



St. Thomas the Apostle School

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www.stthomascl.org

November 2, 2011

Dear Parents,

Please join me in congratulating our second grade students as they will be receiving the sacrament of First Reconciliation on Monday, Nov.14, or Saturday, Nov. 19. They have been preparing for the sacrament for several weeks and are very excited to be receiving this special gift. We are looking forward to having them join the 3rd through 8th graders when we receive this sacrament together as a school during the Advent and Lenten seasons.

Helping Others

Our 7th graders collected \$275.90 from our students and staff during the October No Uniform Day. The money was donated to the Cancer Society. Thank you to all students and staff who contributed to this worthy cause.

No Uniform Day

Our next No Uniform Day is this Friday, Nov. 4 and is being sponsored by our 6th graders. Students who want to participate in the No Uniform Day are asked to bring in a \$1.00 donation for the Prader Willi Foundation. Check the Parent/Student Handbook for the No Uniform Day policy. Please tell your children that if they are wondering whether they can wear a particular piece of clothing, "When in doubt, don't wear it!" as stated in the Parent/Student Handbook. Choose something else! Students will be removed from class and parents will be called if students do not

follow the "No Uniform Day" dress code. We expect everyone's cooperation on this. It would be a shame and a disappointment to most students if we had to cancel these monthly No Uniform Day opportunities because a select few students do not follow the dress code! Check the Parent/Student Handbook for more details about the No Uniform Day policy.

Coat a Kid: If you have any adult or children's coats that are in good condition and you no longer need them, you may drop them off in the "Coat A Kid" baskets outside the school office until **Nov. 18** New coat donations are also needed and appreciated.

Watch our Family Grow

The month of October has been a fruitful one for our school family. We are very excited to welcome seven new students to St. Thomas School: **Matthew and Connor Tarson, Jordan and Stephen Tarzian, and Ted and Ryan Noorae.** We also welcome **Joshua Sievert** who recently joined our Little Saints Preschool!

Family Directories

The 2011-2012 Family Directories are complete. If you ordered and paid for a hard copy, they will be sent home with your child tomorrow. Additional copies can be purchased in the school office for \$6.00

Report Cards

Today, November 2, Our priests handed out First Quarter student report cards. If you have any questions about your child's grades, we encourage you to call the teacher to discuss them. Please remember to sign and return the brown report card envelope to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

IOWA Test Results

Enclosed with the report cards are the individual student results on the IOWA Test of Basic Skills. These tests are given to students in grades 3-8 and are a snapshot of your child's performance on those test days. While it can be an indication of a student's achievement in school, there are other factors that can impact the result, such as a student not feeling well on the day of the test.

The IOWA test is a nationally normed test and is used by all schools in the Rockford Diocese, other dioceses, and some public schools across the country. Our school scores are being analyzed by our staff and will be shared with parents in next months' family letter.

Parent -Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, Nov. 3 beginning at 12:00 noon. If you have not yet signed up for a conference for each of your children, please contact the homeroom teacher to do so today. **Students will dismiss early on Nov. 3 at 11:00. BUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL.**

Book Fair

Be sure to stop by the school Book Fair in the gym hallway during Parent Teacher Conferences.

Uniforms

Whenever you need to purchase new Dennis Uniform items throughout the school year, remember to pre-purchase Scrip certificates from our PTO. Our school receives 6% of total purchases which the PTO uses to run their programs throughout the school year. Call Mrs. Julie Arza at 815-788-0562 for more information.

You may also purchase gently used uniform items from our resale program for a fraction of the cost. You may contact Cindy Milanovich at 847-322-3233. Mrs. Milanovich is available here at the school on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:45 – 8:15 or by appointment.

Marian Central Catholic High School

On Friday, Nov. 19, our 8th grade students will visit Marian Central Catholic High School. They will tour the school, visit classrooms, and get a sneak peek at some of Marian's classes, programs, and activities. At the same time, our 8th grade teachers and administration will be involved in Articulation Meetings with Marian teachers to discuss curriculum.

School Closings

As the cold/snowy weather approaches, there may be questions as to whether school will remain open. We will use our primary form of communication first which is the Honeywell Instant Alert System. Please make sure you have updated all phone numbers and emails on their website that you want us to use for these announcements. Click on the Honeywell link on our school website and follow the steps.

School closing announcements will also be heard on radio stations. STAR 105.5 FM and WGN 720 AM, to name a few. You can automatically receive e-mails about any changes in the schedule of our school. To sign up for this free service or to check the status of any closings, visit www.emergencyclosings.com.

Please be sure that your family Emergency Cards and Disaster Cards are up to date with current names and phone numbers. Call the school office with any changes.

Picture Retakes

If your student was absent for school pictures, mark your calendar for Picture Retakes on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 8:00 a.m.

Vision and Hearing Screenings

Our school nurse, Mrs. Bukowski, recently completed vision and hearing screenings for grades K-8 at no additional cost to parents of St. Thomas School. While she is certified by the State of Illinois, Vision Screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision exam by an eye doctor. We are mandated to test the following students unless we receive a signed report from your optometrist or ophthalmologist indicating that an exam has been completed within the last 12 months.

Both vision & hearing:

- All teacher and parent recommendations
- All children in special services
- All transfer (new) students
- All second grade students

Hearing only:

- All children with hearing monitor or known hearing problems or loss
- First and third grade children
- All kindergartners

Vision only:

- 8th grade children
- All children wearing glasses and/or contacts

No School

There will be no school from Nov.23-25. due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes resume on Monday, Nov.28.

Our best wishes to you and your family for a blessed and fruitful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Deanne Roy
Principal

Important Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 2: Book Fair, 8:00 am–2:00 pm
- Nov. 3: Book Fair, 11:00 am – 8:30 pm
- Nov. 4: NO UNIFORMS-\$1.00 donation
- Nov. 4: PTO Meeting 10:00 am, Pierson St. Church
- Nov. 7: Athletic Board Meeting 6:00 pm
- Nov. 8, 21 & 22: NO ARRIVAL OR Or DISMISSAL BUSES
- Nov. 14: Fall Athletic Awards
- Nov. 14: PreK 4's Bridge Day – They visit our kindergarten
- Nov. 17: Education Commission Mtg, 6:00 pm at Parish Center
- Nov. 17: Picture Retakes
- Nov. 18: 8th Grade Visits Marian Central Catholic HS
- Nov. 20: Marian Central Catholic HS Open House

- Nov. 23-25: No School
Dec. 2: PTO Mtg. 9:15 am, Pierson St.
Church
Dec. 3 Jr. High Cheerleading
Competition at Marian HS
Dec. 5 Christmas Show, Gr. K-2 7:00
pm at Oak St. Community Ctr.
Dec. 6 Christmas Show, Gr. 3,4 7:00
pm at Oak St. Community Ctr.
Dec. 8 All School Mass
Dec. 10 Rise Up Leadership Conference
at Marian HS for grades 6-8

Enclosures

- School Auction Reminder
Marian HS Open House & Fact Facts
PTO Meeting Reminder
School Spirit Wear
Used Dennis Uniform Sales
No Uniform Day Reminder