

December 2011

From the Principal's Office.....

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 23 – Jan. 2 – NO SCHOOL Christmas Vacation
- Jan. 16 – NO SCHOOL Staff Development
- Jan. 24 – School Board meeting
- Jan. 29 – Open House & Registration. Catholic Schools Week begins. KC Benefit breakfast in cafeteria.



NIKE Shoe Program

I would like to thank everybody for donating their used athletic shoes for the Nike reuse-a-shoe program. Together we collected over 150 pairs of shoes which was equivalent to eight big boxes. Once again, thank you for making this possible and for helping make playground surfaces for less fortunate kids and people. Also, a special thanks to Nike for letting me do their Reuse-a-shoe program as my service project.

Thank you,
Jacob Dahl
SMS 8th grade student



During this holy Christmas season, I hope you and your family are well. As I walk through the school, I see many signs of the season. Students are practicing for Christmas concerts and plays, student artwork depicts the symbols of Christmas, decorations adorn the hallways, and student essays tell of the birth of Jesus. Thank you for sharing your children with us and helping us to keep Christ at the center of our school and our lives.

I want to tell you of a couple improvements we are making at SMS. Teachers are using a new electronic attendance program. This allows teachers to record and track student attendance at their computer. The office has access to this program and can communicate with teachers regarding student attendance. We are finding this new system to be more efficient and reliable for our staff and families. Please continue to call the office regarding student absences and remind students to check-in at the office when they are arriving late and check-out in the office when they are leaving school early. Keeping accurate attendance is essential to keeping our students safe. Thank you for helping us with this.

Another improvement you will see shortly is an updated website. We have been working on an update since this summer and hope to make it live in January. This website will still contain most of the information that is currently available, but we are trying to make the navigation easier for our visitors. Another important feature of the new site is the ease at which we will be able to make changes and add posts. Students and teachers will be helping us with content and we are hoping this site will eventually replace our need for a monthly newsletter.

January will be a busy month at St. Mary's as we prepare of an Open House and registration for the 2012 -2013 school year.

Christmas blessings to you and your family,

Mary Hawkins, Principal

Dress for Recess

Please check your children's winter attire before they leave for school. A warm coat, hat, and gloves or mittens are required for all students at recess. For the elementary grades – boots are also necessary. (Snow pants for the elementary students would also be encouraged.) We would also encourage that the junior high students wear boots. Thank you for your cooperation.



Auction Update

Have you reserved Saturday, April 21, 2012, on your calendar yet for this year's auction? Please plan to come and help us celebrate our 26th year of the Night of Knights Auction! We are now accepting donations for auction items, so please remember SMS when shopping this Black Friday and those after Christmas sales!! A little planning now can really benefit the auction and St. Mary's School.

We are "kicking-off" our annual Car & Cash Raffle!! We will again be selling a limited number of tickets. The winner will be drawn on April 21th, during the live auction. The winner will get their choice of a new car or cash! -----HINT HINT: Car & Cash Raffle Tickets make great Christmas presents!

Please help us make this fund-raiser a success again this year. If you think you could sell 5, 10, or 15 tickets to co-workers, neighbors, or family members; please let us know!

Reminder: The St. Mary's Auction Committee is looking for your input! If you didn't receive our email, please take a few minutes to answer a few quick questions. This survey is anonymous, so please be open and honest with us. We would really appreciate your input!

<http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=2cqs7jhueaktyd9990224>

If you have any additional questions or comment, please email the auction committee at auction@nightofknights.com. This address automatically sends the email to the committee members.

Science Fair Results

Congratulations to all the participants in the St. Mary's Science Fair held on Monday, December 12.

Grand Champion – Luke Berkley

8th grade winners:

- 1st place: Jennifer Schroepfer and Mattie Shaver
- 2nd place: Jack Redman
- 3rd place: Liana Mulet and Tessa Rahrick
- 3rd place tie: Becca Sedivy and Katie Skalicky

7th grade winners:

- 1st place: Bernadette Donlon and Madison Hansen
- 2nd place: Elliott Rysavy
- 3rd place: Brian Sontheimer

6th grade winners:

- 1st place: Chloe Schroeder and Nicole Schuette
- 2nd place: Josh Nelson and Ian Rubish
- 3rd place: Rilee Schmidt and Julia Haarstad



Dear St. Mary's Families,

We would like to extend heartfelt thanks for your generosity during our Thanksgiving Service Project. The amount of Hershey's Hugs and Kisses donated was awesome; we received such an overwhelming amount that in addition to making the 1000 treat bags for the VFW meal, we were able to also donate to our two churches for Thanksgiving and Advent food baskets, the Lily Sparrow House, the Hospitality House, and Hospice. We received thank you cards from recipients of the treat bags at the VFW Thanksgiving meal expressing their gratitude for such a kind gesture. We also collected nearly 1000 pounds of food and some monetary donations for the Food Shelf.

Your donations are greatly appreciated and really helped lift the spirits of those in need this holiday season.

Our service project appeared twice in the Owatonna People's Press. If you missed those articles, here are links to view them:

<http://owatonna.com/content/st-mary%E2%80%99s-students-collect-items-vfw-food-shelf>

<http://owatonna.com/content/residents-come-together-feast>

Thank you again for your generosity! It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

St. Mary's School Staff



Students making treat bags for the VFW



Students proudly displaying Food Shelf donations