

St. Mary's School Newsletter



September 2011

SCHOOL BOARD

Sacred Heart

Mrs. Lori Jerpbak 451-1060
Mrs. Becky Berkley 451-0345
Mr. Sean Pick 455-1448
Mr. Bill Dublin 456-2943

St. Joseph

Mr. Phil Clubb 451-1049
Mrs. Heather Lenz 451-9178
Mrs. Denise Gardner 475-0314
Mr. John Rohwer 451-6732

BINGO

A big "THANK YOU" to all the volunteers who helped out at the bingo stand during fair week! We had another successful year. To the callers, bankers and floor workers you helped raise over \$12,000 for St. Mary's School. These funds are used for school projects and programs not already provided for in the school budget. Your contribution of time and talent is much appreciated!

Bingo Chairpersons
Bonnie Ebner
Charlotte McCabe

Attendance:

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

From the Principal's Office.....By Mary Hawkins

September 2011

"Partners in Faith and Learning" is the quote that will greet students and visitors as they enter the new entrance at St. Mary's School this year. We are so excited to start the year with the new space and play area for students. Thank you for your support and patience as we made improvements over the last year.

The building improvements have given us the opportunity to provide a safer environment for our students. Please use the main doors on Oak Avenue to enter during the school day. All other doors will be locked from 8:00 – 2:40 while school is in session. Students may enter the school from Cedar or Oak before school and after 2:40.

The new playground is such a blessing. I have included our playground/recess rules so that parents will be aware of the guidelines used during the school day. The playground is not supervised before or after school. We encourage parents to use the space and follow the guidelines we have established. The SAC (School Age Childcare) Program will be using the playground after school and St. Mary's SAC staff will supervise students in their care. Consistent rules will keep all students safe.

We have expanded our SAC program to include a morning session from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Please call the office if you are interested in this added opportunity. Cathi Arjes, our new SAC director, is also available if you have questions regarding SAC.

I would like to introduce you to the new staff members at St. Mary's. Please welcome Stacey Ginskey, 6th grade teacher, Mandi Resler, 1st grade teacher, Cathi Arjes, SAC director, Kim Degrood, educational assistant, and Randy Kircher, custodian. I have included their pictures in this newsletter.

"Live Jesus in your Heart... Forever" is the message written above the doorway as you leave the school building. I have enjoyed looking at this multiple times throughout the day and am reminded of our mission at St. Mary's School. We look forward to supporting your family throughout the year to educate our children in the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Thanks for the start of a great year!

Mary Hawkins, Principal

2011-2012 Asbestos Notification

As a result of recent Federal legislation, each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent inspection for asbestos and to develop a major plan for all asbestos-containing building materials. St. Mary's School is in full compliance with this law. St. Mary's School continues to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our students, staff, and parents.

Asbestos was used extensively during World War II in the construction industry and was also widely used in many factories, building and hospitals across the nation. In all cases, asbestos products work very well to provide fire safety. Since then, concern has been raised that, with time, asbestos-containing materials can break down and allow particles into the air. Heavy exposure to asbestos particles has been linked to certain forms of cancer. Earlier Federal laws

were passed requiring school districts to identify areas at which materials containing friable asbestos were used. More recent legislation (AHERA) required identification of all asbestos-containing materials and a plan to manage those materials.

In keeping with this legislation, accredited inspectors inspected all building owned or leased by the school districts and independent laboratories analyzed samples. Based upon these inspections, the school prepared and the state approved comprehension management plans for handling asbestos located within buildings.

St. Mary's School has asbestos containing materials within it, which are either under repair, removal, or being maintained on a regular basis.

Federal law requires periodic walk-through called surveillance every six months of each building containing asbestos. The last inspection at St. Mary's was in May 2011. Also the law

requires that all buildings be re-inspected each three years. Short-term workers (outside contractor's example, telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) are provided with information regarding the location of asbestos that they may come into contact with. All short-term workers shall contact the head custodial maintenance person before working within the building.

St. Mary's School has a list of locations; types of asbestos containing materials found in the school building and a description and timetable for the proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for you to view in the school office. Copies are available at \$.10 per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Dan Johnson, a designated asbestos management programmer through the Institute of Environmental Assessment under contract with Southeast Minnesota Cooperative at 507-281-6662.

Notice of Pest Control Materials

St. Mary's School utilizes a licensed, professional pest control service firm for the prevention and control of rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the school building. Their program consists of:

1. *Inspection and monitoring* to determine whether pests are present, and whether any treatment is needed.
2. Recommendations for *maintenance and sanitation* to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
3. Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening; and
4. Application of *EPA-registered pest control materials* when needed.

Pests can sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property, and spread disease; therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pest control materials, or the class of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per Federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review or copying at each school office. A similar estimated schedule is available for application of herbicides and other materials to school grounds. Parents of students may request to receive, at their expense, prior notification of any application of a pest control material, should such an application be deemed necessary on a day different from the days specified in the schedule.

2011-2012 Lunch Prices

- Grades K-5 - \$1.85 a day / \$9.25 a week
- Grades 6-8 - \$1.95 a day / \$9.75 a week
- ½ pint of milk - \$.35 (for purchase of an extra carton with lunch or for purchase with cold lunch from home)

*For the students who cannot tolerate milk sugar (lactose), we offer Lactose free milk upon written parent request".

Welcome back to a new school year St. Mary's Families!

I want to make you aware of a resource in our community that may be helpful for you or families you know. It is called the **Children's Remedial Fund of Steele County**. It is a program intended to provide financial support to eligible families who have children with medical, dental, vision, hearing, school supplies and winter clothing needs. This program can also assist with the first three month of MN Care premiums. Eligibility Guidelines:

- Any child age 0-18
- Residency in Steele County
- Income Guidelines consistent with the Free and Reduced School Lunch Program

- Service of current needs only (can't assist with past debt)

This organization has also generously provided school supplies for students who may have a need. There is no eligibility process to access this service. The economy continues to cause hardship for many so please don't hesitate to contact me here at St. Mary's School about these services or any others. Again, welcome back!

Sincerely,
Jane Elsner
St. Mary's School Social Worker

Upcoming Events

- September 12 – Home and School Meeting
- September 16 – Marathon kick-off
- September 22 – School Picture Day
- September 23 – Hearing & Vision Screening grades 1-8
- September 27 – School Board Meeting
- September 30 – Hearing & Vision Screening - Kindergarten
- September 30 - Early Dismissal for Homecoming parade



Meet the new staff at St. Mary's



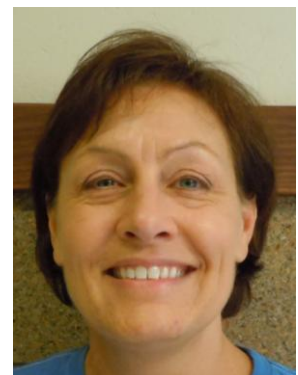
*Kim Degrood
Educational Assistant*



*Mandi Resler
First Grade Teacher*



*Stacey Ginskey
Sixth Grade Teacher*



*Cathi Arjes
SAC Director*

St. Mary's School 2011-2012**Recess/playground**

Enjoy the company of your classmates

Share the space

Respect the adult supervisors

Line up in the grass when the whistle/horn blows

Stay within the boundaries:

- South: the main sidewalk
- West : the fence
- North: the fence
- East: use the building as your boundary and extend this north
- Do not leave the play area to retrieve playground equipment. Talk to an adult supervisor.

Play safely on the equipment:

- No jumping or twisting on the swings
- No climbing or sitting on top of the bars and tunnels
- No climbing up the slides
- No tag games on the equipment

Please help keep our space clean.

Thanks for your cooperation and enjoy the new space!



SMS Magazine Drive On-line

Friends of St. Mary's School can continue to support the school by purchasing magazine subscriptions on-line. If you want to renew or buy new subscriptions – visit our school website at www.stmarys-owatonna.org. We will have a link to www.gsp.com and our school code is **425006429**.

There will be a two week period at the beginning of November when students may participate in a magazine drive, but magazines purchased at any time gives SMS 40% of the subscription price.

VIRTUS Training

Mon. Oct. 3, 2011

6:30-9:00pm

St. Joseph's Joseph Hall

Al Christensen and I have set another time for a VIRTUS Training. This training is required by the Diocese of Winona for all parish and school volunteers and staff who minister on a regular basis with children/youth and or vulnerable adults. Please consider positions like preschool staff, Sunday nursery staff, children's choir staff, even parish nurses should have this training. I would recommend that they register before the training online at www.virtusonline.org. This will help us in our planning and give them the benefit of being able to use the VIRTUS website for additional reading/training on child protection issues. Thanks so much for your assistance with this very important part of our ministries with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Dan Bauer

Director of Religious Education