



# ST. GABRIEL

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

## NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING EVENTS...

#### February

- ...17—Ash Wednesday: Liturgy at 12:15 p.m.
- ...18—Seton visit to SG; Grade 5 goes to Seton
- ...18—School Counselor at SG
- ...18—Mrs. Mansukhani visits Grade 5 Geology lesson in science
- ...19-22—No school Winter Break
- ...23—Classes resume
- ...23—School Liturgy planned by Grade 5 at 8:15
- ...24—SG 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling Bee at 2:00 in the chapel

#### March

- ...2—School Liturgy planned by Mrs. Olsen' kindergarten class
- ...2—Grade 5 Forensic Meet at Seton after school
- ...3—Preschool Story Hour from 1-2:00 p.m.
- ...8—Grade 5 Forensics at SMC after school

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...** Catholic Schools Week, 2010, has come and gone and left St. Gabriel with many happy memories. One of the most exciting days was Thursday. The students thanked me over and over again for letting their families come in for lunch, games, and our *Move to the Groove* program. The number of people who attended was overwhelming! This year, all of the TCCES schools celebrated liturgy at St. Margaret Mary. It was very meaningful to see over 800 students and each school's staffs celebrating our Catholic Identity. At St. Gabriel, Valentines were sent to the veterans at King. The students also produced a book about saints—each student researched a favorite saint and shared the information with his/her class. On Tuesday, many families for a liturgy joined us for Candlemas Day. Father Allen explained all of the different candles that are used in the church and during Catholic traditional times. There was a huge turn out for the roller skating party on Wednesday as well as for the Pancake Breakfast that kicked off the week. Many thanks go out to everyone who helped us celebrate our Catholic Identity during Catholic Schools Week.

**BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS...** Ash Wednesday is the day on which we Christians begin our Lenten journey to Easter. Although it is not a holy day of obligation, many people fill our churches to receive ashes on that midweek day. From little children to great-great-grandparents, people come forward to receive the ashen cross and to hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return," or, "Repent and believe the Good News!"

The earthly ashes help us to "ground" ourselves deeply into the reawakening roots of God's eternal springtime. We shake off the dead branches and stems of last year's growth and begin to sprout new growth. Through prayer, fasting and helping those in need we become more and more like Christ. It's good to be mindful of our human failings and our need for a fresh start. Wearing the ashen cross is an opportunity to begin again, from the "ground" up. Happy Lent!



**HELEN KELLER...** As enrichment to a story in reading, the third graders learned about the life of Helen Keller. Books were read, a video was watched and Braille books were studied. The students found all very interesting. They are currently writing paragraphs on one of the following: summarizing her life, explaining the importance of Anne Sullivan, why Helen had a difficult life or what it would be like to live being blind and deaf. The rough drafts are looking good. The final copies should be great!!!

**SOUP-ER BOWL... EVERYONE WINS...** St Gabriel School donated 831 cans of soup as a result of our annual Soup-er Bowl. The soup was donated to St. Joseph's Food Pantry, which provides food for the needy of the Fox River Valley area. We thank the 5<sup>th</sup> graders for chairing the soup drive for the school.

**TOM PEASE CONCERT...** The St. Gabriel Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes attended a concert by children's singer and storyteller Tom Pease. The children had lots of fun laughing and singing along with Tom to many of his favorite songs.

**LETTER WRITING...** After studying all about friendly letters, first graders wrote a letter to someone special. Most students wrote to mom, dad, grandma or grandpa, but some also wrote to sisters and cousins. This is a great project as the students use the new skills that were taught, with the added bonus that someone special gets "good mail!"

**GUIDANCE NEWS...** In Guidance this week the students in grades Kindergarten to 5th learned that Self-Responsibility is showing that you are dependable and able to do things without being told. Launching this week will be the efforts to build our Wall of Self-Responsibility. A brick will be added to the wall with their name on it, for every ten Self-Responsibility acts a student completes. There is no limit to the amount of bricks one could attain. In the attachments you will find a Self-Responsibility worksheet. This worksheet is what the students will fill out and return to school completed and begin working on the other half. This program is optional, but the students were told that being Self-Responsible is not.

**KINDERGARTEN CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS...** Mrs. Olsen attended the Conference for Wisconsin Kindergarten Teachers in Middleton last Thursday. Mrs. Olsen attended a sectional for teaching Science. She learned some new experiments to do with the class related to polymers, she got ideas for teaching life cycles and activities for teaching matter. Another sectional she attended was related to teaching vocabulary. Her students are now playing games that review the Word Wall words in her class and they are spelling the words in fun ways such as drumming, robot talk and slow motion.

Mrs. Olsen and Miss Lamecker took an assessment class to help learn effective and comprehensive ways to assess in kindergarten. They are now looking at various assessments they use and looking for ways to improve them.

Miss Lamecker attended a sectional on 50 Tips to Add Time Fun and Energy to Your Day. Sometimes it is the little things that you do throughout the day that can really change up the old way of doing things and make it more interesting. The final sectional Miss Lamecker attended was on differentiating learning centers. There were many ideas for new learning centers. The speaker also added little twists so that there would be challenges for the students who are ready for more and adaptations that could be made for those children who are struggling. It was a good conference.

**ROBOTICS...** Come see the excitement! The 2010 Wisconsin VEX Robotics Regional Championship Robotics Tournament is on Saturday March 6, 2010 at St. Mary Central High School. Doors Open at 7:00 a.m. with teams arriving for registration and pit setup. Qualifying rounds will begin approximately between 9:30 and 10:00 am. SMC has 4 teams this year. SMC also reached out to a group of local 8th graders from our feeder schools, mentoring two teams of 8th graders that will also compete. The event is free to the public and concessions are available.

The tournament is all about getting kids interested in science and technology, helping them prepare for their future educational and career goals, working together as a team, and having some fun. Hope to see you there!