

THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*



Teacher Request Process Clarified

Our teachers will soon begin forming class lists for the 2008-2009 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 1st 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 28th**. We will attempt to honor your **necessary** requests. However, we reserve the right to make the final determinations. Class lists will be posted on Friday, June 27th, at noon.

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

- Grade 1 (approx. 20 students) Mrs. Donohue
- Grade 1/2 (14-16 students) Mrs. Lake
- Grade 2 (approx. 20 students) Mrs. Baxter
- Grade 3 (18-20 Students) Mrs. Michels
- Grade 3 (18-20 Students) Mrs. Pieri
- Grade 4 (23-24 students) Mrs. Petkus or new teacher
- Grade 4/5 (18 – 20 Students) Mrs. Petkus or new teacher
- Grade 5 (24-25 students) Mrs. Furtwangler

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



Announcement from Ms. Campbell

Dear St. Thomas School Community,
A couple of week's ago I spoke with Dave about next year. At that time I informed him that I will not be returning to St. Thomas. I am looking at several possibilities for my future which includes the possibility of moving to Lincoln Nebraska to be with my sister. Because of this uncertainty I feel it is best not to commit to a contract and then have to back out of the agreement. I have enjoyed being part of this wonderful faculty and staff and am blessed to have had the opportunity to teach your children. ~ Peggy Campbell

May Crowning

All students are asked to attend our May Crowning, on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. May Crowning is a 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. ~ Mary Sue Stegehuis



Spring Program Tonight

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 tonight, Wednesday, May 7th, at the Aquinas College Field House 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. ~ Mrs. Proulx

ATTACHMENTS



- Uniform Code
- Uniform Survey
- Revised St. Thomas Sports Schedule
- Junior Achievement Movie Flyer
- DNA Lifefprint Child Safety Event Flyer
- Boosters Spirit Wear Order Form
- America & Me Essay Contest Winner

Peacemaker of the Month

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

1869 – 1948

“When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall --- think of it, always.” From Gandhi’s autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

Our peacemaker for March 2008 is Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a major political and spiritual leader. He is better known around the world as Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma comes from the Sanskrit words that mean “Great Soul.” Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 into a Hindu family. His father is Karamchand Gandhi, the Prime Minister of Porbandar, and his mother is Putlibai, Karamchand’s fourth wife. At the age of 13, Gandhi was married through his parents’ arrangement to Kasturba Makhanji, with whom he had five children.

Gandhi was the pioneer of *Satyagraha*, a philosophy that is concerned with truth and “resistance to evil through active, non-violent resistance.” This led not only to India’s independence but also inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. He first employed peaceful disobedience in the Indian community’s struggle for civil rights in South Africa. When he returned to India, he organized poor farmers and laborers to protest against oppressive taxation and widespread discrimination. Gandhi led nationwide campaigns for the alleviation of poverty, for the liberation of women, for brotherhood amongst different religious and ethnic groups, and for an end to discrimination. As a leader of the Indian National Congress, he worked for *Swaraj*, the independence of India from British control. One of his famous acts of disobedience was the Dandi Salt March in 1930, where he led thousands of people on a 248-mile march to the sea to make their own salt as an act of opposition to the British salt tax.

In honor of Gandhi’s birthday, October 2nd is a national holiday in India for their “Father of the Nation.” This day has also been declared by the United Nations as the “International Day of Non-Violence.”

Lord, God, we ask you to bless our world leaders. Help them to lead us (in the way that your servant, Mahatma Gandhi did), through the practice of non-violence and truth in all situations, so in this way, there will be peace throughout the world. Amen.

Bishop Baraga Bookstore

Bishop Baraga Bookstore is moving after many successful years at the Burton Street address. On July 1, 2008 our new location will be part of “Cathedral Square” by St. Andrews Cathedral. Until that time, we will remain at our current location at 660 Burton St., SE. We would like to invite you to visit us here to review the items on hand and to take advantage of the following sales:

May 1-15th - 15% off all books (buy now for best selection), May 16th-May 30th - 25% off all books, and June 1-13th-50% off all books. Also, beginning May 1 – 50% off all gift items in store! Store hours are: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday.



“The achievement of this specific aim of the Catholic school depends not so much on subject matter or methodology as on the people who work there...The nobility of the task to which teachers are called demands that, in imitation of Christ, the only Teacher, they reveal the Christian message not only by the word but also by every gesture of their behavior.”

~ THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1977
Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education

Field Day Volunteers Needed

Field Day is scheduled for Monday, May 19. 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 12:30-2:45 p.m. Many volunteers are needed to make this day run smoothly, especially for the Junior High classes. If you are able to help, please contact Melissa Skinner at 942-5582.

Booster Flower Sale

Don't forget to pick up your flowers from the St. Thomas Boosters on Saturday, May 10th between 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in front of the gym.



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:

The following sessions will be held at:
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.*

Other sessions are listed below:

Thursday, May 15 @ 8:30 a.m. - St. Patrick Parish,
Parnell (Ada)
Thursday, May 15 @ 6 p.m. - St. Patrick Parish, Parnell
(Ada)
Tuesday, May 22 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Pius X, Grandville
Tuesday, June 17 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Pius X, Grandville

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

Congratulations

Congratulations to David VanderZee whose essay earned 9th place in the America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. David was chosen among thousands of eighth grade students from nearly 500 participating Michigan schools. David 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 David's winning essay is attached. Congratulations again, David. We are all proud of you!!!

Reminder:



Please remember to park and lock your bikes in the bike rack located in the lot behind the school office.

Touching Safety Lessons

Touching Safety Lessons will be held in each class the week of May 12. Lessons and opt out forms (gr.1-8) and opt in forms (K) were sent home with each student last week. Please make sure to have the forms returned to your child/ren's teacher no later than May 7 if you do not want your child to participate.

Congratulations to:

**Paul & Lucyna Dieleman
on the birth of
Peter Karol**



born on
Friday, April 18, 2008
8 pounds 14 ounces & 20 1/2 inches long

And to his proud siblings :
Christian (1) & Francesca (P4)

Educational Outfitter is Moving



I am pleased to announce that Educational Outfitters is relocating! Our new address will be 3108 28th Street SE, in Kentwood. (Corner of 28th and Radcliff across from Woodland Mall). *Located next to Party City & Pet Smart.* The new location is approximately 5 miles east of our current location. The new building is larger,

and better designed for our business model, allowing us to stock more merchandise. In addition, there will be more open floor space for shopping convenience. Our current location will be open for business through July 2nd. Educational Outfitters will be closed from July 3rd through July 9th. Opening of the new location is set for Thursday, July 10th. I am planning a grand opening event for sometime in late July. Please pray that everything goes smoothly over the next two months. This is a leap of faith! Thank you so much for your support over the past 2 1/2 years!

~ Brad Kamphuis Educational Outfitters (616) 531-7592

Uniform Item Description

Please remember when shopping for school clothes for the 2008/2009 school year to please take the attached Uniform Item Description with you. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 458-4228 or bring your item with tags attached to the office for approval.

Annual Spring Dance

Just a little note of thanks to all those who helped make the 7th and 8th grade Annual Spring Dance a 'rockin' success. A big thank you to Miss Houtekier for the behind the scenes help with music selection, and to the chaperones; Mrs. Furtwangler, Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Poggi, Mrs. Bandlow and Mrs. Herold. Also, thank you to everyone who helped set up and stayed to clean up after the dance, especially Mrs. Tietema, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Mick, and Mrs. Lown. Many hands helped make a fun evening for everyone! ~ Carole Knapp

Library Thanks!

Thank you, Leanne McWain, for the donation of books to the library from your birthday party. What an innovative way to collect books to donate! ~ Liz Aschwege

Junior Achievement invites you to a movie premier of the "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" which happens the morning after the movie opens in the theatres! Each ticket purchased supports Junior Achievement programs. Please see the attached flyer for more details. It's always a GREAT time for the kids and we give away tons of prizes! We hope to see some families from St Thomas at the show!

We really appreciate your support of Junior Achievement!



SUMMER CAMPS and OPPORTUNITIES



CCHS Volleyball Camp

Catholic Central High School will be running three different volleyball camps for girls who will be entering the 5th through the 9th grade in the fall.

*****All Camps are June 24-26*****

- incoming 9th grade camp (4-6pm) \$40
- incoming 5th & 6th grade camp (11:45am-2:15pm)
- incoming 7th & 8th grade camp (9-11:30am)

If your daughter is interested in participating in any of these camps, please log onto the CC web site to fill out a registration form.



HORNET ATHLETICS

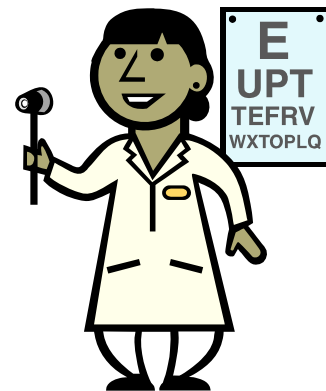


Sport Physicals & Permission Slips for School Year 2008/2009

Attention Parents of 4th – 7th 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.



ST. THOMAS SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE 2008

The attached schedule has been revised. Please disregard any previous schedules.

Please note: We try to keep the latest, most up-to-date sports schedule up on the homepage of our website at:

www.stthomasgr.org

Booster Meeting

The next Booster Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center Living Room.

~ Don Serba



SPIRIT WEAR- ROUND TWO!!!

The Saint Thomas Boosters are serving up round two of the SPIRIT WEAR PROMOTION!!! Order forms are attached to this Pieces and are available near the Welcome & Information Center by the school entrance or 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 12th**. 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 (616) 458-6819 with any questions or ideas.

Congratulations to Our Students who have Recently Received the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation!



First Communicants

Konnor Barth
Sarah Baxter
Joseph Blanco
Pablo Corcoran
Claire Den Braber
Francesca Deveau
Genevieve Doyle
Regina Faber
Isabella Gumbko
Alayna Henry
Anna Herold
Jacob Jaracz
Elizabeth Jermstad
Isaac Liang
John Libriani
Carolyn Lignell
Gabriel Metzger
Mary Claire Mikolay
Elizabeth Murphy
Grace Pinter
Brennen Rodgers
Gabriel Rohn
Margaret Rott
Kristen Salinas
Aden Shiel
Anna Simonait
Cory Skinner
Veronica Treece
Jessica Trenshaw
Sara Vrugink
Jackson Wardrop
Kara Wheeler
Ciara White
Stephen Woodruff
Adrien Yondo
Madelyn Yuncker
Maya Zimelis

Recently Confirmed

Robert Abdou
Andrea Alfaro
Karianna Barth
Jacob Baxter
Hanna Callaway
Alexander Colon
Brandon Cook
Katelyn Crittenden
Anna Faber
Sarah Fallon
Madylan Horrigan
Owen Kane
Clare Lambert
Megan Lown
Alex Mays
Connor McNeely
John Mirandette
Sarah Murphy
Kyle Nicholson
Marley Paul
Ryan Pelak
Kevin Race
Jordan Sykes
Tyler Sykes
Anna Trenshaw
David VanderZee
Scarlett Wardrop

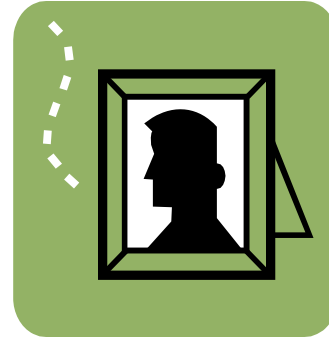


ALIVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW: Grace Pinter, Adam Drees, Alayna Henry
BACK ROW: Dylan Sykes, Brooke Nicholson, Mary Claire Coil, Lizzie Murhpy



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW : Natalie Smith, Gabe Rohn, Konnor Barth
BACK ROW: Jack Rohn, Jeremy Wolf, Jim O'Neil, Finn Perdue



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW: Taylor Rodgers, Addison LaVoie, Daniel Wardrop, Katie Theriault
BACK ROW: Maddie Zimelis, Maddie Jaracz, Ana Corcoran



PICTURES HAVE BEEN REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

FRONT ROW: Jessica Trenshaw, Regina Faber, Veronica Treece
BACK ROW: Mark Heun, Stephen Woodruff, Gabe Metzger

Operation Christmas Child Update

Although it is far from the Christmas season, we would like to give you an update on last fall's Operation Christmas Child event. In the last couple of weeks, some letters from children half a world away who received shoeboxes have been coming in and they are priceless! My children Ryan and Megan each received a letter from children in Ghana, Africa, along with a picture.

The children's gratitude and excitement over receiving the shoeboxes is so evident in their notes. The letters also convey a great love of Jesus Christ and a desire to connect with our families despite the great distance. One girl wrote "I hope our friendship will be endless. Pray for me every day as I do for you." It is affirmation that this simple project can have such an impact on needy children around the world.

We would like to hear from you if your family has received any letters from children who received your shoeboxes. Please contact me or bring your letter to school to share. We would love to get a bulletin board going with the letters we have received.

Next fall's event is still several months away, but we would like you to keep it in mind between now and then. If you see a good deal on items that would be appropriate for the shoeboxes, perhaps you could pick them up and stash them until November. It will be here before you know it.

We would like to invite you to a planning meeting for next fall's event on Thursday, May 15 at 2:15 p.m. in the St. Thomas Library. If you are interested in getting involved with this wonderful project, please come. ~ Maureen Jones



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. 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 budging 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.