



ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Morality

Throughout this year, and all the years that students have attended St. Margaret Mary, our goal has been to help students learn sound moral principles, develop good consciences, and make ethical decisions. As we focus this month on **Morality** as a hallmark of Catholic Identity, we are reminded of all of the lessons, service projects, ideas presented in classes, and the models that we place before our children to help them develop a sound moral compass. These are the “seeds” that are planted. We help to nourish the “fruit.”

“As for the seeds that fell among the thorns, they are the ones who have heard but as they go along are choked by the anxieties, riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seeds that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart and bear fruit through perseverance.” Lk 8: 14-15

First Communion

Sunday is First Communion Day for 26 of our second graders. They will receive at four different Masses on Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers.

Health and Wellness

Last week, our Health & Wellness Committee organized Odyssey Week as a reminder to get outside and be active and enjoy the spring weather. This week also coincided with Earth Day, so we were pleased that many students walked or rode bikes to school to celebrate. For participating in an hour of exercise each day (counting the trek to school, playing with friends, soccer practice, recess, etc.), students who turn in the activity cards that were distributed on Monday, will receive a patch.

Other activities were planned for this week. Our third annual *Clipper Dash* took place on Saturday morning.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

REMINDERS

April

28.....Kindergarten Screening

29/30.....Reach Counseling

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

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

30.....Liturgy 8:15 a.m. Gr. 3R

May

1/2.....First Communion Masses

4.....Spring Concert

5.....School Days in Kaukauna
Grades 2 & 3

5.....PK classes to Dairy Queen

5.....Gr. 4 to Rat River

6.....Flower Sale pick-up

7.....Liturgy 8:15 a.m. Grade 2
followed by May Crowning

8.....Band Festival at FVLA

9.....Mothers' Day

Our students and families had a great time running around the track and enjoying a snack and some time together as community. Each child who ran was awarded a medal. We even completed the running before the rain started to fall. Thank you to all the parents who helped with the event, especially the Schroeders, the Lamberts, and the Brownells.

The highlight of our Odyssey Week was a visit by Charlie Wittmack, a world-class explorer and adventurer who has been organizing major expeditions during the last fifteen years. He spoke to the entire K-5 student body on Thursday about his climb of Mount Everest. The students were riveted to their seats (or to the gym floor) while listening to Charlie and watching the slides from his trip. On Friday, Charlie spoke to the individual 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade groups about his plans for a World Triathlon. Those students will have the opportunity to follow along on the trip with lesson plans, interactive media, email, and video. We will be participating in this event and following along as part of our studies in science, social studies and religion.

The staff is excited about the Odyssey curriculum that will provide students with opportunities to explore real-world issues through authentic learning experience in collaborative learning environments. The curriculum uses a problem-solving approach, technology, and team collaboration so that students are actively aware that they are key participants in the expedition. They will make real life contributions to the journey.

We will be sending home information about the program this year and throughout next year. There is a summary of the World Triathlon attached to the newsletter. A summary of the message that was heard by the students in last week's assembly will be included in next week's newsletter.

Timber Rattler Game

We were not fortunate enough to escape the rain and wind that followed the Clipper Dash. This was an official rain out----that means that YOUR TICKETS ARE GOOD FOR ANOTHER GAME. You may use your tickets at any game throughout this season. We tried to schedule another SMM night, but all home games are booked by schools that participated in Fang's Reading Club. Enjoy an evening of summer baseball!

Piano News

Congratulations to **Rachel Dulcamara (Gr. 5)** who earned an Honorable Mention in the very competitive Lawrence Contemporary Piano Festival on Saturday, April 17 at Lawrence University. Rachel was recognized at the April 25 Honors Recital for scoring high points in performance, theory and musicianship. She played two memorized pieces from different musical styles, including a mandatory Contemporary piece and was quizzed verbally on aspects of her selections.

Other SMM students involved in the Festival were: **Dan Bomier (Gr. 3)**, **Gianna Gallucci (Gr. 2)**, **Alex Ullrich (Gr. 2)** and **Rachel Zimmerman (Gr. 2)**, all of whom scored very well.

Kaylan Adler (Gr. 3) was one of the winners at the 2010 Lawrence Academy of Music Spring Piano Festival on Saturday (April 17). Students from kindergarten through 12th grade participated in the

competition. She played her piano piece at the Winners Recital at the Harper Hall on the Lawrence University campus on Sunday (April 25).

Congratulations to our talented students!!

LAST CHANCE TO WIN A VACATION

DRAWING: Thursday, April 30, 2010 – 11:30 A.M. at SMM Parish Center 439 Washington Ave. Neenah
WHERE TO: 27 different resort locations in the U.S.

WHAT: a one-week stay at the resort location you choose (estimated prize value \$1,500)
(Daytona Beach, Vegas, Gatlinburg, Kissimmee, Branson, Orlando, River Ranch--and many more)

WHEN: Resort available until February 2011

WINNER ANNOUNCED: St. Margaret Mary Masses on May 1 and May 2, 2010
Tickets available at St. Margaret Mary parish and grade school offices!

Tickets: \$5.00 each or 5/\$20.00

Proceeds to Benefit St. Margaret Mary Parish

Talent Show Reminder

The Talent Show is in a few weeks ----- Thursday, **May 13th**. There are over 30 children signed up to participate. We are still in need of parent volunteers to help set up/clean up/ and make lasagna. Please email Tamara Hasz at htamara@msn.com to volunteer. It is our families that make this event a success. Also-----our first rehearsal is next **Monday, May 3rd**. Children will need to attend one of the practice times so that the timing and planning of the talent show can take place. Sign up sheets for students are available in the entrance hallway of the school. Please see the sign up sheet and ticket information attached to today's newsletter.

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 ourselves. 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.

SMC Girls Soccer Grade/Middle School Night

SMC invites you to you to attend Grade/Middle School Night on Monday, May 17, 2010 as the SMC Girls Soccer Team challenges Kewaunee at 7:00 p.m. Each student will receive a coupon for a beverage and popcorn and will be entered in a drawing for some great prizes. Come out to see the excitement of SMC girls soccer!



Last Volleyball Game for Grades 4 & 5 Girls----April 21, 2010

MAP Testing

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing is taking place this week and next week 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.

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.

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.

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.

Summer Study Information

Research from Johns Hopkins University regarding children's learning indicates:

1. All students experience learning loss when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer.
2. Summer loss equaled about one month per grade-level subject during the summer.
3. The subject of math showed the greatest overall loss with students losing 2.6 months in math computation skills.

Important---Summer Skills orders must be in the office by the end of the 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.

Announcements

- Mrs. Tews is requesting plastic bag donations (the type that you get from grocery stores). They will be recycled at the end of the project.
- The Great America tickets that were earned by 48 students through a reading project will be sent home on Friday, April 30th. They are in individual envelopes with the child’s name on the outside. Please look for them on Friday.
- The Health & Wellness Committee informed us of the Food Revolution show. The program has now ended, and Jamie Oliver is looking for people to sign a petition that he will present in Washington to try to make changes in FDA regulations for healthier choices as an option for schools. The petition will be available to all TCCES families in the weekly news items that are sent from Ann Engelhard in the TCCES Advancement Office. You may choose to sign the petition to make changes that could positively benefit our children's health.
- Sign up sheets for grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 for Fall Soccer are attached to the newsletter. Please return them to school as soon as possible. We have to have numbers to set up the teams for next year.
- The Activate Fox Cities Group has provided information about the Badger State Games. There are two flyers attached to the newsletter.
- Encore is a new Dance Studio in the area. A flyer is included in this week’s newsletter.
- Valley Academy of the Arts is sponsoring a Performing Arts Camp in June. A brochure is being sent home with all children and is included with attachments to the newsletter.
- Winagamie Junior Golf Academy is again offering an instructional program to teach golf skills along with life skills. This program is funded through the Winagamie Golf Foundation. A flyer is attached to the newsletter and more information is available in the office.
- The Extended Care Preschool students had a visit from Shelley Dorner, mother of PK student Jack Dorner. She read a book to the class and then helped the students plant acorns. See the flyer about care of baby oak trees.
- Our **Spring Concert** is just around the corner---**Tuesday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m.** All students should arrive at school at 6:15 and go directly to their classrooms. Dress for the concert is “Dress your Best” with all students wearing appropriate styles for a school performance. The doors to the school will open at 6:00 p.m. Teachers will not be in the building before that time.
- Spring Band Concert is **Tuesday, May 11th at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Mary Elementary School. A letter went home to all band students.