



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, February 17th

- Ash Wednesday/Liturgy @ 8:15
- Lenten Presentation @ 2:10 pm

Thursday, February 18th

- POPS Roller Skating Party @ 5:30 pm at Fox Valley Roller Rink

Friday, February 19th

- No School (Winter Break)

Monday, February 22nd

- No School (Winter Break)

Tuesday, February 23rd

- Classes Resume

Friday, February 26th

- Stations of the Cross @ 2:15 pm in church

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

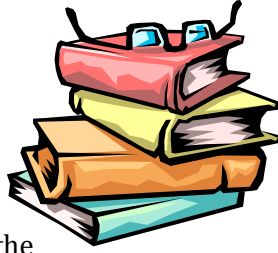
Today we begin the Season of Lent in our Catholic church. It is a period of forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on the Wednesday of Holy Week. Holy Thursday begins the celebration of the Triduum. It is modeled in part after the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert to prepare himself for his public ministry. The fasting, penance, and almsgiving associated with this season in the church allows us to grow in our faith and build upon a better relationship with Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. During this liturgical season, there are two important Precepts of the Church that our associated with the Season of Lent. The Precepts of the Church (just to refresh your memory) are the rules/guidelines created by the Church to provide for a moral life and to assist in the development of a liturgical life. The two important precepts that I am referring to are to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a year and to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist during the Easter season. These two sacraments are the foundations of our lives as Catholics. It is through these sacraments that we receive forgiveness for our mistakes and gain the nourishment to lead a moral and spiritual life. It is only fitting and proper that during this Season of Lent, we make a very strong commitment to provide the opportunity for these Sacraments to our children. The students in grades 2nd through grade 5 will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their religion class from Father Paul. Of course, we attend the celebration of Mass once a week where we receive the Eucharist. Lent is a wonderful time to allow God and Jesus to become a more significant part of your life.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

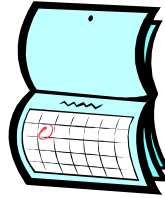
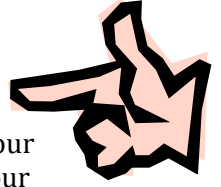
St. Mary Book Awards Program

Mark your calendar for **Friday, March 19th** at 1:00 pm in the school gymnasium. The students and staff will celebrate the **"Book Awards" Program**. If you have seen the Academy Awards and thought it was a great show, the St. Mary Book Awards is 10 times better. There will be celebrity presenters and the students will tell you the best books in the world to read. If you plan on attending, you can reserve your table now.



TCCES Business Office

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



TCCES Calendar Updates

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

- **March 26th** – 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 29th** – Kindergarten Screening Day for those children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2010. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

Knights of Columbus Contest

We have received the results from the Knights of Columbus Knowledge Contest. The students representing St. Mary Elementary School did very well.

Spelling:

Kennedi Calmes – 1st Place;
Sophia Dionne – 2nd Place; Joseph Stinski – 3rd Place.



Math:

Cecilia Krautkramer – 1st Place;
Ryan Murray – 2nd Place;
Regan Andersen – 3rd Place.



Congratulations to everyone who participated. The first place winners have earned the opportunity to compete at the Diocesan Level on Saturday, March 13th at St. Mary in Kaukauna. We wish Kennedi and Cecilia the very best on their next challenge.

School Bus Zone

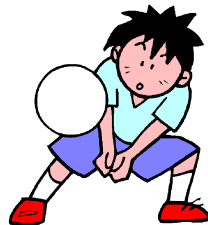
We have been experiencing some problems with the **School Bus Zone**. Some parents are



parking in that area especially in the morning/dismissal times and preventing our bus driver from safely debarking our children on the sidewalk. She has been forced to stop in the street with flashers on to get the students off the bus. You may have noticed the Menasha Police Department present at the school trying to resolve this issue. I am not aware of any tickets issued yet! For safety and common courtesy reasons, the School Bus Zone should not be used for cars. If you need to park your car to unload or drop off, use the school playground. Thank you for helping us with this very important matter.

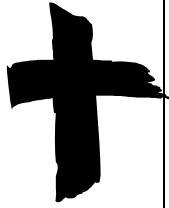
TCCES Elementary Girl's Volleyball

The TCCES Elementary Athletic coordinators have begun the process of organizing an intramural volleyball program for the girls in the 4th and 5th grades. Information was sent home this past week to all girls in the 4th and 5th grades. We need all sign-up forms returned by **the end of the week**. 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.



Stations of the Cross

During the Season of Lent, we will be praying the Stations on Fridays at 2:15 pm. We would like to cordially invite you to join us for prayer on the following dates.



- February 26th – 5th grade will host
- March 5th – 4th grade will host
- March 12th – 3rd grade will host
- The week of March 15th has not been determined yet.

Winter Escape Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Winter Escape event by either supporting the raffle, donating items, or attending the event. It was a huge success. We do not have the totals available yet, but the profits appear to be approximately \$12,000, this is shared with the Parish. A very special thanks goes to Deb Schultz, Mike & Jody VanRossum, Gina Tully, Bridget Andersen, Jean Sell, Ted & Wendy Kersten, GERALYN & Jerry Dold, Shannon Hayes, Erin McCann, Mindi Dunaway, Jeanne Griffith, Ann Griffith, Sue Thelen, Shirley Michalkiewicz and Miron Construction Company. As I stated, we will be using our profits to furnish our classrooms with data projectors and speakers. Thank you again for the support and mark your calendar for **February 12, 2011**.



Self-Responsibility

In Guidance this week the students in grades Kindergarten to 5th 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. This program is optional, but the students were told that being Self-Responsible is not.



Studying the Symphony

As part of the Partners in Education program, the third grade was visited by a string quartet from the Fox Cities symphony Orchestra. The quartet demonstrated various musical concepts that the students have been learning all year. They played musical excerpts from this year's concert, "Painting Musical Pictures" which the students will attend in March at the PAC.



The Season of Lent

We are now in the Season of Lent. Lent is a time to prepare ourselves for the greatest gift that God has ever bestowed on mankind ... "Redemption for our sins" through Jesus' death and resurrection. Our preparation is through prayer, almsgiving, and sacrifice. The students and staff will be wearing WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) bracelets to remind us of Jesus. Our almsgiving effort will be given to Father Larry and his effort to assist the people of Haiti. We will also be collecting some special medical supplies for the children of Haiti. As the Season of Lent progresses, we will let you know about our journey.

Roller Skating Party

Don't forget the POPS Roller Skating Party is tomorrow night (**Thursday, February 18th**) 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 best part is ... no school on Friday.



VEX Robotics Tournament

Come see the excitement! The 2010 Wisconsin VEX Robotics Regional Championship Robotics Tournament is on **Saturday March 6, 2010** at St. Mary Central High School. Qualifying rounds will begin approximately between 9:30 and 10:00 am. SMC has 4 teams this year. The event is free to the public and concessions are available. Hope to see you there!

