



New Website Goes

LIVE!

www.stthomasgr.org



Special Thanks to...

The new site features captivating pictures (many are thanks to professional photographers and St. Thomas parents Bob Neumann and Julie Line), new information, interactive menus, printable forms, sports schedules, the Parent/Student Handbook broken down into easy-to-find and read sections, school and classroom newsletters, calendars, curriculums, a whole section dedicated to our Alumni and more....

An extra special thanks to DDM (especially Darek Jansen and St. Thomas parent Laura Palma) for the countless hours they donated pro bono toward the design and development of this site. Also, thanks to Williams Group and Sue Haas-Williams (parishioner and former parent) for the artwork for our new school and parish logo. Thanks to our Marketing Coordinator and school parent Kathy Barth for acting as our webmaster in writing copy, taking photos, making corrections and pulling this together along with our Technology Coordinator Maryly Skalloos who got the site up and running on our server. Praise God for the many talented and generous individuals and organizations who made this gift to St. Thomas School a reality. Be sure and check it out!



ATTACHMENTS



- H & SA Minutes
- April Calendar and Menu
- Hot Lunch Order Form
- Student Council Cha Ching Challenge Flyer
- Spring Program Costume List
- Father/Daughter Dance

Registration 2007/2008

The School 2007/2008 Registration deadline for current school families has passed. Registrations received will be received on a first-come basis. Some classes will fill, so do not delay in turning in your forms.

We have received registrations to date that show we will be at or near capacity in the following grades:

P3
P4AM – Closed
P4PM
1-Closed
8

If you have any questions regarding registration, please call Sue in the school office at 458-4228 x300.

If you will be applying for financial aide, in order to take full advantage of all possible funding sources, please return the FACTS Financial Aid Forms by **Friday, March 30, 2007**. Forms received after this date will be processed, but will not be able to take advantage of Diocesan awards.

Junior High Spiritual Adoption

The next meeting for Jr. High Students, who have chosen to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion, is Wednesday, March 28th in the Ministry Center at 2:40pm. Hope to see you all there. Keep up those powerful prayers!

Teacher Appreciation Week— Volunteers Needed

Teacher Appreciation Week is fast approaching - April 30 - May 4, 2007! We are in need of volunteers for the following:

- Shoppers to go out and purchase items off of the teacher's "favorites" list (ASAP)
- Helpers to put together bags of purchased items for the teachers
- Valet parkers to help park the cars for the teachers from 7-7:30 a.m. on Wed, May 2.

If you can help in any capacity, please contact Jennifer Clemens at 974-0015 or jmclemens8@comcast.net. Thank You!

Please Return Borrowed Uniforms

Help! We are running low on used uniform shirts and size 10 uniform pants. If your student has borrowed a shirt or pair of pants, please wash and return it. If you have unused uniform clothing that you no longer need, we would be happy to take them off your hands. Thank you!

Spring Roller Skating Party

The Home & School Spring Skating Party is scheduled for tonight, Wednesday, March 21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Skating Center. Admission is free and skate rental is \$1.50. See you there!

Cha-Ching Challenge for Charity

March 26-30 Student Council will host our 3rd Annual charity fundraiser. All proceeds will benefit 48 students at Los Naranjos School in El Salvador. 1st & 2nd grades will be competing for an Ice Cream Party determined by the most money raised. 3rd -8th will be competing for a Pizza Party determined by the most points raised. Please see attached green flyer for rules. ~ Octavia Houtekier

Home & School Treasurer Needed for '07-08 School Year

The Home and School board is actively searching for a new treasurer for the upcoming 2007-2008 school year. Our current treasurer, Mary Blaszak, has served us well but unfortunately must move on due to the regulations of our bylaws. If you have a financial mind, like money or just want to be part of an awesome team of parents that work for the betterment of our school - please contact Jennifer Clemens at 974-0015 or jmclemens8@comcast.net. Thank You!

Save The Date!!

Spring is approaching fast and that means it's time for baseball! Our annual Whitecaps outing is scheduled for Sunday, June 3rd at 2:00pm. The game is a "family fun day" so come out early with your glove and throw the ball around on the field or stay after the game and run the bases! It's sure to be a fun time. Look for a letter to come home with more details after Spring Break.

Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to Cheryl Lambert, Julie Smith, Krisann O'Neil, Anne Pinter, Tara Simoniak, Lucy Lafluer, Kate Dykema and Erica McIlroy for helping with the Pre-school and Kindergarten Roundup. We appreciate you volunteering to provide daycare during the sessions.

Also, a big thank you to the Multicultural Committee for the wonderful activities they planned throughout the week. Your hard work and creativity are greatly appreciated!
~ Lisa Wolf and Angela Yondo

SCRIP Reminder

There will be no SCRIP during the week of Spring Break (April 2-9). SCRIP will resume Tuesday, April 10. Please call Stephanie LaVoie with any questions at 954-0969.

Parent Offerings

The following speakers will be available through Catholic Central High School. Our parents were invited to attend.

One of the biggest challenges that we face as Christian parents and educators is how we can help our children combat the many negative influences that our teenagers face in today's culture. To help give you some information and the opportunity to dialogue with other parents the Catholic Central High School administration along with the We Care Parent Organization has put together a speaker series to address some of the challenging issues that we face.

We have lined up excellent speakers in the months ahead. The speakers and topics are:

TONIGHT — March 21st Detective Lieutenant Jim Wolf
Michigan State Police
Computer Crimes Unit

Presentation Title: Protecting Our Children on the Internet

Lt. Wolf is an expert on computer crimes and how we as parents can educate our children and ourselves on taking precautionary measures to insure their safety on the internet. Lt. Wolf has presented this topic to many school communities throughout the state of Michigan.

April 25th Whitney Johnson
Director of Discovery Program
St. John's Home

Presentation Title: The Truth about Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Whitney Johnson and St. John's Home have gained a reputation as having one of the best adolescent alcohol and drug prevention and rehabilitation programs in Michigan. They will address signs of alcohol and drug use and what parents can do to help their teens combat the peer pressure associated with underage use.

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

If you still need to attend Virtus training, (required for all school volunteers), please note the upcoming sessions:

St. Anthony of Padua (Grand Rapids)
Thursday, March 22, 2007 @ 6:00 PM
Thursday, April 26, 2007 @ 6:00 PM

St. Pius X Parish (Grandville)
Thursday, April 12, 2007 @ 6:00 PM

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

St. Sebastian Parish (Byron Center)
Wednesday, May, 9 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

St. Thomas Students Chosen for the GRPS Citywide Art Show

The Grand Rapids Public Schools 2007 Citywide Art Show will hold a reception honoring art students on March 20-March 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA)~ 41 Sheldon Boulevard, SE ~ Grand Rapids, MI 49503 All are cordially invited to attend. Congratulations to the following Saint Thomas students whose artwork has been selected for the show: 1st Grade: Claire Den Braber, Mary Claire Mikolay & Lizzie Murphy; 2nd Grade: Anna Bockheim & Kelli Doyle; 3rd Grade: Maddie Jaracz & Ryan Jones; 4th Grade: Riley Henry & Ashley McIlroy; 5th Grade: Seth Alfaro & Luke Ens; 6th Grade: Sarah Den Braber, Brooke Knapp & Leila Vallarino; 7th Grade: Dottie Spiegel, Anna Faber & John Mirandette; 8th Grade: Matt Fallon, Taylor Knapp, Megan Jones & Maggie Lawrence.

~ Jake Fether

Challenge Scrap Booking Event

Forms are available in the back of church and at the Welcome Center for the Women's Scrap Booking Weekend on April 13-14th. This is sponsored by the Saint Thomas Challenge Club. All women are invited. Please call Chris Alfaro @ 774-4525 to register or for more information.

Registration Thanks!

A big Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with the Registration Packets: Charlene McGue, Kathy Barth, Jadene Giambenardi, Julie Line-Newman, Tanya Molotky, Tammie Mushinski, Joni Poggi, Marnie White, Tracey Jermstad, Lucyna Dieleman, and Kate Dykema.

Reminder Reminder Reminder

Order forms for the Rampage Football game on April 21st at 7:00 p.m. are due on Friday, March 23rd. Get your order in now for a night of football fun. The cost is \$15 and will include:

- *discounted upper bowl ticket
- *five dollar food voucher
- *post game meet and greet autograph session
- *group raffle drawing

Extra order forms are at the Welcome & Information Center right inside the school door. Please call Tracy Bandlow @ 452-8314 with any questions.

Summer Camp Opportunities

Camp Henry offers a summer camp that includes wakeboarding, waterskiing, horseback riding, outdoor adventure and more. For more information:

www.camphenry.org

Father/Daughter Dinner Dance

The St. Thomas Challenge Club is sponsoring a Father/Daughter dance for all girls (ages 10 and up) and their fathers, grandfathers, and/or godfathers on Friday night, April 20th. The dance is being held at Egypt Valley Country Club and will feature a sit-down dinner, speakers, contests, prizes, entertainment and dance. It promises to be a great evening for all involved. Cost is \$30 couple (with \$7 for additional daughters and a maximum family cap of \$45.) See attached registration form or call Amy DenBraber @ 233-0703 for more information.

Baskets Appreciated

If anyone won a basket at the auction and is wondering what to do with the basket now that they have emptied the wonderful contents, we would welcome the donation of the basket back for use at next year's auction.

~ Claudia Triestram

Catholic Central Registration

Catholic Central High School visited the 8th grade and distributed CCHS registration packets for the 2007/2008 school year. Registration conferences for incoming 9th graders will be held March 19th through April 27th. If you have any questions please call the Guidance Office at 223-5810.

We Celebrate Our Newest Authors

The Following Books Were Published During the Weeks of February 16th - March 9th

Ana Corcoran	The Halloween Story	Michels	3
Greta Staggs	Treena Goes to the Beach	Baxter	1
Anna Simonait	Jesus	Lake	1
Sara Vrugink	My Teacher	Lake	1
Gabe Rohn	Me and My Dad	Baxter	1
Sarah Baxter	The Pizza	Lake	1
Nevada Flynn	The Trip for my Mom and Dad to West Virginia	Michels	3
Cody Hermiz	The Cherry Tree	Michels	3
Michael Jepsen	I Had a Bad Day	Michels	2
Jameson VanDokkumburg	The Story of the Magical Creatures	Lake	1
Peter McIlroy	Monster's World	Lake	1
Anna Herold	I Wish	Lake	1
Aden Shiel	The Snow Day	Lake	1
Mary Claire Mikolay	Friends with Francesca and Wisawella	Baxter	1
Jessica Trenshaw	The Birthday Story	Baxter	1
Francesca Deveau	The Friend Book	Baxter	1
Carolyn Lignell	My New Kitty	Baxter	1
Brennan Rodgers	My Own Goose	Baxter	1
Stephen Douglas Woodruff	Stephen Douglass Wodruff's own version of Star Wars Episode 5: The Emperor Strikes Back	Baxter	1
Ian Richards	Germis	Baxter	1
Maya Zimelis	About Jesus and Me	Baxter	1
Lauren Kuzee	No Wheat-An Olden Day's Tale	Baxter	1

