

ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break and had a wonderful faith-filled Christmas with your families.

Our theme for the month of January is **Spirituality**. Spirituality is the search for God. This thirst for knowledge leads individuals to a deeper discovery of God--the ultimate source of knowledge, wisdom, truth, beauty and perfection. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." (Jn 14:6-7)

Our students learn to know Jesus by discovering Him in others. What we do for another, we do for Christ. As an Advent project, the students were asked to donate a nickel a day to the Fox Valley Warming Shelter to provide milk for the shelter meals. By the end of Advent, we had collected \$635.12, \$100 from our school Post Office. This money will be presented to Therese Janssen following Mass on Friday. If you are able, please join us for Liturgy and the presentation. This is a reminder that the spirit of Christmas continues.

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman, *Living God's Justice*

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with
their flocks, The work of Christmas Begins:

To find the lost, To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoners,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among other,

To make music in the heart.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

REMINDERS

January

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

11/12/14....State of the Schools
Address (January 11 at SMM)

18.....PK (Feucht/Boelter)
Bowling

19.....Preschool Story Time 1:00

19.....Elementary Band
Concert 6:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel

21.....Grade 5 Field Trip to
Ledgewiew

31.....Pancake Breakfast and
Open House

Jan 31- FebCatholic Schools
Week

February

6.....**Wines Around the
World** (Save the date and
come and enjoy a wonder-
ful evening and support St.
Margaret Mary School)

In Gratitude

On behalf of the entire staff, and myself, I would like to thank our families for their generosity at Christmas. Our Hospitality Committee, with the help of many generous families, provided a Cookie Exchange for all staff members. That meant that the volunteers prepared 43 individual cookie containers!! The committee, along with room parents, collected for gifts for classroom teachers and also a collection for staff members who do not have individual classes. Checks were provided to all specials, office staff, janitorial staff, etc. along with a lovely note of appreciation. We are most grateful for the kindness and generosity of our families and also for the gift of allowing us to share your children. Thank you for all you do.

Last Day of School

Our last day of school before break was extremely busy! Our students were treated to a class in Folk Dancing that was offered by a professional folk dance instructor, Ron Gehauf, grandfather of students Porter and Pdraig Hasz. The students enjoyed themselves immensely as they paired with their class buddies to learn the steps. Each classroom held an individual celebration, joined in a LosPosados procession from class to class, gathering all students and meeting in the gym. Following a short prayer service, the traditional piñata was broken. (It was made by Mrs. Zeinert and must have been created with concrete. It took more than 30 hits to break the piñata.) All the children shared the candy placed inside, each piece having a special religious significance and they also received a star shaped ornament. Carols were sung, presents were distributed to individuals from the parish who make such a difference in our lives, and the children were blessed before they left for vacation.

Registration for 2010-2011

It may seem strange to be talking about registration for next year before the start of the second semester, but we are in the planning stages now for next year. Registration for preschool is open now. The registration information will go home with your child after class today (Wednesday) or tomorrow (Thursday). The booklet contains all the information about the program for next year and the registration form is in the book. Returning the form with a \$50 deposit will secure a place in next year's class.

Registration for Kindergarten through twelfth grade begins next week. The family personalized registration packets will be available beginning Monday at the "State of the Schools" address at St. Margaret Mary at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Mr. Sullivan will speak about the TCCES educational programs and answer questions. **Registration opens that evening and ends on Friday, February 5th. All decisions about the number of classes offered next year, the hiring of teachers, etc. depends on the number of students registered on February 5th. No student will be guaranteed a place in a class next year if the registration is not in at that time.** The same address will be delivered at St. Gabriel on Tuesday, January 12th and at St. Mary Elementary on Thursday, February 14th. Parents may attend any of the programs.

Computer News

In computer class the students in grades 3-5 are practicing keyboarding skills in addition to their classes' projects. Attention is being spent on the home row keys. Additional keys will be added as the students' skills progress. The programs being used in class are available on the Internet for no charge. Please have you child practice the beginning lessons on any of these websites:

Kiran's Typing @ <http://www.kiranreddys.com/products/typing.html>,

Dance Mat Typing @ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>,

Nimble Fingers @ <http://www.nimblefingers.com/>

Typing Games @ <http://www.freetypinggame.net/>

Cross Country Skiing

We are in the process of setting up Cross Country Ski lessons for gym classes for grades 4 and 5. Lessons will take place at the end of January. Many parents are involved with helping the P.E. teacher with the sorting, fitting, and transporting of skis, as well as arranging for the grooming of trails and warming shelters. Thank you to all of the parents on the Ski Committee for their help and support. The date set aside for our school's lesson is Tuesday January 26th. Make sure all 4th and 5th graders are dressed warmly and bring extra socks to keep their feet warm.

First Eucharist Parent Meeting – January 11 or 13, 2010

At least one parent for each First Eucharist candidate is asked to participate in a Parent Meeting, either on Monday, Jan. 11 at 3:45 p.m. or on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall (*lower church*). The session will take about an hour. A letter with further information will be emailed to all First Eucharist families of whom we are aware. If your child is in second grade or above and not yet registered for First Eucharist, and you would like him or her to be prepared for the sacrament, please contact the Religious Formation Office as soon as possible at 729-4562. Thank you.

First Eucharist Rite of Enrollment – January 16, 2010

On Sat., Jan. 16, at the 5:00 p.m. Mass, First Eucharist parents will present their children to Father Mike and to the parish community for First Eucharist preparation. Candidates will write their names on a page of the Book of the Elect, which is signed by those who will celebrate a sacrament of initiation. Please keep these wonderful young children and their families in your prayer.

Notes From the Band Room

A progress band concert will take place **January 19, 2010** at St. Gabriel Elementary School, Neenah. The concert will feature the 4th grade band, together for the first time, and the 5th grade band. Each band will perform separately performing several of your childhood and Christmas favorites.

The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end about 7:15 p.m. Student performers need to be seated by 6:10 for tuning.

Larry Orth

TCCES Elementary Band Director

FACES

Our next FACES (Faith and Community Enriching St. Margaret Mary School) meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14th at 8:15 in Friendship Hall (basement of the Church). All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Find out what the FACES committees are working on and how you can participate in enriching your child's educational experience.

Fundraising Opportunity

Tim and Natalie Bergstrom are hoping that you are up for a fun night out with friends to benefit St. Margaret Mary's School. They will be taking over the bar at the Ground Round in Neenah on **Wednesday, January 20, from 6:00 until 8 or 9** (or possibly later). 10% of bar sales and all cash tips will go directly to SMM during that period. There will be live music from UNCLE DUDLEY and some great raffle prizes. What better way to start the New Year off then to get together with friends and give our great school some added support! Please join Tim and Natalie if you can, and pass the word along. Let's fill up the Ground Round for SMM! Hope to see you on the 20th!

Thank you to the Ground Round for giving non-profit organizations a chance to earn some extra money for their programs.

TCCES State of the Schools Address and Registration Information for the 2010-2011 School Year

Date Change---*Please note that we have rescheduled the TCCES State of the Schools presentation that was scheduled for this Sunday evening to Thursday, January 14. This presentation will be at St. Mary Elementary School from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

Mr. Michael Sullivan, TCCES President, will present the Annual TCCES State of the Schools Address on January 11, 12 and 14. The same presentation will be given each evening. All TCCES parents and parishioners 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 the 2010-2011 school year. Please join Mr. Sullivan and the TCCES Administration on one of the following evenings:

- 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
- Thursday, January 14, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary Elementary School's Gymnasium

