



# ST. MARY

# THE BUSS TRIP

## Newsletter

*Mission Statement: St. Mary Elementary School, in collaboration with its parents, educates the "whole child" in a Catholic environment. This allows every child to meet the challenges of a continuously changing society.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

- Halloween Party @ 5:30 pm in the gym

#### Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

- No School/Diocesan Teacher In-service

#### Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

- No School / Long Weekend

#### Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

- Halloween
- Daylight Savings Time Ends

#### Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

- All Saints Day

#### Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

- Mock Lockdown Practice

#### Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

- St. Mary Parish Bazaar

#### Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

- Preschool Story Time @ 1-2

#### Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

- Jumbo Gumbo @ Waverly Beach



### Happy Birthday!

Sophia Dionne	10/29
Claire Reuss	10/29
Elizabeth Oldenburg	11/01

### Catholic Identity ... The Environment

The Season of Halloween is just around the corner. Most people associate Halloween with its secular and pagan origins. However, we, as Catholics should be aware of the Christian influence of this event. Halloween traces back to an early Christian celebration called "All Hallows Eve" or the recognition of the saints or loved ones who have gone before us and now share in the fullness of eternal life with God, the Father in heaven. As you take your child through your neighborhood collecting enormous amounts of candy and goodies, make sure that you take the time to let them know the deeper meaning of Halloween. Take a moment to pray for those loved ones and souls who have died. You may want to consider a costume of your favorite saint. Listen to the words of the **Book of Revelation 7: 9-14**

One of the elders asked me, "Do you know who these people are that are dressed in white robes?" Do you know where they come from? "Sir", I answered, "you must know." Then He told me:

"These are the ones who have gone through the great suffering. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and have made them white.

The Lamb will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to streams of life-giving water, and God will wipe all tears from their eyes."



## POPS Halloween Party

Our POPS, annual Halloween Party for the school families is tonight from 5:30-7:00 pm. There will be food, games, and prizes for everyone. It is a wonderful event for the children and the parents too. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade **Haunted Closet** has a spooky swamp theme this year. It is sure to be a big hit with the younger kids. Costumes are optional but they certainly are welcomed. Come and enjoy the Halloween fun and bring a neighborhood friend if you like.



## Jumbo Gumbo

On **Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**, TCCES will sponsor their elementary fundraising event called **Jumbo Gumbo at Waverly Beach**. This important event is used to defray some of the costs of the elementary schools.



The average cost to educate one student in the TCCES system is over \$4,200. You can see that your tuition only covers a small portion of the whole cost and this event is one way to balance this discrepancy. It is a wonderful night to socialize with friends, meet new ones, enjoy some delicious soups, and listen to some great music (Vic Ferrari and others). Tickets are \$50/person but that price includes 3 \$10 chances in the drawings. Who knows you may walk away from the evening with a \$4,000 home makeover, a 42" flat screen TV, or a \$1,000 in cash. Mark the date, bring a friend, and enjoy a fantastic evening while supporting the school system. Anyone who would like to enter the prize drawing ... tickets are \$10 each. Contact the school office for more information.

## Teacher In-service

Here is a quick reminder regarding no school for the students (Pre3 through Grade 5) on both Thursday (10/29) and Friday (10/30). On Thursday, the teaching staff will be attending a Diocesan In-service day at Xavier High School and Friday, there is a day off school scheduled.

## Health Department Update

The Menasha Health Department should be providing all school families with information about the H1N1 vaccine clinic schedule within the next few weeks. The elementary school children will be scheduled in the late afternoon/early evening at Maplewood Middle School in Menasha. The exact time and date has not been determined. They will not receive vaccinations during school hours. All children must be accompanied by their parent to receive the vaccination. There will be a choice of two vaccines (nasal or injections) at the site. The free vaccines are only for children and other targeted high risk groups. If you have questions about the vaccinations, please contact the **Health Department (967-3520)** or your personal physician.



## TCCES Food Service News

In these tough and challenging economic times, please know that we offer free and reduced price lunches for those who qualify. You may fill out an application form at any school or contact the TCCES Food Service Office at 967-0107. If you did not qualify before, but your employment status has changed, you may want to consider this option for your child/ren. This is a federally subsidized program and all information provided is kept confidential.

**Lynn Graves, TCCES Food Service Director**

## H1N1/illness Update

This past week St. Mary Elementary School has been hit pretty hard with illness and flu. During this time of the year our absentee rate is usually around 3-4% and this week we were at 17-21%. The school has taken a variety of steps (hand sanitizer, wiping down the desks, etc) to lessen the effect of illness but it still occurs. If your child is sick, please keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours. As we continue to work together, this illness will eventually pass.

## **Daylight Savings Time Ends**

This weekend marks the end of daylight savings time. Remember to set your clock one hour back on Saturday.

## **End of the Quarter**

On Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> the first quarter comes to an end. Next week, we will distribute the student's first quarter report cards. The reports will be issued on **Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please look in your child's backpack for their report. If you have any questions, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

## **Lockdown Practice**

We will practice a simulation lockdown situation on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> around 2:00 pm. Officer Jeff Jorgensen of the Menasha Police Department will explain the details of a lockdown situation to the students in an assembly format and then proceed to the practice portion. For your information, a lockdown can occur when there is a stranger in the building or an unsafe situation occurring in the vicinity of the school. This practice is part of our safety precautions that the school follows.

## **Mulberry Farms**

The students in Kindergarten and Preschool visited Mulberry Farm in St. John this past week. They were able to see and pet a variety of animals at the farm. In addition, they could choose a pumpkin and bring it home for Halloween. One of the favorite animals was a 600-pound pig that they saw.



## **Parish Bazaar Weekend**

On Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Parish Craft Sale in the gym from 9 am to 2 pm. The next day, St. Mary Parish will celebrate their annual Parish Bazaar. This celebration includes a delicious chicken dinner that begins at 10:00 am and continues to serve until 1:00 pm. The dinner will be served in the Parish Hall. Beginning around 10 am, the parish will have their silent auction, stage raffles, and children games in the gymnasium. Come and support the parish and enjoy the festivities. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office. You do not have to be present to win. There will be 17 winners in the raffle.