



# 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, February 11<sup>th</sup>

- Parent Teacher Conferences from 4-7 pm

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

- Winter Escape Event @ Germania Hall

Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

- Parent Teacher Conferences from 4-7 pm

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

- Ash Wednesday/Liturgy @ 8:15

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

- POPS Roller Skating Party

Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

- No School (Winter Break)

### February Birthday Wishes!

Margaret Oldenburg 2-4

Connor Trader 2-7

Michael Fairweather 2-7

Ashton Post 2-7

Sydney Andersen 2-9

Rebecca Schultz 2-14

Charlie Ogden 2-18

TJ Skrzypczak 2-23

Bryn Korth 2-24

Max McParlon 2-26

Mason McParlon 2-26

### Catholic Identity ... Scripture

Scripture is God revealing his plan for us and mankind through the stories and parables found in the Bible. This past Sunday our Scripture lesson was found in the message from **St. Luke Chapter 5 (5: 1-11)**. Allow me to reflect upon this story. This is the story of Jesus calling upon Simon Peter and a few other disciples to launch their fishing boats in the darkness of the night after spending a long and frustrating day fishing without any success. Even though they felt physically exhausted, they followed his command and reaped a huge reward. We are a lot like Simon Peter and the Apostles ... we make up a lot of excuses as to why we can't listen to Jesus' call, but he keeps coming back saying, "I want you." The point of the story is not about fishing ... but listening to and following the plan that Jesus has asked of us. It may seem difficult and even test our faith, but, if we can trust, the reward is great. Jesus continues to ask us to be people of service and stewardship to others. Sometimes that service is assisting and helping people who have experienced a terrible tragedy such as the earthquake in Haiti or as simple as volunteering in your school. Service may take the form of financial help, too. Last week, we celebrated Catholic Schools' Week, and there were many people who served at our breakfast. The best part was seeing the elementary students from all grade levels helping by modeling what their parents were doing. Service and stewardship must be taught to our children through your own actions. If we don't model those qualities, you can bet that the children will find other qualities found on the television that can be modeled for them. It is our choice.



Twin City Catholic  
Educational System

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Parent Teacher Conference night is tomorrow from 4-7 pm. If you are scheduled for a conference, please arrive 5 minutes early for your scheduled time to make sure that conferences flow nicely. The last conference date is **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** from 4-7 pm,



## MAP Testing

We have completed our MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing for the students in grades 2 through 5. This testing period has been set-aside for the teachers to determine how the students are progressing toward their end of the year goal. If you would like the MAP information about your child, send a note to your classroom teacher and they will be able to provide you with your child's test information.

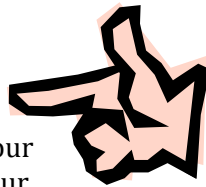
## 100 Day Projects

Mrs. Hawley's Kindergarten class has been in school for over 100 days. To remind them of this accomplishment, the students created 100 day projects. Each project is composed of 100 items that make up their creation. Stop by the Kindergarten room to view all of the projects. They are very interesting.



## TCCES Business Office

The TCCES Business Office will be closed on both **Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** and **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** for our winter break weekend. Please mark your calendar. The Office will reopen on **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

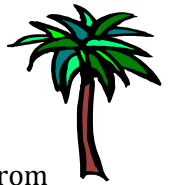


## Season of Lent

Next Wednesday we begin the Season of Lent with the celebration of Liturgy at 8:15 am. Our focus this year will be the Corporal Works of Mercy and helping the children and families from Haiti. We will also be praying the Stations of the Cross on certain Fridays during Lent. More information about Lent will be included in next week's newsletter.

## Winter Escape Fundraiser

It is here! This is the weekend for our Winter Escape celebration (**Saturday, February 13, 2010 at Germania Hall**). Tickets for the dinner are still available from the school or parish office. If you are unable to attend the event, we ask that you help us out with your support by purchasing some raffle tickets (don't have to be present to win). The tickets are \$5/ticket or 6 tickets for \$25. The proceeds from the event this year will be used to furnish each homeroom with a projector and speakers. Help us with this endeavor.



## St. John's 3 on 3 Tournament

Students in grades 3-5 are invited to participate in the St. John's 3 on 3 Tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for registrations is Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$60/team. Questions should be directed to Chris at 727-1551 or [chris@sportsgraphicsllc.com](mailto:chris@sportsgraphicsllc.com).



## Roller Skating Party

The POPS Roller Skating Party is scheduled for Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Fox Valley Roller Rink in Neenah on Gillingham Road. It only costs \$1.00 to skate and POPS is picking up the rest of the cost. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening of exercising and fun.



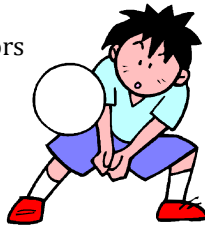
## The Choices Program

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have begun their "Choices" Program with Officer Dennis Gitter of the Neenah Police Department. This program provides the students with skills and strategies to avoid situations that involve drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. For the next few weeks Officer Gitter will visit the classroom 6 times to teach students about the dangers and consequences of bad choices involving drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. He will also explain techniques that they can use to avoid these dangerous situations. St. Mary has been offering this program to the students for the past 10 years.



## TCCES Elementary Girl's Volleyball

The TCCES Elementary Athletic coordinators have begun the process of organizing an intramural volleyball program for the girls in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Information is being sent home this week to all girls in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The groups/teams will be a combination of girls from all three elementary schools. Sign-up forms need to be returned by **Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. All practices and games will be played at St. Mary Elementary School gymnasium. This new program will be run during the months of March and April.



## Self-Responsibility

In Guidance this week the students in grades Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> learned that Self-Responsibility is showing that you are dependable and able to do things without being told. Launching this week will be the efforts to build our Wall of Self-Responsibility. A brick will be added to the wall with their name on it, for every ten Self-Responsibility acts a student completes. There is no limit to the amount of bricks one could attain. In the attachments you will find a Self-Responsibility worksheet. This worksheet is what the students will fill out and return to school completed and begin working on the other half. This program is optional, but the students were told that being Self-Responsible is not.

## TCCES Calendar Updates

Here are a few TCCES calendar updates that you should be aware of for February and March.



- **February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Liturgy. The school will be attending Mass at 8:15 am on this day. There will not be a Thursday school liturgy this week.
- **February 19-22<sup>nd</sup>** – This is our Winter break weekend. There will be no school on Friday or Monday. We will return on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **March 26<sup>th</sup>** – This date has been changed to a full day off for the students (no school). Teachers will have a full day of in-service.
- **March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Kindergarten Screening Day for those children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2010. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

## Scout Sunday

There were 4 boys from St. Mary's that earned religious emblems this Sunday during the Scout Sunday mass.

"A Scout is reverent." All Scouts show this by being faithful in their duty to God. Some go further and give special service. Religious emblems were conferred on the following Cub Scouts during the Boy Scout Sunday mass at St. Mary's: Max McParlon, Mason McParlon, and Joseph Lambie earned the Parvuli Dei and David Brumeloe earned the Light of Christ. Congratulations to these scouts and their families.



**Reminder: February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday mass is at 8:15 am. There will be NO Thursday mass that week.**