

THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*



ASP: After School Program at Saint Thomas the Apostle

We are currently accepting registration for students P4 – pm only through 12 yrs. So much has been happening in ASP including exploration of the Chinese New Year, a quest into the Medieval Times of chivalry, knights, and jesters, and a new community service; cleaning the Faculty Lounge on Mondays. Miss Rachel, our AQ volunteer, led us on an Easter egg hunt and we continue to practice our Life Skills with emergency call awareness. If you have questions about ASP please contact Miss Houtekier at 616-458-4228 ext. 337.

Student Council Theme Day: Wednesday, April 16th TIPPY TOPS and BOTTOMS

Cost: \$1.00



Students may wear a hat and jeans or jean shorts with their uniform shirt for a fee of \$1.00. The proceeds will go towards the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in May. Hats must be appropriate and jeans and jean

shorts must follow the uniform guidelines.

Note: Please change this date on your April calendar.

SUPER SAFETIES!



We would like to recognize our school safety patrol members when they are doing an exceptional job. If you see a safety at their safety post (in proper AAA safety belt) doing something great in the way of keeping our students safe, please stop in or call the school office (458-4228)



so that we can recognize these safeties in a special way!

SCRIP Reminder

There will be *no SCRIP during the week of Spring Break* (April 7-11). SCRIP will resume on Monday, April 14th. Please call Stephanie LaVoie with any questions at 954-0969.

Upcoming April Dates



Please add these dates to your April calendar:

Thursday, April 3

2/Mrs. Baxter @ 10-11:00 Planting seedlings at Holland Home with residents

2/Mrs. Michels from 1:30-2:30 (same as above)

Saturday, April 12

9:00-11:30 a.m. Parent/Child First Eucharist Retreat

Friday, April 18

8:15 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. Grade 2 First Eucharist Retreat

Wednesday, April 23

8:30 – 10:50 a.m. Grade 1 visits Swiss Lane Dairy Farm

St. Thomas Thanks You

Thank you to all parents who filled out the Parish Long Range Survey. Jean passes went home with students who returned their yellow letter that was signed by a parent. Thank you again for your help!



ATTACHMENTS

- Grs. 6-8 Junior High Lock In Registration Form
- Youth Ministry Volunteer Form
- Golf Outing Registration Form
- Golf Outing Hole Sponsorship Form
- Right to Life Bike and Hike Pledge Form

Catholic Central Registration

Catholic Central High School staff visited the 8th grade and distributed CCHS registration packets for the 2008/2009 school year. Registration for incoming 9th graders is being held now through April 18th. If you have any questions, please call the Guidance Office at 233-5810.

7th and 8th Graders Annual Spring Dance

7th and 8th graders get ready to boogie the night away at the Annual Spring Dance. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 18th. The dance will be held in the gym from 7:00 until 9:30. The DJ extraordinaire will be none other than BZ DJ, otherwise known as Bryant Zimmerman, a St. Thomas parishioner.

The cost for the dance is \$5.00. In the event you have not paid, send your payment to school to the attention of Carole Knapp. Teachers and some parents will be there to chaperone the event. The attire will be weekend casual, non uniform rules will apply. Look for a flier to be sent home the week after Spring Break. Set up for the dance will be that Friday after school, call Carole Knapp 458-2639 if you are able to help set up or clean up after the dance.



Booster Meeting

The next Booster Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Faculty



Conference Room. Next year's budget will be decided. Please join us.

Library News

We have found several books in the library that are neither STS library books or GR public library books, so we can only assume they are from teacher's classroom collections or from student's homes. If you are missing a book from your classroom or home, please check the new lost and found box in the STS library. Any books left in the box at the end of the school year will be donated to the STS library. Thank you.



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

The 6th, 7th, & 8th grade lock-in is Friday, April 25th, at the Downtown YMCA. (Registration form attached)

Thank you for your patience in waiting for a rescheduled date! FYI: There will be separate male/female swimming times and separate 6th grade / 7th & 8th grade times for all activities.

Attention 6th graders who previously registered for the lock-in: no need to pay again, although a new registration form will be needed.

Call Patti Reynolds, 459-4662 x209 or email preynolds@stthomasgr.org with questions & comments.

St. Thomas Parish YOUTH MINISTRY is...

Drawing youth into the adventure of discipleship, helping youth to make the right connections, growing young disciples, responding to the needs and including the gifts of youth, seeing youth as gifted and growing, seeing parents as partners, seeing our parish as ready and able to respond to youth, seeing the wider community as collaborators and resources, a relationship, not just a program, investing in youth with our time, attention and resources.

St. Thomas Parish YOUTH MINISTRY SEEKS TO HELP YOUTH...

Develop a personal relationship with Jesus, participate in the Church, integrate Catholic values, apply Catholic faith to daily life, commit to the Catholic faith for life, live the moral and the theological virtues, develop Biblical and doctrinal literacy, develop personal spirituality and prayer life, participate in the sacraments, work for justice and defend human dignity, serve those in need and foster social change, become healers, reconcilers and peacemakers, develop respect for differences, overcome prejudices, develop critical thinking skills, integrate Catholic secular values, develop a positive self-image, grow in life skills, discern their vocation, share gifts.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED...

In volunteering in our Parish Youth Ministry program? We are expanding & growing, we need more volunteers to help implement our Comprehensive Youth Ministry which is grounded in the Catholic Bishops' pastoral plan *Renewing the Vision* and in the new *Diocesan Religion Curriculum*. There are many different volunteer opportunities in both the Jr. High and Sr. High levels as indicated on the attached volunteer form. Also, you do not have to be a parent of a Jr. High youth to volunteer. This is a Parish program and ALL adult parishioners are invited to volunteer, no matter what your child's age. Thank you!

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:

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

Thursday, May 22, 2008 @ 2:00 PM

Thursday, July 24, 2008 @ 2:00 PM

Thursday, September 18, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 13, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.

* *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:

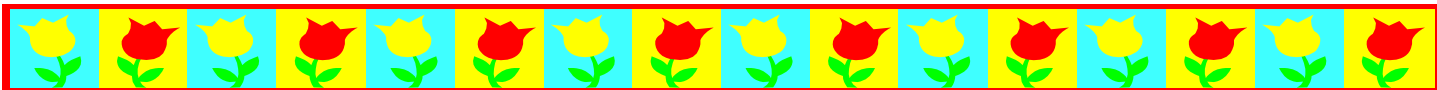
- Go to www.virtus.org
- Click "Registration"
- Click "Begin the Registration Process"
- Select Diocese of Grand Rapids as the organization.
- You will be required to enter a UserID and password (of your choice)
- Fill out registration form
- Choose a location

2008 Saint Thomas Golf Outing

Friday Afternoon - May 9th, 2008
Centennial
Country Club



Don't forget to send in your registration and/or hole sponsorship forms ASAP!



Enjoy your Spring Break!
No School Monday, April 7th-Friday, April 11th
See you on the 14th!



"Catholic parents are reminded of their duty to send their children to Catholic schools wherever this is possible, to give Catholic schools all the support in their power, and to cooperate with them in their work for the good of all their children."

GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATIONIS (*Declaration On Christian Education*)
1965 ~ Vatican II



ALIVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW: Madeline Ederly, Seth Alfaro, Maegan Gibbons, Addison LaVoie, Nevada Flynn
BACK ROW: Maddie Jaracz, Nick Vrugink, Leanne McWain, Kate Miller, Abby Choffel



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW : Patrick Gibbons, Andrew Hess, Cassidy Triestram, Noah Mast
MIDDLE: Grace Pinter, Isaac Liang, Anna Herold, Alayna Henry,
BACK ROW: Scarlett Wardrop, Anna Trenshaw, Elizabeth Jermstad, Lizzie Murphy, Jacob Bocian



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW : Ciara White, Greta Staggs, Adrien Yondo, Maya Zimelis
MIDDLE: Thomas Murray, Taylor Molotky, Jackson Wardrop, Brennen Rodgers, Riley Henry
BACK ROW: Shannon McNeely, Jessica Herold, Colin Tomac, Gracie Jones, Emma Jensen



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW : Anna Simonait, Elizabeth Rott, Isabella Gumbko, Maddie Yuncker
MIDDLE: Aden Shiel, John Libriani, Claire Den Braber, Carolyn Lignell
BACK ROW: James Schueler, Thomas France, Dylan Sykes, Pablo Corcoran, Mark Heun