



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

Friday, February 26th

- Stations of the Cross @ 2:15 pm

Tuesday, March 2nd

- 5th Grade Forensic Tournament @ Seton

Friday, March 5th

- Stations of the Cross @ 2:15 pm

Monday, March 8th

- 5th Grade Forensic Tournament @ SMC

Tuesday, March 9th

- K-2 trip to the PAC

Wednesday, March 10th

- Preschool Story Time @ 1-2 pm

Friday, March 12th

- Meet the Author (Grade 2)
- Stations of the Cross @ 2:15 pm

February Birthday Wishes!

TJ Skrzypczak	2-23
Bryn Korth	2-24
Max McParlon	2-26
Mason McParlon	2-26

Catholic Identity ... Scripture

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." (Luke 9: 23-24)

Last week we received a marvelous symbol of our Catholic faith and our Lenten journey ... **ashes**. Ashes symbolize cleansing and purification along with growth and mortality. Allow me to explain. At one time ashes were used in the production of soap. They actually contain an interesting alkali substance that can be a powerful cleaning agent. In addition, farmers would use ashes from their old crops as a fertilizer for the new planting season. The nitrogen rich ash would assist in the growing of new seedlings. Lastly, ashes remind us that some day we will return to the earth. With that background, let us make this Lenten season a time of cleaning away the grime of selfishness, anger, jealousy, hatred, and mistrust in our lives that draw our attention away from God and work to do the things that will allow us to come closer to Him. We are now in a new growing season. The earth is starting to warm and soon the dark dirty snow will be giving way to the bright green of grass and flowers. Let us use this Lent to bring new growth into our hearts and lives by allowing the word of God to take root again in our lives through prayer, sacrifice and service. Finally, let us remember that we are on this earth but a very short time. God's plan for us is to use our gifts and talents to make this world a better place. Let us begin today to make our family, our school, and our community better by our words and actions.



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

TCCES Teacher Awards

The TCCES system has established 3 teacher and staff recognition awards to acknowledge the talent and dedication of our exceptional employees. Please take time to nominate our teachers and staff members that you feel have made an impact on your child or children's lives through their hard and diligent work. Details of each award and the nomination forms for the St. John Baptist de la Salle Outstanding Teacher Award, St. Frances Xavier Award for Positive Influence, and St. Anne Award for TCCES Spirit are available in the News section of the TCCES website or by following this link: <http://tcces.org/smc/alumni/TCCESTeacherAwards.html>.



Preschool Story Time

St. Mary Elementary School will hold its final Preschool Story Time Hour for this year on

Wednesday, March 10th from 1-2 pm. If you or one of your neighbors is interested in viewing a preschool class or touring the school, please contact the school office and we would be more than happy to schedule a time for you.

Kindergarten Screening Day

Kindergarten Screening Day at St. Mary Elementary School is scheduled for **Monday, March 29, 2010**. This day is set-aside for students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2010. The process is used as a tool to help determine the developmental areas of the student at the present time. It does provide a nice profile of strengths and weaknesses that parents can use to better prepare their child for their kindergarten experience. To secure a testing time, please call the school office. **Since all the preschool teachers will be engaged in the screening process, there is no 4-year-old preschool scheduled for this day.**

School Bus Zone

The after school dismissal at 3 pm has improved. However, there is still a problem with early morning drop off. I ask again that you consider the safety of our children as opposed to your convenience. Our bus arrives between 7:45-8:00 am and that "Bus Zone" needs to be clear to allow for a safe and quick drop off of the children. We are now in the Season of Lent and part of what we ask of our students is to sacrifice some of their conveniences. Adults need to model that quality for their children. Parking on the playground in the morning is a wonderful way to exercise and experience the freshness of the morning air.



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.

Roller Skating Party

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a huge success, we had 95 skaters. Special thanks go to Shannon Hayes, Jenny Julius and Liz Korth for their efforts in coordinating the event.



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 I stated last week, one of the precepts of the Church deals with the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The students in grades 2-5 will be receiving the sacrament during the month of March. Check with your child's teacher to determine the exact time and date.

Big Top Chautauqua Performance

As part of the 4th grade curriculum study of Wisconsin, the students in Menasha will be treated to a special performance on Wisconsin history. On



On **March 25th**, the students will attend the show, "**the Thirtieth Star**" in the James W. Perry Hall at the University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley campus. The program is a unique blend of storytelling, history, and toe-tapping original music presented by a group of American minstrels from Bayfield, Wisconsin. This performance was made possible through the support of the University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley Continuing Education/Outreach Program, the Appleton Area School District, and the Menasha Joint School District. This 4th grade program begins at 9:30 am.

5th Grade Forensics

The 5th grade students under the direction of Mrs. Bergstrom will be competing in the Seton Forensic Tournament on **Tuesday, March 2nd**. They will be competing in the areas of prose, solo acting, and play-acting. Members of the team and their area of speaking are as follows:



Prose (individual): Casyn Bowers, Melissa Brumbeloe, Kennedi Calmes, Sophia Dionne, Katelyn Gullickson, Spencer Juchniewich, Cecilia Krautkramer, Victoria Lambie, Ryan Murray, Emma Schumacher.

Solo Acting: Alex Albrecht and Regan Andersen

Play Acting (group): Ryan Conn, Joseph Griffith, Andrew Long, Joseph Stinski, and Garrett Tully.

We wish them the very best on their first endeavor at public speaking.

Open our eyes and humble our spirits, Lord God, to see the signs of your love, justice, and forgiveness in our midst. May we, in turn, become effective signs of your compassionate presence in this time and place of ours, signs of your call to reconciliation, signs of your spirit of justice and mercy in the Ninevehs of our homes and schools and work places.