

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) have changed slightly since the last Pieces communication you received on May 7th. They are currently anticipated* as follows:

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)	New Teacher
Grade 4	(23-24 students)	Mrs. Pieri
Grade 4/5	(18 – 20 Students)	Mrs. Petkus
Grade 5	(24-25 students)	Mrs. Furtwangler



*Enrollment and other changes are possible. As a result, the above assignments are subject to change. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move through the normal shifts we experience this time of year.

Special Mass

Please join us for the our 8th Graders last school Mass and the anointing of our 7th Graders as the new school leaders on Friday, May 30, 2008 at 9:55 a.m. On that day we will also show our appreciation with a special blessing for Father Jim as our pastor, his 32nd Anniversary as a priest, and to recognize his birthday, which is June 1.

Thanks, VIPs! Closing School Mass on June 6th is in Your Honor

We'd like to thank all of our spring activity chairs and volunteers. We'd also like to thank all of you who had yearlong projects and are, or will be, wrapping them up soon. Your time, talents, and commitments have made another school year successful!

All of our volunteers (VIPs) are important to us! **You are invited to attend the last school Mass to be celebrated in your honor on Friday, June 6, at 9:55 a.m.**

~ Lisa Wolf & Angela Yondo



ATTACHMENTS

- CLC Spring 2008 Inclusive Publication
- Catholic Central High School 2008 Athletic Summer Camp Schedule
- June Calendar with Hot Lunch Menu
- Uniform Code
- Educational Outfitter's Catalog
- Used Uniform Sale Flyer

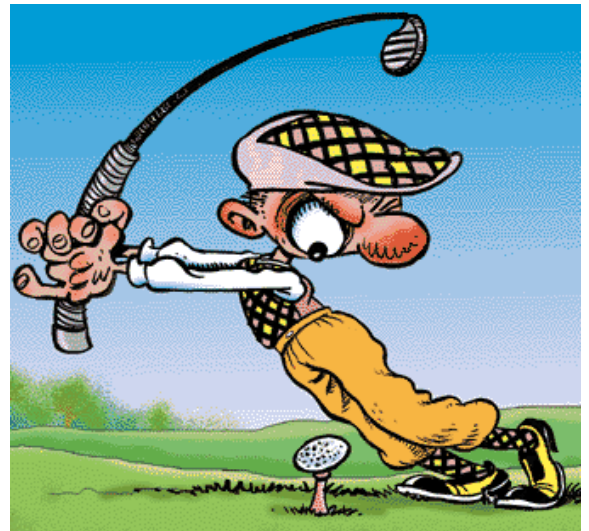
Golf Outing Gains Momentum!

Thanks to all of the individuals who participated and donated to the 2008 Saint Thomas Golf Outing. It really turned out to be a great day! Together, with your support, we hope to make this an even more successful event that will bring the community together and raise funds for important school improvements. In all, we raised \$7,700 to benefit the Saint Thomas Community. **Special thanks to Angela Yondo, Octavia Houtekier, Stephanie & Joe LaVoie and David & Sarah Faber.** The day could not have been as successful without your help! Congratulations to:

First Place Team: The Ward Yondo team (13 under par)
50/50 Winner: Mary Fallon (Big Bucks!)

Special thanks to the following 2008 Golf Outing Sponsors:

- Friends of **Dan Tietema for State Representative**- 75th District
- **Omni Medical Waste**- Dan Tietema
- **AwardsPro Trophies and Plaques**- Mike & Kay Trenshaw
- **O'Toole Design & Construction**- Connie O'Toole, Parishioner
- **Centennial Securities**- Kevin Kelly, St. Thomas Class of 1979
- **West Catholic Football**- Head Coach, Dan Rohn
- **B&B Beer Distributing Co.**
- **The Gladney Center for Adoption**
- **Michigan General Grinding**
- **Johnny Mac's:** Your "St. Thomas Hornets" sporting good store
- **Treadstone Mortgage**
- **Aulbach Concrete, Inc**- George & Sharon Aulbach
- **The Dan & Mary Huver Family**
- **Don & Shirley Yondo & Family**
- **Wardrop & Wardrop, P.C.**
- **Jill & John Conroy**
- **Kent County Commissioner Brandon Dillon**
- **Anesthesia Medical Associates:** Matt Parlmer, Parishioner
- **Lincoln Mercury Suzuki of Holland**- Joe LaVoie
- Congratulations 8th Grade boys basketball- **2008 CITY CHAMPS!**



2nd Grade Takes a break from "Reading to Learn" so they can "Read to Earn!"

On Tuesday, Mrs. Baxter and Mrs. Michel's 2nd graders spent the majority of their day doing a Read-In. They collected pledges for each book or chapter read. The money earned will be donated to benefit the victims of the earthquakes in China. What a wonderful way to put Faith into practice in order to: Shelter the Homeless, Feed the Hungry and Clothe the Naked. (Next week we will post our total earnings for you to see!) Thanks 2nd Graders!!!



~ Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Michels and your 'family' in China

"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 1997
Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education

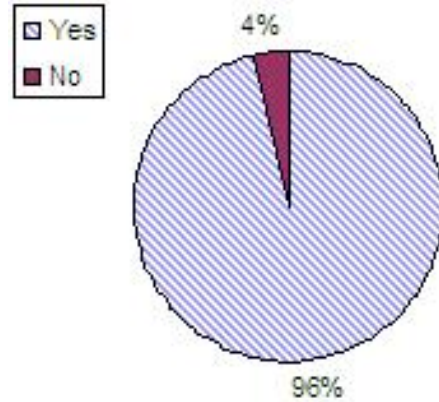
8th Grade Graduation Photos

A professional photographer will be taking a class picture on Wednesday, June 4th on the night of Graduation. The price for each 8x10 photo, including postage, is \$8.50. Order forms went home with 8th grade students the week of May 5. Additional order forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center near the school's entrance. Forms are due in the office by Friday, May 30. Make checks payable to: **St. Thomas the Apostle School**. Photos will be mailed to you in June. Please note that the photos will be taken at 6:30 p.m. sharp. Graduates are asked to be at the church no later than 6:20 p.m. on the day of graduation.



Uniform Survey

Thank you for all who responded to the uniform survey. The survey results are shown below. As a result the plaid skirt or jumper **through Educational Outfitters only** will be an additional option available for the 2008/2009 school year.



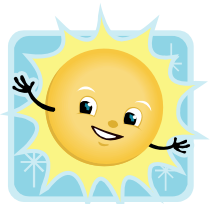
Medication Pick-Up



If you signed a Medication Consent Form during the school year and your student has medicine in the school office, please pick it up by the last day of school. A parent or designated adult must pick up the medication. Medication can not be sent home with a

student. The school office will be open the week of June 9-13, 2008 between the hours of 8:30am and 12:30 pm to pick it up. Unclaimed medicine cannot be carried over to the 2008/09 school year and will be thrown away. Thank you for your help.

~ Sue Ysasi



Hot Weather Reminder

Please remember that when the weather gets his warm to send your child to

school with a water bottle and that they remember to drink from it during the say. It will help keep those awful heat-induced headaches and "yucky feelings" away.



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.



Thank You

A giant Thank-You to all who made this year's Spring Program such a success! Students, teachers, and parents worked together contributing time and talent helping with props and backdrops, programs and so much more. I heard the ice cream was great! You are a blessing! ~ Mrs. Proulx

Last Spiritual Adoption Meeting

The last meeting for this school year, for the Jr.High students who have chosen to spiritually adopt a baby in danger of being aborted, will be Tuesday, May 27th at 11:50am during lunch, in the Lower level of the church. Please remember to bring your bottles with the coins for the St. Mary's Crisis Pregnancy Center. Keep up those powerful prayers!

~ Mrs. Valente

Inclusive Publication

Saint Thomas the Apostle is pleased to share a copy of the semiannual *Inclusive* publication with our school community. The spring 2008 issue was provided by Greg Yoder, our Christian Learning Center Teacher Consultant. It highlights many activities that the Christian Learning Center participates in within our community. Please enjoy your copy of this publication and notice that St. Thomas the Apostle is mentioned, on page six, as one of the CLC's network schools!

~ Ms. Pierce

Looking Good and Learning Well: A Strong Finish

Parents,

PLEASE help us maintain:

Safe and efficient drop-off/pick-up procedures

- Drop-off K-8 students in church parking lot and gate line before parking in the preschool lot to unload preschoolers. Do not drop-off or pick-up students at the curb in front of church or school.

A quiet environment in the hallways, office, and faculty conference room

- On many occasions parents and volunteers gather in the office or hallway to talk with each other. We would like to encourage these gatherings, however please feel free to find a comfortable spot in the Ministry Center or outdoors (weather permitting) to continue your conversation. If possible, please reserve the use of the Faculty Conference Room for faculty and staff only.

Productive and orderly instructional time during the school day.

- Pay careful attention to the details of the Uniform Code, personal appearance, and grooming.
- Relaying all Communications with teachers and students through the office by dropping off forgotten items, birthday treats, etc. to the office for staff to distribute at the appropriate time.
- When volunteering or visiting the school for any reason, please park in the church parking lot, stop in the office to sign-in, and pick-up a visitor badge.

A strong finish at the end of the day

- Often teachers must give their students last-minute instructions, homework assignments or items to be taken home. There is also clean-up, packing of backpacks, putting on coats, and most importantly prayer at the end of each day.
- Limit last minute messages to emergencies only.

Notes going home to parents through students must be dropped off in the office on the day before expected delivery, so teachers can have students place them in their planners the next morning.

Parents, please wait outside the school building until after 3:15 p.m. when students are dismissed.

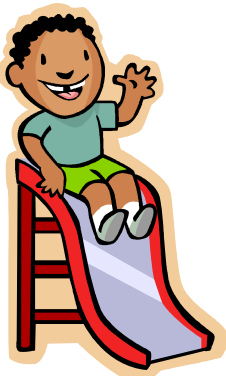
Parents are welcome inside the building between 3:15-3:45 p.m. to pick-up projects, homework, etc. or to consult with a teacher.

Thank you for helping us to finish STRONG!

~ Mr. Faber

AN INVITATION TO CONSIDER — Fund Raiser for Improving Wilcox Park

Due to budget cuts, the Wilcox Park wading pool has been closed for the past several years. A local organization, The Friends of Wilcox Park, is asking for your immediate contributions which will go towards the re-opening, running, and maintenance of the wading pool in the summer of 2008. They are hoping to raise \$10,000 which will completely cover the cost of opening the pool, water use, and hiring staff. Any money over costs will go towards the long-range plan of creating a water park and playground improvement in the summer of 2009. St. Thomas students would benefit directly since we use this playground for recess, sport practices, etc. The hope is that by showing the city there is much interest in this park, the city will direct more funds to the maintenance and improvements of it. So, if you are able, please consider donating to this cause. With a donation of \$10 or more you will receive a plastic window decal as a symbol of your support. Contributions of \$100 or more will be recognized on a banner that will hang at the wading pool all summer. You can mail contributions to the Eastown Community Association at 415 Ethel SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 or drop them off during business hours. (Call 616-451-3025 for hours.) Make checks payable to ECA with "Wade Pool" in the memo. All donations are tax deductible and you will be mailed a receipt. If you have further questions, please email fowpgr@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!



~ Rebecca Shiel

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 on:

Tuesday, May 22 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Pius X, Grandville
Monday, June 9 @ 6:00 p.m. - St. Alphonsus, Grand Rapids
Tuesday, June 17 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Pius X, Grandville
Thursday, September 18, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 13, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.

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



HORNET ATHLETICS

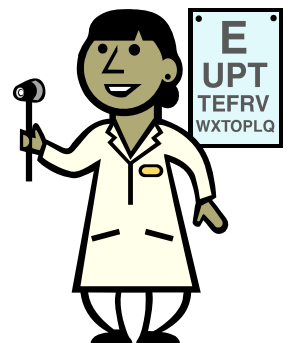


Sport Physicals, Uniform Deposit & Permission Slips for 08-09

Attention Parents of 4th – 7th Grade Students, a new Physical & Permission Slip is required EACH school year. In addition, a \$50 uniform deposit is charged prior to the beginning of the year. This deposit is kept on file and returned once all uniforms and equipment have been returned in an acceptable condition.

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 and the uniform deposit must be on file with the St. Thomas Athletic Department prior to participation in any practice or game.** These forms and the deposit 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.

The St. Thomas Boosters will be offering Sports Physicals this spring. We will be sending a note home when the date and times are finalized. Along with the physicals, we will also collect this year's sports uniforms, Permission Slips and a \$50 Uniform Deposit for next year on this date. Any student/athlete who does not attend this date will need to schedule a physical with their doctor and have the Permission Slip, Physical forms and Uniform Deposit turned in to the St. Thomas Athletic Department before any athletic participation. Thank you!





SUMMER CAMPS and OPPORTUNITIES



Grand Rapids Civic Theatre & School of Theatre Arts Act, Sing & Dance ~ ages 4-adult! GRCT offers age appropriate classes that meet once a week. Our instructors are artists experienced in both theatre and teaching! Live! On Civic Stage... Your Child!

Every day-camper performs on the Civic Stage in the final production of a week-long theatre camp. We hold 9 weeks of day-camps for age groups. Details online: Contact: www.grct.org or call 616-222-6653.

33rd Aquinas College Sports Camp for 2008

Sessions offered in Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Volleyball and Softball. Applications are available in the Welcome & Information Center in the school entrance-way. For more information please call (616) 632-2474.

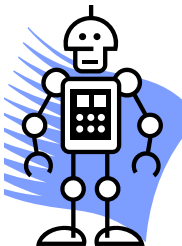
North American Choral Company

Your child isn't ordinary... and we're not your ordinary choir! At the NACC, what we do is different; we teach young people to sing, move and have fun with choral music from around the world. We emphasize diversity and global awareness through our music, teaching vocal skills with movement and drama to encourage each child's creativity and build their self-confidence. We are currently enrolling singers from grades 1-12 for the 2008-2009 season, which will begin in September. Weekly rehearsals for our after school choirs are held in a central Grand Rapids location, with several concerts throughout the year. No experience is necessary to join; we welcome everyone who enjoys music! For more information call 774-9268, or email: contact@thechroalcomany.com



Programming and Robotics Camp for Girls

This is a one-week day camp, August 4-8, 2008, Mon-Fri 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, to expose girls to the programming and engineering principles required to build and program an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS® NXT. Through team-oriented, hands-on guided exploration, students will sharpen their problem solving skills, and be introduced to the challenges of project design, development, testing and deployment. The camp location is Grand Valley State University in Allendale. Registration forms are available in the St. Thomas Welcome and Information Center or for more information contact Teresa Peterman at petermat@gvsu.edu or Ana Posada at posadaa@gvsu.edu or call 616-331-2060.

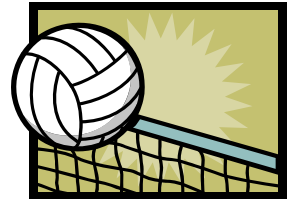


ACA (American Camp Association) is a national, non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting high standards in organized camping. They offer a free guide to nearly 80 accredited camps. The Guide to Michigan Accredited Camps is free to anyone who calls 877.823.0005. toll free. You may also contact Theresa Walker at the same number for more information or email: executive@ACA-Michigan.org.

2008 SUMMER Volleyball CAMPS

Register now, by email to admin@michiganvolleyballacademy.com, with player name and desired camp, with

dates. Send payment to MVA, 5449 28th St Court SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Payment ensures placement. The following camps will be offered: All Skills Camp, Hitting Camp, Volley Tots, Setters Camp, Defensive/Serving Camp, Advanced Serving Camp & High School Boot Camp The camps will be offered July 14 through August 7, 2008. For exact dates of each camp, please see flyer in the Welcome and Information Session in the school entrance.



A one day Conditioning Clinic & Workshop to introduce concepts that will improve Quickness, Speed, Agility, Vertical Power, Balance and Proprioceptive Awareness will be offered at the CAT on June 11, 2008. The camp is for girls ages 11-17 and costs \$40 (made payable to: Colleen Tate) which includes a sack lunch. Registration begins at 8 a.m. followed by the camp 8:30 a.m. - noon training. This camp is sponsored by Aquinas College and Catholic Central High School Women's Basketball Teams. Steve Morgan, Camp Director, is a leader in training athletes at all levels. Morgan has had stints working with the Philadelphia 76ers, MSU's women's volleyball players and a host of professional hockey players. For more information contact Colleen at 616-437-7312.

MVP Sportsplex offers a Mini Sports Camp for ages 3-6 and a Kids Sports Camp for ages 6-12. Flyers are available in the Welcome and Information Center by the school entrance or for more information call 616-2548800 or registration forms are available at: www.mvpsportsclubs.com





ALIVE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



FRONT ROW: Adam Kuzee, Elena VanDokkumburg, Emma Fiorenzo
MIDDLE ROW: Nevada Flynn, Madeline Edgerly, Abby Choffel
BACK ROW: Kevin Race, Karianna Barth, Marley Paul, Robert Abdou

FRONT ROW : Kara Wheeler, Maggie Rott, Nicholas Lourido
MIDDLE ROW: Tim Lambert, Anezka Kovarik, Elizabeth Rott,
Maggie Kane
MIDDLE ROW: Isabella Gumbko, Gabe Yondo, Mary Claire Mikolay, Chris-
tian Dieleman, Kelli Doyle
BACK ROW: Seth Alfaro, Jaylind Taylor-Cline, Rachel Syrba,
Brooke Nicholson, Caroline Gell

FRONT ROW : Emily Mauren, Margaret O'Neil, Rebecca Dull, Jack Rohn
BACK ROW: Armand Hess, Joe Ens, Chris McWain, David Flynn

FRONT ROW : Julia Walsh, Constance Stormzand, Cory Skinner,
Adrien Yondo, Jameson VanDokkumburg
MIDDLE ROW: James Stormzand, Pablo Corcoran, Kelli Donohue,
Andrew Aschwege, Claire Den Braber
BACK ROW: Anna Valente, Gracie Jones, Shannon McNeely,
Sarah Baxter, Tess Ens



HOME &

SCHOOL



Last Home & School Meeting of the Year

The last Home and School Business Meeting of the year is TONIGHT, 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.

A Home & School Thanks!

A special thanks to Jeanne Walsh for helping make teacher appreciation baskets, to Mark Triestram for making lots of phone calls and running around town to help get the items to fill the teacher baskets, to Martha's Vineyard for putting together an amazing assortment of items for the baskets in a truly generous fashion, to Marjorie Gell for loaning theme decorations for teacher appreciation week and to Amy Bocian for arranging food for the teacher brunch and helping with the gift baskets. Your help was invaluable in making Teacher Appreciation week a success. A special thanks to our teachers for all they do. We appreciate you all!
~ Claudia Triestram



Thanks

Gracias

AGENDA for TONIGHT, May 21, 2008 HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING

Opening Prayer

Administrative Reports

- a. Principal
- b. Vice Principal

Officer Reports

- a. President
Teacher Appreciation Week
Volunteerism
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
Budget update

Committee Reports

Auction - Summer Procurement Parties

Old Business

New Business

VP Election

Left over budget funds

Next Meeting

September 2008

8. Closing Prayer

8th Grade Graduation—Wednesday, June 4th at 7 p.m. (Mass followed by the graduation and reception)

Last Day of School—

Friday, June 6th. Dismissal at 11 a.m. following the Closing Mass (9:55 a.m.)

Summer Vacation begins on Monday, June 9th. School resumes on September 2nd.

Have a GREAT

Summer Vacation