

ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*The Mission of St. Margaret Mary School is to nurture a
Christ – centered Community of Life-long Learners.*

This week we lit the second candle on our Advent wreath and heard from the words of John the Baptist---Prepare the Way of the Lord. Our **prayer** during Advent is to Wait, Watch, and Wonder. We wait as Mary did for the coming of the Savior. We watch as the shepherds did while tending their flocks in the fields. We wonder as the Magi did, as they followed the star and found the newborn King.

We are filling the Jesse Tree with symbols of individuals from scripture and telling their stories and their roles in preparing the people of God for the coming of the Messiah. Some of the stories we have heard are: Adam and Eve; Noah; Abraham; Isaac; Jacob; Joseph; and, Moses. The Jesse Tree is a sign of our membership in the family of faith. It is a sign of gratitude for all those who prepared the way for us. It is a sign of our longing for the coming of Jesus.

There are many celebrations during the Advent Season. This week we celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas. When we returned to school on Monday, we found that St. Nick took time to visit all of our classrooms. Thank you to all who made our St. Nick treats possible. We also celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th and will remember the Feasts of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe during the coming week. These are special feasts in the Hispanic culture and will be discussed in Spanish class.

Don't forget the daily collection for the **Fox Valley Warming Shelter**. We would like to help instill the habit of service to others in all of our students. By donating a nickel a day, we can make a difference in the lives of people by providing milk for the clients who eat meals at the shelter.



REMINDERS

December

11.....Barnes and Noble Night

14/15.....Guidance Counselor
in school

16.....Rescheduled Trip to
Heritage Hill for grade 4

17.....Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal 1:30 Concert 6:30 p.m. Doors Open at 6:00

22.....Jr.Preschool Christmas
Coffee

23.....Early Dismissal

January

4.....School Resumes

7.....Grade 3 Field Trip to
Planetarium

10/11/12....State of the Schools
Address (January 11 at SMM)

31.....Pancake Breakfast and
Open House

Service Project

A former St. Margaret Mary student is engaged in a project to collect gently used boots for the Emergency Shelter. As you check on boots and snow pants for your children, please bring the boots that no longer fit your children to school. They can be put to use by children who are not as fortunate as ours.

Winter Weather

After a longer than usual fall, winter has arrived. Please make sure that your child/ren have snow pants and boots in school everyday. As long as the temperature is not below zero, all children go out for recess. Children are allowed to play in the snow, on snow hills, and building forts. Children without boots or snow pants are not allowed in the snow.

Just a reminder-----all students should wear either dress shoes or tennis shoes in school. If they wear boots to school, they must take them off in the building and put them back on for recess. Boots of any kind are not part of the dress code.

Christmas Program

Our Christmas Program is fast approaching. It will take place on **Thursday, December 17th**. The evening program begins at **6:30 p.m.** **The doors to school open at 6:00 p.m. and there will not be anyone in the building before 6:00.** We ask that all children go directly to their classrooms and should be there by 6:15. The dress for the evening is "dress your best." With only a week before Christmas, some students may want to have their hair trimmed before the concert so that they are able to see Mr. Arboleda's direction. The students always look so nice for the concert and it is fun to see them dressed in their holiday finery. There will also be a dress rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. This is a "first time" complete run-through of the entire concert. It will not be polished, but if a family member cannot attend in the evening, this would be a good way to see the concert. Students wear dress code when performing in the afternoon.

Mr. Arboleda would like some help in setting up for the concert. Normally, fifth grade parents take on this responsibility, but we would welcome any assistance. It involves setting up the stage, hanging a few decorations, and picking up some of the costumes. Please call the office if you can help in any way.

Barnes and Noble

This Friday, December 11th, is St. Margaret Mary day at Barnes and Noble. Present the attached voucher or mention St. Margaret Mary School at checkout and our school will receive a percentage of the day's purchases. There will be a presentation by parent, Michael Sajbel at 6:15 on his movie, *The Ultimate Gift*. At 7:00, our students will sing "Move to the Groove" songs with Mr. Arboleda. There will be readings, snacks, and a visit with Santa. Rumor has it that some moms are planning on having coffee about 9:30 in the morning because everything purchased from the snack counter also counts toward SMM purchases. Please come and celebrate with SMM families.

Wines Around the World

Many parents have been working hard organizing our annual FACES fundraiser. Information has been sent home asking for help with sponsorships, collection of raffle items, and helping with student projects.

Things are going very well and we are looking forward to a wonderful evening on **Saturday, February 6th**. Please see the attachment to this week's newsletter.

U.S. Cellular

Please, Please-----See the flyer attached to the newsletter about an opportunity through U.S. Cellular. If everyone takes the time to stop at a U.S. Cellular store and then use the code obtained to fill out an on-line form, TCCES could win \$100,000. Because of the large alumni base for SMC, the high school has been chosen as the school to choose on the form, but the money will benefit all of our schools. Please help us out. Share the information with everyone you know. It is possible to earn money to help our school with this project.

Another Fundraiser Opportunity

Copps and Pick 'n Save are asking people to change their "savings card" to a Roundy's card by year's end. Please pick St. Margaret Mary's school as your charity of choice.

Baseball Game

Now that the snow is just starting to fall for the season, we are looking forward to spring and baseball!! As in the last few years, we will partner with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers to provide a fun way for your children to enjoy reading and earn a ticket to a baseball game. The date chosen for our school game is **Sunday, April 25, 2010**. Put it on your calendar now and more information will be coming home during the third quarter when the reading project begins. (We can start praying now for no rain!)

Christmas Schedule

The Business Office schedule for the holidays will be as follows:

Wednesday - Dec 23 - Regular hours 7:30-4:30
Thurs/Fri - Dec 24 - 25 - Closed
Mon - Wed Dec 28 - 30 - Business Office is open 8:00 to 3:30
Thurs/Fri - Dec 31/ Jan 1 - Closed

State of the Schools

Each year, Mr. Sullivan, TCCES President, addresses the school parents and parishes on the "State of our School System." This year, he is going to add dates for the address, which will be different from what is published on the school calendar. Please mark these times on your calendar. Registration for next school year will begin after the addresses.

All presentations would be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the same presentation would be made on each night. Here is the proposed schedule:

1. Sunday, January 10 - St. Mary Elementary School in the gym
2. Monday, January 11 - St. Margaret Mary in the gym
3. Tuesday, January 12 - St. Gabriel in the cafeteria

