



Saint Mary School News

November 2008

248.545.2140

628 S. Lafayette Ave.

Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

Celebration Corner

Our celebration corner this month thanks Jackie Berry and Tonya White and all the volunteers that made "Trunk of Treat" a great time for all. Thank you also to Mr. Loukinen for supplying the hot dog buns for the occasion. The festive costumes added much fun to the night's activities.

We also want to thank the students and their families for helping with our *Jeans Day for Thanksgiving* where we brought in enough food and money to help two needy families for Thanksgiving. Thank you also to the PTG for organizing and promoting this event.

Immaculate Conception

The students of Saint Mary Catholic School will be attending mass on Monday, December 8th. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Students must be in their Mass uniforms. Fr. Babcock will be celebrating Mass at 10:00 a.m.

The students will still be going to Mass on Friday, December 12th and will have to be in the Mass uniforms on that day also.

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Principally Speaking....by Greg Carnacchi

As daylight gets shorter and with evidence of fallen leaves and snow, we know the celebration of Thanksgiving is near. This is a perfect time to remember the many blessings God has given us and thank Him for them. You might say as bad as the economy is how can one be thankful? We still have our faith, family, friends and each other. This is probably the best opportunity to show our children how to be positive in the midst of so much bad news. This is a great time to show our children how to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart".

I am thankful for the successful Outdoor Experience

of our fourth, fifth and sixth graders. They learned a great many things about our environment as well as how to work with one another to accomplish a goal. The students conducted themselves in such a manner that the Walled Lake Outdoor Education teachers were very complimentary. The night activity was fun for students, parents and staff.

Our children will participate in Advent activities including Reconciliation on December 9th and weekly Advent devotion. They will also perform their Christmas Concert for family and friends on December 18th

at the Millennium Center in Southfield. This is a new facility for us and there is plenty of room for seating and secured parking. The use of this venue will allow us to practice and set sound and lights before the actual concert. The Millennium Center is located at 15600 J.L. Hudson Dr., Southfield, MI 48075. For our young St. Mary students we have the opportunity to have Breakfast with St. Nick on Saturday, December 13th in the Fellowship Center. These are wonderful events to share our anticipation and love of Christ with our family.

**Congratulations
To All Of Our Hard Working
Students
Who Made The
First Quarter Honor Roll**

Kindergarten—Mrs. Withee

Kindergarten themes for November: Houses/Homes, Color/Color Words, Space and Thanksgiving. Wow, as of right now we have been in school for 57 days! We have learned so much and everyday we learn so much more. We are learning to count by 2's, 5's and 10's. We are learning place values, the value of a penny, nickel, dime and quarter, the days of the week and the months of the year. All of the above is gone over daily at calendar time. We call it community circle in kindergarten. Of course, we start the day by thanking the Lord for something He has given us. We are all so thankful for all the precious gifts each and every family has been blessed with.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

First Grade—Ms. Farrell

The first graders have been working on their adding and subtracting facts. They are becoming more confident as readers—it's exciting to see their skills developing daily!

The class is also learning about Thanksgiving. We have read several books about the Pilgrims and have compared their lives to our lives. We are thankful to be living in 2008 with cars and electricity and running water! We made a class book about giving thanks and have had several discussions about giving thanks to God for our many blessings. We ALL have been truly blessed in so many ways. Take time as a family to give thanks during this Thanksgiving season.

Second Grade—Mrs. Stanko

We say Thanks for our wonderful family, pie and turkey too! Thanksgiving is the time we say THANK YOU! And in second grade we know to always start by thanking God for all our blessings. We have been working on the Ten Commandments and we realized that these are rules of LOVE and not hard to follow. Thank you God for your guidance! We've shared our thoughts with our pen pals and with each other, Thank you God for

Friends! We are looking forward to celebrating Advent and can't wait for the Christmas season. Thank you God for sending us Your Son! But most of all we THANK GOD for ST. MARY SCHOOL!

Third Grade—Mrs. Smith

I want to thank everyone for coming to conferences. It was wonderful to be able to see everyone and celebrate the accomplishments of the students.

Below are some of the things a few third grade students are most thankful for:

"I'm thankful for my little sister Mary. I can't imagine life without her. I'm thankful for Mary because she is always there to play with. When I get hurt she comes over and tries to make me feel better. I'm also thankful because she makes my life complete. Also I'm glad she is my sister because sometimes we wrestle and that is fun (most of the time). I'm thankful because when I wake up at night and see Mary I'm not scared. There are so many things to be thankful for about Mary that it would take a whole notebook to name all of them."

Joni

"I'm thankful for having loving parents. They keep me safe from the cold rain. They help me get better when I am sick and when it is cold they keep me warm. My parents feed me when I am hungry. My parents give me love when I am sad."

Joshua

"I'm thankful for my family. I'm thankful for my family because I love them. My family is always watching over me and I am always praying for them. I am also thankful for the things my family gave me. I am also thankful because my family wants me to be safe. I love my family and they love me."

Emma B.

"I'm thankful for my family because they are loving and caring people. I love them very much. They are nice people. We all share together. This is the best family in the world. I would

not have a different family ever."

Ariel

The third graders and I would like to wish everyone and their families a very blessed Thanksgiving.

Fourth Grade—Mrs. McNish

Here is a sample of some of the many things that the fourth graders are thankful for.

I am thankful for my:

-Mom, she is the best.—Jasmine

-Friends, they cheer me up when I'm down.—Collin

-Dog, I love him and he loves me.—Joey

-Family, because I love them.—Valentina

-Dad, because he works everyday so I can have nice things.—Catherine

-Guinea pig, because on rough days he cheers me up.—Robert

Grandparents, they take care of me when my parents work.—Mauro

-Friends, I have fun with them.—Andrew

-Brother, he has been there when I've been scared.—Harry

-Family, they are always there for me.—Elizabeth

-Mom, she takes care of me when I am sick.—Lydia

Life, the good and the hard times I've had.—Chase

-School, because it helps me to learn.—Madison

-Brother Rowen, he makes me laugh.—Carter

-World, the peace of living in a country where I don't fear for my safety.—Ellie

-Students, they teach me something new every day.—Mrs. McNish

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



Fifth Grade—Mrs. Sak

The fifth graders have been busy writing books modeled on the *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin. We had books entitled *Diary of a Leopard Gecko*, *Newt*, *Algae Eater*, *Snail*, *Beta Fish*, *Crayfish*, *Turtle*, *Hermit Crab*, *African Claw Frog* and a number of *Diaries of a Fish* written by fifth graders. Their research project and trip to Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center in October helped them with their settings and character development. The fifth grade enjoyed both writing and listening to these fun stories.

Our next project in Science will be an animal adaptation project. In Social Studies we've been busy learning about Native Americans and the colonists' interaction with them. It's been interesting discussing their culture and how they adapted to their geography and climate. Their respect for the environment is a model for us to follow today. Hopefully, these discussions will help us understand and appreciate the Thanksgiving holiday. Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Sixth Grade—Ms. Kassab

The chill is in the air and it's not because of all the homework! The middle school math and science students have been working hard this quarter. New math concepts are being mastered and the wonders of science are exciting them. If you want an insight into middle school students' interests and opinions, check out their surveys in the hallway.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Advent!

Seventh Grade—Mrs. Martin

The eighth grade students recently participated in an annual essay contest. The America and Me contest celebrated its 40th anniversary this year and the theme was "My Michigan Hero". Once the students wrote their essays for school, they were handed off to an independent judge in order to rank the top ten. Those ten were then submitted to the contest. This year's school wide winners were the follow-

ing students:

Claire Abell
Michael Callan
Megan Hanes
Matthew Hartman-Bush
Scott Hoch
Mark Linehan
Meagan Mazurek
Sean Puchalski
Jade Rasch
Danielle Wright

We will hear in the early spring which one of those ten will move on to the statewide competition. Great work students!

Seventh Grade—Mrs. Peterson

In Literature, we are starting our unit on public speaking. The main focus is having proper posture, voice and eye contact while giving a speech. The eighth grade will be doing a book talk, persuasive and informational speeches. Sixth grade will give a demonstrative, persuasive and a book talk speech. This is a great opportunity for the students to become stellar public speakers.

In sixth grade English, we just finished a descriptive writing paper. We had topics that ranged from describing Disney World to describing the different seasons. This week we will begin our study of verbs.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Eighth Grade—Mrs. Irwin

Wow! It is hard to believe that the first quarter is over. Many eighth graders have been shadowing at high schools and will be taking the high school placement test soon. This is a

very important decision for them.

The eighth graders are working their way through the Westward Expansion of the United States and are heading towards studying the Civil War. The sixth and seventh graders are studying the physical features of North America and learning a lot about the continent and the country they inhabit.

During the month of November the eighth graders have organized a Winter Hat, Mitten and Scarf Drive for the Royal Oak Boys and Girls Club. We are living out the corporal works of mercy through real life community service. It is hopeful that they will understand the need for helping others who are not as fortunate as they happen to be. Donations can be made in the box in the school lobby.

All the middle school students are remembering all of their blessings at this Thanksgiving time and thinking of ways that they can share some of their time, talent and treasures with others. Understanding that we receive when we give is an important lesson for all of us during this difficult time.

God Bless You and Your Family.

VIP Day

Just a reminder that Friday, January 30, 2009 will be VIP (Very Important Person) Day. This is a half day of school with dismissal at 11:45 a.m. VIP Day is a chance for students to invite someone important to them (grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, parent, etc.) to attend Mass and a portion of the school day with them. The half day of school allows the student to go out to lunch with their VIP. Latchkey is usually not available on this day, but would be available if enough families needed it. VIP Day is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of Catholic Schools Week.



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

The Preschool has spent the month of November exploring the two things for which preschoolers are the most thankful...our families and our homes. (Many of them are also very thankful for their toys, but they did concede that you need to have a home to keep your toys safe and dry!) We made graphs of how many people are in our families, drew pictures of our families for our journals and shared the things that make our families special. Come and check out the wonderful display of our families outside the preschool rooms! We learned about the importance of a home, we sorted objects commonly found in houses, and we created art by making prints with things from around the house. The Seniors were architects, designing, their own houses. Our math topics for this month were "Opposites" and "Position and Direction Words". We will end the month by taking time to reflect on the people and things for which we say thank you to God. We wish everyone safe travel and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Art—Ms. Tomlinson

It has been a very exciting and productive fall in the Art room. The primary grades have had great fun mixing primary colors into secondaries. Kindergarten and first grade created beautiful books which reflected their knowledge while second grade created beautiful weaving with their painted papers. We also learned about how artists use color and texture to create mood in their paintings. Middle and upper grades created monsters and masks to decorate the Royal Oak business involved in the Halloween celebration. What fun to see their beautiful artwork displayed around town.

Library—Mrs. Carnacchi

Would you like to know a bit more about the latest novel that is popular with the middle school set? Or about a movie that your child is begging to see at the Cineplex or rent from

Blockbuster? Can't figure out the lyrics to a song your student is listening to? I'm sure you would agree that as parents we need to be vigilant and aware of all the different types of media our children are exposed to and we often need to know MORE than what the publisher, producer or songwriter offers us on a flyleaf or CD case. We would all love to be able to have the time (and energy) to preview everything that our child wants to read or watch or listen to but with today's fast-paced culture, it's sometimes just not possible. What's a parent to do?? With a click of your computer mouse `y o u c a n g o t o` www.commonsemmedia.org for lots of help. This site will give you trustworthy information to help you manage your kids' media lives, with reviews on TV shows, movies, books, games, music and websites. You can browse by age level, topic or entertainment type and reviews are written by both parents and children. Included with each review is a "Parents Need to Know" section that informs you of any violence, language and sexual references. I have visited this website many times and have found it to be helpful. Maybe you will too.

We had a very successful Book Fair last week and I thank all the students, parents and teachers that purchased items from Scholastic or Fuch's. I had a few questions from parents about how St. Mary benefits from hosting a Book Fair. Our school's Book Fair profit is a percentage based on the total amount in sales. We can choose to take our profit in four different ways: books can be taken right from the Book Fair shelves for our own library, profit may be used by ordering from an Instructional Resources Catalog, profit may be taken in cash, or lastly, a combination of the previous options. We usually take our profit in books AND cash, with the cash helping us to fund future author visits. Previous Book Fairs as well as last week's indicate that we have a huge community of readers and book lovers here at St. Mary. A successful Book Fair takes many hands and I would like to thank

the following parents and students for their help in setting up, running and breaking down the Book Fair: Michelle, Joey and Harry Suchyta, Deena and Tessa Janish, Libby Bala, Angela Chouinard, Karen and Meg Seefelt, Ann Quinn, Anna Abell, Yvonne Claucherty, Cathy Tomsich and Chris and Michele Gorecki. Thanks for your time and talents! A final thanks to all of you that generously granted so many wishes from the "Teacher Wish List" and contributed to the "One For Books" campaign.

We all have so much to be thankful for as Thanksgiving approaches but I am especially grateful for the wonderful privilege of being a part of your children's lives here at St. Mary as they visit the library each week.

Happy Thanksgiving!

St. Mary Cub Scout Pack 1600

St. Mary Cub Scouts and their families have been busy. In October, they enjoyed apple picking and a night at a corn maze. The boys were also involved in the Scout's Can-Do project and collected can goods and food for the food pantry. The Wolf Cubs have enjoyed a campfire and overnight while working on earning their Wolf Badge. The Webloes have been doing science experiments and art/design activities working on their Pins. The Webloes are going camping with the Boy Scout troop too. The Cub Scouts are also planning to learn how to shoot bows and arrows in the coming weeks. The Cub Scout Pack is planning a Christmas party for Thursday, December 4th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All boys from first to fifth grade and their parents are invited to join us for this Christmas Party...Come and meet us. Learn what fun Cub Scouting is. If you need more information about this invitation or scouting in general, please call Ken Becker at 248.542.9369.

Recycling Update

St. Mary Catholic School is one of 45 schools in Oakland County with the distinction of being an official GREEN SCHOOL. As part of our efforts to remain green, we now are recycling paper, plastic and cardboard in every classroom. There are also ways to help our school at home. We are enrolled in programs to **recycle** the following:

Glue sticks and Glue Bottles

Capri Sun, Kool Aid and Honest Kids Drink Pouches (We earn .02¢ each; all other **juice pouches** earn .01¢ for the school.)

Nabisco Cookie Wrappers (We earn .02¢ for each wrapper sent in.) These include Chips Ahoy, Nutter Butter, Fig Newtons, Oreos, etc.

Ink Cartridges from your computer.

Please send any and all of these items to school for recycling.

Box Top Update

Thank you to all who participated in this month's Box Top Challenge. The **kindergarten** class came in first place with **654 Box Tops**, followed closely behind by **second grade** with **598 Box Tops** and **first grade** with **584 Box Tops**. The kindergarten class will receive an ice cream party for their efforts.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Box Tops challenge. We collected a total of 4,476 Box Tops. That means that St. Mary Catholic School will be sent a check for \$477.60. That is a great total for our first collection. Please continue collecting, as we will have another challenge in the spring.

Special Thanks for Your Kindness

Our schools generosity in the "Change for Life" Fundraiser in October was so great. Thanks to all of your help we raised \$150.74. Your spare change was donated to the National Pro-Life Alliance to help spread the news about the goodness of life. Thanks again!

Breakfast with St. Nick

Saturday, December 13th from 9-12

St. Mary Fellowship Center

The morning will include a **p a n c a k e** breakfast, a magic show, balloon animals and of course, a visit with St. Nicholas. The cost is \$7.50 per person (or a family of four for \$25.00).



Tickets must be purchased in advance. Seats are limited so please reserve your spot early.

Breakfast will be served from 9-10. Following breakfast there will be a magic show and balloon animals for everyone. St. Nicholas will join us around 11:00.

For information please contact:

Theresa Neu: 248 543-0916

Jackie Conlin: 586 822-8104

Auction 2009

\$1,800.00 Raised for Auction

Thank you to all who sold and bought Entertainment Books. You helped raise more than \$1,800.00 which will help fund our annual auction in the spring.

Service Hours Available Now

The Auction committee needs volunteers right now to help with managing finances and overall volunteer coordination. No experience necessary—we'll teach you everything you need to know. We also need a volunteer skilled in Excel to help us compile data. Contact any of the Auction Chairpersons listed below to find out more. The time you donate goes toward your 12 or 17 hour service

requirement.

Find Out About Service Hours with E-mail

Would you like to be on an e-mail list for auction service hour opportunities? As opportunities come up, we will notify you by e-mail and you can sign up on a first-come, first-served basis. If so, please send an e-mail to Cheryl Sawicki at cheryl@sawickifamily.com and type in the Subject Line: "Auction Service Hours Notification".

Save the Date

Eat at Bagger Dave's in Berkley on Wednesday, January 21 from 5-9 p.m. and the restaurant will donate 20% of its sales to the St. Mary Auction coffers. Come enjoy one of their legendary burgers and Idaho fries, along with a milkshake or bottle of beer. Just last week the Detroit Free Press named Bagger Dave's a "Not-To-Miss" place for a great burger in its "Best of Burger" guide! Check out their full menu at baggerdaves.com.

All I Want for Christmas

Wondering what to put on your Christmas list? How about asking for a charitable donation of money or an auction item to the 2009 Auction? We can even acknowledge the gift-giver as the donor, in our auction literature if you wish. Don't forget to think of the St. Mary Auction AFTER you open your gifts this year too. Perhaps you'll receive a gift you already have; a gift that's the wrong color; or a gift you know someone else could use more than you. Donate to the auction and let us find that bidder who will find the treasure in your Christmas gift.

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