



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

Thursday, December 1st

- 1st Reconciliation (2nd grade)

Friday, December 2nd

- School Liturgy @ 8:10 am
- Book Fair Family Night 5-7 pm

Sunday, December 4th

- 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 5th

- Eve of St. Nick

Wednesday, December 7th

- PK 4 Coffee/Donuts @ 7:30 am

Thursday, December 8th

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day) / Mass

Tuesday, December 20th

- Christmas Program @ 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

December Birthdays

Noelle Schumacher	12/3
Madeline Alft	12/5
Oscar Arroyo	12/7
Charlea Moede	12/19
Octavia Strohm	12/27
Trenton Smith	12/27
Sophie Hungerford	12/31

Catholic Identity ... The 3rd Commandment

"Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day."

We have begun the wonderful Season of Advent. With Black Friday over and now the rush of Christmas preparation beginning, we sometimes wonder how does this religious season fit and what a dichotomy it is to the secular version that we allow to capture our lives.

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11: 1)

Advent is a time of quiet, joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and also a time to remember our calling as Catholic Christians ... servants, and that we wait for Christ to come again at the end of time. With that thought in mind, there are three things that we can do with our family during this season to create the **"reason for the season"**. First is prayer. Parishes offer Advent prayer books that can provide for those quiet moments that we can communicate with God. During this season, the students will be reading a morning Advent prayer about the story of Jesus. Secondly, make sure that you have an Advent wreath some place in your home. Placing the wreath on your kitchen table is a great location. The wreath is a special symbol of this season and communicates the promise that God would send his son to be the Light to the world.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9: 2)

Lastly, we need to remember our call to be servants to others. We can do this by taking part in the different service projects that the parish or school is offering. God blesses us with many gifts. The Advent season is a time to remember those who have much less and give to those who need our help. Let this Advent be a new beginning for your family.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System



The Power of Prayer

The St. Mary student body and staff will be praying this week for the needs, desires, and concerns of the **Jody & Vicki Goss Family (Ava - Gr 3, Carlie - Kdg), Jack & Ann Griffith Family (Anna Gr 5), Rebecca Lenz Family (Reagan - Pre-3), Mrs Bowen's Family.** Please join us as we keep these families in our prayers this week.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The students in **Miss Corsmeier's second grade** classroom have been using their religion class to prepare for the reception of their second sacrament ... the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On **Thursday, December 1st**, the students will receive the sacrament from Father Paul. It will take place at **St. John Church at 6:00 pm**. Please keep the students in your prayers as they embrace this wonderful sacrament for the first time.



Early Enrollment Incentive

TCCES is once again offering an early enrollment incentive for students entering the transitional grades (**Kindergarten, Gr 6, and Gr 9**) for 2012-13. The early enrollment period will take place between **November 21st and December 21st** (no extensions given). For those families who qualify, you will have the following benefits:

1. A deduction in your tuition of \$100 for Kindergarten, \$150 for 6th grade, and \$200 for 9th grade
2. Your \$50 non-refundable registration fee will be applied to your tuition amount.

If you have any questions regarding this incentive program, don't hesitate to contact **Jennifer Miller (722-7796 Ext 206) at SMC**. Attached to this email are the anticipated tuition rates for 2012-13.

Early Enrollment Coffee/Donuts

St. Gabriel, St. Margaret Mary and St. Mary Elementary Schools are holding a coffee / donut hour for PK4 parents who are interested in learning more about our kindergarten program. The Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Hawley and Mr. Buss will be available to answer questions on **Wednesday December 7th from 7:30-8:30 am in the Conference Room at school**. Stop in for a hot cup of coffee and learn the difference a TCCES education can make in your child's life. Walk-ins are welcome.

The Season of Advent

We are now in the Season of Advent. During this wonderful season, we, as a school, began this season by blessing our Advent wreaths. As part of our service to the community, we will be collecting children's items for the Harbor House (www.harborhouseonline.org) and the Christine Ann Shelter (www.christineann.net). As the items come in from the students, we will place them around our school tree, so they can see our effort to serve others. Please refer to the collection sheet and be generous this season. See the e-mail attachment. Each day, we will read from an Advent prayer book called **Make Room for Joy**. Hopefully, the students will understand the reason for this season centers upon what we can give to others ... not what we receive.



Offertory Envelopes

The students will be taking home envelopes they can use during the Advent season. Please read the letter that is attached from Father Paul regarding these envelopes. We encourage you to use them with your children.

Book Fair Announcement

St. Mary Elementary School's Scholastic Book Fair began today. It will continue Wednesday Nov 30, **Thursday Dec 1 and Friday Dec 2nd from 7:30 – 3:30. Mark your calendar for Family Night on Friday Dec 2nd from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.** Books are a wonderful gift and they can open the minds of young children.

Through some generous sponsorship, all students and teachers will be receiving a free book to add to their personal library. Our sponsors this year are **1st National Bank of the Fox Valley, McClone Insurance Agency, and the Franzoi & Franzoi Law Firm.** We are very grateful to them for helping to build literacy in our school. We hope to see you on Friday!



The 1st Sacrament

The students in Mrs. Bowen's first grade have been studying about their 1st and only sacrament that they have received but don't remember... Baptism. As a culminating activity, Mr. Don Schultz was able to relieve their first sacrament by having the students participate in a mock baptism. The students took the parts of parents, sponsors, and



relatives so they could relive their special sacrament reception and enrollment in God's family.



TCCES Holiday Office Hours

Here are the TCCES office hours during the holiday season.

Christmas Break - Business Office hours: Tues Dec 27th to Thurs - Dec 29th (8:00 - 3:00 pm)

Closed Friday Dec 23rd, Monday Dec 26th and Friday Dec 29th

Regular Office hours resume January 2nd.

Rotary Dictionary

Each year, the Menasha Rotary group assists schools with the promotion of literacy. They do this by



providing a new children's dictionary to all third grade students in the Menasha School District. Last week, Mr. Peter Pfundtner and Mr. Richard DeKleyn, representing the Rotary, visited Mrs. VanLieshout's classroom to present the students with their dictionaries.

Paine Art Museum

Last week, Mrs. Tews took the 5th grade class to the **Paine Art Museum in Oshkosh** to view the many exhibits that they have on display. The students were able to observe examples of art in various mediums and see the endless possibilities/opportunities that they can do in art.



Guidance Information

In your email attachment is an article from Mrs. Whiting, our TCCES Elementary Guidance Counselor. It is the first of a 3-part article to parents on helping your child choose/create friendships. You may want to check out this informational piece.





Scrip Announcement

Mid **January** , St. Mary Elementary School will be offering scrip for purchase through the school office for our parents, who use it to obtain tuition credit. You will be able to **order only** and obtain the percentage that is listed on the order form less the TCCES administrative costs. Therefore, if you purchase Express Scrip at 10% and order \$100 ... \$2 will go to administrative costs and \$8 will go to tuition credit. More information will be coming later this month. This is a great way to reduce your tuition costs. Some of our families earn as much as \$1000 off tuition.

Children’s Christmas Eve Mass

“Calling all shepherds, wise men, sheep, and Holy Family members, singers, readers, musicians and gift bearers...

Would your child like to be a part of the Christmas Eve pageants at St. John’s and St. Mary’s?

We need you to play the part of Mary and Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Wisemen, readers, and for gift bearers.

For the St. Mary’s mass, contact Charlene Brumbeloe at 991-1971 or Charlene.Brumbeloe@kcc.com.

Practice & costume fitting will be after the 10:30am mass on Sunday, December 18 at St. Mary’s church.

For parts in the St. John’s mass, please call the Faith Formation Office or the Parish Office at 722-7714.

Magazine Sale Pig Races

As part of our magazine drive, the classrooms were able to participate in a pig race. Each class that obtained 50% participation rate



received a pig to race. All classes achieved this goal, therefore they were able to race a pig. As you can see from the pictures, all the students had fun cheering on their pig. 1st place pizza party went to the 1st grade class and 2nd place root beer floats went to the Kindergarten class. Congratulations to everyone for another successful sale.



Christmas Program Schedule

In order to make sure that Mr. Arboleda is scheduled in the correct schools on the Christmas program day, the following changes need to be made to our letter day rotation.

- Switch Dec 6th to a D day and make Dec 7th a C day – St. Gabriel’s program.
- Switch Dec 15th to a C day and makde Dec 14th a D day - St. Margaret Mary’s program.
- Switch Dec 20th to a B day and make Dec 21st an A day – St. Mary’s program.

Please note these changes to your December calendar.

Thank you.