

# THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*



## Registration Update

Dear Parents,

In an effort to extend placement here at St. Thomas School to as many students as possible and to maintain the smallest possible class sizes, the determination has been made in consultation with the Faculty and Education Commission to split both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades for next year according to the following configuration:

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Class	(approximately 20 students) 1 Class/1 Teacher
<u>1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> Split Class</u>	(14-16 students) 1 Class/1 Teacher / <u>1/2 time Aide</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Class	(approximately 20 students) 1 Class/1 Teacher
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Class	(18-20 Students), 1 Class/1 Teacher
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Class	(18-20 Students), 1 Class/1 Teacher
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class	(23-24 students) 1 Class/1 Teacher
<u>4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> Split Class</u>	(18 – 20 Students) 1 Class/1 Teacher
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class	(24-25 students) 1 Class/1 Teacher



We realize that a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Split Class is rare here at St. Thomas and has only happened on one other occasion in the last 15 years. In that situation, there was no aide available. For next year, however, we have planned a half-time aide for that classroom. We believe that the small class size along with the skills of an excellent instructional aide will allow for optimal small groupings for direct instruction especially of the skill-based areas of Language Arts and Math.

Please understand that we are now beginning the discernment process to determine which teachers will be teaching which class. We anticipate sharing this information with all of you in the May 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Pieces. Please pray with us for the Holy Spirit's guidance and kindly respect the difficult process of making grade level changes by not contacting teachers specifically about this prior to the community announcement on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Peace in Christ,  
*Dave Faber*

**Please Note these Important Dates:**

**Spring Program, May 7th**  
**May Crowning, May 14th**

(They are in reverse order from past years.)

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 2008/2009 Saint Thomas School Calendar
- May Calendar
- May Hot Lunch Menu
- Education Commission Letter to Parents
- Home & School Minutes (January & March)
- Booster Spirit Wear Order Form (w/new cap item)
- Spring Program Costume Flyer
- Visiting Author Family Night Flyer
- Mother-Son Banquet & ConQuest Retreat Flyer

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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### Booster Meeting

The next Booster Meeting is scheduled for **TONIGHT**, Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:00

p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room. Next year's budget will be decided. Please join us.



### Last K4J Meeting of the Year

PLEASE NOTE: Our last K4J meeting for this school year will be held Friday, May 2nd from 3:15-4:45 p.m.

### Spiritual Adoption

The next meeting for Junior High Students who have chosen to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion is Monday, April 28, in the Lower Level during lunch. Please remember your bottles with the prayer cards attached. Remember all coins collected go to the St. Mary's Crisis Pregnancy center. Keep up those powerful prayers!



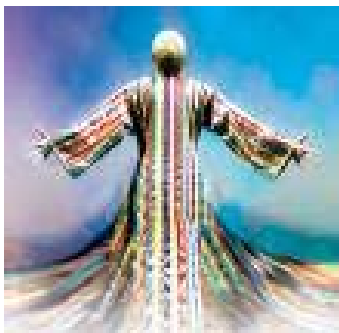
~ Mrs. Donna Valente

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Catholic Central High School Choral Department is presenting Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Several of our students will be in the cast. We encourage you to attend this production which opens Wednesday, April 23 with performances each night until Saturday, April 26 at the Performing Arts Center of Aquinas College. All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, they will be performing a matinee performance at 3:00 p.m. If families are interested, tickets can be ordered through the Circle Theater Box Office at 456-6656. Prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students. Our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade St. Thomas students will be attending with area partner schools to view the 9:30 a.m. performance on Wednesday, April 23.



## Spring Program is May 7th

Can you believe it? It's almost May! Where did the year go? Well, here at school, we've been busy since January with our annual spring program.



Our title this year is "The Fruit of the Spirit is Jesus in Me". Each class has chosen one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and created an act around that particular theme. Be prepared for lots of fun!

The program will again be held at the Aquinas College Fieldhouse on Wednesday, May 7th, with performances at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

As is our custom, an "admission" will be charged. We are requesting donations of canned meat or personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, toilet paper, deodorant, etc., to help stock our parish pantry.

Thank you for all you do to help make this event such a success.

~ Kathy Proulx, Music Teacher

### Booster Flower Sale

St. Thomas Boosters is once again offering beautiful flower baskets for you to purchase just in time for Mother's Day! Order forms are attached. Call Helen Vruggink at 459-6910 if you have any questions.



### St. Thomas Identity (Logo) Policy

St. Thomas has adopted a policy regarding the use of our school logos, as consistent and correct use of the St. Thomas the Apostle logos enhances our organization's image. This policy applies to the use of our school/parish logo, school mascot, and school name. If you have a need to use our logo for any reason, the policy is on file in the school office. A Logo/School Identity Request Form is also available in the office and must be completed and turned in for approval.

~ Mr. Faber

### 2008/2009 School Calendar

A draft of the 2008/2009 St. Thomas School Calendar is attached to this "Pieces". Please note that several days have a 2:15 p.m. dismissal. This early dismissal is part of a Grand Rapids Area Catholic Schools initiative to provide time for teachers to meet in professional learning communities.



## 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 Charites 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.

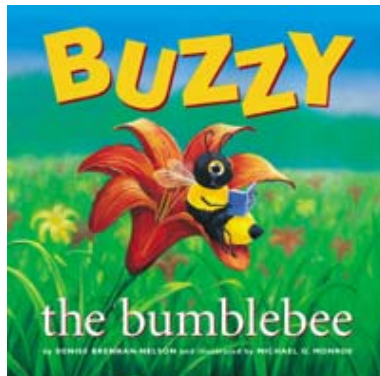
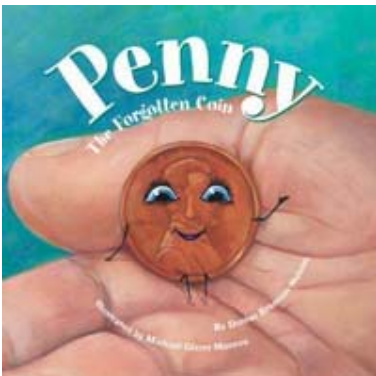
\* *Parking is limited downtown so car pooling is recommended.*

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

- Go to [www.virtus.org](http://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

## Author Visit

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, author Denise Brennan Nelson will visit all classes at St. Thomas. She will be sharing stories, her inspirations, and her writing process. In the evening, she will meet with families for a reading, short discussion and book signing. Her books will be on display in the school library beginning April 22.



## 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!

# CONQUEST<sup>SM</sup>

*Forming Tomorrow's Leaders*

Presents

## A Mother & Son Banquet

All St. Thomas mothers & sons (ages 8-17) are welcome

St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
Lower Level

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

*Please see the attached flyer for details*

## ConQuest Boys' Retreat

There will be a Boys' Retreat held at St. Thomas May 2-4th. *All boys* aged 10-16 are invited to attend (boys do not have to be a part of ConQuest). Cost is only \$20. See the attached flyer for details.

*"All men of whatever race, condition or age, in virtue of their dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to education."*

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



# SUMMER CAMPS and OPPORTUNITIES



## Summer Sports Camps

Aquinas College is offering camps for softball, basketball and volleyball with sessions in June and July. Each of the camps run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and includes instruction, lunch and a T-shirt. The prices



range from \$125 to \$180 and age requirements vary by activity. An application form must be submitted with a \$60 deposit as registration is not taken over the phone. For additional information, please pick up a brochure at the Welcome and Information Center near the St. Thomas school office or call Aquinas at (616) 632-2474.

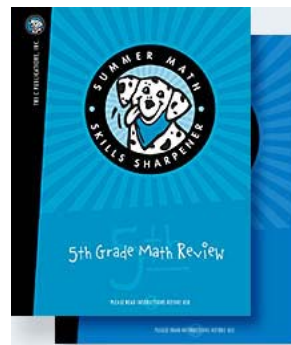


## Summer Programs GRASP

The Grand Rapids Public Schools is again making available their Academic Summer Program entitled GRASP. GRASP is a 9 week correspondence program in grades K-8 which helps students maintain reading and math skills while they are on summer vacation. It should take you and your child approximately one hour per week to complete each weekly lesson. Attached is an enrollment form. All forms are due in the school office by May 1, 2008. If you would like more information, please call Judy or Marilyn at 819-2548.

## Summer Skills Review Books

*Reinforce Your Child's Learning Over the Summer!* The Summer Skills Review Books (which have been reviewed and recommended by Mrs. Zoppa) are a supplemental summer program for reinforcing academic skills over the summer. All materials are



parent ordered and mailed directly to your home. The books are completed at an individual pace. Sample books to review along with order forms are available in the office. The series includes books for grade levels K-8 Math, Pre-algebra, Algebra, Geometry, High School Math Review, and Math for Life, K-7 Language Arts which reviews mixed skills, reading, writing, phonics, punctuation, and grammar, Spanish Review for middle/high school helping students prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of foreign language, French I for middle/high school, and keyboarding grades 3-6. The cost of each book is \$18.00 with free shipping. The books can also be ordered or reviewed at [www.summerskills.com](http://www.summerskills.com).

## Calvin Chem-Camps 2008

Calvin College will be offering chemistry camps this summer for students who have completed 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grades. The camp program will feature demonstrations and many hands-on experiments designed to teach introductory chemical concepts during the weeks of June 16 and June 23, with a girls-only camp held during the week of July 7. Sessions are available in the morning or afternoon, and the \$125 camp fee includes materials and a camp T-shirt. For more information or to register, check out our website at [calvin.edu/chemisty/camps](http://calvin.edu/chemisty/camps). You can also phone the Chemistry Department at 526-8801 or email: [jlc23@calvin.edu](mailto:jlc23@calvin.edu) to request a brochure and registration form. Some funding is available to provide partial need-based scholarships. A few registration forms are also available in the Welcome and Information Center by the school entrance.



## Kendall Summer Art Classes

Interested in Art? Love to play with clay? Classes in these and many more artful subjects are available this summer at Kendall College of Art & Design. Classes will be held from June 16<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information or to receive a course schedule, call (616) 451-2787 ext 2012 or visit Kendall on the web at [www.kcad.edu](http://www.kcad.edu) to download the guide from the youth & adults section in Continuing Studies.



## Calvin Academic Camps for Excellence

Calvin College's ACE programs are for students who love learning and are challenged by complexity. Subjects taught range from Literature & Writing to Mathematics to various Science subjects and even Computers. For more information on these classes, please call (616) 526-6200, email [eas22@calvin.edu](mailto:eas22@calvin.edu) or visit [www.calvin.edu/academic/summer/ace](http://www.calvin.edu/academic/summer/ace).



# HORNET ATHLETICS



## Fall Sports Signups

Sports Signups for the Fall season (next school year) are currently posted in the classrooms until Friday 5/2/08. **These sign ups will be for 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders** (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders next school year). Practices may begin as soon as 8/11/2008.

St. Thomas offers the following fall sports opportunities:

Girl's Cross Country \*      Boy's Cross Country \*

\* *Cross country is available for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade only*

Girl's Volleyball

Boy's Football

Girl's Sideline Cheer

Boy's Soccer



## Sport Physicals & Permission Slips for School Year 2008/2009

Attention Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students, a new Physical & Permission Slip is required EACH school year.

Students planning on participating in the St. Thomas Athletic program during the next school year are required to have a ST. THOMAS SPORTS PERMISSION SLIP and a SPORTS PHYSICAL (showing a doctor's clearance) dated after 5/15/08. **These forms**

**must be on file with the St. Thomas Athletic Department prior to participation in any practice or game.** These forms will be valid for the entire 2008-2009 school year, so please fill out the Permission Slip for all sports that you are allowing your son/daughter to participate in.

St. Thomas Boosters will be offering an opportunity for your son/daughter to have their basic sports physical at St. Thomas. Please watch for a future announcement for the date of this year's physicals. Any student/athlete who does not attend this date will need to schedule a physical with their doctor and have the Permission Slip and Physical forms turned in to the St. Thomas Athletic Department before any athletic participation.

## Outstanding Sports Uniforms/Equipment

All outstanding sports uniforms and equipment from the fall and winter seasons should have been returned to the athletic department by this time. If you still have any of these uniforms or equipment please contact the athletic director (452-8314 – home phone) to make arrangements to turn your uniform or equipment in. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please make sure all uniforms are returned CLEAN and in reasonable condition. ~ *Louis Bandlerow, Athletic Director*



## SPIRIT WEAR—ROUND TWO!!!

The Saint Thomas Boosters are serving up round two of the SPIRIT WEAR PROMOTION!!!

Order forms are available as an attachment to today's PIECES or are available on the Saint Thomas School website. Check out the NEW sandwich billed baseball cap with the Hornet logo on front and the school Cross logo on back! It looks sharp! Please have all orders (with checks) handed in by **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. Items will be returned to the students in approximately 2 weeks. As a reminder, the spirit wear items will be offered 3 times throughout the school year. Any orders that come in AFTER those offerings will be held until the next open order time. As with many new promotions, often there are a few "bumps" along the way...thanks for your patience as we move forward. Please feel free to contact Matt Tietema at (616) 458-6819 with any questions or ideas.





# ALIVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES**

**FRONT ROW:** Kathleen Woodruff, Jenna Wolf, Derrick Patterson, Grace Rellinger  
**BACK ROW:** Leanne McWain, Ryan Mangan, Emily Lambert, Nate Blaszak, Shomari Tate, Jeff Gorski



**PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES**

**FRONT ROW :** Nevada Flynn, Maegan Gibbons, Kate Lignell  
**MIDDLE ROW:** Addison LaVoie, Tim Wheeler, Luke Fetterhoff, Blare Gooch, Max Aulbach  
**BACK ROW:** Maddie Jaracz, Abby Den Braber, Emma Heffron, Kathleen Doyle, Noah Bosse



**PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES**

**FRONT ROW :** Tommy Mikolay, Sam DeBruyn, Audrey Patterson  
**MIDDLE ROW :** Jack Walch, Andrew Aschwege, Olivia Jepsen, Ondrej, Kovarik  
**BACK ROW:** Caroline Gell, Tess Ens, Kelli Doyle, Regina Faber, Anezka Kovarik



**PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES**

**FRONT ROW :** Constance Stormzand, Amadeo Hammond, Andy Bridge  
**MIDDLE ROW:** Liam Perdue, Lauryn Syrba, Ben Line-Neumann, Ethan Alfaro  
**BACK ROW:** Peter Crittenden, Mary Claire Coil, Julia Walsh, Ana Corcoran



## Last Home & School Meeting

The last Home and School Business Meeting of the year is Wednesday May 21, 2008 at 7 pm in the Ministry Center. This will be your last opportunity to fulfill the requirement for attendance at a meeting for this school year. All parents are encouraged to attend. We will be voting on new officers for



the 2008-2009 school year. Please send all agenda items to [mcetriestram@comcast.net](mailto:mcetriestram@comcast.net) by May 5, 2008. Questions? Please chat with a Home and School Board member! Thank you.

## 2008/2009 Home and School Association Officers

Please consider serving as an officer of H&SA. The commitment of time can easily be fit into any schedule and the benefits to the school and the children are amazing.

As **Vice President** you would be actively involved in the budgeting of funds for exiting 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. This position leads to President the following year. With other active officers and parents within our community, this position does not have to be an overwhelming commitment of time. In fact it can fit into any schedule, even a full time work schedule.

There is also an open position for **Secretary**. This is a minimal time commitment, which entails attending the five meetings per year. What a wonderful way to volunteer within the school and be an active role in what is happening with our children and school all at the same time. The requirements of this position are the taking of minutes during the meeting and drafting them within the following week. This position is a commitment of two years.

If you have questions and would like to learn more about these wonderful opportunities please contact Claudia Triestram. Or, our next meeting is May 21, 2008 at 7:00pm if you would like to come and learn more.

## Teacher Appreciation Week

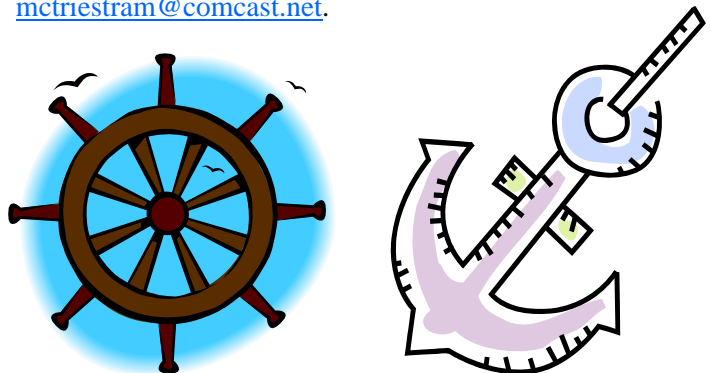
Do you enjoy shopping? Then we have a great volunteer opportunity for you! Home and School is in need of many volunteers to shop for items to fill gift baskets for the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week. You will be provided with a list of items they would enjoy and be reimbursed by Home and School. The gift bags are being put together on 5/07/08 so the shopping would need to be done by early that same week. If you are interested in shopping please contact Claudia Triestram at 855-1141 or [mcetriestram@comcast.net](mailto:mcetriestram@comcast.net).



We are also in need of helpers to put the gift bags together. This will be done right after drop off on 5/07/08. If you have an interest in this exciting volunteer opportunity, please contact Amy Bocian at 559-8803 or [chadbo@comcast.net](mailto:chadbo@comcast.net).

## Home and School Special Request:

If you have any nautical themed items around your house that you would be willing to loan out for a short period of time for a Home and School event it would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to loan an item(s) please contact Claudia Triestram at 855-1141 or [mcetriestram@comcast.net](mailto:mcetriestram@comcast.net).





# Saint Thomas School Calendar May 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 <i>Feast of the Ascension</i>	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo</i> <b>TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</b>	6 8:15-9:55 am 7th Gr. Retreat w/ Edgeline Elections in Gym 1:15 pm All School Spring Program Dress Rehearsal	7 'Pieces' home 1 pm Spring Program Dress Rehearsal <b>7 pm Spring Program</b>	8 Student Council Teacher Appreciation Luncheon 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	9 9:55 am Mass STS Golf Outing begins at 11:45 am	10 Booster Flower Sale pick up at gym - 10 am-1 pm
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 Jean Pass Day Spirit Wear Orders Due	13 8:15-9:55 am 7th Gr. Retreat w/ Edgeline in gym	14 4 yr. Pre Mother's Day Tea AM & PM 8:15-3 pm 7th Gr. Physics in the Park <b>7 pm May Crowning</b> 7:30 pm Ed. Com. Mtg.	15	16 9:55 am Mass	17
18	19 Non Uniform Day Field Day	20	21 'Pieces' home 1:30-3 pm Grs. 1 & 3 Poetry Coffeehouse	22 7th Grade Retreat at Camp Blodgett	23 1:30 pm Mass	24 Education Commission Elections/Ratification at Mass
25 Education Commission Elections/Ratification at Mass	26 <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <i>NO After School Program</i>	27 Mrs. Petkus' Class Auction in p.m.	28	29	30 <b>Last day for 8th Grade</b> 9:55 am 7th Grade Anointing Mass	31