



St. Thomas the Apostle School

265 King St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Ph: 815.459.0496 Fx: 815.459.0591

www.stthomascl.org

October 5, 2011

Dear Parents,

October is The Month of the Rosary. Together as a whole school we honor our Blessed Mother every day with a morning prayer. All students pray the rosary in their homerooms and will be spending even more time doing so during the month of October. On Thursday, October 13, we will gather together in the gym to pray the rosary together as whole school. Student representatives will assist Fr. Simon in leading a decade. We would like to thank the St. Thomas Women's Guild for once again making/donating rosaries for each student.

Yesterday, students participated in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at our Pierson Street Church. What a wonderful opportunity for them to sit quietly and spend some time listening to the voice of Jesus and giving Him praise. How blessed we are to be at a Catholic school where we are able to spend part of our school day doing so!

Revised 2011-2012 School Calendar

There have been some important changes (such as 8th grade graduation) to our 2011-2012 School Calendar that was printed on August 23, 2011. A new 2011-2012 School Calendar is enclosed and has also been updated on our website. Please be sure to discard all previous calendars and print out a copy of the new one for yourself.

Chastity and Safe Environment Program

Once again this year, we will be presenting to our students the Rockford Diocesan Program entitled, "Formation in Christian Chastity and Safe Environment" which uses the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as a principle source. If you would like to view the age-appropriate lesson plans, please visit the diocesan website at www.ceorockford.org. Click on the Child Safety tab. This will take you to the entire program by grade level for the Formation in Christian Chastity and Safe Environment lesson plans. All teachers will begin the lesson during the week of October 17.

This program is mandated by the Diocese of Rockford. If you choose to have your child NOT participate, you will need to print out, complete, and return the enclosed "Opt Out" form to the homeroom teacher by Fri., Oct. 14. We are offering a parent meeting with Mrs. Roy for those of you who might have additional questions. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 12. If you plan to attend, please contact Mrs. Roy by Oct. 11 at droy@stthomascl.org or 815-459-0496 to sign up for a convenient time.

NO BUSES

As stated in the Parent Handbook, for morning arrival on No Bus Days, please drop off your students at the Washington Parking lot at the corner of Washington and King between 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. It is especially important on No Bus Days that you pull all the way up until all cars are stopped, then let your children exit on the passenger side of your vehicle.

For dismissal, we ask that parents whose last name begins with A-H pick up their students on King Street, I-Q pick up at the Washington Lot (where morning drop off is) and R-Z pick up on Lake Street. Students who stay in our Extended Time will be dismissed to room 1A as usual.

No Uniform Days

Thank you to all who contributed to the September No Uniform Day donation to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Our 8th grade students collected \$325.81 for them. Our October No Uniform Day will be sponsored by our 7th graders. They are asking that each student who wants to participate in the No Uniform Day to bring \$1.00 of their own money tomorrow which will be donated to the McHenry County Breast Cancer Task Force. We extend a very heartfelt thank you to all of our students and staff for their generous donations. Our next No Uniform Day will be on Friday, Nov. 4. Our 6th graders will be raising money for the Prader Willi Foundation.

Easy Ways You Can Help Our School

If you already shop at *Target*, our school can get credit for the money you spend there when you use your Target Red Card. Our school ID number is 6116. Target gives cash back to our school which goes into a fund for our needy families. Just last month we received a check for over \$800. These monies are used to assist families with items such as school uniforms, school supplies, and field trips. If you shop at *Office Depot*, they give us 5% credit for qualifying purchases to use for free supplies at their store. Our School ID number at Office Depot is 70031826. Thank you to all of you who have participated in the past and those who will be doing so in the future.

You may have noticed the *GoodSearch/GoodShop* logo on the homepage of our school website. Just by using the *GoodSearch* search engine and shopping with *GoodShop*, you can earn money for St. Thomas School.

Student/Parent Directory

We hope to have our Family Directory available online beginning next week. To ensure confidentiality and security, we are only making

our families' information accessible with the St. Thomas password. **PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE REGISTERED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH HONEYWELL INSTANT ALERT SYSTEM by this Friday, Oct. 7.** We will be emailing you the Directory password next week. **You will not have access to the School Directory unless you register your email address at Honeywell.** Hard copies are available for a \$5.00 printing fee. If you would like a hard copy, please send a check to the school office, made out to St. Thomas School PTO.

Coat a Kid

Again this year we will be participating in the Coat-A-Kid program sponsored by the Rotary Club of Crystal Lake. We will be collecting gently used coats beginning Oct. 17. Please drop them off in the large box by the front entrance of the school.

Family Service Project

All students at St. Thomas the Apostle School participate in Community Service projects with their teachers and classmates. In addition, all students are expected to participate in at least one FAMILY Community Service Project each year. Your child's teacher will be sending home information soon regarding the expectations for the particular grade level. Enclosed is a list of possible ideas you might want to consider for your family. Many of you are already doing these types of things and are finding them very fulfilling. It is our hope and expectation that those who participate as a family for the first time will have a similar experience.

Uniform Sweaters

Beginning Oct. 17, in addition to the regular school uniform, all students must wear their navy school sweater each day through April 13, 2012.

Morning Arrival

With the winter weather right around the corner, we anticipate an increase in the number of times when students will be coming inside for morning arrival, rather than waiting at the Washington lot. Students in grades K-4 and 5B will enter at the main entrance of the school and report directly to the lunchroom. Grades 6-8 and 5A will report to the gym hallway. Students will only be allowed to enter the school at the main office or at the courtyard near the science lab door. We ask that you drop them off at the school building on King Street no earlier than 7:30 a.m. There will not be staff supervision until that time.

School Pictures

School pictures for grades K-8 will be taken on Friday, Oct. 14. Students should dress up in nice clothes or may choose to wear their school uniforms. Please follow the dress code listed in the Parent Handbook. Remember that it is a dress UP day. NO blue jeans or shorts are allowed. Look for a picture order form that was sent home with your child. They need to be returned to school with payment by October 13.

Limo Lunch and Money Machine

Students who earned the "Limo Lunch" from our Magazine Drive will participate in their "big day" on Oct. 12. Students will be picked up at school by a Hummer Limo and taken to Portillo's for lunch. A permission slip was already sent home with the appropriate students. Those who qualified for the Money Machine got their opportunity to participate in this exciting event today. We thank our Athletic Board members for their assistance and especially thank our families for their effort and support with this yearly fund raiser. Some online orders are still being processed. We will let you know how much we were able to raise once our Athletic Department has that final information.

Missing Information

If you have not returned the following forms, please do so right away as they are very important: Disaster Release Forms, Parent Handbook Agreement.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deanne Roy
Principal

Important Dates to Remember

- Oct. 6 - NO BUSES; No Uniforms; Money Machine winners
- Oct. 7 - No School/Teacher Institute Day
- Oct. 10 - No School/Columbus Day
- Oct. 12 - Limo Lunch
- Oct. 13 - Picture Order Form Due
- Oct. 13 - All School Rosary
- Oct. 14 - School Pictures
- Oct. 14 - Flu Shots 2:00 - 4:30 pm
- Oct. 15 - Athletic Dance, gr. 6-8
- Oct. 20 - Education Commission Mtg, 6:00 pm at the Parish Center
- Oct. 21 - PTO Family Hayride
- Oct. 24 - 1st Reconciliation Parent Meeting
- Oct. 28 - End of First Quarter
- Nov. 1 - Book Fair Preview
- Nov. 1 - All School Mass
- Nov. 2 - Report Cards Go Home
- Nov. 2,3 - Book Fair
- Nov. 4 - PTO Meeting: 10:00 am, Lower Pierson

Attachments

- Chastity and Safe Environment "Opt-Out" Form
- Revised 2011-2012 School Calendar
- Community Service Ideas
- PTO Hayride Info.
- Jr. High/Athletics Dance
- First Reconciliation Parent Meeting and Information Sheet - 2nd Grade
- Athletic Board Minutes
- PTO Minutes
- Asbestos Letter
- October Lunch Sign Up
- Flu Shots