



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, December 16th

- 4th grade trip to Heritage Hill

Thursday, December 17th

- Guidance & Witness Wear

Tuesday, December 22nd

- Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal @ 1:00 pm
- Christmas Program @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 23rd

- Christmas Prayer Service @ 11:10 am
- Christmas Break begins @ 11:30 am

Friday, December 25th

- Christmas Day



Happy December Birthdays!

Noelle Schumacher	12-3
Madeline Alft	12-5
Oscar Arroyo	12-7
Elizabeth Whiting	12-14
Andrew Long	12-23
Emma Huss	12-23
Octavia Strohm	12-27
Mary Ahles	12-31

Catholic Identity ... Prayer

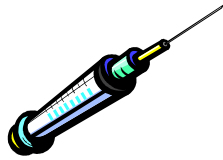
It seems hard to believe but the Season of Advent is quickly coming to a close. On Sunday, we celebrated **Gaudete Sunday** or the third Sunday in the Season of Advent. The word "Gaudete" comes from the Latin for "rejoice" and rejoicing is actually what we should be doing because our salvation, the gift of Jesus is very close now. As I stated in last week's newsletter, there are many things to be thankful for in our lives. The readings this Sunday focus upon the joyfulness of this special season. We hear in the Gospel reading from St. Luke (**3: 10-18**) what we can do to make us ready for the gift of Jesus. St. John the Baptist is very specific with the people as to what they can do based on their calling/occupation in life. He focuses on three things ... **share, care, and be fair**. Share what you have with others. A lot of times we possess more than what we can use or even want. Therefore, share from your surplus. Care for others by being there to offer a shoulder for support or an ear to listen to the concerns of another. This time of the year can be very difficult for some because of memories of the past. Someone who cares is all they need. And lastly be fair and just in your dealings with others. In the words of St. John the Baptist, "do not practice extortion, or falsely accuse others." In these last few days before the Christmas celebration, the greatest gift that you can give yourself is to ... share, care, and be fair with others. It will make the Christmas season and your life more fulfilling.



Latest H1N1 Update

You should have received a letter from the Menasha Health

Department updating you on the H1N1 vaccination clinics for Menasha residents. The next clinic will be held on **Thursday, December 17th from 2:30-5:45 pm** at the Menasha Health Department (316 Racine St). Only approved appointments are able to receive the vaccinations. To make an appointment you must call the Health Dept. at 967-3520.



Season of Advent

We are in the last week of our Advent Season at school. As we continue to do those last minute preparations for our homes, don't forget those last minute items that you can do for others here at school. If you haven't donated an item for the Community Clothes Closet or become a participant in our Smile Train offering, please consider them as part of your Advent preparations. The students are very close to their goal of 2 operations (\$500) for the Smile Train program. Help us in our endeavors to make this Christmas special for others.



We will have our closing Advent prayer service on **Wednesday, December 23rd at 11:10 am** in front of the school office. Please join us if you are able.

St. Mary Christmas Program

A sure fire way to put yourselves in the Christmas spirit is to listen and watch young children singing and acting. The St. Mary Elementary School Christmas Program is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:30 pm** in the school gymnasium. Our theme for our program is the "Voices of Christmas". For those individuals who would like to view the program, but do not like to venture out on cold, snowy, wintry nights, there will be a dress rehearsal at 1:00 pm that is also open to the public. Mark your calendar for this special event. Bring a friend or neighbor.



Student Council Correction

In last week's newsletter, there was an article about the Student Council's donation of \$154 for the "Pennies for Pets" program. The funds from this project were directed to the **Neenah Animal Shelter** not the Humane Society as was previously stated. There is a difference in the philosophy of how these two organizations care for animals and it is important to the students that this correction is made.

US Cellular Promotion

You probably have seen the information about the US Cellular Promotion awarding 10 schools \$100,000. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to help and support our TCCES system with your vote. It is very simple to do. Just stop in the US Cellular stores by Target or the one at the entrance into the Fox River Mall and ask for a voting card. It took me one minute to receive my voting code card and another minute to vote online. What a wonderful Christmas present for our school system if we would be awarded the \$100,000. Remember the voting is being directed to St. Mary Central High School but the award will affect all schools in the system. Be sure to use the zip code of 54956 for St. Mary Central High School. The deadline to vote is **January 15, 2010**. We estimate that we will need over 15,000 votes for SMC to qualify. Get out and vote and make a difference!

St. Mary's Children's Christmas Eve Mass

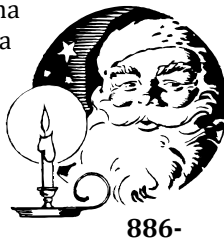
As part of the Christmas tradition of St. Mary's church, the children are invited to participate in the nativity scene during the 4pm mass on Christmas Eve. Children singing in the Kidz Choir are able and encouraged to participate. If your child would like to be part of the nativity scene after communion, we will have practice and costume fitting after the 10:30 am mass, this Sunday, 12/20. We also still need a few readers. Please contact Charlene Brumbeloe at Charlene.Brumbeloe@kcc.com or at 991-1971.

St. Mary Central High School's Registration Night – January 13, 2009

SMC's Registration Night for Incoming Freshmen and Transfer Students is on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. Incoming students and their parents will have the opportunity to register for 2010-2011 classes and meet with the SMC Faculty, Administration and Guidance Department. For additional information please call Jennifer Miller, Director of Admissions at 722-7796 x206.

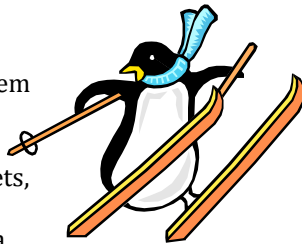
Santa Phone

For over thirty years the Neenah-Menasha Noon Optimist Club has sponsored "Santa Phone" and will again this year. This is a safe, no cost, and convenient opportunity for children to talk with Santa. By special arrangement with the North Pole, children may call and talk with Santa. The local phone number is **886-9424**. You may call from 5-8 pm beginning on Monday, December 14th through Thursday, December 17th. If you have never used this service with your children, give it a try. It's a lot of fun!



Cross Country Skiing

Did you know that the TCCES system has cross-country skis that your family can use at a very low reasonable rate? We have many sets, ranging in size from kids in about Pre4 through adult men's. This is a great opportunity to try a fantastic family sport that your kids can enjoy throughout their lives. Here are the details. Your family may use the skis as often as you like for a flat rate of only \$40/family (seasonal) or you may opt to pay per outing at \$5/person (\$20 maximum/family). For more details or to reserve skis for your family, call **Heather Higgins at 209-1022 or Molly Griffin at 420-4398**. All money obtained through rentals is used for the maintenance of the equipment.



TCCES State of the Schools Address and Registration Information for the 2010-2011 School Year

Mr. Michael Sullivan, TCCES President, will present the annual TCCES State of the Schools Address on January 10, 11 and 12. The same presentation will be given each evening. All TCCES parents are encouraged to attend one of these informative presentations. Mr. Sullivan will discuss the steady progress of the TCCES schools, our growing enrollment and the new registration process. In addition, registration packets will be available for 2010-2011 school year. Please join Mr. Sullivan and the TCCES Administration on one of the following evenings:

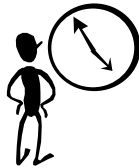
- Sunday, January 10, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary Elementary School's Gymnasium
- Monday, January 11, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Margaret Mary School's Gymnasium
- Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel School's Cafeteria

Please contact Ann Engelhard at aengelhard@tcces.k12.wi.us or 722-7796 ext. 201 for additional information.

TCCES Holiday Business Office Hours

During the holidays, the TCCES Business Office will be as follows:

Wednesday, Dec 23rd: 7:30am to 4:30 pm
Thurs/Friday, Dec 24th & 25th: Closed
Mon- Wed, Dec 28-30th: 8:00 am to 3:30 pm
Thurs/Fri, Dec 31-Jan 1st: Closed



IMAJN Mass

IMAJN Liturgies in January and February 2010 will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Therefore, January dates will be the 10th and the 24th; February's dates will be the 14th and the 28th. Mark your calendars.

BritBeat

Don't miss BritBeat, America's premier tribute to the Beatles, performing live at Waverly Beach! The show, sponsored by Bergstrom Automotive, begins at 8:00 p.m. on **Saturday, January 23**. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.