



# 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.*

## Catholic Identity ... The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

### "Honor your Father and your Mother."

On Sunday, as a Catholic community, we celebrate one of the greatest feasts in our Church. The **Feast of Christmas** reminds us that God provided us with his Son, Jesus, in human form in fulfillment of God's promise to send a Savior. He is truly God with us. He presented His Son, Jesus, through the makeup of a typical ordinary family in Joseph and Mary, so that we could better identify with God. Still we have difficulty opening our hearts to this wonderful gift. As we close the month of December and our theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment, we are reminded of the awesomeness of this wonderful Commandment. First of all, it is through the gift of God and our parents that we are introduced to life, love, obedience, respect and forgiveness. These qualities which are the core principles of family life are modeled so eloquently through the life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In the Gospels, we are shown the love and respect that Jesus showed to his parents (**Wedding Feast of Cana, and the appointing John to watch over Mary at the Cross**) and are given the charge to model these qualities to our family. May the Spirit of the Holy Family be upon your family this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

From the Book of Blessings, no 190 (**A Blessing by Parents for their Children**)

**Father,**

**Source of all life and author of all good, We bless and thank you for brightening our communion of love by you gift of children.**

**Grant that our children will find in the life of this family such inspiration that they will strive always for what is right and good and one day, by you grace, reach their home in heaven... Amen**



Twin City Catholic  
Educational System

FAITH  
ACADEMICS  
SERVICE

### Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Christmas Break begins @ 3:00 pm

### Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

- No School / Teacher In-service

### Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Classes Resume (preschool through Gr 5)

### Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

- School Liturgy @ 8:10 am

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

- Preschool Story Time Hour from 1-2 pm

### Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

- TCCES Elementary Band Concert at St. Gabriel

### 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



### The Power of Prayer

The St. Mary student body and staff will be praying this week for the needs, desires, and concerns of the **Mike & Lynn Lawniczak Family (Will - K)**, **Mark & Heather Dupont Family (Isabella -P3)** and **Brian & Shannon Hayes Family (Cullin - Gr 5, Mackenzie - Gr 2)**. Please join us as we keep these families in our prayers this week.

We also pray throughout the week for our sister school ... **St Claire in Wrightstown.**

### The Season of Advent Project

Thank you to everyone who assisted in our Advent project ... the Harbor House ([www.harborhouseonline.org](http://www.harborhouseonline.org)) and the Christine Ann Shelter ([www.christineann.net](http://www.christineann.net)). Through your generous donations, we will be sending about 14 boxes of children's supplies to those organizations. Along with the boxes we were able to send almost \$100 in gift cards to be distributed to needy families. Through the generosity of you and your children, we will be making another family's Christmas a lot brighter. Thank you again.



### Winter Escape Event

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**! This date is set for our **Winter Escape event** this year. Winter Escape is the joint fundraising effort that POPS does with the Parishes of St. John and St. Mary. This year's event will take place in the school gymnasium. There will be food/beverages, raffles, silent auction items, and a variety of games. This adult event should be what you are looking for to break those winter blues. Come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie and help the parish and school earn some money.



### School Christmas Program

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas program both afternoon and evening. The children under the direction of Mr. Arboleda did a wonderful job. Here are some tidbits from the program.



### TCCES Elementary Band Information

The members of the TCCES Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band will present a band concert on **January 12, 2012** at St. Gabriel Elementary School in the gymnasium. This concert will begin at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendar. This will be the band's first concert of the year.



## 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cross Country Skiing

Attention all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents. A form was email to you from Miss Loughrin regarding a cross-country skiing program run through our Physical education class. We need that information before Christmas break to begin the process of preparing our equipment for the students. As stated in the letter, all students will be introduced to this wonderful winter activity as part of our gym class. The date will be determined as conditions for skiing become more favorable. **We need three things from you on the form: shoe size, child's height (armpit and fingertips), along with your permission to participate.** Thank you for your attention to this matter.



## Bus Zone & Handicap Parking

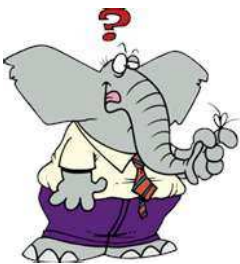
I have not had to remind our school families very often about the “**no parking**” (bus zone & handicap parking) areas in front of school this year. However, it has come to my attention that some of our elderly parishioners with handicaps are finding it very difficult to park on **Tuesdays and Fridays** when Masses are scheduled at **8:10 am**. If you are not handicapped and possessing a handicap sticker, it is against the law to park in those areas even if you are dropping off. More importantly it is a matter of respect and justice to those elderly individuals. Children are very observant and they do notice whether you are breaking the law. The saying goes that we lead by example. Therefore, I ask that if you are one of the individuals that break these regulations stop and show a better example to your children. Thank you!



## Severe Weather Situations

It seems hard to remind you of our school closing policy

for severe weather when there is no snow on the ground, but this situation will be changing sooner than you think. The TCCES schools follow the public school's directions. Therefore, if Neenah or Menasha public schools close due to severe weather situations, we will follow and due the same. If there is a late start, which is usually a 2-hour delay, all TCCES schools will follow and begin at 10:00 am. On those days, when severe weather is a possibility, make sure that you check the TV stations and the radio for current list of school closures. Thank you.



## Classes Resume!

School will resume on **Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** for all students in preschool through Grade 5. On **Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the TCCES staff will return for a curriculum development workshop, but the

students will have that day off. Please note that on your calendar. Thank you.



## Scrip Announcement

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 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 in January. This is a great way to reduce your tuition costs. Some of our families earn as much as \$1000 off tuition.

## TCCES Holiday Office Hours



Here are the TCCES office hours during the holiday season.

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

**Closed Friday** Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Monday** Dec 26<sup>th</sup> and **Friday** Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

**Regular Office hours resume Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**