

St. Thomas School - "What's Happening?"

December 12, 2008
Volume 4, Issue 15



Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

STINEBAUGH 15
8:20am-Advent Prayer Service
(Gr. 3 & 4)

Nursing Home Visit
(Gr. 2, 3, 4 5 & 6)

Hot Lunch - Beef Tips & Noodles

BAXLEY 16
Confessions for Gr. 3-6

LANNON 17
8:20am-Chaplet/Gym
Confessions for Gr. 7 & 8
11:30am-6th Gr Parent Luncheon
6-8pm - Christmas Caroling at St.
Thomas School

VOLUNTEER NEEDED 18

HAPP 19
8:30am-Mass(6th)
11:30am-Hot Lunch-Monicals
12:30pm-1pm-Happy Birthday
Jesus Prayer Service (Gr. 5 & 6)
1-1:30pm-Cookies & Caroling
2:00pm-Dismissal

December 20 - January 4th
Christmas Break

JANUARY 5
School Resumes

Buy Gift Cards at St. Thomas School for Gifts or Regular Shopping. Cards are on hand (used same as CASH) at the School office or find order forms in the back of all churches!!! Place orders in the Sunday Collection Baskets, call Jean Tay at 684-3395, or email at jtay8@yahoo.com

Some Cards on hand

WalMart/Sams	Arby's
Marathon	Kohl's
Dicks	Macy's
Panera	Bergners
Claire's	Pier 1
Limited	Chili's
Starbucks	Bergners
Itunes	Lowes
Dunkin Donuts	Red Lob/O Gar
Wendy's	Walgreens
TJ Maxx	Ruby Tuesday
Gap/Old Navy	

Principal's Corner:

Dear Families and Friends,

As we move towards the 3rd week of Advent, we realize how blessed we, as a Catholic School, have been and continue to pray for sustained preparation and awareness of the Coming of Lord Jesus.

We had the best ever Advent Program last Wednesday evening. Truly, the voices of angels were quite evident and the large crowd was quickly immersed in the Spirit of Advent and great joy. Smiles and love for all abounded. Our thanks and gratitude goes to Mrs. Haggin for her planning and direction of such an excellent program, and to the staff and students for working so hard to give all of us such a beautiful gift.

We thank Msgr. Ramer for his insight and message given at Mass on Thursday, about the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We also learned about the image of Mary imprinted on the cloak of Juan Diego by Our Lady and how it is still with us to this day. I can never hear the beautiful story enough, and continue to learn more each time I see Her Image.

At the end of Mass, Mike Bosch, Grand Knight, presented the awards to the students who placed in the Poster Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The students were to portray their concept of "Keep Christ in Christmas". What beautiful illustrations they all composed. All posters are on display in the halls and the students will be bringing them home on the 19th. It is so heartening to view the students' work and to see firsthand their belief in Christ our Savior. Thank-you so much to the Knights of Columbus for all of the support and involvement they give to St. Thomas School. Many blessings and gratitude to all the families who have given their children their strong belief and faith and we pray our Catholic School remains a strong support and reflection of the family faith practices.

This week Msgr. Ramer shared with us the oneness of the Catholic Church and Catholic School, especially in following the practices of the Liturgical Year. What is fitting and appropriate in the church, is also the same for the school. Advent will be honored in the school as it is in the church. The actual Christmas Celebration begins on Christmas Eve and continues through Epiphany. The school's Christmas trees will be lighted when we return from Christmas break and we too, as a Catholic School, will continue to celebrate the Christmas Season through Epiphany. We taught and shared Msgr. Ramer's teachings concerning the importance of the school and church being considered as one body to our students. We pray all family traditions, preparations, and celebrations will continue in the homes as has been done in the past.

Advent Blessings to All,

Anita Crain, Principal

Anita Crain, Principal
Mary Schumacher, Secretary

School News:

Christmas Caroling - Date Change

The St. Thomas PTO is planning to host a Christmas Caroling evening on **Wednesday, December 17th from 6-8pm** if the weather is not too windy or freezing. Watch STS Tiger Tales on Wednesday for current updates regarding the Christmas Caroling evening. Dress warm and join us on Hayrack Rides strolling through town as we sing Christmas Carols - what a way to create "an old fashion Christmas"! After singing, we will meet back at the school gym for a cup of Hot Chocolate & fellowship!

St. Jude's Worker House - Items of Interest

1. St. Thomas School is collecting slightly used Men's Coats, Hats & Gloves during Advent. There is a drop off box in the school lobby (during the week) and back of St. Thomas Church (during the weekends)
2. St. Thomas students are also having a campaign to collect "change" for SJWH in each of their Classrooms. All donations are greatly appreciated! Mrs. Farney will forward a check to SJWH on December 19th from the student body of STS.
3. St. Mary's Parish will be handing out a list of items that the SJWH is in need of before Christmas. Please pick up a list in the back of St. Mary's Church.

We Need Your Help Sign-Up Sheets are now posted in the back of St. Thomas Church to help with the 42nd Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. Each and every member of the church and parent of the school are encouraged to sign up to assist with our largest fundraiser at St. Thomas. It is a great way to meet other people in the parish!

The Curriculum Committee is working on the details for our reading incentive program for this school year. It will take place during the month of February to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. We have some awesome things planned but we could use some help. Anyone (individuals or businesses) wishing to donate to help offset costs for prizes and incentives for the program, please talk to Mrs. Crain, Debbie Reinhart, Wendy Carmien, or send an envelope marked "Reading Incentive Program Donation" to the office. Thank you!



Wish List

- Copy Paper (Pkgs or Case)
- Postage Stamps
- HP Ink Cart. 56 & 57
- LexMark Ink Cart. #17
- Staples Gift Cards Ordered from Scrip

All Items Listed above are the School's "WISH LIST" Items. All donations are greatly appreciated. This is just one SMALL way to cut down on operating expenses and to help save our school money.

Scrip -- Go to www.glscrip.com for Updates on their company lists.

We're on the Web!
Stthomasphilo.org

Thank You
To all who have
Helped with our
Wish List - We appreciate
All of your donations!

School News Cont.:

Christmas Cards to Soldiers! St. Thomas Students sent over 200 Christmas Cards out this week to our U.S. Soldiers. Thank you to everyone for your kindness and sincere wishes to our soldiers. Please keep each of them in your daily prayers.

John Lancaster Spalding Scholarship Fund Grants

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2009-10 school year, for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed. Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from the rectory (684-2571). Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for 2009-10 must reapply. **The application deadline is February 15, 2009.**

Notification of grant awards will be made by mid-April.

Sports News:

Sports Schedules

Can be found at www.stthomasphilo.org. You can find all updated practices and game schedules at this website.

St. Thomas More High School News:

STM Alumni Basketball Game

Don't miss the return of the Saber Alumni as the '03-'08 varsity basketball lettermen return to STM to take the court on January 9th immediately following the STM Varsity game. These returning Sabers will be sporting a jersey with their favorite number and treated to a "pre-game" meal by current basketball parents. All STM Alumni and Alumni Parents are invited to come out to the most anticipated basketball game of the year, and cheer for your favorite alumni as the fellas lace up their shoes on January 9th. Practice up on your free throws, boys, and RSVP to Mrs. Oliveira at doliveira@hs-stm.org or by calling 352-7210.

Current 8th Graders

STM requires the EXPLORE test for all STM Applicants. The test is Saturday, January 10, 2009, and costs \$25. The testing is by reservation only. Please call 352-7210 for more details. Reservations must be prepaid and must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2009.

Junior High Raffle for P & S

The Junior High is preparing for its annual Pancake & Sausage Raffle and Bake Sale. Anyone who would like to donate prizes or baked goods for the sale should contact a junior high student.

The Planning Stages Have Begun for our 42nd Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

One Important Step in the Success of the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast is the "Up-Front" Donations we receive prior to the breakfast!

Below is a list of ways parishioners/families can help out with our "Up Front" Costs. You can help by giving a full or partial monetary donation for a particular item:

Raffle Tickets – \$250.00	Paper Plates – \$125.00
Postage – \$126.00	Napkins/Forks/etc – \$65.00
Coffee/Dawn – \$35.00	
Table Clothes – \$45.00	Garbage Bags – \$50.00
Creamer/Sugar/etc. – DONATED	OJ/Milk – \$200.00
Newspaper Ad – \$72.00	Envelopes – \$40.00
Pancake Batter – DONATED	

Your Donation can be dropped off at the School Office or placed in the collection baskets at any of our 3 parishes!

Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest Winners

Thank-you, Mike Bosch, and the Knights of Columbus, for sponsoring and supporting the St. Thomas School Students. The following list names the students, grade, and prize level. The posters not rated with a placement have been returned to the students and will be on display in the halls until Dec. 19th. Congratulations to the Following Students:

K- Maggie Hewing (1st)

1st & 2nd Grades – Abigail Dodd (1st); Luke Warnes (2nd); Nate Reinhart (3rd)

3rd & 4th Grades – Isiah Bryant (1st); Lindsey Decker (2nd); Makalah Koeberlein (3rd)

5th & 6th Grades – Christy Lannon (1st); Macie Dodd (2nd); Aileen Tierney (3rd)

7th & 8th Grades – Joel Ping (1st); Megan James (2nd); Nick Decker (3rd)

Church Stained Glass Windows

If anyone is interested in the old stained glass windows from St. Thomas Church that were falling apart 37 years ago and have made their way to the state of Maine, the following is the address where they are located. We don't have any use for them now in the present building. They would be out of place and we don't really have any where to use them now. The windows are at the following address: Robin Neely, 90 Bridge Street, #405, Westbrook, Maine 04092