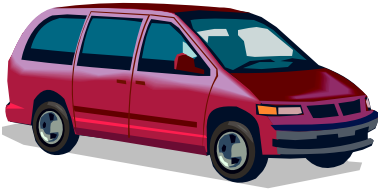


THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*



Gate Line Pick-Up Update

Since opening the Fulton Street Gate Drop-Off and Pick-Up option to additional families, we are finding that occasionally after school there can be a back up onto Fulton Street. To eliminate this problem, we are asking families whose children are not all ready for pick up to **keep traffic moving steadily by going around one more time.** If we can keep traffic moving, this problem should be eliminated. **This can only be accomplished with everyone's cooperation!** Please continue to help us monitor our success by reporting problems you encounter to the office.

Also, please make whatever car seat and other adjustments necessary so that **all** drop-off and pick-up happens from the **PASSENGER SIDE** of the vehicle. Occasionally, because of the needs of Mercy Respite, there is a second lane of traffic that will pass on the driver's side. We cannot have children caught between two lanes of traffic!

Thank you for your complete **COOPERATION** for the safety of our kids!!!
~Mr. Faber

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award Presented to Mrs. Pieri

Six years ago the Student Council introduced a special award to be given to the Faculty or Staff member who they felt was a role model, full of love for both God and promoting a Catholic education centered in Christ. The award is named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who after her husband's death became Catholic and founded the first Catholic school in the United States.

The Student Council voted to present this year's award to our much respected 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Deb Pieri. Mrs. Pieri works hard to guide the spiritual, physical, and academic growth of her students. She has been in Catholic education for nine years as a teacher, a ministry that

Continued on Page 2

St. Thomas Parish and School Long Range Planning Survey Link

www.stthomasgr/survey

Please take time to go to the above link and complete the survey by March 16, 2008.

Mass with Bishop Hurley this Friday at 8:30 am

REMINDER—Bishop Hurley will be visiting Saint Thomas School and celebrating Mass with the students at a special time on Friday, March 7th. Our regular school Mass time has changed to **8:30 a.m.** on that day.



ATTACHMENTS

- Shine Jr. High Youth Rally Flyer
- Children's Adoration Flyer



Mrs. Pieri Receives Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

Continued from Page 1

allows a sharing of gifts & talents. She and her husband Tim feel that Catholic Education is important, most especially for their own children. Her faith is intertwined in all that she does and cannot be separated from her teaching. She has a deep respect for the St. Thomas the Apostle community and appreciates being able to live her faith with others each day. Mrs. Pieri finds joy in the innocence, trust, and kindness of her students. She feels that there is no other life she would choose. Her deep faith, devotion to our school and her enthusiasm for life make us proud to say, "Congratulations, Mrs. Pieri, and a heartfelt **Thank You** to you from the entire St. Thomas Community."

~ Octavia Houtekier

SAVE THE DATE!!!

ATTENTION: ST. THOMAS GOLFERS
Mark your calendars...Now!

2008 Saint Thomas Golf Outing

Friday Afternoon - May 09, 2008
Centennial Country Club



St. Thomas School Registration for 2008/2009

St. Thomas School registration packets for the 2008/2009 school year have gone home with current school families. New families are now registering. **Please return your registration materials to reserve a spot for your child. We are at or near capacity in the following grades:**

2
6
7
8

We also anticipate being at or near capacity in the following grades:

P3
P4AM
P4PM
K

The deadline for applying for financial aid using the PSAS Forms is March 14, 2008.

Transportation

A Grand Rapids Area Catholic Schools Transportation contract was placed in your registration packet. If you are interested in bussing for the upcoming school year, this contract should be returned by March 28. Routes for 2008/2009 will be established in April, 2008. Additional Transportation Contracts are available in the school office. Thank you.

~ Sue Ysasi



Calendar Update:

The 3-year-old Preschool will be visiting the Butterfly Exhibit at Frederick Meijer Gardens on Thursday, March 20, 2008 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

LOST & FOUND

Our Lost & Found, located on shelves by the front entranceway, is overflowing with hats, gloves, shoes, snow pants, coats etc.... **Please** take a moment to stop and check or have your student look for any lost articles. All items will be donated by Friday, March 14th if not claimed.



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), listed below are dates, times and locations of upcoming Virtus training sessions:

Our Lady of LaVang Parish (Wyoming)
Saturday, March 15, 2008 @ 6:15 p.m.

Holy Spirit Parish (Grand Rapids)
Wednesday, March 26, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

Catholic Charites G.R. (Grand Rapids)
40 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SE *

Thursday, May 22, 2008 @ 2:00 PM
Thursday, July 24, 2008 @ 2:00 PM

* *Parking is limited downtown so car pooling is recommended.*

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

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

St. Paul the Apostle will be hosting a **March Madness 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament** on Sunday, March 30, 2008. The tournament is for 4th through 8th grade male and female students and will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2008 at the Catholic Central High School Gym located at 319 Sheldon Ave., SE in downtown, Grand Rapids. Games start at 12:00 p.m. with a mandatory player meeting at 11:40 a.m. Cost for the tournament is \$100 per team. This year we are going to try to limit the tournament to 40 teams with a registration deadline of March 15, 2008. Because we have filled this tournament in the past, please take advantage of early registration. Do not wait until the deadline. Registration forms are available in the Welcome and Information Center by the front door of your school. For more information please contact the Athletic Director at St. Paul the Apostle School at 949-1690.



UPCOMING CATHOLIC SECONDARY EVENTS

Freshman Parent Registration Night

March 13th at 7:00 p.m. in CC Gym

CC Big Blue Open House and Auction

March 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Big Blue Field House

Chemical Bank Budgeting Workshop for Catholic Education

March 18th at 6:30 p.m. at Chemical Bank
RSVP #233-5814

CC Open House and Auction

On March 15 @ 6:30 pm Catholic Central Boosters is hosting an Open House of our NEW Big Blue Field House along with an Auction Party. We are encouraging **all** parents of current incoming 7th and 8th grade students to attend. Please encourage families that may have sent children through CC in the past or present families to attend. **All alumni are welcome.** This facility is a WOW!!! Auction guests will tour the new 36,000 sq. ft. facility, as well as, a night of fun activities, food and raffles. **Tickets are only \$25.00 per person. To make reservations please contact Kim Melcher @241-0528. Mark your calendars for March 15, 2008. Spread the word!!!**

West Catholic Auction

On Saturday, March 29, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m. West Catholic High School will Celebrate West with an Auction. Tickets are \$25/per person. Ticket price includes dinner and drinks and many exciting raffles and oral auctions throughout the evening for one-of-a-kind items. For event information and raffle tickets go to: www.celebratewest.org or call West Catholic at 616 453 4320.

Attention Teachers & Parents!

Jeffrey Freed, M.A.T., internationally-known educational consultant, speaker, therapist and author of the best selling book "Right-Brained Children in a Left-Brained World" will be speaking at Catholic Central High School next Wednesday, March 12th at 7 p.m. in the CC Cafeteria. Right-brained learners are people who process the world in visual images. Our children are growing up in a culture which is predominately right-brained and visual—TV, XBOX, computers and the Internet. Research shows at least 65% of students learn best using visual techniques. Come and learn about this right-brained, visual learning style. This presentation is being offered free of charge by WE CARE, the parent organization at CC.



Go Hornets!

Hornet Athletics



Girl's 7th & Boy's 6th Grade Basketball Tournaments

St. Thomas recently finished hosting two Basketball Tournaments (7th Grade Girls & 6th Grade Boys) that included teams from St. Paul, Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Consolation, St. Anthony, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Assumption, Holy Spirit, and St. John Vianney. The proceeds from these tournaments go directly to the St. Thomas Boosters to further fund our athletic programs.

A big thanks to the many individuals who helped organize and run the tournaments beautifully – Tracy Bandlow, Julie Wildey, Jeanine Serba, Brian Mulder, Paul Crittenden Jr., Paul Crittenden, Logan Bandlow, Tara Bandlow, David Poggi, J.J. Benzer, Justin Kelly, Brendan Mangan, Nick Vrugink, Ben Tietema, Aleks Serba, Katherine Faber, Anna Faber, Anne Murphy, Cheryl Lambert, Helen Vrugink, Michael Fiorenzo and the many other volunteers who helped work the concession stand.

Spring Sports Signups

Spring Sports Signups were posted in classrooms. The signups were for 5th – 8th graders for Boy's Baseball, Girl's Softball, Boy's Track, Girl's Track, & Girl's Soccer. Practices may begin as soon as 3/10/2008. If anyone missed the signup sheets and wants to play a spring sport, please contact Louis Bandlow @ 452-8314.

WANTED - Spring Sports Coaches

We are in need of volunteer coaches for the following sports teams:

5th-8th Boys & Girls Track – Please contact Amy Drees @ 855-6592 or Louis Bandlow @ 452-8314

5th/6th Boys Baseball – Please contact Louis Bandlow @ 452-8314

5th/6th Girls Soccer – Please contact Louis Bandlow @ 452-8314

Winter Sports Coaches

A big THANKS to our head coaches (listed below) and their assistants for the winter sports teams! Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our young men and women.

5th Girl's Basketball Dan Koorndyk

6th Girl's Basketball Don Serba

7th Girl's Basketball Louis Bandlow

8th Girl's Basketball Mike Heim

5th Boy's Basketball Doug Murphy

6th Boy's Basketball Matt Ensing

7th Boy's Basketball Michael Corcoran

8th Boy's Basketball Tom Nicholson

Sport Physicals & Permission Slips for School Year 2007/8

REMINDER: A new Physical & Permission Slip are required EACH school year.

Students planning on participating in the St. Thomas Athletic program during the school year are required to have a ST. THOMAS SPORTS PERMISSION SLIP and a SPORTS PHYSICAL (showing a doctor's clearance) dated after 5/15/07. **These forms must be on file with St. Thomas School prior to participation in any practice or game.** These forms will be valid for the entire 2007-2008 school year, so please fill out the Permission Slip for all sports that you are allowing your son/daughter to participate in.

~ Louis Bandlow
Athletic Director

7th & 8th Grade City Tournament Update and Schedule

8th Grade Boys vs. t.b.d. @ St. Isidore on Saturday 3/8/08 @ 11:20 am (Winner's Bracket-Round 3-THE SEMIFINALS)

8th Grade Girls vs. t.b.d. @ St. Isidore on Saturday 3/8/08 @ 9:00 am (Winner's Bracket-Round 2-THE SEMIFINALS)

7th Grade Boys vs. I.H.M. @ St. Anthony on Wednesday 3/5/08 @ 7:10 pm (Winner's Bracket-Round 2)

7th grade Girls vs. St. Anthony-Blue @ St. Thomas on Saturday 3/8/08 @ 12:30pm (Consolation Bracket-Round 2)





ALIVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



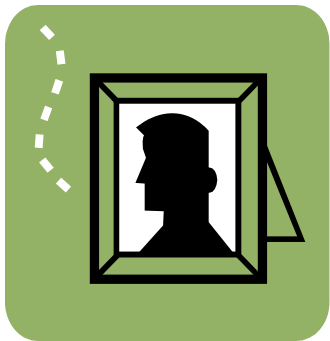
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JA Volunteers Needed

St. Thomas is awaiting volunteers to teach JA in the following classrooms:

Kelly Donahue's 3rd grade classroom

Beth Ann Petkus's 4th grade classroom

Adam Baxter's 6th grade Social Studies/ Econ class

And his 7th grade Social Studies/ Econ all girl classroom

The commitment is 5 to 6 school visits at 30 to 45 minutes in length. JA provides the volunteer lead activities and lesson plans, as well as a brief training either online or on site depending on the volunteer. All lessons are about economics; especially work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. We are looking for anyone whom is committed to improving the futures of our children. JA's mission "To inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy."

Office Help Wanted

The school office is looking for a volunteer to help with data entry over the next two weeks. Computer experience in data entry is helpful. The task would take about 10-16 hours. Also, the school office is also looking for a volunteer to work on Wednesday mornings to help with the "Pieces" newsletter. This task includes attaching "Pieces" attachments and counting out the number of newsletters for each classroom. Time required would be about 2 hours. Please contact Sue Ysasi at 458-4228 x300 if you are interested. Thank you for your consideration.

Market Day

Mrs. Petkus' 4th/5th graders have been working on an economic unit. This unit will culminate on Market Day on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 26th. Students in grades 2nd through 6th are encouraged to bring in some change (money) on that day to support the students. The 4th graders will also hold two mini Market Days prior to the big sale to help build up their capital. We hope to see you on March 26th.
~ Mrs. Petkus



Conference Lunch Thanks

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the conference lunch a success. The following people brought the delicious and much appreciated food for our teachers.

Kiki Lown

Amy Bocian

Jeanne Walch

Lisa Wolf

Debi Schueler

Mary Fallon

Sue Edgerly

Margaret Murphy

Laura Mangan

Michelle Rohn

Veronica Beitner

If you haven't picked up your dish or ladle, they are being kept in the Ministry Center kitchen.

Home & School Officer Needed

Please consider serving as Vice President of H&S for the 2008/2009 school year. The commitment of time can easily be fit into any schedule and the benefits to the school and the children are amazing. You would be actively involved in the budgeting of funds for existing school programs and endeavors and would have a hand in the integral events that make St. Thomas such a wonderful and amazing place for our children to learn and grow. If you have questions and would like to learn more about this wonderful opportunity please contact Claudia Triestram or better yet, attend our next meeting on March 5 at noon in the Nursery in the lower level.

