

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

December 5, 2008
Volume 4, Issue 14



Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

3pm Holiday Ornament Workshop At Philo Library	6
HEWING 8:30am-Mass Hot Lunch-Chicken Strips & M/C	8
VOLUNTEER NEEDED NCA Site Visit	9
STINEBAUGH 7pm-Christmas Program/Gym	10
VOLUNTEER NEEDED 8:30am-Mass (7 th)	11
VOLUNTEER NEEDED Hot Lunch - BBQ Pork	12

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	Lowe's
Dunkin Donuts	Red Lob/O Gar
Wendy's	Walgreens
TJ Maxx	Ruby Tuesday
Gap/Old Navy	

Remember
Go to

www.boxtops4education.com and enter to win extra box tops for St. Thomas School

684-2309

Principal's Corner:

"Come, Lord Jesus, Come." One can see by the radiance in the eyes of the students that the joy and anticipation of Advent is present in the hearts and thoughts of the St. Thomas School students and staff. Monday, our 8th Graders led us in our Morning Advent Prayer Service. What a wonderful job they did and all of us gleaned so much from their readings. It's always so amazing to light that first Advent Candle, say special readings, and pray that we may prepare the Way for our Lord and Savior. Also, on Monday, our Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 7, & 8 went to Champaign County Nursing Home to sing for the residents and to bring Christmas Cheer. Our next Advent Prayer Service (and trip to CCNH) will be Dec. 15th. We invite everyone to come to the Morning Prayer and share with us this beautiful tradition. Also, we are looking forward to our Mass this Friday and the First Friday coffee and doughnuts get together afterwards. Please, bring your friends and neighbors and share in the fellowship awaiting you.

Many thanks and gratitude goes to all of you for keeping Tom in your prayers. He is much better and the cellulitis is subsiding. The joy of being with our Grand Girls and children for Thanksgiving also helped to overcome a trying time. The power of family and prayer can conquer all. We do believe! Also, your prayers for Karol Stookey, our Resource Teacher (suffered a heart attack on Nov. 24), were heard because she is doing better and also for the many prayers for Debbi Koeberlein, and the outcome of her surgery. No doubt about it, the Lord does work in mysterious ways, but always, His Way is truly the best for us and for this we give thanks.

Please continue to keep St. Thomas School in your thoughts and prayers and that many parents will choose us for their child's education so that their child will be in a Catholic Culture whose shared mission is to: **LIVE, LOVE, AND SERVE AS CHRIST.**
Anita Crain, Principal

School News:

Fannie May Candy

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped in any way in this year's Fannie May Candy Sales, especially to our coordinators, Debbi Koeberlein and Jeanette Ping. Our school profited \$1,369.14 from this successful fundraiser.

Confirmation Request

The Confirmation students from St. Thomas School are having their Rite of Enrollment this Friday. We would greatly appreciate prayers from all parishioners in the area for our confirmation class. Thanks you.

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.

Anita Crain, Principal
Mary Schumacher, Secretary

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.

Congratulations to Nancy

Asklund She was the winner of the beautiful Christmas Tree Skirt this year! Thank you for everyone's participation and to Anita Woodworth for her beautiful work. PTO raised over \$225 from all of your donations! Thank you!

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	
Syrup - Bring a bottle of your favorite syrup and place it in a tub in the back of St. Thomas Church)	
Table Clothes - \$45.00	Garbage Bags - \$50.00
Creamer/Sugar/etc. - DONATED	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!

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.:

Students - Wear your Coats, Hats, and Gloves (We go outside for recess if the temperature is above 30 degrees and no precipitation.

Sports News:

Sports Schedules

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

Girls 2008 Basketball Season

The Girls 2008 Basketball season came to a close on Monday night (December 1st). St. Thomas's 8th grade team lost to Chrisman in a very close and exciting game. The girls on both the 7th and 8th grade teams should be very proud of themselves for their wonderful season and great sportsmanship they displayed on and off the court. The girls that represented our school this year in basketball are the following: Abby Tierney, Kayley Sollers, Morgan Carmien, Emma Powell, Britton Grimm, Christy Lannon, Anna Happ, Josie Powell, Randa Harshbarger, McKenzie Martin, Regan Kelley and Camille Gay. The coaches of the girls were Todd Grimm, Brent Carmien, Randy Harshbarger, and Patty Harshbarger.

The team would also like to stop and thank the many fans that attended the games in support of the girls both at home and away. It was great to see so many school families, grandparents, alumni and parishioners there to support the teams. It was a true display of what St. Thomas is all about!

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.

Community News:

MOPS Scrapbooking Night

Calling all scrapbookers! Fun, fun, fun! Scrap the night away, get those Christmas photos organized and leave dinner to us!

St. Pat's MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is hosting a Scrapbooking Night on Friday, Jan. 30 from 4 p.m. to midnight at the St. Patrick's Parish Center, 212 E. Washington, Tolono.

Registration is required. Pay only \$15 if you register by Jan. 16 or pay \$20 after Jan. 16. The price includes a meal, snacks and drinks. Proceeds will go to St. Pat's MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). We will be raffling off several very nice Creative Memories items, too. Early registration includes 10 free raffle tickets.

Creative Memories Consultant June Kopmann will be available for supplies and assistance. People may preorder Creative Memory supplies by Jan. 16 at www.mycmsite.com/junekopmann for additional raffle tickets.

To register call Lainey at 217-485-5244. For more information visit www.stpatsmops.org.

EVERYONE

All Ages

All Communities

All Parishes in the Area

Mark Your Calendars!

The St. Thomas is planning to host a Christmas Caroling evening on Friday, December 19th. Join us on Hayrack Rides strolling through town as we sing Christmas Carols - what a way to create "an old fashion Christmas"! Spread the Word! More details to follow!

Bulletin News Cont.

Crisis Nursery Needs

Ali Stigers of Immaculate Conception Bongard is collecting items for the Crisis Nursery. There will be a box in the back of Bongard Church and the Sidney Library for donations. Items in need: Gift Cards to Target, Wal-Mart, County Market, Staples, Walgreens, Barnes-Nobles, and Pages for All Ages.

Medicine/Formula: Infant/Toddler Tylenol & Ibuprofen, Enfamil Pro-Sobee
Food: Easy Mac, Gerber Graduate Meals & Finger Foods: Pasta Pickups, Canned Kids Meals.
Pajamas: 3T to 6 (non-fleece)
Pacifiers: 1st Year Soothers

There is an additional list in the back of each church to review for other clothing, baby, and food needs.

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