

# ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

On the Way to Jerusalem: Joyful Journey or Forced March?  
(Sr. Janet Schaeffler, O.P.)

How do we enter into Lent – and, in reality, each day of our lives – as followers of Jesus? With enthusiasm and Joy? Or with gloom and a sense of “here we go again, can’t wait until it’s over”? Even though there may not be an abundance of paintings of the smiling Jesus, if we really read the Gospels, it becomes obvious that Jesus’ life and message is filled with hope, life, optimism, passion, excitement and joy. That is also Jesus’ call to us – each and every day and during the season of Lent.

Today is Ash Wednesday. We attended Mass and received a cross of ashes on our foreheads. This powerful sign has been used by God’s people for hundreds of years. The cross of ashes tells others that we know we are not perfect. We do not always love God as we should, and we do not always act with love and care toward those around us. On Ash Wednesday we begin a six-week period of prayer, reflection, and almsgiving that will bring us closer to our loving and forgiving God.

As a school, we will focus on a different attribute that we will work on developing. The first week we will work on compassion, followed by: fasting, prayer, forgiveness, renewal, and love. We have been developing compassion through the many projects and services throughout the year, as well as learning how to treat one another. As our Lenten practice, we have been asked to help supply school necessities to Marines in Afghanistan who in turn distribute them to the children with whom they come in contact. This will help our children learn that they belong to a larger world community. The “backpack” list went home on Friday.

Please know that we are most grateful for all you have done this school year with the many drives and collections in which we have taken part. The backpack collection is totally optional, but if you are able to take part, it will



Twin City Catholic  
Educational System



## REMINDERS

### February

17..... 8:15 a.m. Grade 4 K/B  
Ash Wednesday Mass

18..... Lunchtime..... Seton  
Buddy Visits

18..... Field Trip –Grade 1  
to the Planetarium

### **19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>**

NO SCHOOL  
WINTER BREAK

**February 20.....21.....22**  
**St. Margaret Mary**  
**Renewal / Mission 6:30**

24.....PK Bowling Field Trip

24/25.....Preschool Bus Trip  
“Where Do My Friends Live?”

24.....Boy Scout Pack  
Meeting----SMM Cafeteria

26.....Liturgy- -Grade 3H  
8:15 a.m.

March 15----Grade 3 to PAC

mean a huge difference in the lives of children thousands of miles away who have very little in their lives.

### **Wines Around the World**

There is a thank you attached to the newsletter this week from the co-chairs of Wines Around the World. I would also like to add my thanks to all the families who worked so hard to raise almost \$45,000 at our fundraiser this year. The proceeds will go towards upgrading the technology program at our school. There are some very exciting additions that we hope to make to our program including wireless Internet access, mobile laptop computers, and Smart boards. We are looking at costs and the various materials available. We will keep you informed as we begin this exciting process.

### **Penny War**

It took awhile, but we have counted all of the change and pennies from our Catholic Schools Week Penny War. Our students had great fun with the project and collected \$1,057.74 for tuition assistance. This gives us a total of \$1,917.07 toward our quest for \$10,000 or one million pennies! Keep collecting!! We will have another contest (not a penny war) in May. The winner of that contest will be the class that collects the most money. Because all of our students did such a great job, the whole school won an out-of-dress-code day. The fourth grade will receive a second day as they won the war with a negative total of \$3.31.

### **TCCES Elementary Girl's Volleyball**

A survey was sent home last spring trying to judge interest in a start up Elementary skills program in Volleyball. The TCCES Elementary Athletic coordinators have begun the process of organizing an intramural volleyball program for the girls in the 4th and 5th grades. Information is being sent home this week to all girls in the 4th and 5th grades. The groups/teams will be a combination of girls from all three elementary schools. All practices and games will be played at St. Mary Elementary School gymnasium. This new program will be run during the months of March and April. Another form is attached this week. Please turn it in by Friday.

### **Uniform Exchange**

For those of you who are wondering where the Dress Code items have disappeared to, they have been moved into the workroom where some enterprising moms placed them on a portable clothing rack. If you would like to check out any clothing, or add something your child has outgrown, see Mrs. Sajdak or Mrs. Hawkins. When we are a little closer to spring, we will move the clothing rack into the hallway for better visibility. The Lost and Found has also temporarily been moved to the office.

### **TCCES Business Office Closed**

The TCCES Business Office will be closed on Friday and Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> for Winter Break. We hope all of our families welcome the extra two days off to enjoy some family time----whether you are looking at some winter fun----or escaping to a warmer climate to help you think about the coming (soon we hope) springtime---or just enjoying a long weekend at home. Classes will resume on Tuesday.

## Olympics

Your families may be enjoying the Winter Olympics on television. Ask your students what they know about the Olympics. They are taking part in many games in gym class, representing the various countries. What a fun way to learn about the history of the Olympic games and enjoy variations of the games.



Here are some pictures showing our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoying the last Saturday morning Basketball Game. Thanks to all of the parents who helped out with the developmental program.

Check out the pictures outside of the gym when you have some time. There are numerous pictures of the various activities in which are students take part. Thank you to Ms. Loughrin for keeping such a great account of the year's activities.

## Father / Daughter Dance

FACES will sponsor a new event this year---the Father/Daughter Dance on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Save the date. There will be more information shortly. If you would like to work on project, please contact Kathleen McCurdy.

## Reminders

As the year goes on, we sometimes become lax about some of the things that help make the school year run smoothly. Just a few reminders:

- Dress Code - - - students should not wear boots of any kind in school. Also, sweatshirts are to be red, white, or blue---solid pullovers. The only exception are the "Future Zephyr" sweatshirts that may be worn by any student, and the Seton sweatshirts that are for fifth grade only. These are hooded sweatshirts, but the hoods may not be worn in school.
- Drop off - - - when dropping children in the morning at the gym, the area in the front of the school is a drop off. If you want to walk children into the building, please park in back.
- Supers for Lunch - - - a super lunch is available by ordering an additional main entrée in the morning. Many times, young children order a super, but cannot eat that much food and it goes to waste. We will take super orders for students in grades 4 and 5 only. If you think your younger child will be able to eat a super, let the office know. Food Service will need to start charging for ordered supers that are not eaten.

## Girl Scout Project

The Girl Scouts are collecting gently used, but nice clothing for the Community Clothes Closet in Menasha. There are bins set up in the back foyer of the school for the scout collection. If anyone else is cleaning out closets and would like to make a donation, please feel free. The more items of clothing collected, the better.

## Robotics

Come see the excitement! The 2010 Wisconsin VEX Robotics Regional Championship Robotics Tournament is on **Saturday March 6, 2010 at St. Mary Central High School**. Doors Open at 7:00 a.m. with teams arriving for registration and pit setup. Qualifying rounds will begin approximately between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. SMC has 4 teams this year. SMC also reached out to a group of local 8th graders from our feeder schools, mentoring two teams of 8th graders that will also compete. The event is free to the public and concessions are available.

The tournament is all about getting kids interested in science and technology, helping them prepare for their future educational and career goals, working together as a team, and having some fun. Hope to see you there!

## Some Thoughts to Share

Parents choose a child's school for various reasons. One of the primary reasons that parents have chosen St. Margaret Mary's for their children is to have a school that provides a faith based education and the

infusion of values into all areas of a child's day, as well as a challenging educational curriculum. During the course of a seven-hour day, children are involved in numerous activities involving many different teachers and school situations. At times, children may be disruptive, silly, upset, angry, sad, or a whole range of emotions. Being children, they do not always know how to deal with those emotions. Depending on the age or maturity of a child, they may deal with situations in an inappropriate manner. Part of the responsibility of the school, is to help children learn to deal with those situations and emotions. If a child acts inappropriately in school, the teachers and counselor deal with the problem and the consequences. This is usually sufficient to help students recognize the behavior that is expected and to act appropriately. Each child needs an opportunity to make mistakes, learn from them, and be forgiven in a safe environment. This is part of the Christian aspect of the school. If a child's behavior does not improve, we involve the parents. We work in partnership with the family to help children realize their potential in all areas---academic, behavioral, and social.

If you question something that your child mentions happened in school, contact your child's teacher. A child's perception of a problem is often not totally accurate. Chances are, the teacher is aware of any problem and has dealt with it in an appropriate manner. Sometimes there are issues that the staff is working on throughout the year. Remember, we are working with children. There is a great deal of growth that goes on throughout the year. Also remember that we honor the privacy of all of our students. We are happy to talk to all parents about any questions you may have, but we will not discuss other students or how we may be dealing with their issues. I am sure that you appreciate the same consideration for your child.