



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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Andrew Stec whose essay earned 4th place in the America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. Andrew was chosen among thousands of eighth grade students from nearly 500 participating Michigan schools. Andrew and the other top ten statewide winners are invited to spend an unforgettable day in Lansing as they are honored for their achievement. A copy of Andrew's winning essay is attached. Congratulations again Andrew. We are all proud of you!!!



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Teacher Request Process Changed

Our teachers will soon begin forming class lists for the 2007-2008 school year. In the past we found that parents were making requests simply because they felt they should. Please understand that teachers spend many hours creating class lists based on student needs, teaching styles, and social interactions. As a result, it is not necessary to make a request! If you have a **special reason** to request a teacher for your 2nd through 5th grade student (s), Teacher Request **Forms are available in the school office. Please reserve this request process for situations where there is a true and specific need only!**

Request forms must be turned in **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 30.** We will attempt to honor your **necessary** requests. However, we reserve the right to make final determinations. Class lists will be posted on Friday, June 29, at noon.

Next year's teaching assignments (Grades 1-5) as currently anticipated* are:

- Grade 1 Holly Lake
- Grade 2 Mary Baxter
- Grade 2 Sue Michels
- Grade 3 To be determined
- Grade 3 Deb Pieri
- Grade 4 Peggy Campbell
- Grade 4/5 Bethann Petkus
- Grade 5 Susan Furtwangler

**Enrollment changes are possible. As a result, the above assignments are subject to change*

May Crowning Tonight

All students are asked to attend tonight's special service in which we give honor to Mary the Mother of Our Lord. Students are asked to sit with their families and bring fresh-cut flowers to be placed in baskets as they come into church. May Crowning will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

~ Mary Sue Stegehuis

Coffee with the Principal and Assistant Principal

On Monday, May 7, all are invited to participate in "Coffee with the Principal and Assistant Principal," an informal half hour, 10-10:30 a.m., in the Faculty Conference Room during which parents can ask questions, share ideas, and learn about current programs. *~ Sue Ysasi*

WANTED: Home & School Treasurer

We are still actively looking for someone to take the position as Treasurer for the 2007/2008 Home and School Association. Mary Blaszak has done an outstanding job in this position for the last two years, but unfortunately can not continue per our bylaws. A recent change to the scope of the position makes it even easier for the new treasurer. Dawn Olney, Coordinator of Finance for the Parish, will assume all check writing responsibilities so all you will have to do is coordinate the budget with her and report it at the meetings every other month. How easy is that????!!!! Please prayerfully consider joining this amazing group of parents and help support St. Thomas! Contact Jennifer Clemens at 974-0015 or jmclens8@comcast.net if you are interested. Thank You!

The last Home & School Meeting for the year is **TONIGHT** after May Crowning in the Ministry Center.



ATTACHMENTS



- Hot Lunch Order Form
- Children's Assessment Center Flyer
- Magnets
- America & Me Essay Contest Essay by Andrew Stec
- Spring Program Service Project Flyer

Last Home & School Meeting

The last HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING for this school year will be held **TONIGHT AT 7:30 P.M.** or immediately following the May Crowning. As this is our last meeting of the year, we will be electing officers for the 2007-2008 Home and School Board. Please join us immediately following May Crowning in the ministry center. We look forward to seeing you!

Yearbooks Available

Yearbooks were distributed this week. Not all picture packages included a yearbook. If your child did not receive a yearbook and would like one, they are available through Geskus Photography for \$7.00 each. Please order one through their website: www.geskusphoto.com/yearbookorders If you have any questions, please call Geskus Photography at 453-4170. Thank you to Laura Routzahn for all her work on the yearbook this year!

Keep Recycling those Cartridges!

Thank you to all families who have donated their used inkjet cartridges and laser toner cartridges to the school during the past year. We have earned over \$500 with these returns. Please continue to donate your used cartridges and any old cell phones as we recycle them through a recycling program. Our school gets a refund check with these returns and helps support our technology program. ~ *Maryly Skallos, Technology Coordinator*

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. Jude Parish (Grand Rapids)

Wednesday, May, 2 2007 @ 6:30 PM

St. Sebastian Parish (Byron Center)

Wednesday, May, 9 2007 @ 6:30 PM

SS. Peter & Paul School (Grand Rapids)

Tuesday, September 18, 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



Booster Flower Sale

If you ordered flowers through the St. Thomas Boosters, please pick them up on Saturday, May 12th outside the gym from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you didn't place an order, additional baskets will be available for sale at that time. Call

Helen Vruggink at 459-6910 with any questions.

Field Day Volunteers Needed

Field Day is scheduled for Monday, May 21. Activities for Grades K-5 are being held from 8:30-11:00 a.m. and activities for Grades 6-8 are being held from 12:15-2:30 p.m. Many volunteers are needed to make this day run smoothly, especially for the Junior High classes. Rain-date is Wednesday, May 23. If you are able to help, please contact Becky Lehman at 318-8051 or by email at: rebekah_lehman@countrywide.com.

Wealthy Street Opportunity

From now through August, St. Thomas teachers, staff, students, families and friends have a wonderful opportunity to support our neighborhood businesses and our school at the same time. During construction on Wealthy Street, Wealthy Street Bakery, Art of the Table and Wealthy at Charles are offering donations to neighborhood schools. For every purchase we make at these businesses, they will donate 5% to the school of our choice! Only a handful of nearby schools were selected to receive this generous offer and we are fortunate to be one of them. Each time you shop at one of these three locally owned stores, be sure to mention that 5% should be directed back to St. Thomas. They will do the rest. Additionally, Wealthy Street Bakery and Art of the Table are offering free delivery on orders that total over \$20.00 and \$70.00 respectively. Keep them in mind for luncheons, parties, gift baskets, etc. Get the word out- shopping local will not only help our neighborhood businesses, but our school as well. Thank-you. ~ *Kerry Baldwin*

Life Decisions International

Did you check out the Life Decisions International web site www.fightpp.org? LDI is the organization that researches corporate donations and tracks who gives to Planned Parenthood. Such companies range from the maker of the cookies that you buy to the publisher of the magazines that you read and the stores that you shop at. Learn all about who funds Planned Parenthood by reading the list yourself!

Free lists are available at the school entrance Welcome & Information Center. Pick one up if you would like to learn more. Be informed. Make a difference. If you want more information or additional copies, call Lois Marie Ens, 957-9617.

Summer Camps and Opportunities

Holy Spirit Summer Skills Program

It's Back! Summer Skills Program for Students in Kindergarten to 8th grade. The objective of this program is to provide packets that are "parent friendly" and designed to be used in late July or early August to help students from becoming "rusty" in regards to some of their academic skills. For those students who traditionally participated in the GRASP program through GRPS, this should prove to be perhaps more beneficial, as the program is designed specifically around our Diocesan Curriculum. Order forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center. For further information, please contact Tanya Vugteveen at tvugteveen@hsparish.com or call 735-6012.

SPANISH CAMP

We will be hosting a Spanish Camp for preschool through 3rd graders on June 11th-14th at Plymouth United Church of Christ (36 & Kalamazoo).

The camp features a lesson only in Spanish, Mexican cooking, Mexican crafts, Mexican dance, and games! The last day, we end with a piñata! Teachers are Mary Ann Bridge (235-2645) and Patricia Corcoran (235-9275). Call for more information.



Day Camps

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park offers summer day camps for ages 4-12 on a variety of topics including animal art; chocolate; building and sailing toy boats; and rocks and fossils. For more information, please call 975-3147 or visit our website at www.meijergardens.org. ~ Molly Salinas

Summer Science Adventure Day Camps

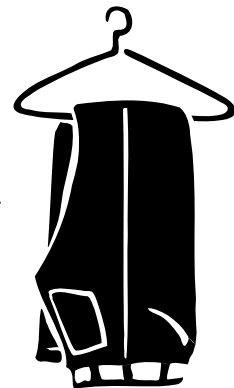
Grand Valley State University through the RMSC is offering eight enrichment camps this summer for 4th-10th grade students. Topics include Exploring Flight and Space, Digging Rocks, Computer Camps, Nature and Art, Oceanography, and Forensics. For more information, contact the RMSC at (616) 331-2267 or www.gvsu.edu/rmsc.

Spring Program Helpers

A special thank you to Charlene McGue for organizing the following volunteers to run, collate and staple the Spring Program. Many thanks to Lisa Becherer, Joanna Kovarik, Tonya Molotky, Tammie Mushinski, Joni Poggi and Marnie White.

Uniforms Needed for Hall School

Hall School is desperately in need of gently used uniform pieces of all sizes. Please drop your donation off at Hall School, 703 Shamrock Ave., SW, Grand Rapids, MI or drop it off at Janet Milanowski's home, 21 Baynton Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, MI.



School Magnets

Please put the attached magnet on your refrigerator as a reminder to visit our website often. You will find the latest Pieces (even before they're sent home), calendar, hot lunch menu, sports schedules, and even printable forms as well as interesting stories and features about our school and the special people who make up our school community. Check us out and then come back often!

www.stthomasgr.org

We Celebrate Our Newest Authors



Joe Ens	A Journey to the Rainforest	Pieri/3
Emily Mauren	One Day in the Rainforest	Pieri/3
Margaret O'Neil	One Day in the Rainforest	Pieri/3
Andy Bridge	The Selfish Dog	Haviland/2
Veronica Treece	A Puppy for Claire	Lake/1
Joseph Blanco	Joe, the Dog	Lake/1
Adrien Yondo	January	Lake/1
Claire Den Braber	Pigs	Lake/1
Claire Den Braber	Mom, Can I Have A Dog?	Lake/1
Julia Walsh	Willow and Jack's Plan	Haviland/2
Tai Firlit	The Best Life Ever	Haviland/2
Dylan Sykes	All About My Family	Michels/2
Anna Simonait	My Animals	Lake/1
Constance Stormzand	Poor and Rich	Haviland/2
Brooke Nicholson	Further Adventures of Thumbilina	Haviland/2
Liam Perdue	If I Was a Pueblo	Haviland/2

WE COMMIT OUR LIVES TO JESUS



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Purposes



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FRONT ROW:
BACK ROW:

FRONT ROW:
BACK ROW:



Congratulations to:

We congratulate the following St. Thomas students who have made or will be making their First Communion and those who were confirmed at the Cathedral last night.

First Communicants

April 29, 2007

Andrew Aschwege
Antonio Beitner
Kyle Blaszak
Anna Bockheim
Andrew Bridge
Kelli Doyle
Therese Ens
Noah Fetterhoff
Katelyn Giamberti
James Gould
Margaret Kane
Benjamin Line Neumann
John Lown
Brooke Nicholson
Liam Perdue
Elizabeth Rott

Confirmands: May 1, 2007

Scott Neil Andrew Aschwege, Josephine Rose Adrian Aulbach, Joseph Roland Anthony Becherer, Ellie Anna Cecelia Den Braber, Scott Andrew Dripchak, Matthew David Anthony Fallon, Austin Jay Augustine Jeltas, Rachael Victoria Jensen, Daniel Robert Francis Jermstad, Emily Jean Jones, Megan Elizabeth Clara Jones, Taylor Sarah Kristen Knapp, Hailie Ray Charmaine Kulczyk, Margaret Doris Rose Lawrence, Brendan Alec Paul Mangan, Ezekiel Makoa Daniel Mojica-Skinner, Matt Juan Diego Joseph Nortier, Erin Clare Gianna O'Neil, Joe Sebastian Augustine Pieri, Andrew Joseph Patrick Stec, Benjamin James Tietema, Chelsea Jean Cecilia Treece, Theresa Helen Lucia Valente, Paul Joseph Elisha Veneklase, and Patricia Anne O'Neill Williams

First Communicants

May 6, 2007

Ethan Alfaro
Michael Clemens
MaryClaire Coil
John Crittenden
Adam Drees
Tai-Lillian Firlit
Thomas France
Michael Jepsen
Anezka Kovarik
Julia LaVoie
Paige Mushinski
Lauren Mushinski
Jackson Rohn
James Schueler
Constance Stormzand
Dylan Sykes
Lauryn Syrba
Julia Walsh