

F A L L 2 0 0 9

The Spirit of Saint Mary's

www.stmaryofthelakeschool.com

A Newsletter for St. Mary of the Lake School Families and Parishioners

ISSUE NO. 1



It has been a great start to a year that looks promising and productive. Thanks to all the faculty, parents and students that make it all happen. I am honored to be the principal of such a fantastic group, and will continue to work to improve the quality of the education that we provide at St. Mary of the Lake. If you have any doubt that we are “educating the whole child”, just look around-the smiles and enthusiasm on the children’s faces says it all!

--Kathleen Kelly, Principal, St. Mary of the Lake School

Save the Date!

MARDI GRAS
Saturday, 1/30 at
Marina Grand
Hotel, New
Buffalo. (See Mary
Brown to
volunteer)

Holiday pageant:
Led by Karen
Oselka and Megan
Barickman.
Tuesday 12/15 at
7:00 p.m.

Winter break
December 21-
January 4
No school.

School store

Thanks to parents Diane Giancaspro, Heidi Jaffee and Patty Thorn for the fabulous idea, and for relentless work to get the new school store set up. If you haven’t stopped in, please do soon! The store is located next to Brenda’s office at the front of the school. Items for sale include: Lakers t-shirts and sweatshirts, notebooks, pencils, keychains, snacks & drinks, Lunchables (in case of a forgotten lunch!), and many other odds and ends. It has been a big hit with the students, and has created a new “heartbeat” for the school!

STUDENT COUNCIL:

President: Zoe Lauricella

Vice Pres: Jade Madison

Secretary: Claire Jaffee

Treasurer: Natalie Ritter

SPORTS

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN THE PAROCHIAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE ("PAC"). FALL SPORTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED BELOW...

CROSS COUNTRY

ROB CARPENTER AND JANICE BARDUSK COACHED THE 37 MEMBER CROSS COUNTRY TEAM TO A 3RD PLACE TEAM FINISH (OUT OF 9 TEAMS FIELDDED). INDIVIDUAL FINISHERS INCLUDED 15 MEDALS AND 20 RIBBONS. CONGRATULATIONS LAKERS!

SOCCER

COACHES ERIK BEERS AND TRACI LAURICELLA LED THE CO-ED LAKERS' TEAMS THIS YEAR.

THE 5TH AND 6TH GRADE TEAM WON THE FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AGAINST QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS, THEN LOST TO OLD ST. PAT'S OF CHESTERTON IN THE SECOND ROUND. THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE TEAM HAD A 5TH PLACE OVERALL FINISH. GREAT JOB, SOCCER TEAMS!



VOLLEYBALL

KARLA MADISON AND PATTY THORN COACHED THE 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS TO THE FINAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME (FIRST TIME EVER!), WHERE THEY CAME IN 2ND TO ST. PAUL LUTHERAN. THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE TEAM HAD A TERRIFIC SEASON WITH A 4TH PLACE FINISH. WAY TO GO!



CLASSROOM NEWS

Kaleidoscope Preschool: The preschool is led by AMY FIDLER and SANDY RIPLEY. They have a great bunch this year, and thanks to parent and School Board member Paul Oselka, the school was awarded a \$15,000 Pokagon Fund grant for scholarships and playground equipment.

STEPHANIE BLUMBERG/SANDY RIPLEY'S kindergarten class: Students work in centers where they focus on drawing and writing; enjoy books by viewing, reading and listening; count, sort and match numbers; build structures; explore water, sand and play-doh; and engage in dramatic play.

KATE SZCZYPKA'S 1st graders are learning to read and working on math elements. They are also learning about the Constitution. Ms. Szczypka joined St. Mary of the Lake staff this year, and is a great addition!

ANNMARIE D'ANZA'S 2nd graders are learning like gangbusters. She teaches history, reading, math, and social studies to these developing minds-who are eating it all up! They are learning about the importance of the Constitution in U.S. History.

RHONDA GEISLER'S 3rd grade class this year is a winner. They are focusing on becoming fluent readers, and are reading both fiction and non-fiction to familiarize themselves with strategies for reading comprehension. It is a big year and nothing is likely to stop them!

RITA WIKER and the 4th graders are focusing on several "hands on" projects including a leaf and rock project and using outdoor resources. They also took an exciting trip to the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago.

MANDI KAPICA and her 5th grade class is going strong. They are working hard on their Saint biographies, and reading "The Mysterious Benedict Society." They have the 5th grade Indiana Dunes camping trip to look forward to in the Spring, in addition to the Science Fair, and all their other subjects.

ANGIE SMITH, SUSAN JOHNSON and JAMIE BARTELHEIM are leading the middle school to great successes. The 6th graders have just completed their cell projects, the 7th graders are beginning their science projects and the 8th graders have just finished their projects. The 7th & 8th graders also participated in the Patriots's Pen writing contest.

Congratulations to Caleb Brown, Elise Jaffee, and MacKenzie Layden on taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (respectively) in the Patriot's Pen writing contest sponsored by the VFW. These remarkable students received their awards at mass on Wednesday, November 18, from Mr. Shelby. Terrific showcase of the talent we have at St. Mary's!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Under the leadership of Stephanie

Blumberg, kindergarten and religion teacher at St. Mary of the Lake School, there are ongoing community service projects at work. The Middle School sponsored a cold weather clothing drive, and a car loaded with items was delivered to the Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry in early November. The "Kid's Make Cents" collection resulted in \$50 from the 6th graders and \$40 from the 8th graders. That change sure adds up and benefited the emergency food pantry as well. The non-perishable food drive is in process and ends on November 20. Classes are competing for dress down days-good luck! The annual Benton Harbor Shelter dinner is scheduled for Sunday December 6, 2009, at 6:30, and gift-wrapping will be done on Friday, December 18 at 6:00. Call Patricia or Rob Carpenter (269)469-1638 for details.



MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPING TRIP

The Middle School enjoyed their annual week-long Naturalist Camp in the Great Smoky Mountains November 9-13. They hiked, hunted salamanders, and took classes on bears and streamlife. Many thanks to Angie Smith and her husband, Nathan, for taking time out of their busy lives to act as teacher chaperones for the group. Same for the parents who attended! There were 30 students and 12 adults on the trip, and everyone learned something about themselves, enjoyed each other's company, and experienced nature in its glory.

**FREE \$\$\$ FOR TUITION!!!
BUY YOUR SCRIPS CARDS
TODAY. THEY ARE AVAILABLE
ON FRIDAY MORNINGS AND
AFTERNOONS AT SCHOOL, AND
AFTER THE 9:00 a.m. and
11:00 a.m. MASSES ON
SUNDAYS.**

MISS KELLY'S "HOW COME CORNER"

(Submit your answer by December 15 and win a St. Mary's bumper sticker if you are correct.)

A particular person born in January 1978 has a unique distinction. What is it???

Answer will be posted on the website on

December 16.