will be held at Owatonna Junior High from 9:00-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 3.

Calendar Changes

The Jr. High Pop fiesta will be on **TUESDAY, March 4** instead of Thursday, March 6. This change is due to the All City Band.

The jr. high play in March 2008 will be held on **Friday & Saturday evenings of March 14 & 15** rather than Thursday & Friday due to All City Choir.

From the Counselor's Office

By Gina Pohlen

Happy Fall! I have had the opportunity to go into most of the classrooms the past few weeks to meet all of the students and talk to them about my work at the school. With some of the younger grades we have been reading books about feelings and friends, which has been really fun. It has been great getting to meet and know all of your children.

The week of October 22-27 is Red Ribbon Week. This is a week that has been used by educators and community leaders to teach children about saying no to drugs and yes to a healthy lifestyle. Watch for information to be sent home about how our school and the community are participating in this anti-drug education event.

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

Home & School

We are off a great start this year and I want to say thank you to all of you who volunteered to be homeroom parents this year. We have been able to fill all the positions and appreciate your willingness to give of your time. You may have noticed that we have a new line of t-shirts and sweatshirts available this year. Hopefully the order forms will be up on our new St. Mary's website soon but, until then, you can get a form from Mrs. Prostrollo and place all orders, along with payment, in her box in the office.

Our next Home and School meeting is coming up on October 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. It would be great to see as many faces this month as we did in September.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Molly Titchenal
Home & School President
molly@bruderlaw.com
446-9719

Physical Education

By Miss Grose, Physical Education K-8

1st grade – we have been working on tee-ball skills; overhand throwing and catching and how to hit off a tee. They will learn how to play tee-ball games. After tee ball we will work on a juggling unit and a koosh ball.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Sacred Heart

Mrs. Carla Kern	455-1544
Mr. Robbe Kniefel	455-2371
Mrs. Cheryl Rohwer	451-5449
Mrs. Holly Liebl	455-9013

St. Joseph

Mr. Chris Herzog	451-2890
Mrs. Dawn Ritter	451-8199
Mr. Brian Bunkers	455-3186
Mr. Jon Hanson	455-1689

NO Late Starts at SMS

St. Mary's School will not be participating in the six late start days by District 761. The first late start is on Monday October 8th. Busses will not be providing transportation for students to arrive at their respective schools until a 10:00 AM start. AM kindergarten in the public schools will not be held on those days.

St. Mary's kindergarten will be held on all late start days. On October 8th, the SMS kindergarten will still be half days so parents will need to provide transportation both to and from school. School for students in grades 1-8 will be held as normal, which means an 8 AM start. Students who need to use busses will arrive at school before 10 AM. It is hoped that parents will be able to carpool or find alternate transportation for their children so they can attend SMS for the entire school day.

The dates for the late starts are as follows:

October 8, 2007
November 12, 2007
December 10, 2007
March 10, 2008
April 14, 2008
May 12, 2008

I thank you for your support of the educational programs at SMS and hope that this schedule change is not too disruptive to your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Jerry Kent
Administrator

2nd & 3rd grades – we reviewed tee-ball skills and played games. We will be working on football skills and playing games.

4th grade – We have been working on a Frisbee unit, learning how to throw and catch frisbees. They learned how to play frisbee golf and ultimate Frisbee. Our next unit will be football; we will work on the skills and play games.

5th & 6th grades – we are working on a soccer unit. We are working on the skills, learning the rules and playing games. They are completing the President's Physical Fitness test.

7th & 8th grades – we are working on a football unit. We are working on skills, learning the rules, and playing games. They are completing the President's Physical Fitness.

Auction News

On **Saturday, April 12, 2008**, we will celebrate our 22nd year of the Night of Knights Auction at St. Mary's School. Please mark this important date on your calendar. As always, we need the help and participation of all SMS families to create a successful event. As you recall, this past April was another record breaker for the Auction as we generated about \$109,000 for St. Mary's School. We've already begun meeting to discuss new ways to make this another exciting, fun and successful auction.

Please visit our web page at <http://www.stmarys-owatonna.org/auction/index.htm> . To aid in our communications with you, the Auction Committee will make regular updates to our auction page within the St. Mary's web site.

Our teachers and staff continue to play a vital role in the Auction. Year in and year out, our teachers and staff donate generously to the auction with their time, talent and treasure. Their creativity is what makes our auction so unique. Lori Connor has volunteered to be our Teacher Liaison again this year. She will be our communication link between SMS staff and the Auction Committee. Thanks Lori! New last year was our Staff Appreciation Raffle. We plan to do this again and you will be able to purchase raffle tickets, in February, in honor of your favorite SMS staff members.

Attention Alumni: Our SMS alumni made significant contributions to last year's success. It is our intent to continue involving more alumni each year. Your donations and auction ideas are invaluable to us. You are a big part of the rich history of St. Mary's School. If you or someone you

know is interested in being involved, please contact a committee member.

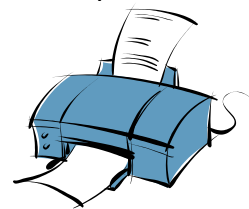
Please contact a committee member if you have any questions or ideas regarding our Auction 2008. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Thank you in advance for your help in making this special event a successful fundraiser for our school!

St. Mary's Auction Committee:

Jay and Tricia Johnson bushelboyfam@msn.com
Jack and Katie Felland katiejack@deskmedia.com
Matt and Karen Thurnau mkgthurn@rconnect.com
Mark and Mary Rahrick mmrahrick@charter.net
Lori and Barry Butler loributler1@charter.net
Nic and JoAnn Matejcek jomat@smig.net
Patrick and Kristin Haberman Kristin@rconnect.com
Todd and Kris Wishy tkwishy@charter.net
Dave and Cathy Effertz ceffertz@gmail.com

EMPTY INK CARTRIDGES WANTED

Parents, Grandparents, Neighbors...



St. Mary's is collecting empty inkjet Cartridges for recycling:

Lexmark Xerox Sharp

HP Dell Apple

Canon Brother

Please drop them off at school

Attn: Mrs. Wacek

Winter Coat Drive

SMS will be an official winter coat drive drop site to benefit Steele County Clothesline. From October 7 thru October 29 you can leave clean children and adult sized **winter** coats, jackets, scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves that are in good condition in the boxes by jr. high entrance.

Any questions, please call Clothesline Director, Mary Fink at 451-2550.

Carnival Thank You

A big "Thank You" to all St. Mary's School families, students and staff for making this year's school carnival a success! The Carnival Committee wishes to thank everyone for his or her support of this event. The families and volunteers make this possible with their generous time of volunteering and donations. It would not happen without you. Winners of door prizes have been contacted and prizes have been claimed. If you have any suggestions for future carnival activities or are interested in being a part of this event, please contact Shelly Rohwer 528-2392, JoAnne Hartman 446-8299 or Tammy Ginter 451-8929

Aluminum Can Drive

Thank you to everyone who dropped off aluminum cans on Sept. 22 & 23. The money we received will go towards our sports programs at St. Mary's.

Save Your Aluminum Cans All year

Owatonna Metal Recycling 1210 Industrial Road, Owatonna, (across from the Waste Treatment Plant) 451-1470 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.

Jr. High Basketball

St. Mary's boys and girl's basketball will start the first week of November. St. Mary's basketball is open to any 6th through 8th grade boy and girl.

Basketball will have early and late practice times. Early practice times run from 3:30-5:00 PM and late practice from 5:00-6:30 PM.



Boys basketball coach needed

St. Mary's is in need of a Jr. High head boy's basketball coach. This is a paid position. Basketball will start the 1st week of November. If you are interested, please contact Terri Grose at St. Mary's.

Sports Boosters

We are looking for co-chairs for St. Mary's Sports Boosters for this coming school year. If you are interested, please contact Terri Grose or Dee Johnson at 446-2300 or e-mail one or both.

Thanks
Terri Grose
Athletic Director

Floor Hockey games

	3:45	4:15	4:45	5:15
Monday, Oct. 1			1-3	5-4
Thursday, Oct. 4	5-2	4-3		

Play Off games

Monday, Oct. 15

- 1st place will have a bye
- 3:45 PM 4th place vs. 5th place
- 4:15 PM 2nd place vs. 3rd place (winner to championship)
- 4:45 PM 1st vs. winner of 4th & 5th place game – (winner to championship)

Tuesday, Oct. 23

- 3:45 PM Championship Game
- 4:15 PM All Star Game

Volleyball

Oct. 2 vs. Faribault Lutheran, B/A, here 4:15 PM
Oct. 4 at Prior Lake St. Michael's, B/A 5:00 PM
Oct. 8 vs. OCS, B, here 3:50 PM
vs. Rochester Home Schooler's, A, here 5:00 PM
PM
Oct. 12 at Holy Cross, B/A 4:45 PM
Oct. 15 at Faribault B.A., B/A, in B.A. gym 4:30 PM
Oct. 16 at Randolph, B/A 4:45 PM
Oct. 23 at Montgomery, B/A 4:30 PM
Oct. 25 vs. Prior Lake, B/A, here 5:00 PM
Oct. 27 Tri-County Volleyball Tourney, B/A TBA

Turn in cleaned Volleyball uniforms by Thursday, November 1st

Directory Update

Please make the following change to your SMS Family Directory:
Johnny & Julie Brown
430 Elm Ave. South
Owatonna, MN 55060
413-0148

Science Fair

By Mr. Simon

Seventh and eighth grade students will once again be taking part in our local science fair. Seventh graders may work with a partner, but eighth graders must work by themselves. The Fair will not be held until late January, but students should be thinking about projects as soon as possible.

Nurse's Notes

BY Mary Herzog RN

Hearing and Vision Screening was held on Friday, September 21st for grades 1-6 and 8 and on Friday, September 28th for the kindergarten class. Rescreening should be completed by October 18. If you do not receive a referral letter, then you can assume that your child had no problems. A special thanks to Anne Skalicky, Dawn Betti, Elizabeth Malo, Randy Balausky, Kandee Mullenbach, Kristy Mulert, Jennye Savoie, Dave Emanuelson, Peggy Hanson, Mary Rahrack, Jami Johnson, Amy Jo Havelka, Shari Pumper, Angela Donlon, and Kim Degen who volunteered on the first Friday and John Rohwer, Bill Dublin, Andrea Lembke, Kris Tucker, Angela Donlon and Anne Skalicky who volunteered to help with the kindergarteners. Everything went very smoothly, thanks to you!! I couldn't have done it without you. St. Mary's has the best parents!!

Flu season will be on us before you know it. The staff will be receiving their flu shots on November 1. I recommend that all students receive a flu shot, in particular those who have asthma or who have a sibling that has asthma.

And speaking of asthma, if your child has asthma and is carrying their inhaler with them, please let me know. I need a permission slip signed by both student and parent before they can keep their inhalers with them.

Check It Out!!

Maud Hart Lovelace

*Our Maud Hart Lovelace program is off to a good start. We have limited books of each title, which requires a bit of patience for the readers. It is not too late to begin participation. Readers have until mid March to read three of the selected titles. They may then cast a vote for their favorite book, and if six titles are read, be part of the Scholar's Club. The Scholar's Club will celebrate in April when the award-winning books are announced. Readers check in with me as their books are read.

Birthday Book Club

*The deadline for the Birthday Book Club is Thursday, Oct. 13th. A membership form is attached if you are interested in participating. **An invitation will be sent to your child announcing the date of the gathering** (we will have only one gathering this year). **Students will come to the library during their lunch period on that day.** Remember we will be having only one BBC celebration for both Fall and Spring birthdays.

Usborne Book Fair

*Our Usborne Book Fair this year will be during elementary conferences. These are quality books. Usborne Publishing has emerged as the leading publisher of children's non-fiction titles. Included in their collection are many interactive – and internet-linked books. You may have seen a few of these books come home from our library. Look for more details as conference time approaches and be thinking of books as gifts during the upcoming seasons of thanks and giving!

Service Volunteers

*Thank you to the SMS Junior High students who have been volunteering their time in the library this quarter. We're so glad you thought of the library as a place to serve! Your efforts are making a positive difference.

Reading Aloud?

*Are you reading aloud with your child/children? It is **the single most important thing you can do** with your child to help them become life-long readers. It's also FREE! Check out the *Planet Esme*' Website for great read aloud ideas. (www.planetesme.com) This site has wonderful ideas if you want to pick books to match the season. Stumped on what to read to your older child? You'll find great ideas and book summaries on her site also. *Guys Read* (www.guysread.com) is another good resource for finding just the right book for the boys in your life.

Library Website

*Check out the library page on our new SMS Website. You'll find lots of homework resources, book lists and favorite author/book sites.

Happy Reading!
Mrs. Berg

Kindergarten News

By Mrs. Lambaere, Mrs. Borgerding, & Mrs. Wolfe

Wow! The first month of school just flew by! You know the old saying, "Time flies ...", and we sure are having fun! We want school to be a positive experience for your children. The biggest compliment you can give us is to say that your child enjoys coming to school.

October themes:
I am Special
Nursery Rhymes
Halloween
Creation

➤ Kindergarten Parent Night October 16th 7:00
Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the kindergarten program. We are planning a presentation followed by a visit to the classrooms. There will be time for questions. Reminder- no childcare will be available. We hope to see you there.

➤ Elk Farm/Pumpkin Patch Field Trip October 15th
We hope some parents will join us for this fun outing.

➤ Harvest Party October 31st
Learning opportunities abound as the entire kindergarten program celebrates the harvest season. Let your classroom teacher know if you'd like to help. It seems the adults have as much fun as the children!

News from first grade

By Mrs. Connor, Mrs. Peterson & Mrs. Haarstad

We had a very successful start to the school year. The children are working hard and have settled into our routine.

The carnival was a fun event and each of our classrooms donated items for the cakewalk.

We did a reading/health unit on our five senses and had some fun with a tasting activity.

In computer we are creating some beautiful creation books. Using a computer program, we are designing a page for each day of creation. It's very impressive to see the outcome.

We met with our Spirit Groups for the first time. We had a great lesson on how God loves us and wants us to persevere.

Thank you for your generosity to our Flood Relief money collection. The children enjoyed counting the money daily and felt good about making a contribution to those in need. Thank you also to those that donated to our classroom needs. Your generosity is appreciated.

We're looking forward to lots of fun and learning in October, especially Grandparent/Special Friend day!

Grade 2 News

By Mrs. Pipitone and Mrs. Bastyr

The month of September has sailed by. We have been working hard and settling into our schedule.

Starting in October and running through February, we will be participating in the Do It program. Remember to keep track of your reading times, on sheets provided each month. Please return them to school by the end of each month. Our goal is to have everyone bring in their reading sheets for the five-month program for a Pizza party. Thanks for your help.

In reading we have been working hard on our first theme, which is Pet Show Today. Each student has their own bag of books to work on fluency in their reading.

In Math we made our individual tool kits, calendars, clocks, coins, grouping by tens with \$1, \$10, \$100, number grids, and equivalent numbers. We have played games to help us in learning certain concepts. We are having a lot of fun with this new math program. In religion we talked about the wonder of God's creation and the greatest gift He gave us, Jesus Christ.

God bless you and thanks for all you do!

Grade 3 News

By Mrs. Chatelaine & Mrs. Johnson

The third grade is off and running with a great start to the year! Thanks for all of the time you share with your child in practicing math facts and spelling lists, helping your child with their Math Home Links, reading books, and hearing about your child's day.

Continue to have your child practice the list of 10 spelling words that is brought home in their binder. A spelling test will be given every 7 to 10 days.

In Reading, we continue the unit *Oink, Oink, Oink* (Fractured Fairy Tales). The traditional characters and setting of the Three Little Pigs have been changed in our next two stories – to javelinas in the southwest United States and finally, to pigs hanging out on a beach in Hawaii. Ask your child what the main events, characters, and settings are in each of these silly stories throughout the month. Additionally, the two third grade classes will explore the writing trait of Ideas by creating a classroom book.

Reading about St. Francis of Assisi, we learned that we have responsibility to God's creation – and that we praise Him for it! A Bible reading/activity sheet will come home with your child a few times each month. We hope that you and your child enjoy your time together in God's Word.

Keeping practicing the addition and subtraction flashcards! Your child is being tested throughout the week for mastery of this critical skill. During October, the children will be primarily working with addition and subtraction concepts. Thanks again for all of your support!

Computer time has been used to supplement our classroom work, including review of the basic math facts and exploring traditional and fractured fairy tales.

Mrs. Johnson's Science class has met three characters – Iggy, Sed, and Morph – to help understand how rocks are formed. Mrs. Chatelaine's Science class continues to explore their role in staying healthy through good health habits. Did you hear about the health product jingle? How about our "friends" Soc, Emo, Physi, and Telli?

Thanks again for all of your support! We appreciate all that you do in partnering with us to meet your child's educational needs!

Greetings from Fifth Grade

We have had great success with the magazine drive. Thank you parents for helping with this awesome fundraiser! Not only do the children benefit financially but there is also great reading material in their mailboxes! Yahoo!

We are almost finished with our first Language Arts unit, A Journey in Time. That means that we will take a couple of weeks for a literature circle. The students are given the two choices and may choose whichever book they find interesting. Our choices this time are: The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler and Indian in the Cupboard. Ask your student about these adventuresome stories.

We will be attending the play "Average Family" on October 2nd. This production will be put on by the Children's Theater Company. We will stop in Lakeville at Mc Donald's on the way, home, so please send money with your child that day. Thanks! .

Thanks for all that you do!

Mrs. Lattery

Mrs. Kasper

6th Grade News

By Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Vieths

October is finally here! We are loving the cool, crisp fall weather! We have completed our first units and students have taken their first tests as 6th Graders. We are so proud of their efforts!

Religion finds us discussing Adam and Eve and creation stories. Students are enjoying the new *Breakthrough Bible*.

St. Mary's students have enjoyed their first Spirit Group of the year. These groups are a highlight for all those attending St. Mary's. We were able to thank Sister Florence for all of her years of dedicated service and to discuss how God helps us to persevere. We look forward to many more Spirit Groups this year.

In math, we will be revisiting operations with whole numbers and decimals. Estimation strategies, mental math, algorithms, and number and word notation will be studied in Unit Two.

The Girl Who Owned a City is our current literature circle book for all of the students. We are held in thrall while we wait to see what will happen to the children of Grand Avenue!

The 6th Graders took a field trip to the Orphanage Museum at West Hills. We were lucky enough to listen to Harvey Ronglien talk about his experiences growing up at the Owatonna State School. We were also able to tour the site, pray for the children at the cemetery, and ask our many questions about the facility.

Happy Fall to you all!

From the Junior High

St. Mary's Junior High School Student Council Members

8th grade- Connor Cordell, Jacob Forster, Alyssa Rudolph, Tess Starman

7th grade- Lizzie Prohaski, Katy Schroepfer, Lauren Chicos, Monica Hanson

6th grade- Isaac Torres, Tori Carlson, Erin Abbe, Anna Redman

The SMS Junior High Student Council will meet weekly on Monday mornings @ 7:15 AM in room 209 to focus on developing and improving the academic, social, and spiritual environment of the Junior High. Student Council members are called to be positive role models who connect the student body to the faculty and the faith community to create a positive, challenging, enjoyable, and compassionate school atmosphere.

October Events

10/12 Dance 7-9 PM

10/14 Mass & Mini Golf 11-3 PM St. Joseph's

*Please call Chris Smith @ 446-2300 if you would like to chaperone at either event!

7th & 8th Grade Religion

Seventh graders will continue reading *Catherine, Called Birdy* to learn more about the development of modern Christianity and the role of saints in our lives. Students will create short computer-aided animations detailing the life of a saint. Seventh graders will also begin meeting in gender-based groups on Tuesdays to study ways to live their faith in everyday actions. The young women will meet with Kayleen McGaheeran and the young men will meet with Mr. Smith.

Eighth graders will conclude their study of the media and the role of faith in critical viewing and listening of television, movies, and music. In mid October, eighth graders will begin writing their very own modern-day, but Biblically accurate, versions of popular Bible stories. These stories will be performed by classmates in an improvisational format. Eighth graders will begin their study of Theology of the Body for Teens by meeting in gender-based groups on Mondays. Jane Elsner will continue working with the young women and Mr. Smith will work with the young men.

Students in both grades need to remember to complete at least 8 community service hours by 11/2/07. More specific details on qualifying service and accompanying forms can be found on the junior high website. A few specific opportunities are:

- 10/7 CROP Walk
- 10/13 Humane Society Pet Walkathon
- 10/27 Healthy Seniors Fall Clean-up Day (parent chaperones still needed!)

Students are also asked to become familiar with two prayers by heart this quarter. Students should be faithfully praying the Magnificat and portions of the Prayer of St. Patrick. The text of these prayers can be found on the website. Parent volunteers will be available on a regular basis to hear students recite their prayers.

Students also continue their study of the weekly Gospel readings. Here are the Gospel readings for October and the themes we will be focusing on:

10/7 Lk 17:5-10 Taking risks for your faith
10/14 Lk 17:11-19 Reaching out to outcasts

10/21 Lk 18:1-8

Challenge to prayer

10/28 Lk 18:9-14

Seeking Reconciliation

Youth Ministry Events

10/6 Lifeline Mass in West St. Paul 4:30 PM (8th grade and older only!)

10/7 Pizza Party & Adoration Talk @ St. Joseph's 5:30 PM (7th & 8th graders)

10/10 Disciples of Christ SMS Gym 6:30-8:00 PM (7th-8th graders)

10/14 Disciples of Christ- Weekend 11:00-3:00 Mass, Lunch, Mini-Golf (6-8th graders)

10/20 Switchfoot & Relient k Concert @ Concordia in St. Paul (5th-8th graders)

10/31 Disciples of Christ SMS Gym 6:30-8:00 PM (7th-8th graders)

11/2 NET Retreat 4:30-9:00 PM SMS (7th-8th graders)

11/4 Junior High Youth Rally Noon-7:00 PM @ SMS (7th-8th graders)

Please check out the SMS junior high website for more details or permission slips for upcoming events. Chaperones are always needed and always welcome. Please call Chris Smith 446-2300 or email him at csmith@stmarys-owatonna.org

