



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 was the celebration of Gaudete Sunday. The Latin word *gaudete* means “rejoice.” We lit the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath and we rejoice because we will soon celebrate the birth of Jesus. The children are also exchanging their purple ribbons for pink. As with any celebration, the planning and preparation is most important. We have been using our monthly theme of **prayer** to help us in our preparations. We have been praying the Advent prayers, the prayers for the Jesse Tree, and this week, we will add the “O Antiphons,” traditional prayers dating back to the 12th century. These prayers are said from December 17th to the 23rd. Each of the “O Antiphons” calls on a name of Jesus.

In Mexico, this week marks the beginning of the traditional Las Posada. In this special remembrance, the Holy Family’s quest for a place to stay is commemorated by journeying from house to house. At each house, the family is told there is no room for them. This practice is repeated for nine days and culminates on Christmas when all of the participants travel to midnight Mass. We will celebrate our version of Las Posada on Wednesday, December 23rd when we will journey from class to class looking for a place for the Holy Family to stay. We will continue in procession to the gym where we will gather for a final Prayer Service before the close of school.

The real preparation for the Advent Season takes place in our hearts. Share this prayer with your children and encourage them to pray to Jesus that their hearts will be made ready for Christmas.

Advent is a season of hope. Every time we help a person in need, we live the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of peace. Every time we forgive someone who has hurt us, we live the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of light. Every time we make a new person feel welcome, we live the season of Advent.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

REMINDERS

December

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

18.....PK Christmas Program
.....9:30 a.m. in Gym

22.....Jr.Preschool Christmas
Coffee 8-10 a.m. in classroom

22.....Grade 1 Trip to Heckrodt
Preserve

22.....Kindergarten trip to
Sterling House of the Fox Valley

23.....Early Dismissal 11:30

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

Advent is a season of love. Every time we speak in love and not in anger, we live the season of Advent.

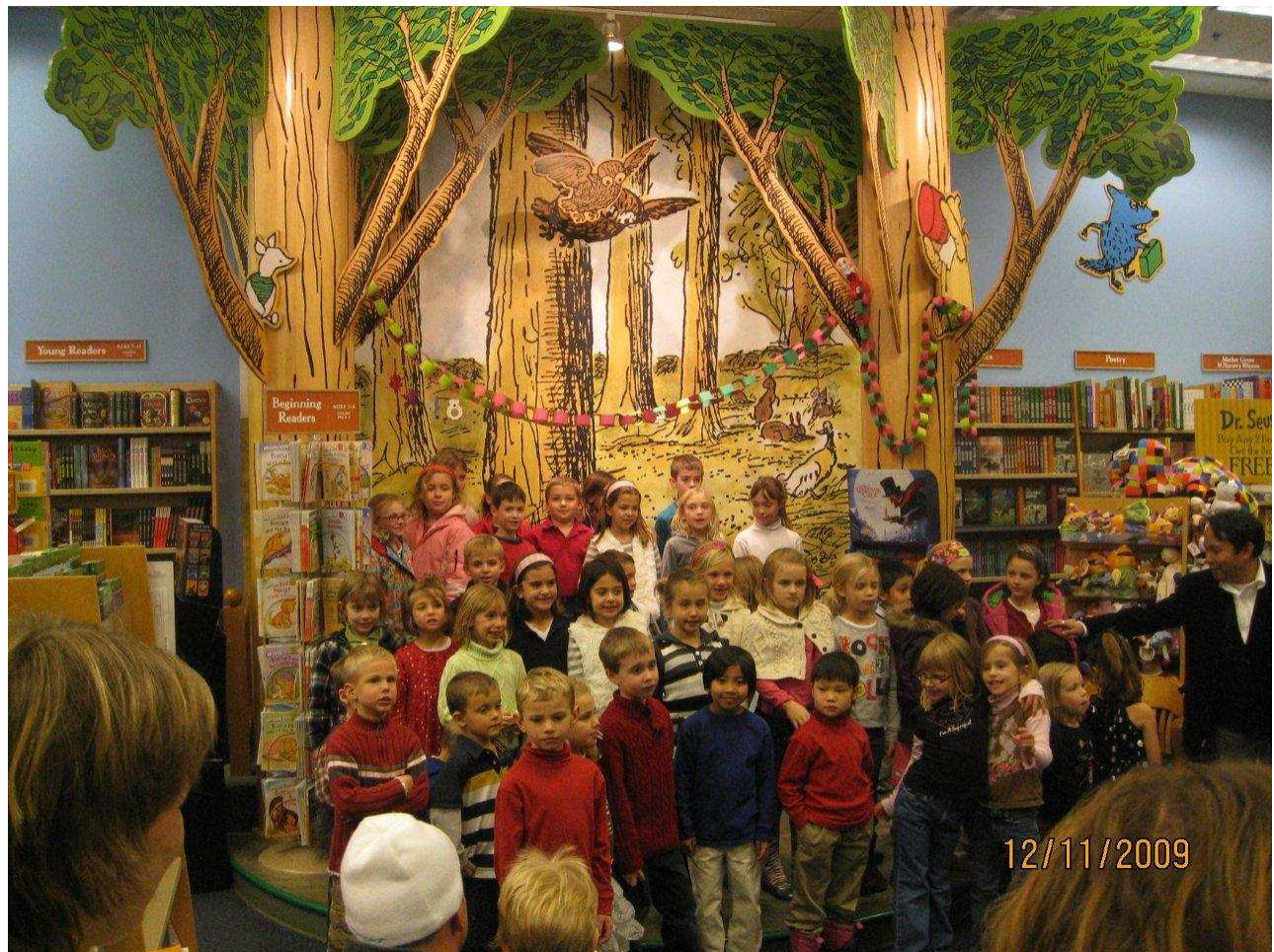
Advent is a season to share. Every time we reach out and help others, we live the season of Advent.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts and our lives. Teach us to walk in your way.

This is a reminder that, as we near the end of Advent, we will be making a gift of our nickels to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. Please remind your children to continue to bring a nickel each day until the end of Advent. Thank you for your generosity and for teaching it to your children.

Barnes and Noble

Thank you to all of the families who helped to make our day successful. A huge thank you to Ameer Pable, Rhex Arboleda, Michael Sajbel, and Santa! Without them, we would not have had the event!



Thank You!!

A very special thank you to St. Margaret Mary parents and friends who were at Cannova's Restaurant on Friday evening after the Barnes and Noble event. The band, **Three Jacks and a Jill** (SMM parents: Melissa Chakar, Vince Gallucci, Brian LaTonzza and Chris Moss) was great. Donations from the band's Christmas CDs and matching funds from Debbie and Kyle Rasmus, (restaurant owners), realized a profit of \$560.00 for the school. This was a wonderful and exciting evening to help us get in the spirit of Christmas. More CDs will be available in the school office and during the school's Christmas concert on Thursday for a cost of \$5.00. All donations from the CDs will go directly to SMM School.

Christmas Concert

Our K-5 school Christmas Concert is this **Thursday, December 17th**. The students have been rehearsing diligently and are very anxious to share their Christmas message with you. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. Students are asked to go directly to their classrooms and to report by 6:15. The dress for the evening is "dress your best" or Christmas outfits. The doors to the gym and the front and back school doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Please do not come any sooner. Teachers are not expected back in the building until 6:00. There will be a dress rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. Our Seton buddies will be the audience for this performance. If there are parents or grandparents who are not able to come in the evening, this is a chance to see a "less polished" version of the final performance.

Preschool Christmas Events

Our preschool teachers have prepared programs for their classes to share with families. These programs are much shorter than the school program and allow the children a chance to perform for parents without a long time to focus and sit still. The highlight of the event for the preschoolers is usually the Christmas snack!! Enjoy the preschool programs----these children will melt your hearts! The PK program is Friday, December 18th at 9:30 a.m. The Jr. Preschool has a family morning on December 22nd. The preschool class had a family event on Wednesday, December 9th. Thank you to all the families who attended and to Mrs. Schneider for planning the event.

Wines Around the World

Our committee is hard at work planning another wonderful fundraising event. Our new chairpersons for this year's WAW are Christina Smith and Tracy Schroeder. They are both energetic and filled with ideas, anxious to provide a great evening for all. Please see this week's flyer. Each week there is a particular item highlighted. If you have any questions about the event or how you can be involved, please contact one of the chairpersons.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIS AVAILABLE:

Did you know that TCCES has cross-country skis that your family can use at very low rates? We have many sets, ranging in size from kids in about Pre4 through adult men's. This is a great opportunity to try a fantastic family sport that your kids can enjoy throughout their lives. Your family may use the skis as often as you like throughout the season for a flat rate of only \$40.00 per family, or you may use them by paying \$5/person (\$20 maximum/family) each time. For more details or to reserves skis for your family,

call Heather at 209-1022 or Molly at 420-4398. (All money collected is being saved for ski maintenance and/or purchase of additional equipment.)

Ski Class

Cross Country Skiing is also part of the Physical Education Curriculum in our TCCES schools. Fourth and fifth graders are taught the fundamentals of skiing and given the opportunity to ski at a nearby location. This is a wonderful lifetime sport and our children have really enjoyed the opportunity. Fourth and fifth grade parents, please sign the permission slip and fill in the necessary information. It is important that we have the measurements asked for to enable Ms. Loughrin to assign skis and poles. Please return the forms to school before the Christmas break.

IMAJN Mass

IMAJN Masses in January and February 2010 will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Therefore, the January IMAJN dates will be January 10 and 24; February's dates will be February 14 and 28.

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

Mr. Michael Sullivan, TCCES President, will present the annual TCCES State of the Schools Address on January 10, 11 and 12. The same presentation will be given each evening. All TCCES parents are encouraged to attend one of these informative presentations. Mr. Sullivan will discuss the steady progress of the TCCES schools, our growing enrollment and the **new registration process**. In addition, registration packets will be available for 2010-2011 school year. Please join Mr. Sullivan and the TCCES Administration on one of the following evenings:

- Sunday, January 10, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary Elementary School's Gymnasium
- Monday, January 11, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary School's Gymnasium
- Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel School's Cafeteria

Please contact Ann Engelhard at aengelhard@tcces.k12.wi.us or 722-7796 ext. 201 for additional information.

FACES

The Executive Committee is looking for individuals who would be interested in helping to guide the FACES group for the remainder of the year. Circumstances are changing for the co-president and the vice-president and they will be unable to see the year through. If you are interested in helping with one of these positions, please call Kathleen McCurdy or email smmfaces@yahoo.com

Million Penny Collection

We have brought back the Million Penny Collection! A few years ago, Math was our Enrichment Program for a two-year period. We began collecting pennies to discover what a million of something looked like. Our collection reached approximately 80,000 pennies. We need to reach 1,000,000 pennies, and then we will donate \$10,000 to tuition assistance for SMM School. Mrs. Jennifer Peters has volunteered to head up our penny committee this year. She has enclosed a letter and some fun activities to get us started. Everyone has pennies lying around. Put them to work. We will begin our collection in the New Year!

Lawrence Academy of Music

Lawrence Academy of Music is offering group string lessons through the String Project. This is a teacher training program for college students that also provides area children in grades 3-12 with affordable after school instruction on the violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Classes meet twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The second semester begins January 26th. Call to register (920-832-6632) or visit www.lawrence.edu/dept/acad_music for more information on this program or other Academy offerings including music lessons, ensembles, and camps.

