

ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Celebraton of Support

There is an article attached to today's newsletter entitled, "What Makes Us Happy?" A line from that article says, "Research shows that long-term happiness is correlated with richness in relationships, a sense of purpose and a positive outlook." That sentence speaks to me of the awesome celebration last week for Luke Peters. Friday was a wonderful day in school as the students showed their support for Luke with their t-shirts and jeans. The first graders even lined up to have Luke autograph their shirts! What a surprise when members of the Lawrence University Football Team walked into the cafeteria at the end of lunch. They looked especially huge to the first and second graders and the preschoolers and Kindergarteners sitting at the lunch tables at the time. A friendly game of football during recess was a high point of the day for the first grade. Saturday night's benefit was a great family event. It was so wonderful to see the school, TCCES, the New Hope Congregation, and the entire community coming together to offer their support for the Peters family. A special thanks to all those who helped in any way to make the celebration possible. This is what we are about.

There is a note of appreciation from the Peters Family attached to today's newsletter.

Morality

Morality is the manner in which we live our lives according to the teachings laid down by Christ himself. This concept has been depicted on the bulletin board in the first floor hallway by our fourth graders. The title is "We Make Good Choices." A quilt represents all of the fourth grade students with the caption "We are all made in God's image and likeness."

There are three steps that we ask students to follow when they make a choice:



REMINDERS

April

22....Spring Plant orders due

22/23.....Health & Wellness
speaker (gr. K-2 9:00; gr. 3-5 at
12:30)

24.....Clipper Dash 8:30 a.m.

24.....Confirmation 5:00 Mass

25.....Timber Rattlers Game-
St. Margaret Mary Day 1:05 p.m.

26 to May 7.....MAP testing

27.....First Communion picture
and rehearsal---Bread Party
information

29/30.....Reach Counseling

28.....Kindergarten Screening

29.....Grade 1 Field Trip to
Theda Clark Medical Center

29.....Grade 4 Field Trip to the
Paine Art Center

May

1/2.....First Communion Masses

Step One: Stop and think about your situation.

- What do I want to do or say?
- Is it right or wrong?

Step Two: Consider your reasons for wanting to act in a certain way. Ask yourself:

- How will my choice affect others?
- Will my words or actions help or hurt someone?

Step Three: Look at the situation. Ask yourself:

- Am I being pressured by my friends to do this?
- Am I afraid to do the right thing?

TCCES SPRING PLANT SALE

Think spring! Our last 2009-2010 TCCES sponsored fundraiser to receive tuition credit to your account is here! Choose from \$10 gift cards from four different garden centers or beautiful hanging baskets from Pansies! Be sure to share the order form with family and friends. **Orders are due Thursday, April 22nd** and will be ready for pick up on Thursday, May 6th – just in time for Mother’s Day on May 9th! Order form is attached to today’s newsletter or you can find it on the TCCES web page. Contact Pam Pingel at 751-3771 or tpping@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Clipper Dash / Health and Wellness

Our third annual Clipper Dash will be held **this Saturday, April 24th**. The Clipper Dash is open to ALL students, preschool through 5th grade. This is a great event. This year, with our emphasis on Health and Wellness, it takes on even more meaning. Granola Bars and water will be provided after the event. Please be aware that the granola bars were made in a facility where nuts are also processed.

Students will be receiving their Clipper Dash t-shirts this week. These shirts may be worn in school on Friday over the regular uniform shirt.

This is Odyssey Week for Health and Wellness. Each child received a colored card on which to track the type and amount of exercise during the week. Any activity can be counted in exercise minutes. If a child turns in a card with five hours of exercise, he/she will receive a patch. Please consider having your child bike or walk to school on Thursday---Earth Day. We have bicycle racks on the west side of the gym for students to lock their bikes. If we have an overflow of bikes, students may place bikes in the lobby of the gym. Helmets should be hung on coat hooks or in lockers. We have our speaker scheduled for **Thursday, April 22nd and Friday, April 23rd**. Charlie Wittmack will be speaking to the students about “Seven Ways to Enjoy Summer.” We will follow Charlie’s travels next year as part of our Science and Social Studies classes through interactive technology. Join us for the presentations if you are able.

Fifth Grade Retreat

Our fifth graders participated today in a *Spiritus* Retreat at Mt. Tabor. This was a wonderful day for our 5th graders to reflect on their past years in school and to think about their lives in Middle School. They attended retreat with the students from St. Mary and St. Gabriel Schools.

Talent Show

The Talent Show will be taking place on **Thursday, May 13th**. Sign up sheets for students are available in the entrance hallway of the school. This is a fun family evening! We are also looking for some willing workers. Please see the sign up list and ticket information attached to today's newsletter.

Timber Rattlers Game

Tickets for the Timber Rattlers Game **THIS SUNDAY** will be sent home on Thursday or Friday of this week. We look forward to a fun family centered afternoon at the ballpark for the St. Margaret Mary Game on **Sunday, April 25th at 1:05**. Tickets may be purchased at the ballpark if your family did not order tickets.

Reach Counseling

On Thursday and Friday, April 29th and 30th, we will have a visit from Reach Counseling. They will be here to talk to our students about sexual abuse and protective behaviors. This is done in an age appropriate manner, reinforcing the idea of respect for others and us. In addition, the counselors also talk to the older children about the harm that is caused by "bullying" behaviors. As always, parents are welcome to attend the classroom sessions. I have always been impressed with the way the Reach team relates to the children and the sensitivity with which they relay their message. If you have questions, please call me.

Summer Study Information

Important---Summer Skills orders must be in the office by the end of next week to be ordered through school. Others can be ordered on line.

There are several programs that children can use at home during the summer to keep up their skills. These books are great for independent summer reinforcement. Several companies have already notified us about ordering their books.

- *Summer Skills* is a series of books, one book for each subject; a separate book for each grade level. We have a sample of *Summer Skills* in the office and order forms available. The order form can be filled out and returned to school by April 30th. We will place an order from school and the books will be in before the end of the year.
- *Summer Quest* is also a workbook series. However, it is one workbook per grade, covering all subject areas. Although we do not recommend one over another, *Summer Quest* is purchased on-line and a percentage of sales is returned to St. Margaret Mary. There is information in the office.

- *Summerbook Company* also has a book for each subject and anticipates a child completing a page a day. This book company provided an order book that went home with each child PK-5 today. Books can be ordered through the form provided, over the phone, or by email.
- *Summer Solutions* is another company that provides individual books for each subject area. If books are preordered through school, the cost is \$10 per book, mailed to your home with no shipping or handling charges.

All of these programs provide practice during the summer months to help children retain the knowledge learned during the school year. All are optional, but a great idea for cool, rainy days or to provide “something to do when I’m bored.” Stop in the office to check on these programs.

MAP Testing

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing will take place during the next two weeks for all students in second through fifth grade. Student progress for this year will be tested in Math, Language Arts, and Reading. Results will be sent home along with suggestions for summer recreational reading. Please try to see that your children are in school every day during the next two weeks and come to school after having a healthy breakfast and a good night’s sleep. These will go a long way in helping them do well on the tests.

Rest in Peace

Ruth Froelich, mother-in-law of our piano teacher, Barbara Froelich, passed away last Thursday. Mrs. Froelich will not be in school until the end of the week. Please keep Ruth and the Froelich family in your prayers.

Son-Sational Summer

The TCCES summer program, Son-Sational Summer, will again be offered this year. In addition to the K-5 program, this year a 3 and 4-year-old preschool program will be offered. A brochure is available on the TCCES website.

Knights of Columbus

We have an opportunity to purchase tickets for a Milwaukee Brewers Baseball game through the Knights of Columbus. This fraternal organization has been very generous to Catholic schools. There is information attached to the newsletter about ticket purchases and how funds can be returned to schools.

Downtown Neenah Gift Certificates

See the flyer attached to today’s newsletter. Here is your opportunity to support Downtown businesses and save some money. Notice that there is a pre-order opportunity.

Vacation Raffle

Tickets are available in the school or parish office for a chance at a vacation. Please notice that there has been a change of dates for the purchase, drawing, and announcement of winners. Sorry for any confusion. There is a flyer attached to today’s newsletter.

Dress Code

We will change to our "Warm Weather Dress Code" on the first of May. Students may wear shorts (knee length; non-athletic), capri pants, and sandals with backs. There will be a table set up outside the office with "Uniform Exchange" clothing. Chic Repeat in Downtown Neenah will also be carrying a variety of dress code items for your children.

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten screening for students who will be in Kindergarten for the 2010-1011 school year will be on Wednesday, April 28th. Letters were sent home last week for all students registered for Kindergarten. **If your child attends PreKindergarten at St. Margaret Mary, we will test those students during the normal school day.** If you know of other families who would like to register for Kindergarten, please inform them that our screening is taking place at the end of April.

Touch a Truck

Neenah Park and Recreation Department sponsors a free event called "Touch a Truck." We have taken our preschoolers to this event since it began. However, it has become extremely popular and is very crowded. After taking the PK class last year, we decided that this is not a safe environment for a field trip, but would encourage parents to take their own children. A flyer for the event was included last week.

Spring Break Dates Change for 2010-2011 School Year

After publishing our preliminary calendar, TCCES learned that both Neenah and Menasha public schools have chosen the week of March 21-25, 2011 for spring break. Based on this new information, TCCES decided to change our spring break to that same week rather than the week of March 28, 2011 as previously announced. When possible, we align our spring break with Neenah and Menasha public schools to coordinate busing schedules.

Trip Opportunity

Myrtle Beach Summer Vacation Villa for a Week - For Sale

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our high bidder for the Wines around the World grand prize trip to Myrtle Beach is unable to make these trip dates and is interested in re-selling this trip to someone else. If you were interested in the trip before, please take another look at your calendars and let us know if you'd like to purchase it from him. Price is negotiable, but will go to the highest bidder that is interested by April 30. Please contact Patti Purcell if you are interested in this trip at 558-4425 or purcellscamp@new.rr.com.

Trip details:

Celebrate the end of the school year with your family in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Spend one week (June 5-12, 2010) at Harbour Lights, a beautiful 4-star resort, in a 2-bedroom-2bath, 1150 sq. foot villa with occupancy for 6-8 people. Have the summer vacation of a lifetime in the city that Southern Living magazine has awarded "favorite beach, favorite family destination and favorite weekend getaway!" Also awarded "America's Top 100 Great Public Courses" by Golf Digest Magazine, Myrtle Beach is well known to golfing enthusiasts. But Myrtle Beach is about much more than golf. In fact, this 60-mile stretch of

oceanfront vacationland features some of the best beaches, shopping, restaurants and family entertainment you could ever ask for. See attached "Sunny Fun Smilebox" slideshow for photos of villa and Myrtle Beach highlights

<http://www.bluegreenonline.com/explore/resortDetail.aspx?ResortID=8>

Spring Tulips

Did you notice the beautiful tulips in the front of our school building? They were planted last year in memory of Judy Stoffel's father by the fifth grade class. Each time we see the beautiful blooms, we can remember him in prayer.

YMCA Strong Kids Campaign

The YMCA is sponsoring their annual campaign. There is a brochure with today's attachments to explain the services of the Y and to ask for support. Interested individuals may print the pledge form and return it to the Y. Last year, our school families earned a banner for their support of the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign.