

St. Mary's School Newsletter

Catholic Schools - "Light the Way"

October 2008



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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 2 & 7 – Jr. High Conferences
- Oct. 10 – Marathon 9:00-11:00 AM
- Oct. 10 – 12:40 PM dismissal for homecoming parade
- Oct. 13 – Home & School Meeting
- Oct. 15 – Grandparent's Day
- Oct. 16 & 17 – MEA No School
- Oct. 25 – Carnival 4:00-7:00 PM
- Oct. 25 – Aluminum Can Drive
- Oct. 27 – School Board Meeting
- Oct. 31 – End of 1st Quarter

Attendance:

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

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

St. Mary's School opened on the first day with 349 students in grades K-8. This is down 17 students from the closing number of students in 2007-08. This number, however, is close at 349 to the five-year average of 353. With the current financial difficulties on local, state, and national levels, administration and board will be watching closely so it does not have a negative impact on enrollment and the cost for tuition. Our preschool continues to be full as it is each year. As we get through this first month, the school year is moving quite well. I know that the staff is working very hard to provide top quality education. In walking through the building each day, I am very impressed with the high quality of teachers we have in our school.

One of the changes this year was to move the technology lab next to the media center to more closely tie the media center and our computer lab together. Sharleen Berg has assumed the position of working to tie the curriculum more closely to technology to take advantage of all the wonderful things technology can do for us. One of the areas has been the use of Smart boards in each of the grade levels and the students are becoming very comfortable in the use of these boards and it is very exciting to visit the classroom when they have an opportunity to use these boards. Hopefully, we can soon reach the point that we can have one Smartboard available in each classroom as opposed to having to share them. We have also developed a Mac Lab, which is across the hall from our computer lab. Information and items will be coming from this, which we will share with you throughout the year. Two

weeks ago I had an opportunity to give students from OHS a tour of our facility through the YSL (Youth Leadership Program) where we have volunteers who come and spend time in our classrooms. Sometimes these are former students but many times they are students who did not attend St. Mary's School. With the opportunity to visit classrooms where a Smartboard is being used it was interesting to hear the conversations of the students, "wow, they have Smartboards" or another student asking "what is a Smartboard?" and a student responding "I've seen one once in one of our classrooms but we were not able to use it". We really have a very good technology program at St. Mary's School and this was due to very generous donations of people to our school. We thank those for allowing us this opportunity for our students. Technology is a major part of our lives and will continue to be in the future and we need to learn to be wise consumers of this product.

During this school year we will be looking to develop a revised technology curriculum for St. Mary's School and this will be a two-year program because we want to take the time to make sure we are doing this correctly. We also will be upgrading the Religion curriculum and also looking at our testing programs to make sure that our assessment of student's educational levels accurately measures what we need to know as educators. During this year we will be going through accreditation process with an on-site visit in April 2009. More information concerning this will be coming out to

Administrator's Corner

(Continued on page 10)

Kindergarten News By Mrs. Lambaere & Mrs. Wolfe

A big THANK YOU! to all who have volunteered in our classroom. You were able to see how an extra pair of hands and eyes is absolutely invaluable. We also have had some "home helpers" willing to cut or prepare activities at home. We appreciate your assistance as well.

October Themes:

- I am Special
- Nursery Rhymes
- Fire Safety
- Harvest Time

Mark Your Calendars:

- October 10th SMS Marathon
- October 24th Field Trip to the Children's Theatre
- October 31st Kindergarten Harvest Party

Reading: we continue to work on letters and sounds. We also focus on words as we enjoy charts, chants, and big books.

Math: we will work on number identification, recognition and extension of patterns, sorting and classification skills, construction of simple graphs, and simple shapes.

Religion: we will continue the story of Creation, observe Guardian Angel Day, and begin to learn the Angel of God prayer.

We strive to get our classroom routines and procedures down in October. On November 6th we begin all day kindergarten. The children are already talking about it. It will be exciting!

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

Well September has just flown by hasn't it?! We have been really busy setting up our routines for our classrooms and learning what it means to "Fill a Bucket". We have been excited to begin our Reader's Workshop in our classroom. We have worked on discussing our favorite reading spots, books, and memories. We also have learned what good readers do by building good reading habits. We have talked about how to take care of books, read everything in sight, read every day, and talk

about books with others! We are very excited to be starting our Daily 5 literacy centers: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Word Work, and Work on Writing! We have also been working very hard on building our reading stamina!

We have also been working with numbers in our daily lives in math, learning some fun math games, and making tallies, among other things! We are also creating books in computers on the Creation story in the bible.

We have celebrated some fun things this month like Spirit Groups, school pictures, hearing and vision, the Marathon kickoff, and talking about our Do-It monthly reading plan! Don't forget to turn these in at the end of the month for our pizza certificates!

Next month we will look forward to Grandparents/Special Friends Day and the beginning of our unit on the Rainforest! We will be well into our Daily 5 activities and individual reading conferences! Thank you for keeping up with our fluency folders at home. These

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

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.

Our Morning Meetings have been going very well. It is here we greet one another in various ways, share, engage in an activity, and discuss any recess problems. It is an awesome opportunity to build a caring and loving community in our classrooms.

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.

Every week we will be viewing the contents of the mass readings for the week. It is a great opportunity for the students to fully understand the readings.

God bless you and thanks for all you do!

Third Grade 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.

Keep practicing the addition and subtraction flashcards! Your child is being tested throughout the week for

Grade 3 News *Continued on Page 7*

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

October brings cooler days and hopefully cooler air in the classrooms. We have bee surviving with fans and water bottles.

Stewardship has been our focus in religion. We have learned the 3 r's (reduce, reuse, recycle) and how God wants us to take care of his earth. We may not litter, but others do so we need to pick up trash no matter who put it there. We've learned about using our talents to their fullest for the Glory of God.

We have completed unit 1 in math and are now beginning our study of numbers and place value. We will learn through classroom

instruction and games to reinforce the concept. Please review the +/- facts as this is an ongoing skill.

We continue to read stories in language arts with the school theme. We have read stories about children from the U.S., and children coming to the U.S. from El Salvador and Puerto Rico. We have done a lot of writing about our personal experiences and ourselves. We try to incorporate writing cross curriculums.

In spelling we continue to review our phonics skill and spelling rules. We have our Words to Learn lists to review for each test. These are personalized lists and your child needs to practice

them in order to master them. Please help your child study his/her words.

Our personal health unit culminated with each student presenting projects on things that they have learned. We had projects on the Smart boards, videos, posters, demonstrations and so much more. The students put a lot of effort into their projects. It was a different and fun way to test their knowledge.

In social studies we have begun our study the characteristics of

Grade 4 News *Continued on Page 10*

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

Happy Fall to you all! We have settled into the routine of our days in fifth grade. We have been beginning most mornings with Morning Meeting to share about our days and build community. We get to know our classmates well through activities and games that bring us closer together. It is important for us to spend time building our classroom community so that students feel safe and free to share in large or small group settings.

We have almost finished our first Language Arts unit, so that means... Literature Circles. The students have practiced the "jobs" they will be asked to complete as part of this experience. The students will decide which book they are interested in reading and as a group they make decisions about how their group will run. For example, they will decide how many pages they will read each evening or what the

discussion questions will be for the following day. Once these stories are completed they will decide how to convince others to pick up their book. The project that they complete will be presented in front of the class to pique the interest of other students. Because all of the books will be around the same theme, we are anticipating some great discussions connecting these pieces of literature.

The Social Studies projects were fabulous! Thank you so much for all of the support and guidance you gave to help them through this project with such success!!

Reminder*** Our mass was cancelled because no priest was available, however we are in charge of a Respect for Life prayer service that will fall on Friday, October 2nd. The time is 8:10 and the location is Sacred Heart.

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

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 *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 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 Fort Snelling! It was a fascinating look into the lives of the people who lived and worked there. Costumed guides demonstrated 19th-century life through hands-on activities. Our favorites were helping the laundress and staying in formation.

Happy Fall to you all!

Mrs. Nylund's News

7th Grade Language Arts (with Mrs. Nylund and Mrs. Stewart)

The 7th graders began the year reading humorous stories and poems with quirky characters. A few activities we did along with the stories were designing a poster of a section of a poem they read and working on fact and opinion.

For the last week or so, the students have been working on developing a humorous essay about an event that happened in their life. We worked with the Inspiration computer software to make visually appealing webs of the who, what, when, where, and whys that would be covered within their story. Students then wrote their humorous essays with help from their peers with revising and editing.

We just began the novel Touching Spirit Bear, which was a favorite of last year's 7th graders. We hope that this year's group will enjoy it just as much!

7th Grade Math

We are close to the end of Chapter 1 in the 7th graders' math book, working with some basic principles of algebra. Some of the topics covered were writing and solving algebraic expressions, working with integers, and solving equations. Our next chapter will be on rational numbers.

8th Grade Math

The 8th graders started the year with a review of working with

fractions and decimals, which proved to be a valuable review because these areas came up often in Chapter 1. 8th graders will also finish their first chapter in the next week or so. Their first chapter was similar to the 7th graders, covering foundations for algebra such as writing and solving algebraic expressions, working with integers, and the order of operations. Chapter 2 works with equations and formulas, proportion, and percent.

BOTH GRADES ENJOY DOING THEIR MATH WORK ON THE SMARTBOARD!! IT HAS BEEN A GREAT ADDITION TO THE CLASSROOM, MAKING EVERYDAY LESSONS INTERACTIVE AND ENGAGING!! ☺

Grade 7 And 8 Conferences

Mid-term Conferences for grades 7-8 will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2 and Tuesday, Oct. 7 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!

7th & 8th Grade Science... *by Mrs. Stewart*

The 7th and 8th graders have been working with the lab equipment: learning names of equipment, how to use the equipment, and common labels or units used with each piece of equipment. We have also been doing a variety of labs to become familiar with the metric system.

Both grades will be completing a project for the science fair at the end of January. Now is the time to start gathering ideas for projects! We will continue to work with the scientific method in preparation for the fair.

7th graders are finishing up with a leaf or insect collection. This has been a great introductory project for our diversity study! We will be working with dichotomous keys to aid in identification of objects and organisms. We will also explore how organisms are named and related to each other.

8th graders are finishing up their rock collection. We will be learning to identify rocks based on characteristics and formation. We will start to take a closer look at Earth's structure and composition as well as different types of maps.

From Mrs. Slotsve's Classroom

It is great to be back! I'm looking forward to getting to know all my students better. I would like to thank Mrs. Donlon for getting my year off to such a great start.

7th Social Studies

We are finishing up a chapter on early humans of the Paleolithic and Neolithic times. Next we will be studying Mesopotamia and the first cities. We will be doing a diagramming project during this chapter to better understand the world's first cities. Later in the month we will begin a unit on Ancient Egypt that will be a lot of fun.

8th Social Studies

We are beginning a unit on the Early Middle Ages. We will begin by studying the Germanic peoples who replaced the Roman Empire with their own kingdoms. We will then study the Frankish people and discuss Charles Martel. His defeat of the Arabs helped to keep Western Europe Christian.

8th Language Arts

Our first unit in Language Arts is short stories. While enjoying the short stories we will analyze plots, learn new vocabulary and grammar, and write stories of our own. During October, we will read Stephen Crane's "An Episode of War", Isaac Bashevis Singer's "The Day I Got Lost", and Naomi Shihab Nye's "Hamadi".

Jr. High Instrumental Master Classes

St. Mary's 6-8th grade band students are invited to spend the morning of November 1 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 1.

Request from Spanish

If anyone has magazines that they would like to recycle, we could use some in the Spanish room. I use them for several projects throughout the year and my current supply is looking pretty sad. They could be dropped off in the office or sent with your child on their Spanish day. Thanks!

Mr. Smith's News

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

October's Gospel Passages & Church Teaching Themes

10/5/08	Mt 21:33-43	Workers in the Lord's Vineyard
10/12/08	Mt 22:1-14	The Lord Invites Us to His Banquet
10/19/08	Mt 22:15-21	Give God His Due
10/26/08	Mt 22:34-40	Two Commandments of Love

Seventh & eighth grade students have started their spiritual direction sessions with Deacon Pat, Sister Cecile, Sister Nadine, and Deacon Adam. Students meet once in a small group setting before meeting individually with their spiritual director for 10-15 minutes every other month. Students and directors talk about prayer, spirituality, faith, and goal setting. This is an excellent way to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life on a personal basis and also a great way for our young people to have one more positive person in their life to support them on their journey of faith.

Junior High Event Calendar

10/1	EDGE Youth Ministry 6:30-8:00 PM SMS Gym
10/2	SMS Junior High School Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30 SMS Cafeteria
10/3	SMS Junior High Dance 7-9 PM SMS Cafeteria
10/5	CROP Walk
10/7	SMS Junior High School Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30 SMS Cafeteria
10/8	EDGE Youth Ministry Parent Night (7-8 th graders must have a parent, aunt, uncle, etc. to attend) 6:30-8:00 PM
10/15	Grandparents' Day
10/22	EDGE Youth Ministry 6:30-8:00 PM
10/25	Healthy Senior Fall Clean-up Day (parent drivers needed)
10/25	SMS Carnival 4-7 PM
10/25	Praise & Worship @ Sacred Heart Church 6:30-7:30 PM
10/29	Signed Service Hour Form Due Date
10/29	Catholic Boot Camp Test
10/29	Boo for Food 6:30 PM St. John's Lutheran Church

Volleyball Games

Oct. 6 vs. Webster (Holy Cross), B/A, here 4:30 PM
 Oct. 9 vs. Faribault Lutheran, B/A, here 4:15 PM
 Oct. 13 vs. Montgomery, B/A, here 4:30 PM
 Oct. 14 at Lakeville (All Saints), B/A 4:45 PM
 Oct. 21 vs. MSAD, A, here 4:15 PM
 Oct. 23 at Northfield, B 4:30 PM
 Oct. 24 possible play-off match for the Tri-County Volleyball Tourney TBA
 Oct. 25 Tri-County Volleyball Tourney, B/A TBA

Floor Hockey Schedule

	4:45 PM	5:15 PM
Thursday, Oct. 2	1-3	2-4
Wednesday, Oct. 8	1-4	2-3

Play Off games

Monday, Oct. 20 4:45 PM – 2nd place vs. 3rd place
 5:15 PM – 1st place vs. 4th place
 (Winners go to championship game)
 Thursday, Oct. 23 3:45 PM Championship Game
 4:15 PM All Star Game



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 4:00-5:00 PM and late practice from 5:00-6:30 PM.

October Liturgies

- ✓ Oct. 3 (Friday) – 8:10 AM Holy Hour of Prayer at Sacred Heart
- ✓ Oct. 8 – 8:10 AM All School Mass
- ✓ Oct. 15 – 9:00 AM Grandparent's Day Mass
- ✓ Oct. 22 – 8:05 AM Spirit Group
- ✓ Oct. 28 (Tuesday) – Jr. High and REP Mass at St. Joseph

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

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.

Physical Education.....By Ms. Grose

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.

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.

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.

School Pictures / Retakes

Lifetouch will return on Thursday, Nov. 6. 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



Winter Clothing Drive

SMS will be an official winter coat drive drop site to benefit Steele County Clothesline. From October 6 thru October 27 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.

Grade 3 news continued from Page 3.....

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, adding to St. Francis' *Canticle of Praise*, 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/Health 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

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

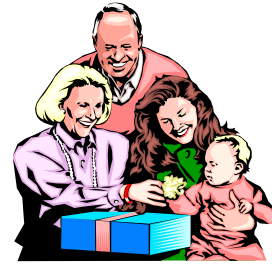
GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Schedule for the day:

- 8:40 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
- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- 10:00 a.m. 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 in the cafeteria. A free will offering can be made. For those with limited mobility, there is limited seating in Mrs. Stewart's room across from the main office.
- 12:00 p.m. Open House in the classrooms begins

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



Home and School

We are off to great start this year and I want to say thank you to all of you have volunteered to be homeroom parents this year. We do, however, have a couple classrooms with openings for room parents. If you have a child in Mrs. Gerdt's 4th grade, Mrs. Vieth's 6th grade or in 8th grade, we could use your help. Please consider volunteering as a room parent.

If you ordered a t-shirt this fall the order has been placed and I hope your orders will be available soon. I will send them home with your children unless you indicated otherwise on your order form. If you did not get a chance to order we will place another order

sometime in November. Order forms are available on the school website.

Our next Home and School meeting will be on Monday, October 13 at 7:00pm in the school cafeteria. It would be great to see more of you at our next meeting. Childcare is available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Shannon Prostrollo
Home & School President
(507) 456-5200
sprostrollo@stmarys-owatonna.org

Nurse's Notes..... *By Mary Herzog RN*

Hearing and Vision Screening was held on Friday, September 19th for grades 1-6 and 8 and on Friday, September 26th for the kindergarten class. Rescreening should be completed by October 20. If you do not receive a referral letter, then you can assume that your child had no problems. A special thanks to Anne Skalicky, Christy Mulert, Joann Moothart, Jennye Savoie, Karla Kniefel, Peggy Hanson, John Rohwer, Bill Dublin, Wendy Dahl, Angela Donlon, Kathy Fox, Kelly Schmidt, Andrea Lembke, Debra Brase and Angie Ahlberg who volunteered on the first Friday and Cathy Effertz, Susan Gebur, Kathy Leon, Laura Duncan, Ruth Pfeifer 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 October 14. The

Department of Health is recommending that all students receive a flu shot, in particular those who have asthma or who have a sibling that has asthma.

IMMUNIZATIONS

We have been having a problem keeping our immunization records up to date in our Health files. Along with the required immunizations that kindergarten and 7th grade students receive, there are also optional ones like those for Hepatitis A, Meningitis and HPV that many students have gotten. Our problem is that we are not receiving these records from the Clinic. It is the parent's responsibility, not the Clinic's, to pass this information on to the schools.

When your child receives any new vaccinations, please call the nurse's office or send a note to school with the name of the shot and the date received. I will add this information to their health file. This will also help the high school when your student's records are forwarded to them at the end of 8th grade.

Thank you for your help.

From the Social Worker's Office.....By Gina Pohlen

Happy Fall! St. Mary's has some fun news to announce. Last year we applied for funding from the Peace Maker Foundation to provide Social Skills training to our youth. We received enough funding to purchase the Second Step Curriculum. This curriculum teaches kids empathy, impulse control and problem solving, and anger management. We purchased the curriculum for grades 1, 3 and 5 and last spring we started working with these grades and completed the empathy section with all of them. With a full year in front of us we will easily be able to complete the curriculum and I have begun going into the classrooms to do these lessons. The Peace Maker Foundation was pleased with our work last year and donated another \$1000 to St. Mary's school for the 2008-09 school year. This funding can be used to purchase lessons for additional grade levels, helpful materials and projects, or training. We are excited to expand our Second Step program and I really enjoy getting into the classrooms and working with the kids on these valuable lessons.

Because of our grant from the Peace Maker Foundation we were able to send one student to the MN Twins game on September 24th to represent our school in the Peace Making work that St. Mary's is doing. Kayla Moothart, a 6th grader at St. Mary's, was chosen as an exceptional example of a Peace Maker by her teacher from last year. Kayla's teacher commented that "Kayla consistently modeled what a true peacemaker should be within the classroom. Her ability to listen to others, support her classmates, and problem solve conflicts helped Kayla become a positive role model for others to follow." Kayla was on the field prior to the game and they announced her name and our school. It was a great game and Kayla had a wonderful time. Congratulations to Kayla!

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.

School Board Members

Sacred Heart

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

St. Joseph

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

Aluminum Can Drive

Saturday, Oct. 25 will be our Aluminum Can Drive. A truck will be parked in the parking lot. The money 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.

NO Late Starts At SMS

St. Mary's School **will not** be participating in the six late start days by Owatonna District 761. The first late start was on Monday, September 29.

St. Mary's kindergarten

On the 2nd late start (October 27), the SMS kindergarten will be in session at the regular time (8:00-10:40 AM). Parents will need to provide transportation **both to and from school**. Once kindergarten begins all day in November, after school bus transportation will be provided at 2:40 PM for the remaining late starts.

St. Mary's Students grades 1-8

The school day begins at **8:00 AM as usual**.

Parents are asked to provide transportation **to school** on this day. It is hoped that parents will be able to carpool or find alternate transportation for their children. Be aware that busing is available for students who are eligible for bus transportation to arrive at school at 10:00 AM if you cannot make other arrangements. Bus transportation is provided at the 2:40 PM dismissal.

The dates for District 761 late starts that St. Mary's is **NOT** participating are as follows:

- September 29, 2008, October 27, 2008, December 8, 2008, March 9, 2009, April 13, 2009,

Administrator's Corner, *continued from Page 1*

all parents.

St. Mary's School building project continues. During this past month, St. Mary's School visited Bishop Harrington and his College of Consultors in Winona and received permission to begin a capital campaign that will begin late this fall or early next spring. Some projects on the school building were completed this past year and more will be worked on during the year as we continue to renovate our present facility. Hopefully the renovation process will not disrupt our school schedule too greatly. We ask for your financial support and your prayers as this process moves forth.

Thank you to the Owatonna Knights of Columbus for their support in sending our 7th grade students to the Eagle Bluff Environmental Center in Lanesboro and also for the 6th graders to attend the Big Island Rendezvous. The money for these programs comes directly from the KC's and we thank them for their support.

I wish also to thank the St. Mary's Home and School for their great assistance with our staff and students each year. They provide countless dollars and opportunities for us to provide many extras for the students.

Please note that the carnival that was usually in September will now be in October. We will also be having the Marathon for Nonpublic Education in October. Information was recently mailed out on this activity, which will take place at St. Mary's School on October 10th. Please be very generous in supporting this program.

Information on Grandparents Day is included in this newsletter. The date is October 15. A mailing was sent to all families that included an Lunch RSVP for guests and Permission to leave early/stay at school. Please return the completed form to the school office by Thursday, Oct. 9.

I wish to thank Mrs. Wacek for her directing of the St. Mary's magazine drive this year. We thank Mrs. Wacek and all the students for working so hard to make this program a success.

In conclusion I would like to add that we have a new staff member at St. Mary's School who will be a part-time kindergarten aide with Mrs. Wolfe. Lynn Smith was recently hired to work in this capacity. Lynn is a certified teacher with a K-5 certification. She has many years of experience and will be a strong addition to our St. Mary's staff. Her first official day will be Oct. 1, 2008. Mrs. Lambaere will have Caryll Olejnicak as a volunteer through the Foster Grandparent Program. These two individuals will assist the kindergarten classrooms in the morning when they need more time to work with the students individually and in small groups. The school board determined that class sizes with 21 students each in kindergarten required each having an aide in their classroom. St. Mary's School tries to be very frugal with dollars to make sure that we are spending those wisely but when the needs become apparent we will attempt to address them as best we can. Learning center staff will now have opportunity to spend more time working with the other grade levels, specifically the first grade which also has larger than normal class sizes. We thank you very much for your strong support.

Grade 4 News *Continued from Page 3*

regions. We are learning about the land, people, and government.

October brings the Feast of our Guardian Angels, the Feast of St. Francis, and Halloween. More information will be coming home about our class Halloween parties and other events.

We are also, beginning "Do It." It is a reading program sponsored by Godfather's. It is to help encourage and motivate the students to read. Reading helps to build success in everything we do. So "Do It!"

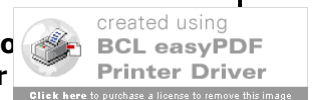
St. Mary's Magazine Drive

Thank you for supporting the 2008 Magazine Drive with \$25,000 in sales!

***Top 10 Sellers**

Casey Balausky
Hannah Schimek
Hayden Holland
Anna Edel
Kendra Schroeder
Joe Kearin
Miles Mulet
Nic Thamert
Brody Hudson
Liana Mulet

***Contestants in Deal o
Monday, October**



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St. Mary's Carnival News

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark Your Calendar!

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



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 our readers as they wait for their requests. 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, participate in the Scholar's Club Lunch in the Library. 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 Friday Oct. 24. If you are interested in participating a membership form is attached. **An invitation will be sent to your child announcing the date of the gathering (we will have only one gathering this year for fall and spring birthdays). Students will come to the library during their lunch period on that day.**

Library Website

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

Reading Aloud?

Are you reading aloud with your child? 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 this site for some insight on reading aloud to your child: **www.trelease-on-reading.com**. Another site worth visiting is **www.kidsreads.com**. **Reading** lists, series books, classic titles and the newest titles all are part of ***kidsreads.com*** along with trivia games, contests and author interviews.

SMS Wiki

Ward Cunningham invented the wiki concept in 1995. The term "wiki-wiki" means "quickly" in Hawaiian and was preferred by Cunningham over "quick-web". Cunningham used the term "wiki" after riding on the "wiki wiki" or quick buses at the Honolulu Airport.

What is a wiki?

A wiki is a group of web pages that allows users to add information in a collaborative way to build information on a particular topic. It permits others to freely make changes.

Why would anyone want to use wiki pages?

People would want to use wiki pages to find out more information on a subject or to communicate with people who are interested in the same subject.

How are we using our wiki?

Currently our SMS wiki is a protected site meaning only the site manager has access to the editing of our wiki; although anyone with internet access is able to view the wiki. Our goal is to develop our wiki into a collaborative site where students and educators participate in creating an interactive space with information on specific topics; sharing what we have learned with each other and students beyond our school boundaries.

We are in the early stages of this effort and are using our wiki as a resource for Smart boards, and our 7th and 8th grade current event and science fair projects. We'll share our progress in future newsletters. You'll find our wiki at **www.smsknights.wikispaces.com**.

Happy Reading!
Mrs. Berg