



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.

Wednesday, February 1st

- TCCES Catholic Schools Liturgy at St. Gabriel (1:15 pm)

Thursday, February 2nd

- Parent Move to the Groove @ 11:45 am

Friday, February 3rd

- Catholic Knowledge Contest @ 2:10 pm in the gym

Friday, February 10th

- School Liturgy @ 8:10 am

Thursday, February 16th

- Elementary Conferences 4-7 pm

Saturday, February 18th

- Knights of Columbus Knowledge Contest
- Winter Escape Event

February Birthdays

Noelle Anderson	2/3
Hope Dunaway	2/4
Maggie Oldenburg	2/4
Ashton Post	2/7
Sydney Andersen	2/9
Rebecca Schultz	2/14
Brianna Beyer	2/17
Charles Ogden	2/18
McKenzie Malenofski	2/19
TJ Skrzypczak	2/23
Bryn Korth	2/24

Catholic Identity ... The 6th Commandment, "You shall not commit adultery."

This week, we as a Catholic community celebrate the "gift" of Catholic schools throughout the United States. Catholic schools can be traced back to the early 1600's. In 1782, Catholics in Philadelphia opened St. Mary's School which is considered to have been the first parochial school in the United States. Throughout our history, Catholic schools have established the principles of **faith, academics, and service** to the children who have walked through their doors. These pillars have not waived over all these years.

Each day, our Catholic Faith of creed, sacraments, morality, and prayer is taught and modeled to our students by their teachers. Our students know the difference between right and wrong, manners, respect for all people, and how to talk with God through prayer. They are not perfect and make mistakes, but that is where compassion and forgiveness enter their lives.

Our schools have always taught the 3 R's with passion and wonderful results. Children who graduate from our schools are well prepared for the next step ... whether it is 1st grade, middle school, high school, college, or the workforce. They are prepared because they are challenged to stretch and tap their God given gifts.

Along the way, they are shown how to take their faith and academic skills to serve the world just as Jesus did. Our children are taught to be stewards and caretakers of a world that was given to them by God and challenged to make it better through their work. **This is the "gift" of Catholic Schools and our challenge is to continue to provide this "gift" for future generations.**





The Power of Prayer

The St. Mary student body and staff will be praying this week for the needs, desires, and concerns of the following families: **David & Heather Voss (Brytn - Pre 4), Don & Deb Schultz (Jacob - Gr 5, Brianna - Gr 3, Rebecca - Gr 2), and Donald & Patricia Smith (Trenton - Pre 4)** 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.**



Registration for 2012-13

The registration materials for the **2012-13 school year** have been sent to all current families. I would like to encourage all families to return their registration forms within the registration window. The registration window is **Friday, February 10th**. It allows TCCES to make sound fiscal decisions involving staffing and other budgetary needs for the school. It also guarantees that those families who are seeking assistance are on the top of the list. Thank you in advance for your help.

Congratulations to the Rollo Family

Scott and Kristina Rollo welcomed a new addition to their family on Friday, January 13th. **Nolan Edward Rollo was born at**



7:22 pm. He was 8 lbs 10 oz and 22 inches long. Congratulations and our prayers are with you on this exciting news. I have been told that "big" brother Brennan is very excited about having a brother.

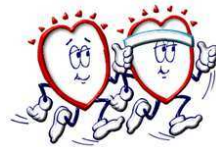


CSW Lunch/Move to the Groove

Tomorrow we have made a change to accommodate our parents who will be eating lunch with their children. Our **Parent Move to the Groove** event will take place between the two lunch periods.

1st Lunch Period (11:15-11:40 am)
Move to the Groove (gym) -11:45 am
2nd Lunch Period (12:05 pm)

Please note this change ... come and enjoy lunch along with Move to the Groove.



Parent Teacher Conferences

The TCCES elementary schools have scheduled **Parent Teacher Conferences** for two consecutive **Thursdays, February 16th and 23rd**. Forms to schedule a conference are being sent home today and one is also attached to your email. Please look over your conference options, select one and return to school by **Friday, February 3, 2012.**

Reach Counseling Presentation

As part of our TCCES Safe Environment Policy, every year we have Reach Counseling Services of Menasha come to our school and present a program called "**Protective Behaviors**" to our students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. They are scheduled to present to our students on **Thursday, February 23rd.**



Thank You

Special thanks goes out to our parents who organized and helped with the Sock Hop and the CSW Breakfast. The students who volunteered for the Mass parts and the singing (choir) did a wonderful job too. In fact, at the breakfast there were quite a few adults who complimented me on the children and their reading and singing. This is why "**service**" is in our Catholic Schools Week theme. Individuals both young and old come forward to help our schools and parish.

Winter Escape Event



We are now just weeks from our **Winter Escape event**. Our parent group has been working very hard to make this event a lot of fun but also very reasonable to attend. This year a ticket will cost you **\$15 dollars**

per person. Whether you come for a short time or stay all night (5-10 pm), your participation is very important to the success of this event. **So get your tickets today!** All the money generated comes back to the children to build and maintain our quality educational product. Your entrance fee will entitle you to some delicious food from Michiels Fox Banquets, games, silent auction items and a lot of fun. Some of the auction items are on display in the school office (**Jordy Nelson jersey, Packer Team Signed Football, projects your child made at school, stop in the office to see**). Come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie and help the parish and school earn some money. **Purchase your tickets now at the parish or school office.**

Knowledge Contest



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

The Menasha Knights of Columbus Council 1838

is pleased to announce that their annual Knowledge Contest is scheduled for **Saturday, February 18, 2012** in the St. Mary Elementary School's cafeteria. This contest is open to all students in **Grades 5 through 8**. A student may register to compete in the Math or the Spelling category. Participants can arrive around 9:45 am to register and the test will begin at approximately 10:00 am. Parents may wait in the school building or come back to pick-up. The test will last about 40 minutes. First places winners at each grade level will advance to the next level of competition.

Bishop's Ricken's Letter

In lieu of the recent announcement by the United States Department of Health and Human Services on employees' health coverage, Bishop David Ricken has sent a letter to all diocesan parishes reminding all Catholics of the position of the Church on this very important issue. Included in your email today is a copy of his letter. You are encouraged to visit this site www.usccb.org/conscience to learn more about this assault on religious liberty, and how to contact your Congressman.



New Incoming Student Course Selection Night

SMC is holding Course Selection Night on February 8 at 6:30 P.M. in the SMC Commons. Incoming freshmen and transfer students along with their parents will have the opportunity to register for 2012-2013 classes and meet with SMC Faculty, Administration and Guidance Professionals. Please contact Jennifer Miller at 722-7796 x 206 with questions.

Guidance Opportunity - Attention 5th Grade Parents:

You and your child are cordially invited to participate in an annual 5th Grade Educational and Career Planning Conference. This conferencing opportunity is part of the Guidance curriculum. Unlike traditional Parent Teacher Conferences that discuss current grades, this conference typically lasts **20-30 minutes** and will focus on your child's talents and interests, their educational and career development and their transition to middle school.

The conference will include a review of your child's talents, hopes and dreams, abilities, interests, academic performance and learning style. Your involvement in this conference is very important for the successful completion of your child's educational plans.

You can schedule your conference by calling Deb at 725-5351. There will be various dates available from **January through March**. Conference times will take place during the school day, therefore please be on time so that I can keep my guidance schedule. The newsletter will be the only communication to remind you to schedule your conference.



TCCES/SMC Fine Arts Education Center - Volunteers Needed

We need your help on Monday, February 6 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Mary Central High School to prepare the next mailing for the campaign to raise funds for the Fine Arts Education Center. We need help folding, stuffing, sealing and stamping envelopes. If you can come for the whole evening that is great and if you can only come for a couple hours that is fine too! We need lots of helpers to get this material out the door and in the hands of our alumni and supporters. Bring a couple friends and catch up while sealing. Students at all 5 TCCES schools will use the TCES Fine Arts Education Center regularly. Therefore, all TCCES parents are welcome and encouraged to join in this mailing party! If you have any questions contact Ann Engelhard at angelhard@tcces.k12.wi.us or 722-7796 ext. 201.