

# ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

**Spirituality**---the search for God. We are offered many ways that will lead to a deeper discovery of God-----

.....church attendance, praying and faith formation significantly contribute to a child's spirituality. The faith formation, catechesis, or religious education in a Catholic Church dealt with the statements and questions researchers used to constitute spirituality. Our religion and our spirituality form a bond that cannot be broken.

- I feel a higher power's love for me – *We would say God's love*
- I desire to be closer to a higher power – *We speak of encounter with the Risen Christ and an intimate relationship with Jesus*
- I try hard to use my religious or spiritual beliefs in all parts of my life – *We share the message of Jesus and the teachings of our Church (Commandments, beatitudes, Precepts)*
- How often do you find strength and comfort in your religion or spirituality? *We teach redemptive suffering and God's covenant.*
- When you are worried or have a problem, how often do you depend on your religion or spirituality to help you? *From the simple "Let Go and Let God" to the more profound "Trust in God and God's Church" – it is a part of our religion.*

This is the 2010 Octave of *Prayer for Christian Unity*. Christians are united in one Baptism and we are all witnesses to Christ. Through prayer, we can become better witnesses by:

- praising the One who gives us the gift of life and resurrection (Day 1);
- knowing how to share the story of our faith with others (Day 2);
- recognizing that God is at work in our lives (Day 3);



Twin City Catholic  
Educational System



## REMINDERS

### January

20.....Fundraiser at Ground Round in Neenah 6 p.m-8 p.m.

21.....Grade 5 Field Trip to Ledgeview

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

22.....Liturgy—8:15---Grade 1Z

22....Grade School Night at SMC Girls Basketball

**23...Brit Beat--Waverly Beach**

26.....Cross Country Skiing----grades 4 & 5

28.....Kindergarten to Sterling House

29....Liturgy---8:15—Grade 1K

30....Grade School Night at SMC Boys Basketball

31...Pancake Breakfast & Open House following 9:30 Liturgy

**January 31- February 6 -CSW  
Wines Around the World 2/6**

- giving thanks for the faith we have received (Day 4);
- confessing Christ's victory over all suffering (Day 5);
- seeking to always be more faithful to the Word of God (Day 6);
- growing in faith, hope and love (Day 7);
- offering hospitality and knowing how to receive it when it is offered to us (Day 8).

Would our witness not be more faithful to the gospel of Christ in each of these eight aspects if we witnessed together? *(Articles from Monday Musings, Lee Nagel, Director of National Council of Catechetical Leaders)*

## **Haiti Relief**

All of us have been affected by the news reports of the devastation in Haiti as a result of last week's earthquake. Relief agencies are asking for monetary donations to help those suffering from the disaster. Our fifth grade Student Council would like to raise money in our school community to help with earthquake relief. They are planning a school raffle to take place during Catholic Schools Week. More information will be sent home to families and the project will be explained to our students in the next few days.

## **Report Cards and Conferences**

Second Quarter Progress Reports are being sent home with your children today. There are several sheets in the report envelope. We are in the process of improving the reporting of your child's progress. Please bear with us as we try to make the reporting more valuable to you. At this time, it is contained on several sheets of paper. We will be working to consolidate the papers while still giving you the best reporting process possible.

Along with the progress reports, there is one of two forms for conferences. There is a "Parent Conference Request Form" to fill out if you would like to meet with your child's teachers. Please fill in the form and return it to school as soon as possible. **Please note---this is not a mandatory conference.** There may be a different form in your envelope, a "Teacher Conference Request Form." If you receive this form, your child's teacher wants to have a conference with you. Again, please return the form to school as quickly as possible.

## **Penny War**

Throughout Catholic Schools Week, our students will be engaged in a Penny War. Each classroom has a collection jar for pennies. The purpose of the collection is to raise a million pennies for Tuition Assistance. During CSW, there will be a contest between classrooms to see who can collect the most pennies. If "silver" coins are in a class jar, the total amount of the silver coins will be subtracted from that class's total. For example: A fifth grader may deposit a quarter in a second grade jar. 25c will be subtracted from the total number of pennies in the second grade jar when determining totals at the end of the week. Let's see if we can fill a jar in each classroom!

## Catholic Schools Week

### Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>-----

- Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.---- all students are invited to take part in the Mass. A flyer is attached to the newsletter so that we will have an idea of how many children will attend Mass. We need as many students as possible to participate as the choir. The children will take part in this Mass as they do on Friday mornings.
- Pancake/Porkie Breakfast served from 8-12. Wait staff will be our own 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This breakfast is a thank you to our parish for their support. All are welcome.
- Open House---following 9:30 Mass. All classrooms will be open and teachers present to answer questions about our programs.

### Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> through Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>-----

- Various activities in school---to be announced next week

### Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>-----

- *Wines Around the World*----please come out and celebrate our school community and raise money for our children. See the information sheets attached to the newsletter.

## Registration

Registration materials were mailed to all families who had not previously picked them up at one of the State of the Schools Addresses. Please make sure that you return your registrations for next year **by the priority deadline of Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Classes for next year will be determined by the number of students registered by that date. If you have any questions about the registration process or questions about SMM School, please call the office. I will be more than happy to talk to you.

## Willy Wonka

We had a phenomenal turn out for auditions for the SMC spring musical. We will be contacting families soon to let everyone know about the parts for the play. Thank you to all the students who auditioned. What great interest and enthusiasm!!

## Band Concert

Thank you to Mr. Orth and the Elementary Band for a wonderful performance on Tuesday evening. The talent and musical presentations were very impressive. The next concert will be March 17<sup>th</sup> at the PAC. Mark your calendars for an enjoyable evening.

## 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](mailto: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)

### **Job Opening at Twin City Catholic Educational System**

Job Title: SMC IT Customer Support Specialist

HR Contact: Jeanne Lee 920.722.7796 ext. 807

Email: [jlee@tcces.k12.wi.us](mailto:jlee@tcces.k12.wi.us)

Job Description: This position serves as a first-level IT reference technician for SMC students' laptops and the SMC One-to One Laptop Program. The IT Customer Support Specialist tracks all calls, resolutions and any additional troubleshooting requirements beyond the scope of his/her responsibility. The Specialist works closely with other IT department personnel to identify and proactively resolve problems.

*Please see complete Job Description at TCCES website: <http://www.tcces.org/tcces/centraloffice/hr.html>*

### **Paine Art Museum Program**

The Paine Museum in Oshkosh is having a special Family Discovery Gallery Saturday program called "Meet Snowflake Bentley". It is a live performance by Tom Sutter from Appleton who portrays Bentley from the Caldecott Medal Winning book, *Snowflake Bentley*. (Tom also happens to be the nephew of Jessie Kimberly Paine.) The performances are at noon, 1:30 & 3:00 on January 30, 2010. This information is also on the Paine website. Our fifth graders received a pass to the Paine during their December visit. This would be a worthwhile program to see.