



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

Assistant Principal Accepted to University of Notre Dame: ACE Leadership Program

Octavia Houtekier recently received her acceptance letter to attend the Alliance of Catholic Education (ACE) Leadership program at the University of Notre Dame. She is one of 28 chosen nationwide to participate in the program this year. The ACE Leadership Program began in 2002 as an extension of the University of Notre Dame's nationally recognized Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Program. Led by the Rev. Ronald J. Nuzzi, Ph.D. the program provides an intensive 26-month experience, encompassing the dispositions of *becoming a professional administrator, fostering school community, and promoting spiritual formation*. The ACE Leadership Program is responsive to the ongoing needs of Catholic schools across the country for qualified, faith-filled leaders to serve as principals.

Proud to have St. Thomas the Apostle as her sponsor school, Miss Houtekier will remain in her capacity of Assistant Principal, earning credit for an administrative internship. Mr. Faber will serve as her internship supervisor for the entirety of the program. The majority of her studies will be completed on the campus of Notre Dame during the next three summers. She will also complete course work through online classes and on-site research.

Miss Houtekier is grateful for the support of the Diocese of Grand Rapids and St. Thomas the Apostle, who will both contribute a portion of the program costs. Living in a dorm room for five weeks may take a little adjusting to, but she is confident she will manage to make it cozy and conducive to studying. The majority of her excitement rests in the opportunities this program will offer her and the community of St. Thomas.



Octavia Houtekier
c/o ACE Leadership-University of Notre Dame
153 I.E.I. Building
Notre Dame, IN 46556
Cards & Care Packages are welcome!

Teacher Request Forms Due May 30 (*True and specific needs only, PLEASE!*)

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.*



ATTACHMENTS



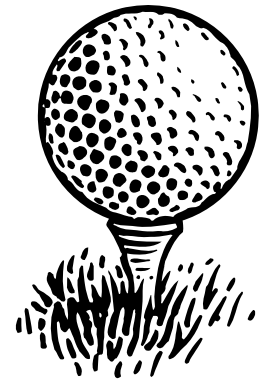
- Mr. Keller's Retirement
- Hot Lunch Order Form
- 4th Grade Planetarium
- Non-Uniform Dress Code
- Home & School Minutes
- March Kent County Fact Sheet

Golf Outing a Huge Success!

Thanks to all of the individuals who participated in the 2007 Saint Thomas Golf Outing. It really turned out to be a huge success! We could not have done it without your help. It really turned out to be an enjoyable and exciting day. Together, with your support, we hope to make this an even better event that will bring the community together and raise funds for important school improvements. In all, we raised \$6,000 to benefit the renovation of the gymnasium concession stand. Ted and Don are looking forward to installing a new tile floor, new cabinetry and a new double sink. **Many thanks to all volunteers who stepped up to make this afternoon a success!!!** Congratulations to Joe Witte and Dan Pupel, the 2007 1st Place team trophy is theirs to keep for one year. They have already made a commitment to defend their trophy next year!

Special thanks to the following Golf Outing Sponsors:

- The Elbow Room Bar & Grill - Mike Jermstad
- AwardsPro Trophies and Plaques- Mike Trenshaw
- Omni Medical Waste - Dan Tietema
- Treadstone Mortgage - Joe Lavoie
- Centennial Securities - Kevin Kelly
- West Catholic Football - Dan Rohn
- B&B Distributing
- Harvey Lexus of Grand Rapids
- Michigan General Grinding - Dan & Mary Huver
- Johnny Mac's Sporting Goods
- Tietema Insurance Agency - P. Scott Tietema
- Aulbach Concrete, Inc - George & Sharon Aulbach
- Matt & Brenda Tietema
- Don & Shirley Yondo
- Wardrop & Wardrop, P.C.
- Baird/Mike Braun
- St. Mary's Health Care - The Radiation Oncology Department
- Americans for International Aid & Adoption
- Aquinas College - Terry Bocian
- Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc.
- Joe's Pizza King



If you did or did not attend this year's golf outing, we would appreciate it if you would take a moment to provide Joe LaVoie and Matt Tietema with any suggestions for improvements, and what should stay the same. If so, we can assure that this outing gets better every year. Hope to see you next year!

LOST & FOUND

Our lost and found is over flowing. The Lost & Found Box is located under the laminating machine in the hallway between Mrs. Pierce's room and Ms. Haviland's room. Please take a moment to ask your child if they are missing any articles of clothing etc... or feel free to stop by school and look through the box. All items will be donated to Christian Service at the end of the year if not claimed.

8th Grade Graduation Photos

A professional photographer will be taking a class picture on Wednesday, June 7 on the night of graduation. The price for each 8x10 photo, including postage, is \$8.50. Order forms are attached to this "Pieces". Additional order forms will be available in the Welcome & Information Center near the school's entrance. Forms are due in the school office by Friday, May 25. Make checks payable to: **St. Thomas the Apostle School**. Photos will be mailed to you in June. Please note that the photo will be taken at 6:30 pm sharp. Graduates are asked to be at the church no later than 6:20 pm on the day of graduation.



~ Sue Ysasi

Spiritual Adoption Meeting

The last meeting, for Jr. High students who have chosen to spiritually adopt an unborn baby in danger of abortion, is Wednesday, May 30th at 2:40pm in the Ministry Center. Hope to see you all there. Keep up those powerful prayers!



Spring Program

Service Project Thank You

Thank you to all the families who donated juice boxes to Kids Food Basket at the Spring Program. The very next day volunteers used St. Thomas' donation to pack the 1,074 lunches that are delivered to Grand Rapids Public School students each day that otherwise would go without dinner. Thank you also to the families who helped supply our St. Thomas Food Pantry with one can meals. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the Publishing Center Crew!

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to keep this marvelous extra program going this year. The children really enjoy seeing their words in a typed and bound form! Thank you especially to Denise Deveau and Carla Klimp-VanDokkumburg for acting as additional co-chairs for the Center- as well as being exceptional interviewers. Thank you to the typist: Sharon Aulbach, Nancy Sykes, Steph Zimelis, Tracey Jermstad and Angela Yondo. Your talents and time are appreciated.

Congratulations to Mrs. Baxter's First Grade classroom- they were the first class this year to have everyone complete a book. They received a POP & POPCORN PARTY! Great job to all of our published authors- keep writing over the summer!
~ Mary Hunt

Illustrator to Visit School

Tom Woodruff, a children's book illustrator who is visiting the art classes this week, will be at the Ministry Center tonight, Wednesday, May 16, 2007 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn from him and to see some of his artwork.

Media Center Reminder

The last day for checking out books from the Media Center is Thursday, May 24. Thank you. ~ Mrs. Aschwege

Uniforms

Attached to this "Pieces" is the full Uniform Code. Please use this to guide summer shopping.

Uniforms are required Monday through Friday during the last week of school. Monday, June 4th is **NOT** a Non-Uniform Day.



NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to:

Doug & Julie France
on the birth of their daughter,
Kathryn Elizabeth France
who was born on Monday, May 14, 2007.

Kathryn weighed 10 pounds and 3 ounces and was 21-1/2 ounces.

Proud siblings are: **Thomas** in Mrs. Michels 2nd grade and **Charlotte** is in Mrs. Tietema's 3-year-old Preschool.

We Celebrate Our Newest Authors

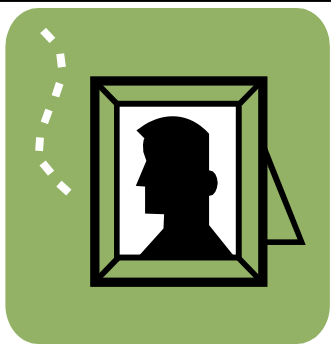
Maya Zimelis
Maya Zimelis
Madelyn Yuncker
Rebecca Brew
Jackson Wardrop
Veronica Treece
Anna Herold
Lydia Dykema
Ltdia Dykema
Patrick Hieshetter
Jameson VanDokkumburg
Peter McIlroy
Lizzie Murphy

Fruits and Vegetables
Mom's Surprise Treat
My Family
The Little Warthog
Ten Little Garden Turtles
The Little Star
I Love God
Jackson and Lydia
Triops
The Greatest Pitch Ever
Amnesia
Jameson's Monster World
Chicks

Baxter 1
Baxter 1
Baxter 1
Baxter 1
Lake 1
Lake 1
Lake 1
Lake 1
Lake 1
Furtwangler 5
Lake 1
Lake 1
Lake 1



WE COMMIT OUR LIVES TO JESUS



Photos Removed for Internet Safety Purposes

FRONT ROW: Tommy Mikolay, Jim O'Neil, Avery LaVoie
BACK ROW: Jacob Bocian, Maggie Kane, Liam Perdue



Photos Removed for Internet Safety Purposes

FRONT ROW: Isabella Deveau, Emily Mauren, Camarin Nemic,
Margaret O'Neil, Ryan Jones
BACK ROW: Peter Crittenden, Nick Vrugink, David Flynn, Shokhari Tate,
Maddie Zimelis

Summer Camps

Catholic Central Football Camp July 9th-12th {Grades 6, 7, 8}, July 16th- 19th {Grades 3, 4, 5}. The camp runs from 8:30 am till 12: noon. The cost is \$60.00. The football camp is at the Cat. Registration forms available in the Welcome & Information Center by the front entrance.

West Catholic is offering many different athletic summer camps for various grades 3rd-12th. Offering **baseball, girl's & boy's basketball, cheer, football, boy's & girl's golf, hockey, softball, swimming, boy's & girl's tennis & volleyball**. Registration forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center by the front entrance.

West Catholic 2007 Football Camp-Kids entering Grades 3rd-8th, the date July 10-12th for \$60.00 Checks payable to West Catholic. Registration Forms available in the Welcome & Information Center by the front entrance.

Totally Awesome, Most Excellent, Way Cool Summer Science Program- Build things, dissect, explore, observe the universe, investigate, discover the fun of being a scientist. Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 24-August 2, 2007 from 1:00PM to 5:00 PM. Students in grades 4-6 (2007-2008 school year). The class will be at Aquinas College. Registration forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center by the front entrance.

Aquinas College Girl's Basketball Camp July 9-13, 2007- ages 11-16. The cost is \$170.00 per camper 10% discount for groups of 5 or more. Registration forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center by the front entrance. For more information call the Aquinas College Athletic Department at 632-2474 or email: laskacry@aquinas.edu



Photos Removed for Internet Safety Purposes

FRONT ROW: Andrew Aschwege, John Lown, Katelyn Giambernardi
BACK ROW: Michael Jepsen, Patrick Hieshetter, Luke Lambert, Mary Claire Coil

Thanks to Our Teacher Appreciation Week H&S Volunteers!

Thank you to Jeanne and Tom Walch, Marnie White, Nancy Sykes, Amy Drees, Claudia Triestram, Julie Augustyn, Denise Deveau, Theresa Eversole, Mary Beth Rott, Michelle Rohn, Kelly Olive, Debbie Hurst, Amy and Chad Bocian. These amazing volunteers either shopped for all of our wonderful teachers, and/or assisted in putting all of the gift bags together. Special thanks to our two valet parkers. The teacher's who used this helpful service were very grateful. We couldn't have done it without all of you. You make St. Thomas a better place!