



ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

January theme-----**Spirituality**----Spirituality in the Catholic classroom is a search for God. The thirst for knowledge leads the student to a deeper discovery of God -- the ultimate source of knowledge, wisdom, truth, beauty and perfection.

REMINDERS

January

14....State of the Schools
Address at St. Mary Elementary

15.....**Early Dismissal----11:30**

18/25/2-8.....PK Field Trip--
Pizza Making

19.....Health & Wellness
Committee Meeting

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

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

21.....Grade 5 Field Trip to
Ledgewood

21.....Kindergarten Field Trip
to Barlow Planetarium

28.....Kindergarten to Sterling
House

31.....Pancake Breakfast and
Open House

**Jan 31- Feb 6.....Catholic
Schools Week -Wines Around
the World----- February 6th**

Registration for 2010-2011

Registration for next school year began with the first “State of the Schools” Address by Mr. Sullivan on Monday. He addressed parents at St. Margaret Mary about the growth of our system, the new registration process, and the challenges that we face as a system. The same address was presented at St. Gabriel on Tuesday and will be presented at SMC on Wednesday and St. Mary Elementary on Thursday. Registration materials are available at each of the programs. If parents do not attend one of the programs, registration packets will be sent home on Friday. It is important to note that according to the new process, all registrations are due by Friday, February 5th. The number of classes for next year and the number of teachers in each school will be determined by the number of students registered on that day. Registration by February 5th will also:

- guarantee placement in school of choice
- give families first opportunities for tuition assistance
- maintain the registration fee at \$50 per student with fee going to \$75 after February 5th.

End of Quarter

Conferences for the Second Quarter will be held soon. The dates for conferences are **Thursday, February 11th and Tuesday, February 16th**. Teachers will be sending home a conference sheet if they would like to meet with you. As always, you may request a conference at any time. Conferences are not mandatory this quarter.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

This Friday, January 15th, is the end of the first quarter. It is an early dismissal day. Early dismissal for all TCCES Elementary Schools is 11:30 a.m. There will be no lunch served on Friday and no Extended or After School Care.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week begins this year on **Sunday January 31st**. There will be a special liturgy, an Open House, and a Pancake Breakfast in the school cafeteria. Please reserve that morning. Information will be coming home about each of these events. Our students will be asked to take part in the liturgy and our fifth graders will be servers for the breakfast. More information will be coming home in future newsletters.

Wines Around the World

Catholic Schools Week ends with the *Wines Around the World* fundraiser on **Saturday, February 6th**. This is the major fundraiser of the year for St. Margaret Mary School. Information has gone home over the last several weeks. Please see the attachments to today's newsletter for ticket reservations and for Dinner Board volunteers. Sponsorship donations are also being accepted. Keep watching your emails for more information on WAW.

Auditions for SMC Spring Musical

St. Mary Central High School will be holding auditions for any 1st-5th grade TCCES student who is interested in participating in the musical production *Willy Wonka*. **Auditions will be held in the band room at St. Margaret Mary grade school on Monday, January 18th and Tuesday, January 19th from 3:30-5:30 p.m.** Auditions are on a first come first serve basis. The musical will be held at the UW-Fox Theater Friday, March 19th to Sunday, March 21st.

Chess Club

We are looking to organize the school chess club for the second semester of this school year. We will meet on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45 pm, starting at the end of this month and ending in April. Students in grades 1 through 5 are welcome to join. Andrew Schmitz, a school parent, has led the chess club in past years and will do so again this year. If your child would like to join or you would like to know more about the chess club, please contact Mr. Schmitz at ajschmitz@new.rr.com. Your response is needed in order to determine the number of students and to plan lessons and activities.

Candlelight Skiing

Hello TCCES Families! We (the TCCES Ski Committee) want to invite everyone to the Candlelight Ski Event on February 12th from 5-8pm at Memorial Park in Neenah. There will be skiing, food, games and music. If you have your own equipment great, otherwise we have equipment and instruction will be available if needed. Watch for details in the Newsletter...we are also in need of volunteers who might be willing to make some chili, desserts, hot cocoa, etc., and help with set up or clean up afterwards. We are planning on bringing an iPod, but we would invite anyone to bring along a guitar for some music by the

fire!!!!!!!!!! Please let me know if and where you might be able to help! We have planned this event in the past and it is a fun and relaxing night for parents and kids!

(from Kim Bittner, Committee Member)

First Eucharist Rite of Enrollment – January 16, 2010

On Saturday, January 16th, 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.

(from 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.

FACES has their own email (FACES@yahoo.com). Agendas, meeting minutes, committee reports, and announcements are sent directly to parents through this email. In addition, parents may email FACES with any questions about sponsored activities or to volunteer to help with a project. At this time, FACES is looking for two individuals to serve on the Executive Committee. Due to a move and a resignation, they are looking for a Vice-President and a Co-President. Email for more information.

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.

National Vocation Awareness Week Celebrated January 10-16



“This week provides the opportunity for parishes across the country to promote vocations through prayer and education,” said Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, chairman of the Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. “It is our responsibility to encourage young people to be generous in their response as they discern the possibility of a call to service in the Church. We must also ask parents, families and our parish communities to assist with this work, vocations are everyone’s business. As we pray for an increased number of seminarians and candidates for religious life, we recognize the importance of safeguarding the gift of vocations.”

Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples

to make them fishers of men,

let your sweet invitation continue to resound:

Come, follow Me!

Give young men and women the grace

of responding quickly to Your voice.

Support your bishops, priests and consecrated people

in their apostolic labor.

Grant perseverance to our seminarians

and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life

totally consecrated to Your service.

Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness.

Lord, SEND WORKERS TO YOUR HARVEST

and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors,

missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation,

help us to say “Yes” to the Lord Who calls us to cooperate

in the divine plan of salvation

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen. (Pope John Paul II)

U.S. Cellular

This is the last week that your visit to U.S. Cellular could make a difference to our schools. Registering in one of their locations could help us to be one of the schools to win part of a million dollars.

Penny Drive

Please continue to collect pennies at home. They can be sent into school at any time (or saved for the class Penny War coming up at the end of the month). Remember, our goal is to collect a million pennies for tuition assistance.

Keyboard Program for Kids

Neenah Music Parents is sponsoring after school group keyboard lessons for area elementary students. Over the last ten years more than 2000 students have participated in this music program. The spring session of the program runs for eleven weeks and begins during the weeks of 1/25 and 2/1. Students meet once per week for a half hour lesson at Horace Mann Middle School in Neenah. The program cost is \$35.00. Registration forms are available in your school office. If you have any questions or need more information, call program coordinator Jill Drake at 729-4736.