



# 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, March 17<sup>th</sup>
- TCCES Celebration of the Arts at the PAC (6:30 pm)
- Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Bubolz Trip (Gr 1 & 2)
  - Liturgy @ 1 pm
- Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>
- St. Mary Book Awards @ 1 pm
- Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>
- No School/Teacher In-service
- Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Solo Ensemble @ Seton
  - ZephyrFest @ Paper Valley Hotel
- Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Kindergarten Screening Day / No Preschool 4 classes
- Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>
- School Liturgy @ 1 pm
- Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Easter Break begins @ 3 pm

## March Birthday Wishes!

Victoria Lambie	3/2
Matthew Grenell	3/7
Kataya Schumacher	3/14
Maggie Krautkramer	3/17
Sabrina Murphy	3/20
Joseph Stinski	3/21
Jocelyn Hoff-Whiting	3/22
Teresa Dold	3/23
Jacob Schultz	3/28

## Catholic Identity ... Social Justice

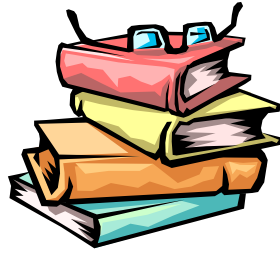
We have reached the halfway point for the season of Lent. It is a time to check over our progress with prayer, sacrifice, service, almsgiving, and any other promises that we have made during this special season. Like with anything that must be sustained over a period of time, we need check points to evaluate our progress or decline in effort. These check points allow us to center ourselves on what we need to do to get on the right path, especially if we have strayed off course. This week's gospel message was the reading from St. Luke, Chapter 15: 11-32 ... the Prodigal Son. This is the story of the son who leaves his family with his inheritance only to squander away everything on bad choices. Once he realizes what he did, he gathers up enough courage and comes home to ask his Father for forgiveness and help. His father's reply is something that all Christians can expect from Jesus and what we should be modeling in our life ... (Luke 15: 32) **"we must celebrate and rejoice, because my son was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."** During this Season of Lent, as we listen to the stories and parables about Jesus, we hear the theme of forgiveness brought to us in many shapes and forms. It doesn't matter if you are asking for forgiveness or receiving it. Without forgiveness, we cannot move forward in our lives. Forgiveness opens the heart so that it can fill up again with love, compassion, and hope. It brings new eyes to the way we look at others and the world as a whole. There are still several weeks of Lent left ... how are you doing?



Twin City Catholic  
Educational System

## St. Mary Book Awards

On **Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our culminating event for our special book program. The students have been working on this event for the past few weeks. It is call the **St. Mary Book Awards**. You are cordially invited to join us at 1:00 pm in the gym to see which books take the awards for **Best Poetry, Best Nonfiction, and Best Fiction** etc. Special celebrities from the community and the state will be presenting the awards. Come and enjoy this literary extravaganza.



## Calendar Items for 2010-2011

There is one change already to the **2010-11 calendar dates** for next year. Our spring break was listed as beginning on **March 28, 2011**. **It has now been changed to March 21, 2011**. Please note this important change. This change will align us with both Neenah and Menasha Public schools and conserve on busing costs.



## Parent Survey Update

Several weeks ago our school families were sent TCCES school surveys, which you could complete and return to the TCCES office. About 50% of our families responded to the questions on the survey. After reviewing the information, I would like to respond to some of the feedback. We continue to work with the TCCES Advancement team and our teachers to promote and build our school presence in the community and hopefully our enrollment. In addition, we continue to look and study our curriculum to better provide for our students both academically and religiously. Lastly, we work with POPS (financially) to provide the extras that will benefit our school and the children. An example is the new technology that we are adding to our classrooms. Thank you for your feedback. It certainly does help us as we try to improve our school and its environment.



## 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.**

For those families who are undecided about Kindergarten or are looking for a school for Kindergarten, there will be an Open House on **Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30 am**. This is a wonderful opportunity to view kindergarten in action and discuss with Mrs. Hawley any questions. Please share this information with your neighbor on your street.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Forensics

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders completed their forensics season with a meet at SMC. The students did a wonderful job building on their experience from Seton the week before. Everyone improved upon his or her public speaking.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbons** were awarded to the following: Alex Albrecht, Regan Andersen, Casyn Bowers, Melissa Brumbeloe, Kennedi Calmes, Sophia Dionne, Katelyn Gullickson, Cecelia Krautkramer, Victoria Lambie, Ryan Murray, Emma Schumacher, Ryan Conn, Andrew Long, Joe Stinski, Joseph Griffith, and Garrett Tully. Spencer Juchniewich received a **2<sup>nd</sup> Place ribbon**.

A special thank you to Mrs. Bergstrom for her guidance in helping the 5<sup>th</sup> graders be so successful.

## POPS/Winter Escape News

During the Easter break we will be using our Winter Escape proceeds to “tech-up” our classrooms. Each classroom (K-5) will be equipped with a projector and speakers allowing each room to have better access to the Internet for classroom instruction. This project is step one. The goal is to have Smart Boards in the classrooms the following year. This is a wonderful example of how our POPS funds are used to bring those little extras to our children’s education.

## Solo/Ensemble

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students will be competing in their first Solo/Ensemble at Seton Middle School on **Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00-2:00 pm. Solo/Ensemble is a competition whereby a student performs a piece of music before a judge and is evaluated on the piece in 5 categories. In order to be eligible, an individual must be in band for at least one year. We wish our 5<sup>th</sup> graders the very best in this new endeavor.



## Lenten Update

Our Lenten collection for this past week was **\$44.89**. This brings our Haiti collection to approximately **\$335** with several weeks of Lent to go. There will be a few more activities going on such as our Easter egg message program. The goal is to reach \$500 that we could give to Father Larry for Haiti relief.



Some other Lenten activities that will take place during Holy Week is as follows:

- On Holy Thursday, we will be going to SMC to watch the “Living Stations of the Cross” in the morning
- our Tenebrae service will be in the afternoon.

More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

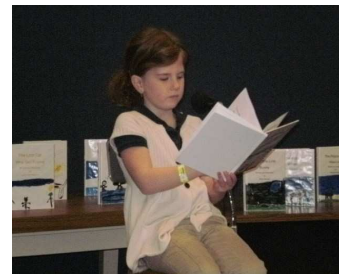
## Zephyrfest

We warmly invite you to attend SMC’s 25<sup>th</sup> annual Zephyrfest celebration on Saturday March 27 at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Reservations or donations to Zephyrfest can be made by visiting <http://www.zephyrs.tv/zephyrfest/> or by calling Sue Thelen at SMC at 920-722-7796, ext. 853.



## Meet the Author

This past Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of listening to our second grade students present their books to their parents and guests. The manner in which they presented their books with poise and expression was absolutely outstanding. I really do believe that we have some Newberry or Caldecott award-winning authors coming. Here are a few images for you. Thank you to Miss Corsmeier for her guidance.



## Attention New Altar Servers

Deacon Rick Dovorak has scheduled a training session for all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are not presently an altar server. All interested students should come to a practice on **Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am at St. John Church/Menasha**. A letter is attached to the email explaining the expectations of being an altar server and participating in your parish community.



## Kindergarten held a Surprise Baby Shower

The Kindergarten class surprised Mrs. Hawley with a special baby shower last week.

