Saint Thomas the Apostle School

Vol. 13 Issue 12, February 7, 2007

THE PEACEMAKER . . . PIECES

Saint Thomas School community prepares children for life in a respectful and supportive environment by providing a Dynamic Education Centered in Christ.

Auction 2007 this Saturday!

The St. Thomas the Apostle Auction is Sold Out and only a few days away. For those who have secured tickets, we will NOT be sending home paper tickets as we are using a paperless registration system. Just arrive with a smile (and cash, your checkbook and/or credit card) and we will take care of you from there! Also this year we will be having you fill out your credit card information at the registration table so that we can quickly check you out at the end of the evening.

New this year for Auction is Valet Parking from 6:15 to 7:30 pm ! Follow the signs on campus to have our wonderful Valet parking Service take care of you. If you choose to park yourself, there are limited spaces just North of the Wege Center. Main parking is available in the Main Lot to the East of the Field House. It is just a short walk up the hill to the Wege Center from there.

Doors will open at 6:15 pm with the arrival of our special guest Mr. J! Food and Beverage service will begin at 6:30 pm with all auction items available to preview at that time! The first silent table is scheduled to close at 7:15 so don't be "fashionably late" or you'll miss some GREAT items! The silent auction tables will continue to close with a break for Mr. J's award presentation. We will then continue with Live Auction, Raffle Drawings and then the closing of our last Silent Auction tables. In addition to our silent and Live auction items, we will be selling $5.00 "raffle" tickets at the registration table that you may use in any combination for all of the evening's raffles. These tickets can be bought in any denomination (the higher the better) and can be paid in cash, check or charge (added right to your bid number). Special surprises are in store for you the entire evening. Thank you for your prayers, your time and your support to make St. Thomas Auction 2007 the best ever! God Bless You!~ *Auction Committee*

Tuition Raffle Reminder

Please return all unsold raffle tickets along with your sold ticket stubs and money to the office by tomorrow, Thursday, February 8th. Remember, your family will be entered into a drawing for every ten tickets that you sell! The winning ticket will be drawn at the St. Thomas Auction this Saturday, February 10th. We must have all sold and unsold tickets prior to that evening. Thank you!

~ Amy Bocian

Winter Conferences

Parent-Teacher-Student conferences will be held February 20 & 22. We used the day and time preferences you indicated for your November conference in scheduling the spring conferences. A copy of your family's schedule* is attached to the front of this issue of the 'Pieces". Please mark your calendars now. If your family's schedule is not attached, contact your child's teacher to plan a conference time. *Preschool Conferences not scheduled will be scheduled within the next week.

Registration 2007/2008

Registration packets for next school year will be sent home with the oldest/only child on Wednesday, Feb. 14th. We strongly encourage parents to return registration forms at conferences with a final registration deadline of March 12. The registration fee (due with registration) is as follows: $75 for one student, $150 for two students, $200 for three students, $225 for four or more students. For your convenience, office staff will be available during the upcoming evening conferences (Tues., Feb. 20, from 12-3 p.m. and from 5-8 p.m. & Thurs., Feb.22, from 5-8 p.m.) to help process your registration. AM Kindergarten will be held on Feb. 19 & PM Kindergarten only will be held in the morning on Feb. 20. The AM Kindergarten class will not be held on Feb. 20.

Front Door Reminder:

We have been acclimating ourselves to the locked doors and all is moving smoothly. However, we would like to remind you that, after you are buzzed in, please continue to go directly to the school office, sign in and put on a visitor or volunteer badge.

ATTACHMENTS

- Conference Schedule
- Special Lunch Note
- Hot Lunch Order Form

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

If you are a new parent or are an existing parent and still need to attend Virtus training, (required for all school volunteers), please note the upcoming training sessions:

St. John Vianney Parish (Wyoming)
Monday, February 26, 2007 @ 6:30 PM

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (Grand Rapids)
Monday, March 5, 2007 @6:30 PM

St. Jude Parish (Grand Rapids)
Wednesday, May 2, 2007 @ 6:30 PM

If you plan to attend one of these sessions, and have not already registered, please register online as follows:

Go to www.virtus.org

- Click "Registration"
- Click "Begin the Registration Process"
- Select Diocese of Grand Rapids as the organization.
- You will be required to enter a UserID and password (of your choice)
- Fill out registration form
- Choose a location

Special Visitor

The 8th grade boys had the opportunity, Tuesday, January 23 to enjoy a pizza lunch with Father Guerra, a Missionary Priest form the Detroit area. Father Guerra shares his mission experiences with the boys and will continue to meet with the boys once a month during the lunch hour.

Jr. High (Grades 6-8) Youth Ministry News

The 6th grade lock-in is this Friday, FEB. 9th at the MAC. If you missed the registration deadline, but would still like to attend, please let Patti in the Youth Office know. You may be able to register at the door with $10 in cash. Call 459-4662 x209 or email preynolds@stthomasgr.org

The 7th & 8th grade lock-in is Friday, March 2nd at the MAC. Registration forms are on the youth bulletin boards, in the school foyer, and on our website. Deadline is: 2/23/07. www.rocyouthministry.catholicweb.com

Friday, February 23 is the Jr. High & Sr. High (as well as parents) pilgrimage to the Solanus Casey & Capuchin Center in Detroit. It is a mid-winter break scheduled day off from school. Registration forms and only 50 seats are available…the best part is this trip is FREE!

REMEMBER: Youth Ministry meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday evenings of the month from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the Youth Room. You are always welcome to bring a friend. Come on and R.O.C.! (Reach Out for Christ) The next time we will meet is: **Sunday, Feb. 18th.**

PARENT/CHILD CHASTITY PRESENTATIONS

7TH GRADE - Tuesday, February 13th 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm
Presenters - MaryAnn Bridge & Michelle Bryk in Ministry Center Chapel
Deacon Jim Thorndill in Ministry Center Community Room

6TH GRADE - Wednesday, February 14th 1:30 pm - 2:50 pm
Presenters - Julie Bevins in Ministry Center Chapel
David Bevins in Ministry Center Community Room

8TH GRADE - Thursday, February 15th **1:00 pm - 2:50 pm**
Presenters - Amy DenBraber in Ministry Center Chapel
David Marchinda in Ministry Center Community Room

Parents of any aged children are welcome to be present at these talks to assist them in teaching their family about Catholic morality and chaste living.

Also, the 6th - 8th grade presentations will be held for the religious education students on Monday, February 12th from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm. This would be an excellent opportunity for parents to hear the talk if their schedule prevents them from attending with their child during the day.

If you should have any questions or would be interested in being a part of this important committee (we are in need of **male** representation specifically!!), please contact Margaret Murphy @ 459-5227.

Arts Committee

Interested in the Arts? The Arts Committee needs your help determining art enrichment activities to bring to St Thomas. If you're interested in joining the committee, please come to our next meeting on February 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center Living Room. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Perdue at 451-2448.

Middle School Fun Night

The West Catholic Softball Teams will be hosting a middle school fun night at West Catholic on Friday, February 16th. All 7th & 8th grade Catholic School students are invited to join us for an evening of cards, games, food, music and dancing with friends. The cost is $5.00 per person. Pizza and pop will also be for sale.

Help Preserve the Rainforests

The 3rd graders have been learning about the importance of preserving the world's rainforests. We are selling rainforest t-shirts to support the Earth Foundation's Adopt An Acre Program. One acre of rainforest is preserved for every 10 t-shirts sold. There is a poster showing this year's selection of shirts outside of Mrs. Pieri's classroom. You can order now through the end of February from any 3rd grader or Mrs. Pieri. All items are $14 a piece. Checks can be made out to the Earth Foundation. Thank you. *~ Mrs. Pieri*

24 Hours at Marywood

for Mothers & Daughters (ages 10+)
of St. Thomas Parish
1 pm March 3 - 1 pm March 4, 2007

An opportunity for Mothers and their daughters to be involved in activities that explore life at Marywood: pray and eat with the Sisters; tour Marywood; meet Sisters who taught at St. Thomas School; learn interesting facts about Dominican Saints; and go on a scavenger hunt!

Meals and overnight accommodations are provided. Mass will be celebrated at 11am on Sunday.

Registration is $10 per person and the registration deadline is February 23, 2007. You may register online at: www.grdominicans.org or register by contacting: Sister Kathi Sleziak, OP at ksleziak@grdominicans.org or by calling 616-643-0378.

Plan Ahead for Camp Marywood

For: 7th & 8th Grade Girls of St. Thomas Parish
When: June 10 -13, 2007

Sing, dance, create skits, campfire, give service to the poor, pray with the Sisters, eat with the Sisters and much more! Look for more details in the Church entrance.

Congratulations to:

James and Laura Palma
on the birth of
Jordan Elizabeth Palma
born on
Wednesday, January 17th
9 pounds
19 inches long

And to her proud sister: Jenna (P4/AM)

We Celebrate Our Newest Authors

The Following Books Were Published During the Week of January 24, 2007

The Little Hamster	**by Mary Claire Mikolay**	**B/1**
Dog's Christmas	**by Ciara White**	**B/1**
The Lonely Princess	**by Anezka Kovarik**	**M/2**
The Frowning Ant	**by Abby Den Braber**	**M/3**
The Penguins Book	**by Anna Herold**	**L/1**
About Penguins	**by Claire Den Braber**	**L/1**
Margaret	**by Grace Pinter**	**L/1**
My Pet Horse	**by Bella Gumbko**	**B/1**
Lego Star Wars	**by Cory Skinner**	**B/1**
My Gecko	**by Pablo Corcoran**	**B/1**
The Dalmation	**by Mary Claire Mikolay**	**B/1**

WE COMMIT OUR LIVES TO JESUS

Winter Weather Reminder

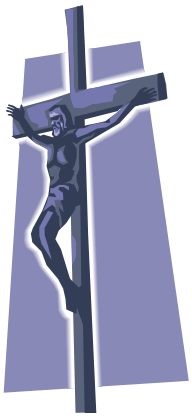
Please send your child with the appropriate clothing for the weather: snowpants, hats, boots, mittens etc… Our Recess Supervisors have reported that we've had some wet and cold students out at recess lately. Thank you!

School Closing Information

In the event St. Thomas the Apostle School is closed or delayed due to the weather, etc., the quickest and most reliable source for this information is: WOODTV8 or woodtv.com. *~ Sue Ysasi*

Vocations Thank You

Thank you to all those involved with Vocations Week, especially Vocations Week Chair Janet Jepsen, as well as Krisann O'Neil, Cheryl Lambert, Dave Faber, Ted Coon, and Maggie Walsh.



Gym Concession Workers

Saturday, February 10
8:30 a.m. ~ 5th Grade ~ **Aschwege**