

ST. GABRIEL

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

NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS...

April

...21—Grade 5 TCCES Retreat at Mount Tabor

...21—Martial Arts class after school

...22—TCCES Plant Sale order forms due in school office

...22—Alice in Dairyland visit to grades 4 and 5

...22—School counselor at SG

...22—State-wide tornado drill at 1:00

...22—Earth Day

...23—29—Scholastic Book Fair at St. Gabriel School

...23—Kindergarten Field Trip to Associated Bank

...26-May 7—MAP testing window

...26—Martial Arts class after school

...26—Grade 1 Field Trip to Theda Clark

...27—Liturgy planned by Miss Lamecker's Kindergarten class to honor First communicants. **A reception hosted by first grade parents for the second graders will follow the Mass.**

...28—Martial Arts class after school

...29—Counselor at SG

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

We live in a world that appears increasingly materialistic and selfish. As followers of Jesus, we often struggle with this reality. Jesus told us that "I have not come to be served, but to serve." On a very hopeful note, many children today are able to see clearly the overemphasis on material things in our world and are determined and ready to do something to change that. Social researchers call the children in today's elementary schools a "hero generation." We see evidence of this in many programs that young people have started in their schools and communities to meet the needs of the poor and the needy today's young people are committed to making our world a cleaner and more just world in which to live. As technology brings the world closer together, it becomes clearer that all human beings rely on one another in countless ways. It is our charge to work together to do all that we can to make our world a better place. The path of service is a rewarding one.

The St. Gabriel School Community collected \$1306.08 during the Lenten season this year. Fr. Larry from St. Patrick's Parish took \$300 with him last week when he went down to Haiti. An anonymous donor added \$600 to our total on Holy Thursday. We were able to present Mr. Brad Vivoda and Mrs. Penny Robinson, representing the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, with \$1606.08 on Tuesday to go towards the building fund for their homeless shelter for our area. What a wonderful outpouring of support for the homeless community from our school!!!

God's blessings on all of our First Communicants. Some of the second graders received the sacrament this past weekend and the rest of the class will celebrate this upcoming weekend.

We had quite a surprise when we came back from Easter vacation. Thanks to the Jeffrey Keesler family (Calvin), St. Gabriel Parish, and our PTO, the school's bathrooms now have automated sinks and the boys' bathroom has automatic flushers on each of the urinals. Thanks to Mr. Pat Jensen and a crew who installed a computer in the kindergarten room. A special thank you to our PTO for their generosity. When school resumes for the 2010-11 school year, all classrooms will have had their second white board installed. As a whole, St. Gabriel School has taken big strides this year in regards to technology. We are thankful for all of the people who have helped and supported us with financial gifts, talents, and time.

On April 14, Mrs. Benrud and Miss Kulinski attended a seminar in Milwaukee entitled *Step-by-Step Model Drawing*. They were introduced to Singapore Math—a program that emphasizes the importance of problem-solving skills and strategies in math.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

Reporting Sexual Abuse... As part of the diocesan policy of Protecting God's Children, all schools are expected to provide information to families about the reporting of incidents involving the sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer. If you know of an incident, please report this incident to **Ms. Ann Fox at 1-877-270-8174**. Should you prefer to report to someone not associated or employed by the diocese, please call Mr. Bob Johnson, executive director of American Foundation of Counseling Services in Green Bay and an individual will assist you in filing a report. Mr. Johnson's number is **1-920-437-8256**.

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH CLASS...For the monthly "tear down the walls" activity, students in grades three through five learned about the Pennsylvania Dutch culture and the Amish religion. After a brief history of these unique people, students were treated to a slide show showing everyday life in an Amish community. Common things such as a barn raising, every-other-Sunday church, schools, the inside of a home, a carriage shop, horse-drawn farm machinery, and covered bridges were shown. Following the Amish lesson, students learned about hex signs displayed by the non-Amish Pennsylvania Dutch. These round, colorful, and symmetric art pieces are only used for decoration ("Chust for fancy" as the PA Dutch put it) and not for anything evil, as the name might imply. A final activity was for each child to design his or her own hex sign.

FROM TALLY CHART TO BAR GRAPH... Recently the first graders have taken information about the kinds of snacks each child likes, recorded the information on a tally chart. The information on the tally chart was then turned into a bar graph. This kind of project is one the students like doing.

First graders have studied the human body and are looking forward to their field trip to Theda Clark Hospital on April 26. Students will get a taste of what happens if they were to become a patient there.

FISH AT SG... The St. Gabriel Pre-Kindergarten learned a lesson on sharing and making friends recently. They made colorful fish using paper plates and bingo dabbers. They then listened to the story The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister. After reading the book, they each received a sparkle from their teacher's fish to show how sharing can create happiness and friendship.

INFO FROM TCCES FOOD SERVICES...Did you know we participate in a federally subsidized food program? Because of that there are many regulations we must follow and many benefits as well. We can purchase commodities products at a reduced price, which helps our budget.

- Last year DPI Food and Nutrition Department reviewed us. Our meals averaged 21% fat, which is far less than the maximum allowed which is 30%.
 - We can do this by using turkey hot dogs and our ham, bologna and salami is also made from turkey.
 - The hamburgers we offer have applesauce in them so they are much lower in fat than most burgers.
 - The buns we provide are whole grain and the bread is wheat.
 - When we serve spaghetti, we use a 50/50 mix of regular and whole-wheat pasta.
 - Each school has a salad bar. We offer a romaine mixed lettuce, which has some nutritional value as compared to iceberg lettuce.
 - We have partnered with Oakridge Farms and purchase fresh fruit and vegetables directly from them when available. This is a wonderful partnership as it provides fresh fruit and vegetables as close to organic as we can purchase and keeps our dollars spent locally. We also purchase many varieties of apples from a local orchard. They had a great season last year and we were able to purchase from them through January. Some of these products come with a slightly higher price but is worth it for taste and nutrition. We want to introduce students to more varieties of fresh fruit and vegetables. Oakridge Farms will let us know when we can expect to see the first of the season. We plan on trying asparagus and rhubarb this year.
- Our kitchens are older and lacking some equipment that we eventually would like to purchase such as steamers. This could increase the nutrient value in some items.
- We have recently introduced some new items to our menu.
 - The chicken alfredo only has 1 gram of fat in the sauce! We have also added baked ziti and baked potatoes, which we prepare in our kitchens.
 - Food service is currently looking at some other items we might make such as freshly made pizza from scratch.
- French Fries are baked and have no trans fat. None of our products are ever fried.

All this considered, it is a difficult task to provide a quality meal for \$2.25/\$2.50. This cost needs to cover not only the food but the cost of milk, labor, benefits, chemicals such as soap, paper products etc. We greatly appreciate the volunteers that come and help serve on a daily basis. We couldn't do this without you.

Food Service is proud of the changes we have made and plan to make more. We want our meals to be nutritious as well as appeal to the students. Please encourage your son/daughter to try some new items as they become available. It usually takes several tries before they decide if they like something or not.

TCCES Food Service would like to find parents that would be willing to serve on a committee to improve the health and wellness of our meals. If this something you would be interested in doing, please contact us in the food service office. We can be reached at 967-0107.