



Saint Mary School News

April 2009

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Celebration Corner

This month I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make our Fish Fry a great success. It was a good fundraiser but also a wonderful opportunity to come together as a faith community to fellowship and enjoy a great meal. We give a special thank you to Pam Callan, Bob Eggert, Yvonne Claucherty, Julie Pollack, Marlene Smith, Tim Lankin, Ed Jelonek, Andrew Schroeder and Kathleen Watkins. This was a job well done!

Principally Speaking...by Greg Carnacchi

This past weekend at St. James Parish, Msgr. John Zenz confirmed students from our school and the Religious Education program as well as candidates from St. James at the 6:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. In his homily Msgr. Zenz used the theme of "deformation". He shared that quite often there are times when we do not have our true form that God intends for us. He used the example of Thomas, "the doubting disciple". While Thomas was out of his true form, Christ came to him and gave him the gifts of faith, certainty and confidence. So out of a time of questioning and doubt can come a strengthening, trust and deeper faith. We pray that our newly confirmed students use the gifts of the Holy Spirit given

at Confirmation: **Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe** as they take on this adult role and find their true form in God. Let us keep all the newly confirmed in our prayers. We are very proud of them all!

The months of April and May bring with them many upcoming school activities. On May 2nd we have our annual school Auction, which will take place at the same venue as last year, The American Polish Cultural Center. We have many interesting and exciting items for both the live and silent Auctions. Please remember how vital the success of the Auction is to the school's budget and your child's education. Thank you in advance for your support. Thanks to the hard work of our Auction Chairs, Cheryl Sawicki, Christine Kenny and Anne Sny-

der and their many wonderful co-workers, we are confident that the Auction will be successful.

Remember to take care of registration for next year. If you have any questions or special circumstances please contact me at the school office so that we can work things out. It is important for planning for next year to have enrollment information to create an accurate budget. Thank you for your help in this matter.

The month of May is devoted to Mary. As a devotion to Mary, our patron saint, the students and staff will be saying the rosary throughout the month as well as the Crowning of Mary. We will keep all the families of St. Mary in our prayers and please keep the school and its students in your prayers.

**Congratulations
To All Of Our Hard Working Students
Who Made The
Saint Mary Third Quarter Honor Roll**

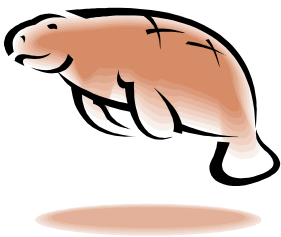
Preschool—Mrs. Hancasky, Mrs. Dylenski, Mrs. Bala

The preschoolers have spent the beginning of April learning about Palm Sunday and the first Easter. The Juniors and the Seniors made crosses to remind us to think about Jesus. We experienced many of our Easter traditions at school like coloring eggs and going on an egg hunt. We are looking forward to a revitalizing Easter Break! When we return, we will learn about spring, God’s creation and our responsibility to take care of God’s creation, on Earth Day and everyday.

We will be offering additional preschool classes next year, and we still have openings in several of our classes. We offer classes for children age 2 1/2 years to kindergarten entry. If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool for the Fall, please call or e-mail Gaby Bala at 248.545.2140 ext. 230/gbala@st-mary.org.

Kindergarten—Mrs. Withee

We loved our unit on Ocean Life! We especially loved hearing all about the sea cow (manatee) so we decided to join the “Save the Manatee Club”. We all did extra chores around the house to earn the \$1.00 a piece that we needed. The Club sent us lots of information about the manatee and now we are all the proud parents of our new class pet named “Deep Dent”.



What a wonderful world!

First Grade—Ms. Farrell

Thank you, parents for the class auction basket donations and the books for the classroom from the Book Fair. Your support is appreciated!

First grade is continuing to work with tens and ones as well as addition and subtraction problems with “larger” number answers in Math. We will

learn more about taking care of the Earth and our environment as we move into April. We will do some surveys and experiments to help us understand the concepts.

We will also focus on writing a polished, final draft with capital letters in the proper places, correct punctuation and correct spelling. It is amazing to remember that these same children entered first grade in September reading just a few words. Now, they’re reading, writing and spelling so many words they can actually produce a final draft!

Second Grade—Mrs. Stanko

Psalm 118:24 says “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Here in second grade we are glad that God has blessed us with Spring. We relaxed and enjoyed our break. We were able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter, and now are eagerly anticipating our First Communions. We’ve mastered our addition and subtraction facts and are enjoying learning about money and time. But as always, we enjoy learning more about our faith!

Third Grade—Mrs. Smith

Wow! It is amazing that the end of the school year is fast approaching. In Reading we have been reading *Charlotte’s Web*. The third graders have been enjoying this book and we have had a lot of interesting discussions. They are looking forward to comparing the book to the movie.



On April 7th we went to Lansing. We had a wonderful time. The third and fourth graders got to visit the Capitol Building, the Historical Museum and the Supreme Court Building. It was great to see several things that we studied up close. Wow, what a day!

We are looking forward to seeing the sun more and being able to get outside for some extra recess. I hope everyone

had a nice and relaxing Easter break.

Fourth Grade—Mrs. McNish

Fourth grade hopes that everyone had a wonderful and restful spring break! We have begun reading, writing and interpreting poetry. Our new theme in Religion will be the Beatitudes. Pronouns and cause and effect will dominate our Language Arts time. The regions of Michigan and our great Earth are our new themes in Science and Social Studies.

Fifth Grade—Mrs. Sak

In Religion class we spent the month of March working on Lenten projects. We discussed the importance of alms giving, sacrifice and prayer. The fifth grade studied the Paschal Mystery, and they went to the Stations of the Cross every Friday with the school. To help the fifth graders understand the Stations, each student made their own Stations Book creating their own individual prayers for each Station. We also celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation with the sixth graders. They studied the importance of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday in preparation for Easter.

Our auction basket is really coming together. Thank you to all the generous parents for your donations. There’s still time if you weren’t able to get your garden donation in before break. I hope to see many of you at the Auction in May. It’s such a fun event.

Sixth Grade—Ms. Kassab

Thanks to all who participated in this year’s Learning Fair. The projects were a beautiful display of our students’ accomplishments. Spring has really gotten us motivated to learn even more. The middle school has been very busy delving into geometry concepts, the different biomes of the world, plant life and earth’s history. Happy Easter! God bless!

Seventh Grade—Mrs. Martin

The last several weeks in seventh and eighth grade have been filled with research, writing and time-management development! Lent provided us with the chance to reflect on personal organization skills and team work, and much was accomplished.

The seventh grade worked on literature circles. Three separate groups read three different novels and worked cooperatively to produce a project that reflected their analysis of the story. There was a Project Manager (or two!) for each group who aided in assigning tasks, editing work and coordinating completion while each individual focused on a specific set of tasks. Together they produced a comprehension study guide of the novel as well as a creative book jacket/binder full of interesting details.

The eighth grade completed their term paper—a major research project devoted to studying the life of a great person from history. Through every weekly deadline in the step-by-step process, they experienced what it is like to focus on a larger project in small but vital pieces. Most importantly, they have learned skills that will be used throughout high school and beyond. Way to go, eighth grade...you made it through the project!

I hope each family had a wonderful Easter and I look forward to the renewal of Spring!

Seventh Grade—Mrs. Peterson

We have just finished our brief unit on fairy tales in both grades. The students loved stepping back into their childhood to read, write and discuss the magic that fairy tales bring to us. Eighth grade will begin to read *Flags of Our Father*. We will be focusing on how to take notes and study material in a nonfiction book. This also prepares them for their Washington D.C. trip. Sixth grade will be introduced to writing a research paper.



We will focus on how to find solid and correct information to support their thesis. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter holiday and break.

Eighth Grade—Mrs. Irwin

Wow! It is hard to believe that in two months the eighth graders will be high school freshmen. Yet, I find comfort in the fact that they are prepared and ready to spread their wings and fly. The eighth graders have chosen schools from all over the area. It is evident that they are anxious about graduation in many ways. Some happy, some relieved and some are apprehensive to say the least.

We are getting very excited for our trip to Washington D.C. and we are beginning the final preparations. We would like to thank everyone for all of their support this year in helping us achieve our goal. We can not wait for May 26th to arrive. I hope everyone had a Blessed Easter and a restful break.

Art—Ms. Tomlinson

Hello to everyone from the Art Room. With the Learning Fair and Open House under our belts, we are now in full Auction-mode. Kindergarten will again offer the pussy willow “botanical style” painting. First grade will do something similar. Second and third grade have been working on self portraits. I will put them together into two composites. Fourth, fifth and sixth grades are learning about mosaics and will be creating some surprising table tops for our Auction. The upper grades are working with pastels to create their self portraits according to Leonardo Da Vinci.



Again your donations are critical to what I do and I thank you so much.

Library—Mrs. Carnacchi

We celebrated “March is Reading Month” with lots of great activities, including daily “DEAR” (“drop everything and read”) times, “TOT” week (“turn off TV and read”), a “Read-in” for the 4th through 8th graders, “Build-a-Book” for families of K-3rd graders, and ended the month with each class being visited by a “Mystery Reader” who shared a favorite book with the students. If you haven’t heard about your child’s “Mystery Reader”, ask him/her to tell you about it. We congratulate the following students for reading the most minutes during “TOT” week: Romero, Ronnie, Tessa, Emma, Valentina, Christopher, Chardonay and Diego. We also ended the month with our Spring Book Fair. Thanks to all who purchased books for themselves, their children or their child’s teacher. Thanks too, to the following people who helped out at the Book Fair: Deena and Tessa Janish, Katie Linehan, Jacqueline Murphy, Michelle Suchyta, Tonya White, Angela and Cole Chouinard, Yvonne Claucherty, and Sarah Becker. With profit from the Book Fair, we gained many, many new titles for own library and also were able to “bank” some profit for future author visits.

Just prior to Easter, I sent out notices to those students who have books that are overdue. As parents, you can help by reminding your student to return their library books each week. Please contact me if you are unable to find a book that has been checked out to your child. Often books get misplaced or lost, but as the end of the school year approaches, it is vital that ALL checked out books be returned so that a proper inventory can be taken. After checking at home, the car, the classroom or latchkey, please let me know and I will be glad to find out the replacement cost for any lost items. These costs need to be taken care of before final report cards, records, etc. are released. Thanks for your help with this.

Candy Cane Shop

Warm weather is approaching, the school year is winding down, so the last thing on our minds is the Candy Cane Shop. However, Barb and Nancy are leaving some big shoes to fill and I know that I will need some help.

I am looking for a few people to be a part of the Candy Cane Committee or even co-chair with me. The duties include shopping for gift items in late October through November and pricing the items, and set-up and knock down in December. To run the Candy Cane Shop, I need people to commit to large blocks of time, for example a full morning or afternoon (or best yet, a full day).

Although there is a lot of preparation for this event, it's also a lot of fun. If you would like more information or are interested in helping out, please contact Michelle Suchyta at 248-629-4820 or tmjhsuchyta@wowway.com.

Girl Scouts

Mrs. Theresa Neu has been a faithful Girl Scout Leader at St. Mary for many years. She is unable to volunteer her Leadership service at this time. Thank you Theresa for your many years of caring and loving Leadership service.

On March 12, 2009 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. celebrated their 97th Birthday. Wow! What a milestone. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides are the largest women's organization in the world.

My name is Blanche Marie Smith. I am the leader of St. Mary Brownie Troop #823. In 1951 I become a Girl Scout Leader in New York. Upon moving to Royal Oak, Michigan in 1967, I took over the leadership of a Girl Scout troop in Helen Keller Jr. High School. In 1969 I took over the leadership of Girl Scout Troop #3068 at Shrine Catholic Grade School. That was 40 years ago. This is an older girl's troop (10-18 years of age).

Our troop program is girl planned. Some of the activities are camping and traveling the U.S.A. and Canada. This year our trip will be to Ohio and

Pennsylvania in June 2009. In the past 35 years we have traveled to over 22 states and Canada.

If you are interested in joining our troop call me at 248-545-4494 or e-mail me at trainsmitty@aol.com.

Attention Kroger Shopper!

We thank all of our wonderful Kroger shoppers who have purchased Kroger Cards during the last 2 years and faithfully "reloaded" them. St. Mary Catholic School receives a rebate check from Kroger 3 or 4 times a year, based on those shoppers who reload their card. These rebate checks have added up to well over \$1000. Beginning May 1st, Kroger is changing their program. **YOU WILL NO LONGER NEED TO BUY OR RELOAD YOUR KROGER CARD. YOU WILL SIMPLY SWIPE YOUR "KROGER PLUS CARD" AT THE REGISTER WHEN YOU CHECK OUT.** This will be much more convenient than having to reload cards at the service desk or cash register prior to checking out AND St. Mary will still receive 5% of all shopper's purchases **WHEN THEY SWIPE THEIR "KROGER PLUS CARD". YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR "KROGER PLUS CARD" ON-LINE FOR ST. MARY TO CONTINUE TO BENEFIT. PLEASE WATCH FOR INSTRUCTIONS COMING HOME SOON ON HOW YOU CAN REGISTER YOUR "KROGER PLUS CARD"....IT'S EASY AND ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES!!** Please remember to share this information with family members or neighbors who shop at Kroger and have a "Kroger Plus Card". We will also pass on this opportunity to the Parish so that any other Kroger shoppers can also take advantage of this new program and help St. Mary Catholic School. If you have any questions, please e-mail stmaryroscrisp@hotmail.com.

Middle School R2L Club

The Right 2 Life Club would like to thank all of the students, parents and staff that helped to raise money for a fellow St. Mary family. Almost \$200

was raised through the sale of baked goods, lemonade and fortune cookies. Thanks again for choosing life! God bless!

Hollywood Market "Apples for Students" Register Receipts

Thanks to all our Hollywood Market shoppers who faithfully dropped their cash register receipts into the box near the cafeteria. This program sponsored by Hollywood Markets enables schools to collect receipts and deposit them into an "account" and then use the points accumulated (1 point for every dollar spent) to purchase anything from computers to books. Between the school and the parish (we also had a box in the lobby at church), we collected \$38,679 in register receipts!!! WOW!!! This allowed the school to order 4 classroom DVD players and several playground balls, which we have received. Thank you to everyone!! A special "thank-you" to Marian Karpon, a St. Mary parishioner, who let us know about this program and who often would stand outside her Hollywood store and ask shoppers to help our school by giving their receipts to her. God Bless Marion and all our Hollywood shoppers.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Mary will be hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, April 26th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Room 100 of the school. Walk-ins are welcome. Photo ID or a Red Cross donor card is required at time of donation.

Spring Talent Show

The students of Saint Mary Catholic School will be displaying their talents at the annual Spring Talent Show. Any 4th-8th grade students that are interested in auditioning for the Talent Show should fill out the form in this newsletter and return it to Mr. Pyrek by Thursday, April 30th. The Talent Show will be held on Thursday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

Saint Mary Catholic School

Talent Show

Saint Mary Catholic School will be holding a talent show on Thursday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. In this show your 4th-8th grade child is encouraged to show off any talent that they would like to share. Possible talents may include; singing, dancing, drama. Science experiments, playing a musical instrument, magic tricks, etc. These performances can be done alone or with friends. The show will also feature 4th grade playing their recorders and the 6th-8th grade band. I will be holding after school auditions on Thursday, April 30th at 3:30 p.m. in the Music Room. The auditions are to see that your child has been practicing and assist in any way that I can help. Please preview the content of your child's performance before auditions. Students are expected to choose material that is appropriate for a Christian learning environment. If you feel the content may be questionable, please encourage your child to make another choice. Parents and family are welcome and encouraged to attend the talent show.

If your 4th-8th grade child is interested in performing in the show, please return the bottom portion of this flyer to Mr. Pyrek by Thursday, April 30th. The form must be filled out completely. Each child should turn in their own sheet, if a group of children are performing together, please list all of their names on each individual sheet.

I am interested in performing in the talent show.

Name _____ Teacher _____

Name _____ Teacher _____

Name _____ Teacher _____

Name _____ Teacher _____

I/we will be _____
to the song (if applicable) _____
by _____.

My child is allowed to attend the audition on April 30th after school. I have reviewed the content of their performance.

Parent Signature _____

St. Mary School Auction

“A Night at the Races”

Saturday • May 2 • 6 pm

American Polish Cultural Center • Troy

* Advance RSVP Required

Have some fun!



**Dinner
Drinks
Music**

Fabulous Auction Prizes

- Art projects by each classroom
- Tickets for 2 to the Oprah Winfrey Show & 1 night in Chicago
- Haircuts and Spa packages
- Dinner for 7 prepared by Fr. Ken Kauchek
- Teacher for a Day
- Grand Caymen Trip of a Lifetime
- Pick of the Litter: Labrador Puppy
- Tigers Tickets Galore
- Unique Kindergarten & 2nd Grade Quilts
- Rome, Italy: All inclusive 8-day trip for 4 people
- Guaranteed Reserved Parking at St. Mary Church
- Birthday Party Lots: Bounce U, Bowling, Goldfish Swim School, Troy Gymnastics
- Teacher for a Day
- Red Wings Zamboni Ride and 4 tickets to a game
- Romantic Encounter at the Townsend Hotel & Dinner at Flemings
- Family Night Outs
- An assortment of beautiful jewelry
- Name the Hall

Attire: Fun Derby attire suggested but not required. Ladies: Spring colors or floral patterned dresses and hats. Men: blazers and khakis. Check out <http://www.stmaryroyaloak.org/auction.html> for ideas.

Questions? Contact Anne Snyder at 248.584.0175 or jamsnyder@comcast.net

Saint Mary Catholic School

Daddy/Daughter Dance

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Saint Mary Fellowship Center

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy the fun of a DJ, a buffet dinner and prizes for talented dancers

Tickets are \$15 per dad—daughters are free

Spaces must be reserved by Friday, May 15th

Contact the school office with any questions