



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, March 26th

- No School/Teacher In-service

Saturday, March 27th

- 5th Grade Solo Ensemble @ Seton
- ZephyrFest @ Paper Valley Hotel

Monday, March 29th

- Kindergarten Screening Day / No Preschool 4 classes

Tuesday, March 30th

- Kindergarten Open House from 10:30-11:30 am

Wednesday, March 31st

- School Liturgy @ 1 pm

Thursday, April 1st

- Living Stations @ SMC (9:15 am)
- Tenebrae Prayer Service @ 2 pm
- 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

This Sunday we begin the heart and soul celebration our Catholic faith ... Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday and ends with the beginning of the Easter season. The Season of Lent ends on Wednesday of next week. Holy Thursday begins the celebration of the Easter Triduum or the most important three days of our liturgical year and Catholic faith. The first day of the Easter Triduum is Holy Thursday. Many important elements of our faith were instituted on this special day. The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, our liturgy, the presentation of the holy oils, and the priesthood are all essential aspects of our faith associated with Holy Thursday. Of course, Good Friday is the ultimate act of sacrifice and forgiveness that Jesus performs to save his people from the hold of sin in our lives. Lastly, the celebration of the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday is the preparation for Jesus' redemptive act ... opening the gates of heaven to us through his Resurrection from the dead (Easter Sunday). This time of the year can bring a real sense of direction and calmness to our lives if we open our hearts to Christ's message. Be sure to take full advantage of these rich and powerful religious services that will take place in our churches and school these next few weeks. It will make your Easter celebration more meaningful for you and your children

John 8: 7-11

Jesus said to the crowd, "let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw the stone at her." Jesus said, "No one has stepped forward to condemn you ... neither do I condemn you. Go forth and do not sin any more."



Twin City Catholic
Educational System

St. Mary Book Awards

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Book Awards program or were able to attend.

The gym was full of excitement as presenters read the winning book titles to the students. The special presenters this year included Mayor Don Merkes, Tammy Elliot from

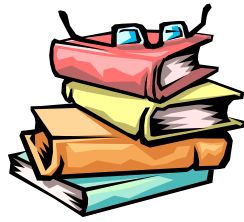


Channel 5, and Bishop Robert Morneau from Green Bay. Here are a few snapshots of the excitement from our Friday event.



Solo/Ensemble

This Saturday our 5th grade band students will be competing in their first Solo/Ensemble at Seton Middle School. The Solo/Ensemble is a music competition whereby a student performs a piece of music before a judge and is evaluated on the piece in 5 musical categories. In order to be eligible, an individual must be in band for at least one year. We wish our 5th graders the very best in this new endeavor.



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. **Since all the preschool teachers will be engaged in the screening process, there is no 4-year-old preschool scheduled for this day.**

End of the Quarter

This **Friday, March 26th** is the end of the 3rd quarter. There is no school on that day. Our teachers will be meeting at SMC for a full day of in-service on curricular matters. Report cards will be given to the students on **Wednesday, March 31st**. Please make sure you check your child's folder/backpack for the report information.

Big Top Chautauqua Performance

As part of our 4th grade curricular study of Wisconsin, the students will attend a historical/musical presentation at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley Extension new fine art's hall. This special presentation is being sponsored by the Appleton Area School District and the Menasha Joint School District. All 4th grade students in Menasha will be in attendance. The program begins at 9:30 am.

Zephyrfest

This is the weekend for ZephyrFest! You are warmly invite you to attend SMC's 25th annual Zephyrfest celebration on **Saturday March 27th** 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.



Lenten Update

Our Lenten collection for this past week was a little over **\$28.00**. We completed the penny war collections from the classrooms. The total was \$212.60, bringing our Lenten collection close to our goal of \$500. During Holy Week, the Student Council will be selling Easter eggs with messages. The eggs can be sent to any child in school for \$0.25/egg. Again, the funds raised from our Easter egg sale will be added to our Haiti drive.

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

- School Liturgy on Wednesday @ 1:00 pm; 1st grade is hosting.
- On Holy Thursday, we will be going to SMC to watch the "Living Stations of the Cross" in the morning (9:45 am)
- Our Tenebrae service will be in the afternoon around 2 pm.

Attention New Altar Servers

Last week the serving training with Deacon Rick Dvorak had to be cancelled due to several funerals that needed the church. The training session is scheduled for this **Saturday, March 27th at St. Mary Church**. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders who would like to be trained to serve for parish and/or school liturgies should attend. The training begins at 9:00 am in church and runs until 11:00 am.



Kindergarten Open House

The school has scheduled a Kindergarten Open House on Tuesday, March 30th. This Open House is another opportunity for school families to view the kindergarten class in action and ask questions about the routines, curriculum, and more. The time for this Open House is from 10:30-11:30 am. It is also an opportunity for any new families to come and visit to see their options. **If you know of any undecided families in your neighborhood, please provide them with this information.**



A Sign of Spring

The students in grades 1st and 2nd visited Bubolz Nature preserve to observe one of the signs of spring ... the tapping of the maple trees for syrup. They had the opportunity of actually tapping a tree, collecting the syrup, and tasting the fruits of their labor. Here are some pictures.



TCCES Spring Plant Sale

Think spring! TCCES sponsored fundraiser to receive tuition credit to your account is here!

Choose from \$10 gift cards from four different garden centers or beautiful hanging baskets from Pansies! Be sure to share the order form with family and friends. Orders are due Thursday, April 22nd and will be ready for pick up on Thursday, May 6th – just in time for Mother's Day on May 9th!

Contact Pam Pingel at 751-3771 or tpingel@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Lord God, help us to appreciate the things of "above" and not be satisfied with the things of "below". Transform our attitudes, enlighten our vision, instill in us your wisdom to seek you and your way of holiness and peace in all things.