



ST. GABRIEL

Centered in Jesus, St. Gabriel Catholic School is committed to excellence in developing our faith, academics and service.

NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS...

January

- ...18-29—MAP testing for students in grades 2-5
- ...21—TCCES Grade 5 Snowshoeing Field Trip at Ledgeview
- ...21—School Counselor at SG
- ...26—Liturgy planned by Grade 2 at 8:15 p.m.
- ...28—Cross-country ski class for grades 4 and 5
- ...31-February 6—Catholic Schools Week: *Dividends for the Future*

All Catholic School Activity Info is on the second page of this newsletter.

February

- ...2—School Liturgy planned by Grade 1 at 8:15
- ...3—PTO-sponsored school Roller skating party from 3:30-5:30
- ...6—Deadline for TCCES registrations including financial assistance requests and placements
- ...9—School Liturgy planned by Miss Lamecker's kindergarten class at 8:15

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK... There is no question that Catholic school tuition can be expensive and taxing on a family's income in today's world. Most families make significant sacrifices in order to provide a solid foundation in the Catholic faith by placing their children in a Catholic school. Just what do students get here at St. Gabriel School for \$2340? They receive the opportunity to grow in their relationship with the Lord, study the Scriptures, and learn about the doctrine and traditions of the Catholic Church and at the same time receive an outstanding academic preparation for their futures and life in general. When education affects a person's entire future, and even eternal life—what a bargain! Please return your registration forms/fees to the school office by Friday, February 5, to ensure a spot of your preference for next year. Spots are filled on a first-come basis. This is also an important date for the financial assistance to be turned in. If you have any questions about registration or the school itself, please contact the school office.

A CHANGE OF SEASONS... Here's a way to share our faith with the children even in the face of frenzied commercialism. Welcome yet one more chance to help your child focus on love. Here's how: Right now, in these weeks of January, all of the acts of love and gift giving that happened at Christmas are still fresh in a child's memory. Here comes Valentine's Day—a day for love and gift-giving, again. The close association of Christmas and Valentine's Day actually serves as a way to continue an active focus on the theme of love and charity. So go ahead and buy those boxes of little "Be Mine" cards and help your child begin to prepare them for friends and classmates. As you did at Christmas, talk about love and what it means and how we express it no matter what season it is. The holiday colors of green and red turning to white and red is a great time for us to show our children that love knows no season.

PARENT/STUDENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES... It is already the third quarter of the school year!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, 2010...

Sunday, January 31—PTO-Sponsored Pancake Breakfast and School Open House, 8:30-noon

Monday, February 1—In our Community; School Community (kindergarten through grade 5) will attend a concert at Seton Middle School

Tuesday, February 2—In our Students; School Liturgy at 8:15 a.m.; Career Day at SG (details to come)

Wednesday, February 3—In our Nation; School Community will honor veterans by making cards with their buddies; All-TCCES Liturgy at St. Margaret Mary beginning at 1:15 p.m.; Roller Skating Party after school

Thursday, February 4—Parents/Families are invited to bring lunch and share time with their child(ren) between 11:30 and 12:30; at 12:45, parents/families are invited to our program, Move to the Groove—singing and exercising with Mr. Arboleda in the gym until 1:30 p.m.

Friday, February 5—In our Vocations; students will select a favorite saint to introduce to their buddies and classmates.

A TRIP BACK IN TIME... On Wednesday, December 16, the fourth graders traveled to Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay. This trip was used as an introduction to their study of the state of Wisconsin. Students visited a print shop, blacksmith shop, a Belgian farmhouse, and the Tank cottage, which is thought to be the oldest home in our state. A special treat was touring the buildings in the Fort Howard complex such as the hospital, officers' quarters, and school where students actually role-played being students in the 1700's! To add to the fun, every building in the park was decorated for Christmas according to its own time period. It was quite eye opening to see how different things were in the past as far as the simplicity of celebrating and decorating. When students returned they illustrated and wrote a factoid or told of their favorite experience on the trip. The pictures are on display in the school halls.

WHAT'S THE MATTER...In science first grade students have been studying matter. They learned about the 3 kinds of matter: solid, liquid, and gas, and the characteristics of each. Did you know that water could change its state of matter? Water can be a liquid, then freeze to a solid, ice. It can also evaporate into a gas.

GINGERBREAD CLASS...The kindergarten class just completed a fun unit on the Gingerbread Man. Students heard many different versions of the story such as; *The Gingerbread Baby*, *The Matzo Ball Boy*, *The Gingerbread Cowboy* and *The Gingerbread Friends*. Students got to make gingerbread ornaments, estimate the number of objects to cover the perimeter of a gingerbread cookie and decorate a gingerbread house. Students made a class book of each student trying to catch the gingerbread man. Both kindergarten classes got together to play an invigorating game of "Gingerbread, Gingerbread, Wolf", which is played much like "Duck, Duck, Goose". So run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch us; we're off to have more fun.

THE PERFECT GIFT...Principal's Day at St. Gabriel School is a special day where each grade takes the opportunity to express to our principal, Mrs. Mary Jo Brown, how special she is to each one of us. This year during Principal's Day the Girl Scouts happen to be collecting cans of food for Father Carr's Food Pantry. As Mrs. Brown is a big backer of Fr. Carr's Food Pantry, the second graders decided to each bring in food items to be donated to the Girl Scout's collection in Mrs. Brown's name. She was very proud to have the second graders honor her by helping others. We are very proud to have her as our principal.

A GRACIOUS FIELD TRIP... On Monday, January 11, a group of students from St. Gabriel went to Miron Construction to thank Mr. Dave Voss, president of the company, for supplying workers and donating their time to install the white boards in the class rooms over Christmas vacation. The group presented Mr. Voss with a Prayer Chain and sang the Blessing Song. The students were quite impressed with his newly finished office.

BOOK CLUB AT ST. GABRIEL... Shortly before Christmas vacation, a 5th grader, Michaela Kegley, approached Mrs. Brown and asked if a book club could be started at the school. The answer was Yes and Michaela and friends-Hayley Dunlap and Abby Keuler—got to work. They selected the first book to be shared, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. They also created advertisements to encourage others to join the group. The club meets on Wednesdays and is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. They meet and discuss chapters that have been read and begin reading the chapters for the next week with friends. Eighteen students have joined the club for this particular book sharing. A new book will be selected soon and the membership can change as the book titles change. The group has chosen the name, Hooked on a Book, for themselves.