



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**---the search for God.

REMINDERS

January

28.....Kindergarten to Sterling House

29....Liturgy---8:15—Grade 1K

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

January 31st----February 6th is Catholic Schools Week

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

Saturday -February 6

Wines Around the World 6 - 9 p.m.

February

1.....Band and Chorale Concert at Seton Catholic Middle School

2.....Out of Dress Code Day--- Game Day (Indoor or Out depending on weather)

3....All TCCES Liturgy 1:15 p.m.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Each year, during the end of January, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. Especially during times of change and challenge, Catholic schools provide long-term benefits to the nation's youth: a high-quality, faith-based education that will continue to pay dividends for years to come. Our theme this year: "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life," continues that tradition. Our families and our communities can count on Catholic schools to instill the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline in our students that will enable them to fulfill their future roles as committed citizens, productive employees, and effective leaders.

We celebrate Catholic Schools Week beginning this Sunday, January 31st through Saturday, February 6th. A listing of all activities taking place throughout the week is attached to the newsletter. Parents are welcome at any activity and often enjoy having lunch with their children during the week. There are no specific days set aside this year for lunches with a particular grade. The menu for the week is attached. Choose a day when you might like to come for lunch and contact the office before 8:30 that day. We need to have an accurate count so that sufficient amounts of food are ordered. You are also welcome to bring a cold lunch to school, but we ask that fast food and soda not be brought into the cafeteria for children.

Lunch schedule:

11:00-----grade 1

11:05-----grade2

11:10-----preschool

11:15-----Kindergarten

11:25-----grade 3

11:30-----grades 4 & 5



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

Last week a form was included with the newsletter asking for families to let us know if you will be attending the Sunday Liturgy on January 31st. Please return those forms to the office so we have an accurate count of children attending. The children will comprise the choir for that Mass. Another form will be included with the attachments to this newsletter.

Just a note about the TCCES Liturgy on Wednesday.....The Mass will be celebrated this year at St. Margaret Mary. We are delighted to host the Mass for all of the schools, but seating for all of the students will be close. Although we would love to have families join us at the liturgy, there will be standing room only.

Registration

This is a friendly reminder that priority registration for K-12 ends **February 5**. After this date, registration fees jump from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and priority consideration for tuition assistance/grants ends. Classes for next year will be determined by the number of students registered by February 5. It is critical for our planning purposes and offering of contracts to teachers to have accurate numbers by this date. Your timely attention to this matter is greatly appreciated!

Wines Around the World

We are still looking for basket fillers. We need items for birthday parties, balloons, piñata, candles, crepe paper, workout equipment, yoga items, fly fishing items, 6-pack of beer, wine, beach towels, swim goggles, suntan lotion, sun hat, sunglasses, scrapbook items, anything you might not need anymore we will take. Thanks, Tracy Schroeder

WAW is just around the corner! Make sure you have your reservation made. See Mrs. Sajdak in the office.

Haiti Relief

Our fifth grade Student Council is planning a school raffle to take place during Catholic Schools Week. The information has been given to the students in grades K-4. The fifth graders have donated items that would be of interest to the other children here at school. Some of the items that have been donated so far are a radio controlled truck, games, Zhu Zhu pet, craft kits, a large jar of gumballs, puzzles, match box cars, and stuffed animals. The fifth graders went to all of the classrooms on Wednesday to explain the raffle to the other students. The tickets will be sold starting on Thursday morning. The price of the tickets is 50 cents a piece or 3 for a dollar. Tickets will be sold before school near the main entrance, during lunch in the cafeteria, and after school near the main entrance. Students will be selling tickets Thursday and Friday of this week and continue through next week. The drawings will be held at the end of the week.

The National Catholic Education Association is joining with Catholic Relief Services to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The National Council of Catholic Bishops is encouraging participation in collections for the humanitarian efforts of CRS, which has a permanent office and ongoing projects in Haiti and is now mobilizing emergency relief supplies and assistance. If you would like to make a donation to Haiti Relief, you may send it to school.

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!

“Souper” Bowl

With the Super Bowl only two weeks away, we will again collect soup to donate to St. Joseph Food Pantry. As you are doing your own grocery shopping, will you purchase an extra can or two of soup for those less fortunate? This is a wonderful example to your children of being Christ to others. We will have collection boxes located on each floor of the school.

Conferences

Reminder----a “Teacher Request” for conferences was sent home to individual families in the report card. These are for families where the teacher would like to discuss an individual student’s progress. In many cases, the summary of the student progress report and comments contained sufficient information for families. Conferences for the end of the quarter are not mandatory but if you want to schedule a conference, there is a “Parent Request” form attached to the newsletter. A copy was also emailed to all families last week. Please return the form as soon as possible so that the scheduling can be completed. As always, teachers are available by phone, email, or will schedule a meeting at any time.

Guidance Program

On Thursday, February 4th, Master Shane Tassoul from Champions Martial Arts of Appleton will be visiting the K-5th grade students with a presentation on Showing Respect with Character. This will be an introduction. The half hour program will teach lessons of respect and will introduce the students to Master Tassoul’s after school program that the students will have an opportunity to join. The program stresses respect, self-discipline and self-motivation. More information about the program will be sent home on the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week and a flyer will be attached to today’s newsletter.

Ground Round Fundraiser

Last Wednesday, Natalie and Tim Bergstrom were guest bartenders at the Ground Round in Neenah. They enlisted the aid of two other SMM parents, Dan Kearny and Chris Bergstrom, to play music and they also held a raffle. The Ground Round made the first donation of \$100 and an additional \$100 donation for SMM raising the highest total at one of these events. We received a 10% contribution from Ground Round and the cash tips at the bar. At the end of the evening, St. Margaret Mary received a total of **\$2,738.32**. Thank you to Tim and Natalie and to all of the members of the school community who attended the event and helped us raise this money for our school.

Cross Country Skiing

After having snow on the ground for almost two months, we had to cancel our ski classes this week because the snow was too icy to groom a new trail. There will be more snow this winter---after all, this IS Wisconsin! We will reschedule and let families know when the new date will be. Unless you notify us differently, the permission slip signed for this week's trip will be sufficient for the rescheduled trip.

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.

Reading Incentives

Students are encouraged to read independently throughout the school year. Teachers include book reports on differing topics or stories to practice outside of class time as assignments. This is to broaden children's choices of reading material, read for enjoyment, or practice oral reading skills. Companies have realized the importance of reading and recognized that children are sometimes even more willing to read when there is an incentive to doing so. We offer some of these incentives to children. They are completely optional, but can be a positive factor for some children. This is a list of the incentives in which your child may choose to participate:

- The Great America Reading Program provides tickets to Great America Theme Park. Letters were sent home to families explaining the program and the reading log needs to be back to school by February 18th. The teacher will send in the paper work the following week and tickets will be sent to school.
- Did you know that February is National Dental Health month? During the month of February, students in grades K-3 will have an opportunity to participate in a promotion sponsored by Forest View Dental. When your child meets the goal of reading 8 books from February 1 to February 28, they qualify for a FREE spinbrush!! Look for more details to come home with your child in the next few days. So have fun while you brush and read!!
- Fang's Reading Club---The Wisconsin Timber Rattler's Baseball Club sponsors "Fang's Reading Club" in area schools each year. The aim of this activity is to get students excited about reading. While sports such as baseball can add to a child's physical skills, it is reading that develops the intellectual skills necessary for learning. By meeting a goal set by the teacher, each student can earn incentive prizes as well as a free ticket to a game and a voucher for a hot dog and soda. Each year we plan a school outing at the Rattler's game. This year our game is on Sunday, April 25, 2010.
- Pizza Hut certificates are distributed in class to students who read a prescribed number of pages each month. These are very popular.

Time Out of School

The time between Christmas and Easter can be long. Families may look forward to being able to spend some time together taking part in winter activities or escaping to another location for some warmer weather. For this reason, there is a “Winter Break” scheduled at the end of February. It is a four-day weekend, February 19-22. If families choose to be away from school at any other time, please contact the office. If a child is not in school and the office has not been contacted, we call home looking for the child. Even if you have told a teacher, please also let the office know.

Willy Wonka

The students were contacted in school about the results of the auditions. Lists are posted outside of the school office listing the part the student received and the dates of the performances in which they will appear. The lists will also be attached to the newsletter. Thank you to all the students who auditioned. What great interest and enthusiasm!! Mr. Arboleda will be sending a schedule with your children soon.

Candlelight Skiing

Please check out the reminder flyer attached to this newsletter about 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. This has been a great event in the past and it is a fun and relaxing night for parents and kids!

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

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>

State of the School Address

The week of January 11th, Mr. Sullivan presented the State of the Schools address at St. Gabriel, St. Margaret Mary, SMC, and St. Mary Schools. A summary of the presentation is available on the TCCES website or by clicking on this link. <http://tcces.org/documents/TCCESStateoftheSchoolsAddressSummary2010.pdf>

TCCES Foreign Language Offerings

St. Margaret Mary presently offers a class in Japanese after school every Friday night. We are going to expand the Foreign Language offerings by adding the possibility of a class in Arabic on Tuesday and Thursday nights and also the possibility of offering another world language at one of the other TCCES school locations in the near future. The world of the future will require our children to know more about the cultures and languages of others.

Learn the Alif Ba Taa (Arabic ABC'S). It is not all about war and religion. The alphabet and hummus were invented in the Middle East. Did you know that Arabic is spoken in 27 different countries and is the fifth most commonly spoken native language in the world? Did you know that Christianity has a rich cultural seam in the Middle East?

Parents can expect at the conclusion of this course that your child will be able to identify where Arabic is spoken, recite the alphabet, read some simple phrases and be able to write his/her own name in Arabic (from right to left).

Tuesdays & Thursdays-----after school at St. Margaret Mary until 4:30 p.m.

Feb 16, 18 Feb 23, 25 March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 22, 25, 29

Cost is \$100 for 13 hours of instruction and materials. Parents and teachers may attend class with their children at no additional cost.

This after school program is administered by **Belanno**, an after school foreign language school just for children.

More information can be found at www.belanno.com

Request registration by one of the following:

register online at www.belanno.com

email cmoubarak@belanno.com

or call Christina Moubarak at 920.843.2214