

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

January 9, 2009
Volume 4, Issue 17



December

JANUARY

VOLUNTEER NEEDED 12
Hot Lunch-Monicals

HUGHES 13

LANNON 14
11:30am-5th Grade Parent Luncheon Report Cards

HUGHES 15
8:30am-Children's Mass (4th) Honors After Mass Hot Lunch - Tacos

NO SCHOOL 16

7am-1pm 18
Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

NO SCHOOL 19

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
Texas Roadhouse	Chili's
Starbucks	Bergners
Itunes	Lowe's
Red Lob/O Gar	Hallmark
TJ Maxx	Applebees
Gap/Old Navy	ETC.

684-2309

Principal's Corner:

Dear Families,
Greetings of the Christmas Season to all Family and Friends!

As we end this Blessed Christmas, all of us at St. Thomas School wish you a very Happy New Year and pray your celebrations were filled with love and joy.

All of us were ready to be back in the comfort of our school and to continue our work for this school year. The planning and execution of the plans for the 42nd Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on January 18, 2009, are well under way. My goodness, the amount of people working so hard and their enthusiasm, energy and organization leaves us with no doubt of why this event is so successful! Everyone enjoys this opportunity for the warm winter gathering, the fellowship, and great food; it's no wonder the breakfast continues to thrive. (A little prayer for a good day of January weather wouldn't hurt, either.)

Plans are under way for the Celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, January 25th through January 31st. Schedules and information will be out next week, and we hope everyone from all around will join us in as many events as possible. "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service" is the theme for this year, and St. Thomas School's strength and commitment to Service as a way of Christian life will be the heart of this year's celebration.

McKenzie Martin will be leaving for her trip to the Inauguration of our next President of the United States next Friday, January 16, 2009. What a remarkable experience for McKenzie and for all of us who are around her. She will be sending us daily reports on the events and will be sharing her experiences on Wednesday, 1/28, as we honor Service in our Nation. Her Christ Light shines so brightly and we will keep her in our prayers and thoughts as she continues her life's journey.

Please continue to Thank God for giving us St. Thomas School and pray for our growth so that more voices can go forth to Evangelize His Word. Pray for us as we strive to live each day embraced with the passionate faith to: **LIVE, LOVE, AND SERVE AS CHRIST.**

God's Many Blessings to All,
Anita Crain, Principal

School News:

Save the Date - Kick Off Catholic School's Week with a School Dance!

It will be held on Saturday, January 24th - Details to follow.

Anita Crain, Principal
Mary Schumacher, Secretary

1st Annual St. Thomas School's State of the School Address

Will be held on **Wednesday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym.** We request the presence of all of our parishioners from each of our school-involved parishes **AND** attendance is mandatory for at least one parent from each school family.

Areas to be Addressed:

- Survey Results
- Student Honors/Testing
- Pre-School
- Enrollment Issues
- Curriculum Improvements

Plan now to attend this annual event. Trish Thinnies will have our "Aftercare House" open starting at 6:45 p.m. for those who need babysitting services.

If a school family will be unable to attend this meeting, they will need to call Msgr. Ramer at 684-2571 to let him know of their absence.

Confirmation Date Change The Confirmation date for our parishes has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Church. Please change your calendars to reflect this new date. Thank you.

Gift Card (Scrip) Program at St. Thomas School Is a Big Success this School Year. Thank You to Everyone who Participate in this program.

Every Little Bit Helps! We would appreciate everyone continuing to use this program now that the Christmas season is gone for any and all of your shopping needs. We are trying to use this program as our 4th major fundraiser for our school. We currently have the Golf Outing, Magazine Drive, and Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. If you have any questions regarding this program, please see Mary in the school office or call Jean Tay at 684-3395. It is a "no money out of your pocket" program. You purchase a gift card for face value and the company gives the school a "kickback"! Thank you so much for your continued support of St. Thomas School.

5th Grade Parent Luncheon will be held Wednesday, January 14th at 11:30 a.m. in the Concession Stand Foyer.

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



School News Cont.:

Junior High Raffle, Quilt Raffle & Bake Sale

The Junior High will be selling raffle and quilt raffle tickets next Tuesday & Wednesday during the lunch hour to school families. Also, they will be located in the Library the day of the breakfast. Please stop in and see them! They thank you in advance for all of your support in helping them finance their class trip at the end of the school year.

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.

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!

Sports News:

Sports Schedules

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

Sports Teams & Speech Team Pictures

Monday, January 19th
5:15pm - Speech
5:30pm - Cross Country Team
5:50pm - Girls Basketball
6:15pm - Girls Volleyball
6:45pm - Boys Basketball (4th & 5th Gr)
7:00pm - Boys Basketball (7th & 8th Gr)

St. Thomas More High School News:

Future Sabers News 7th & 8th grade students and families, mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Future Sabers Basketball Hoopla on Friday, January 23rd. 6:00pm JV tip off, 7:00pm ice cream/brownie treat served in the Cafetorium; 7:30pm Varsity tip off; 8:15pm half-time free throw contest. Junior High band members are invited to bring their instruments and join the STM Pep Band. Students, along with their instruments, are to report to the STM Music Room at 6:00 pm. RSVP today by calling the school office at 352-7210

STM Barnes & Noble Book Fair

STM invites parents, friends, and family to attend our Book Fair at Barnes & Noble on Saturday, January 24th from 10am – 4pm. All Barnes & Noble purchases (yes, even you café items) will benefit the STM library and students. This day will be a fun-filled, interactive event, where our students will individually be presenting their musical talents. STM Guitar Hero Competitions will be held throughout the day. Visit: http://www.hs-stm.org/attachments/resources/Standard_Bookfair_voucher_STM.pdf to print off a fundraiser voucher.

STM Preview Night - Take 2

All 8th grade students and parents are invited to attend the STM Preview Night – Take 2 on Wednesday, January 28th. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. Meet the entire STM faculty, learn more about the STM academic program, and visit with our coaches. Reserve your spot by calling the school office at 352-7210.

Empty Bowl-Art Club Fundraiser

The STM Art Club will sponsor an Empty Bowl Supper on Friday, February 13th at The High School of Saint Thomas More from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The Empty Bowl Supper is to raise funds to support America's Second Harvest Food Bank. STM students, faculty, and friends create unique, one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls that are used to serve soup to those attending the supper. Visitors pay \$5 for a bowl of soup and bread, which symbolically represents the plight of those who are hungry. For a contribution of \$10, visitors may take their bowls home as a reminder of their contribution.

Save The Date- Msgr. Albert Hallin to Celebrate His 80th Birthday

Save the date and celebrate Msgr. Hallin's 80th birthday on Sunday, February 15, 2009. This celebration will be held at the St. Matthew Parish Center from 1-4pm, with the Hallin "Roast" at 2pm. In lieu of gifts, donations may be made to The High School of Saint Thomas More Msgr. Hallin Scholarship Fund.

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!