



St. Thomas the Apostle School

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Family Newsletter February 1, 2012

Catholic Schools: Faith, Education, Service

This year's Catholic Schools Week is off to a great start! The celebration began on Sunday with student readers at Mass speaking about why it is important to them to be a student at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School. We held our Open House at the preschool and at "The Big School" which was quite a success! Thank you for attending and for all your positive feedback on our wonderful school! Monday we had a prayer service and pep rally. Tuesday was Student Appreciation Day with no homework allowed, a special lunch treat, and a No Uniform Day. Today, student representatives will be joining Fr. Jon Bakklund for a question/answer session. Later in the week there will be bingo, Mass at Marian Central HS (grades 5-7 only), and a staff vs. 8th grade volleyball game. Students are excited to be celebrating Catholic Schools Week and are grateful to be getting a quality, Catholic education!

Safety First

Thank you for your cooperation with following our safety procedures when dropping off and picking up students

from school. I would like to remind you not to park in the teachers' parking lots when dropping off or picking up students. We ask that you park in the street and walk your children to the building. Pulling in the teachers' parking lots to drop off or pick up students often creates congestion and thus poses a huge safety concern. Backing into or out of a parking spot while other children are walking past the parking lot is very dangerous. PLEASE, JUST PARK IN THE STREET WHEN YOU ARE DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN AND AVOID THE TEACHER LOTS ALL TOGETHER. THANK YOU!

Valentine's Day

St. Valentine's Day is coming and we ask that Valentine's Day cards not be sent to school (which includes the buses, lunchroom, and playground) UNLESS there is one for each child in the classroom. To do otherwise, can cause hurt feelings and is not understandable by the children.

For the same reason mentioned above, we remind you not to send birthday invitations (or thank you cards for attending the birthday parties) to school either. Please mail these items from your home instead, as a way to avoid any hurt feelings by students who may not be included.

Enrollment Surveys

Out of our current 247 St. Thomas families, we still have 90 families who have not returned their enrollment surveys. For your convenience, you can download another form from our website at www.stthomascl.org. The information we gather from these surveys is very important for us to have as we prepare for the 2012-13 registration process and for help in determining our Fair Ability tuition amount for next year. ***If you have not yet returned your enrollment survey, please do so right away.***

Registration for 2012-2013

Registration/ Fair Ability meetings are scheduled for Thurs. March 8 (current families) and Tuesday, March 13 (new families) at 7:00 pm. at St. Thomas Oak Street Church. Attendance is required as part of the registration process for next year, so if you are unable to

attend on March 8, please come to the March 13 meeting. The registration packets will be sent home later this month. We ask that you complete all registration papers and bring them with you to the meeting so you can register that same evening. The **nonrefundable** registration fee again this year is \$125 per child. (Current families who have all registration paperwork turned in by March 8 will only need to pay \$100 per child. New Families that have all registration papers completed and turned in by March 16, will only have to pay a registration fee of \$100 per child.)

Dennis Uniforms

Do you need to purchase uniform items for your children? If so, we encourage you to use the Dennis Scrip Program again this year so that our school can receive 6% of your uniform purchases. All you have to do is pre-purchase the scrip certificates from our PTO. Please note that the scrip can only be used for mail orders and in-store purchases. They can not be used for online orders at this time. Again we urge you to shop early so we can take advantage of the 6% coming back to the school. Call Ms. Ellen Cotteleer at 815-479-9490 to get your scrip money. Remember that we also sell gently used Dennis Uniforms through our resale program which is housed right here on campus. We thank Mrs. Cindy Milanovich for her dedication to running this program the last two years. She has done a great job organizing and maintaining this important program for our families. We welcome our new volunteer, Mrs. Sandi Forman, who will be available here at school every Friday morning from 7:30-8:30 a.m., or by appointment at 815-701-2881.

School Auction

Catholic Schools Week 2012 will end with a night of fun and laughter as all adults are invited to attend our school auction, this Saturday, Feb., 4, beginning at 6:00 pm. Bring your adult friends, neighbors, and relatives to enjoy a festive night, while also supporting our school. Tickets can be pre-purchased for only \$30 which includes food, fun, laughter, and a cash bar! Tickets are \$35 at the door. Come and enjoy a night out. It promises to be a great time!

No Uniform Days

Our 4th graders collected \$277.15 during our January No Uniform Day. They will be donating the money to Pennies for Patients Leukemia Society. We thank our 4th graders for their efforts and all of our students and staff for their generosity.

Our next No Uniform Day is this Friday, Feb. 3rd. Students are asked to dress in school colors (blue and gold) as this is also our Spirit Day and our 8th grade vs. staff volleyball game. Third grade students will be

collecting a dollar from everyone who participates in the No Uniform Day, and will donate it to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Save Those Labels and Box Tops

Thank you to all of our families for sending in the **Campbell Soup Labels/ General Mills Box Tops**. We have been able to use our points to purchase many needed materials for our classrooms over the years such as gym equipment, maps, overhead projectors, and other teaching materials. In addition to the points we earned, our PTO receives a check from them and puts the funds towards their operating expenses. Please continue to send the labels and box tops in as they are so important to our school! We also ask you to continue sending in **printer cartridges and old cell phones to our school office** as our school receives money for them as well.

Roller Skating in PE

Beginning on Feb. 6 through Feb. 17, the students will be roller skating during gym classes. We thank the parents who have volunteered to assist, and of course, Mrs. Rauch, for offering this program to our students!

Tax Time

Be sure to talk to your tax accountant about the education credit on your State of Illinois income tax for the 2011 year. You may qualify for a credit due to tuition and fees paid in 2011. You will be receiving a statement in the mail soon from the parish with the amount of education expenses you paid during 2011.

EMAIL

Please do not send important correspondence such as attendance or dismissal issues through email. **Be sure to talk directly to our office staff or leave a voicemail.**

Absences

When reporting a child absent, please be sure to mention the first and last name, homeroom, and reason for absences. We are required to submit a daily report to the Health Department which is why we must have a reason. Please do not be offended if we call and ask you why your child is out of school. Thank you for your understanding.

Tardies

Our tardy bell rings at 7:50 a.m. That means students are to be in their seats and ready to begin class by that time. A child who enters the building at 7:50 a.m. will be issued a tardy. Please try to have children arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. You may refer to page 22 of the Parent/Student Handbook for more information.

Market Day

We would like to thank all of our Market Day volunteers who give so freely of their time to run this very important program for our school. Mrs. Debbie Mensching, Mrs. Tammy Kohls, and their volunteers deserve many, many thanks for their dedication. Market Day supports our school with thousands of dollars each year. By supporting Market Day, you are supporting our school in yet another way. We thank you once again and ask you to continue supporting our monthly Market Day program.

School Musical

Our annual school musical which was scheduled at the Raue Center on Feb. 18 has been cancelled. Instead we will have a spring concert for grades 5-6 on Tues., April 24 and grades 7-8 on Wed., April 25. Both will be held at the St. Thomas Church Community Center at 7:00 pm.

Important Reminders

- Feb. 4 – School Auction 6:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church**
- Feb. 9,10- Preschool Parent Conferences**
- Feb. 9 - Rainbows Children’s Support Group Begins**
- Feb. 20 – NO SCHOOL-Presidents’ Day**
- Feb. 22 – Ash Wednesday-All School Mass**
- Feb. 23 - 8th Grade Performs Stations of the Cross for K-7 students at Pierson St. Church**
- Feb. 24 - 8th Grade Performs Stations of the Cross at Oak St. Church 7:00 pm**
- March 8 - Fair Ability/Registration Meeting for Current Families**
- March 13- Fair Ability/Registration Meeting for New Families**

Attachments

- Revised 2011-2012 School Calendar
- All School Mass Permission Slip
- Lunchroom Volunteer Sign up for Feb.
- Adopt a Book
- 2nd Quarter Honor Roll
- PTO Auction – Voluteers/Donations Needed

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Deanne Roy, Principal