



Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents,

Angela Yondo, our V.I.P. Coordinator met with me the other day regarding our volunteer program. When she walked into my office, she had the two volunteer badges belonging to the recently deceased Grandpa J. (Frank Jakubowski). One of the badges was labeled Volunteer and one Staff. Frank will be missed tremendously by students and staff here within the school as he was such an integral part of our life and community. Because so many of our staff and students were away on vacation at the time of his passing we will be holding a special memorial service on September 19th at 9:55 AM with the children of the school. Eternal rest grant unto him, Lord.

Much has happened during these months of vacation within the school. First, I'd like to introduce you to our new third grade teacher, Mrs. Abby VanDyke. Mrs. VanDyke comes to St. Thomas from just across the river where she has been teaching 2nd and 3rd grade for the last eight years at Sacred Heart School. She is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and triple minors in Child Development, Language Arts, and Bilingual-Bicultural (Spanish) Education. She is nearing the completion of her Masters in the Art of Teaching Reading at Aquinas College. Mrs. VanDyke is also certified as an Advanced Catechist through the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Abby is married to Michael, who is also an educator, and they have two sons, Cole (K), and Ethan (3rd), whom will be attending St. Thomas School. Mrs. VanDyke came highly recommended with comments like, "Students love her!", "She's up on all the latest things", "She just really has it together", and "One of the best!". Mrs. VanDyke believes that teaching in a Catholic school is a vocation, not a job, and was attracted to St. Thomas because of our Faith First culture. Please be sure to welcome her and her boys to our community if you get the chance!

This year we will be further enhancing our ability to meet the needs of all kids by increasing our resource teacher, Christen Pierce's, time and by adding a 40% time Enrichment Teacher. This teacher will work with students who need a little extra challenge and should be going deeper in their academic subjects. We continue to believe that all students have special needs and all students are gifted and talented! As a result, we must have programs designed to meet their needs. We are very excited about this growing part of our school's ministry! We are even beginning to open a dialogue with Aquinas College about the possibility of future collaboration in this area.

There have been many wonderful renovations and capital improvements in the school this summer. Mrs. Zoppa is looking forward to a newly transformed 6-8th grade language arts classroom complete with wall-to-wall bookshelves and countertops with electrical outlets designed to be a place for quick access to the middle school student laptops. We have made several additional improvements to our newly renovated library; relocating the easy readers to new shelves designed just for them, weeding and reorganizing our collection once again for improved usage, adding many new books, and a permanent display shelf for student collections. The new sidewalk to the recently reopened front doors of school allow all to once again rediscover the beauty and significance of the original entrance that many didn't even realize existed. And finally, the entire West Wing or 1960 section of the school has been completely reroofed. This was a major capital project made possible by your generosity and in part (\$22,836) from the 2008 Auction proceeds. These improvements were made possible through the time, talent, or treasure of the following people: Mrs. Zoppa, Brittney Zoppa, Mrs. Skallos, Fred Skallos, Dawn Olney, Ted Coon, Don Serba, Jeanine Serba, Cara Serba, Aleks Serba, Judy Cotter,

Attachments



- H&SA May Minutes (*All*)
- 2008/2009 School Calendar (*All*)
- Educational Outfitters Catalog (*Gr. 1-8*)
- Uniform Item Description (*Gr. 1-8*)
- Hornet Wear Order Form (*All*)
- September Hot Lunch Menu (*Gr. 1-8*)
- Bible Order Form (*Gr. 3-8*)
- Planner Order Form (*Gr. 3-8*)
- Preschool and Kindergarten Milk Order Form
- Preschool and School Age Immunization Requirements (*All*)
- ROC Youth Ministry Volunteer Form

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"Principal's Welcome

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Braylyn Cotter, Robert Milanowski, Julie Line, Bob Neumann, Tom Nicholson, Liz Aschwege, Andrew Aschwege, Maureen Jones, Ryan Jones, Troy Giambenardi, Connie O'Tool, Dale Houston, Rich Grant, George Aulbach, the Education Commission, the Finance Council, and the generosity of St. Thomas Parishioners.

Through the generosity of a number of grants we will begin the school year with a Tablet PC, projector, and 8' x 8' screen in all classrooms (1st – 8th), assistive sound amplification systems in most classrooms (P-8), and automatic student response systems or "clickers" in our 4th and 5th grade classrooms. These new technologies have amazing impact on teacher instruction and most importantly student learning. We would like to extend our special thanks to the Parish Capital Budget, Home and School Association, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the Aschwege family, IBM Corporation, the Gell family, and Cameron Foundation for making this technology available to our students and teachers.

You may be aware that the school has been completing its Long Range Plan right along with the parish. Just as the parish LRP Survey results are available at the parish website, the school's results are available at the school website at www.stthomasgr.org. Thank you to all for the record response we received to this last survey. Your input will really help us to vision and shape the future! I would like to say a special thank you to Sue Haas-Williams and Mary Davis for their leadership through this process.

We are excited to open this year's school theme, "ENCOUNTER THE LIVING GOD", with our students! This is a direct quote from our Holy Father's address to Catholic schools during his recent visit. He said, "First and foremost every Catholic institution should be a place to encounter the living God..." Thanks for all you do to help us accomplish this goal!

For those who are new to Saint Thomas School – WELCOME, and to everyone else – Welcome back!!!



Important Uniform Correction

An Educational Outfitters Catalog was sent home in June. This catalog was printed incorrectly. Unfortunately, the catalog listed Navy or Khaki pants as options for 6-8th graders. The new catalog (attached to this Pieces) will read Navy only for grades 1-8. If parents purchased khaki pants at Educational Outfitters they can be exchanged for navy, the price on the white and green polo shirts was incorrect. The new catalogue will include these corrections.

Please note: Girl's uniform skirts must have the same size pleats completely around the skirt. A wider pleat at the side does not match the uniform code. This came up because Target has some skirts with shorts built in, and they are pleated, but the side of the skirt has a wider panel than the pleats in the front and back.

Hot Lunch

Hot lunch will begin on Tuesday, September 2. A September Menu is attached. If you are not receiving Free or Reduced meals, please send lunch money with your student to the office by Friday, September 5 to begin your account for the school year. Meals will cost \$2.00 and Milk only will cost \$.35 cents. An adult lunch costs \$2.50. A reminder to please pay any outstanding hot lunch balances from the 2007/2008 school year. Please contact Shannon Rodgers at 874-5680 with any questions.

Immunization Requirements

State Law requires that each student entering Preschool, Kindergarten or a new school have a certificate of immunization on file at the time of registration or no later than the first day of school. In addition, Preschool students are required to have a physical dated within the past year.

Preschool Students Requirements:

Up-to-date Immunizations Record on file
Signed Physical dated with the past two years

Kindergarten Student Requirements:

Up-to-date Immunizations Record on file
Vision Screening Record on file

New Students entering St. Thomas:

Up-to-date Immunizations Record on file

All Sixth Grade Students:

Up-to-date Immunizations Record on file

A Warm St. Thomas Welcome

There are many new families who are currently inquiring about St. Thomas. The new families and students who are **registered as of today's date are:**

Adam & Merri Baxter	Jarred 2
Glenn & Shar Betten	Daniel 1
Mark & Chris Bonnema	Ellery 7
Anthony & Elise Caruso	Julia Danielson 1
Nagib & Stacey Chalfoun	Lana P3
	Luke K-AM
Chris & Anne Cork	Jack P3
Mike & Christiane Dent	Calvin 3
Bryan & Michelle Figueroa	Nick K-PM
	Alex 3
Brian & Laurie Fitzgerald	Rory K-PM
	Patrick 5
	Molly 6
Stan & Linda Kaminski	Stephanie 5
Ian & Margaret Kaspura	Molly P4-AM
Heather Koole & John Hoekstra	Sam Hoekstra P3
Jeff & Julie Kuhn	Amelia P3
Andrea Morgan-Floyd	Chase 7
Shannon & Cecily Near	Zach K-AM
Tara Pierce	Rayanne K-AM
Michael & Christina Rosloniec	Anna 3
John & Amy Sebestyen	Madeline 3
Paul & Emily Shagen	Claudia P4-PM
Joe & Amy Spica	Brianna 6
Michael & Abby VanDyke	Ethan 3
	CJ K-PM
Paul & Mirenda VanSweden	Gavin P4-PM
Andy & Trayce Williams	Sam 2
Don & Lisa Ziemke	Jordan 6

We also welcome some familiar families and faces who are returning to our school:

Dave & Jennifer Clemens	Ryan 4
	Kathryn 2
Tom & Kelly Olive	Mary Clare P4-PM



WELCOME

Summer Office Hours:

August 12-15	8:30-12:30 p.m.
August 18-21	8:30-12:30 p.m. 1:30- 3:30 p.m.
August 22	Office closed
August 25-28	8:30-12:30 p.m. 1:30-3:30 p.m.
August 29	Office Closed

About 'The Pieces'

The Peacemaker Pieces is designed to be a home-school communication tool intended to carry home many informative "pieces" of information. *The Pieces* will be identifiable by two attributes - its name and color. We will be sending the bimonthly issues of *The Pieces* and other important communications with either the oldest or the only child in each family. Please encourage your child in this important responsibility. It is also available on our website at www.stthomasgr.org on both the homepage and under the news tab where current and past newsletters are archived.

Please note:

The next 'Pieces' will be sent home on the second day of school, Wednesday, September 3rd. If you have an article or any information you wish to have included in this Pieces please send it to the school office ***NO LATER THAN Wednesday, August 27th.*** Thank you! ~ Kathy Barth

Attention - 4th and 5th Grade Parents

We are considering the possibility of a formalized collaboration between Mrs. Pieri, Mrs. Petkus, and Mrs. Furtwangler to all teach one subject apiece (Math, Science, and Social Studies) to all the fourth and fifth graders. Stay tuned for more information from the teachers.

Faculty and Staff for the 2008-2009 School Year

Mrs. Brenda Tietema	3-yr-Preschool	Mrs. Kathy Proulx	Music
Mrs. Betsy Edgerton	4-yr-Preschool	Mrs. Maryly Skallos	Technology Coordinator
Mrs. Mary Lou Gedra	Preschool Aide	Miss Christen Pierce	Resource Program Teacher
Mrs. Amy Westphal	Kindergarten	TBD	Enrichment Teacher
Mrs. Joni Poggi	Kindergarten Aide	Mrs. Mary Ann Bridge	P-4 & Kindergarten Spanish
Mrs. Kelly Donohue	Grade 1	Mrs. Jamie LaFleur	School Counselor
Mrs. Holly Lake	Grade 1/2	Ms. Jessica Seitz/GRPS	Art
Mrs. Ruth Prindle	Grade 1/2 Classroom Aide	Mrs. Sue Jazwiec/GRPS	Computer
Mrs. Mary Baxter	Grade 2	Mrs. Sue VanZee/GRPS	Spanish
Mrs. Sue Michels	Grade 3	Ms. Ashley Grothe/GRPS	Physical Education
Mrs. Abby VanDyke	Grade 3	Mr. Ted Coon	Maintenance
Mrs. Deb Pieri	Grade 4	Mrs. Suzanne VanderZee	Administrative Aide
Mrs. Beth Ann Petkus	Grade 4/5	Mrs. Sue Ysasi	Secretary
Mrs. Suzanne Furtwangler	Grade 5	Miss Octavia Houtekier	Assistant Principal
Mr. Adam Baxter	Grade 6 (History&Religion)		
Mr. Ed Carr	Grade 6-8 (Math)		
Mrs. Debra Zoppa	Grade 7 (Language Arts)		
Mrs. Mary Sue Stegehuis	Grade 8 (Science)		

Back to School Popsicle Party

The St. Thomas Home and School invites all families to join us at Wilcox Park for a popsicle party.

When: Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Time: 10:00-12:00 Noon

Where: Wilcox Park

Why: This is a great opportunity to get the kids together to visit with old friends, meet new classmates and their new teacher and have FUN!

It's also a great chance for parents to meet each other, too!

Rain date: If it is **pouring rain** on Tuesday, we will have a rain date on Wednesday, August 27th, same time. We hope to see you there!

Attn: Junior High Parents

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center Community Room for our Junior High Parent Orientation.

We will highlight common procedures and expectations, and each teacher will share information about their classes. Please plan on attending this informative session.

Coffee and Donuts—September 2, 2008

All parents are invited to gather and socialize after you drop your children off on the first day of school. Come grab a cup of coffee and a donut and visit with old and new friends from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center.

FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m., all parents and students are invited to join us for our family open house beginning in the Church.

7:00-7:10 ~ OPENING PRAYER

Fr. Jim will lead all our families in prayer and reflection.

7:10-7:50 ~ PARENT MEETING

Parents will remain in church while teachers and staff will lead students to their classrooms (Preschool-grade 8) and the parish nursery will be open for younger children during the parent meeting **only**.

7:50-8:30 ~ OPEN HOUSE IN SCHOOL Parents rejoin young children in nursery and proceed to school to join your child/ren (youngest-oldest) in their classroom(s). Please keep your child/ren in your care as soon as you rejoin them in their classroom(s).

Morning Arrival

Students should not arrive at school before 7:45 a.m.. All children will line up in the parking lot behind school. **If you drive your children to school, please use the church parking lot for drop off or pick up.** Please drive in on the gym side and drive out on the rectory side. Parking/stopping on Wilcox Park Drive is reserved for busses only.

Attention Grace Street Users: Preschool Drop-Off/Pick-Up and PM Kindergarten Drop-Off Only!

Grace Street is a shared space. Please use spaces and areas designated for St. Thomas. Parents, please **DO NOT park in spots marked for Care Resources, and please DO NOT use the Van Andel parking lot as a pass through** to drop off or pick up students. This will maintain a safe environment for the elderly residents of Holland Home.

It is important that the Grace Street entrance is used for drop-ping off or picking up PM kindergarten and preschool students only.

Student Pick-Up/Drop-Off

Students must NEVER be allowed to cross Wilcox Park Drive to enter or exit a car. **DO NOT** drop off or pick up students at the curb in front of school or church. For the safety of all our children, please pick up and drop off students in the designated areas of the parking lot only.

To aid in speeding up the drop off/pick up procedure, please treat Wilcox Park Drive as a one way street (westbound only). Use Hope Street to travel eastbound. When exiting the parking lot, turn right onto Wilcox Park Drive. By creating this ONE WAY environment, we can make the beginning and end of our school days more relaxing for St. Thomas and our neighbors.

The Fulton Street driveway to the Church lot gate and back out around the Mercy Respite Center can also be used to drop off and pick up students. Please make sure your children know which of the two locations you will be using. ~ Dave Faber

After-School Care

The St. Thomas After-School Program officially begins on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 2. We are currently enrolling full- and part-time students, grades PM P-4 & PM Kdg through sixth. Please contact me at 458-4228 Ext. 337 for further information.
~ Octavia Houtekier



BUSSING INFORMATION

Grand Rapids Area Catholic Schools Transportation Consortium (formerly Catholic Secondary Schools Transportation) will be providing bussing for our students again for the 2008-2009 school year. Families must register each year for the bus. If you have not registered and would like bussing for your students, registration forms are available in the school office. New stops may be created after October 1st, if not sooner. The transportation office will be mailing route information to families registered for bussing.

Absenteeism

Parents are requested to call the school office at 458-4228, between 7:30-8:30 a.m. *each day that a child will be absent.* Please state the child's name, grade and reason for absence.

Student Planner Organization

We require all students in grades 3-8 to have a trapper keeper (1-1/2" or 2" zipper binder recommended). Inside they will need to have:

1. The blue Catholic School Student Assignment Planner (purchased through the office **ONLY**)
2. A pencil pouch (available for purchase through the school office if your trapper doesn't have one)
3. **Six plastic three-hole punched subject area folders for inside the trapper. (Sorry this was missed on the supply list).**
4. For training and consistency sake, instruction sheets will be provided by the school office for each 3rd through 8th grade student.

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Look Carefully

Attached to this issue of *The Pieces*, you will find several forms that may be returned during the first days of this school year:

Bible Order Form



One of our spiritual goals is to open the Word of God with our children and invite them to establish a good relationship with it. We are asking that students in third grade and above have their own Bible which they will keep at school to use. It is important that they have a Bible that is their own as they will be encouraged to mark passages in it and make personal notes. If you are in a situation of having to obtain a new Bible for your child, we recommend the following version: The Good News Bible (Today's English Version). We are offering two hardcover editions of this Bible that can be ordered by filling out the attached order form. The first edition is the one we have always offered, a simple black and white copy. The second is a newly printed edition designed just for young Catholics, complete with color inserts, 616 *Pray It! Study It! Live It!* Articles, 99 "Catholic Connections" Articles, a timeline, a complete list of Sunday readings, and much more. Consult the attached flyer for additional information and prices. All order forms must be turned in to the school office by: Friday, September 5th.

~ Mr. Faber

Student Planner Organization *Continued from page 5*

Please fill out the attached order form accordingly, enclose a check made out to St. Thomas School for the corresponding amount and return it to school no later than Friday, September 5. The trapper and folders will also be needed by this time. Thank you for your cooperation as we help teach our students the importance of good organization!

~ Mr. Faber

UNIFORMS

In order to provide an environment that reflects our Catholic tradition, promotes respect for school and individuals, and enhances self-esteem, first through eighth grade students of St. Thomas the Apostle School are required to wear uniforms beginning the first day of school. The last Monday of each month is designated as a non-uniform day. Our first non-uniform day of the year will be Monday, September 24. The brief descriptions from our handbook are contained below; however, for your convenience, we have enclosed a detailed description of each item. Please refer to the attached **UNIFORM ITEM DESCRIPTIONS** sheet when shopping for uniforms. Items purchased, other than those specifically detailed, must adhere to the "Acceptable" guidelines and match the approved items. Shop at your own risk, and when in doubt, please bring the item (in its original package) to the school office for approval. Thanks for your cooperation.

Sweater/Sweatshirts

Optional Green Booster's sweatshirt (non-hooded type) or dark green * sweater (vest, cardigan or pullover) - must be worn with shirt collar showing and be a reasonable fit. All parts of the uniform must be neat, clean and in good condition.

This sweatshirt can be worn as part of the uniform. Please see the attached Hornet Wear Order Form. Orders are due September 19. As a reminder, the Hornet wear items will be offered 3 times throughout the school year. Any orders that come in **AFTER** those deadlines will be held until the next open order period.

Uniform Code

Girls - Grades 1-8

Skirt or jumper - specific, * pleated, accordion - navy blue or *plaid available at Educational Outfitters only*.

White or navy tights or shorts and white or navy socks, must be worn with skirt or jumper.

Boys and Girls - Grades 1-8

All shirts must be plain white or *specific green logoed shirts from Educational Outfitters only* and consist of the following styles:

turtleneck

mock turtleneck

long or short sleeve polo-style

with collars

long or short sleeve oxford

specific long or short sleeve blouse*

Navy blue pants, or navy blue shorts (April 1-October 15 shorts optional).

Pants and shorts are to be twill, gabardine or broadcloth with traditional trouser cut. Shorts must be mid-thigh in length. White or navy socks must be worn with pants and shorts.

Students must wear shirts tucked in and buttoned at all times.

Personal Appearance

Grooming for all students should be in keeping with the student's age. Hair-styles should be plain and simple.

Boy's hair must be cut above the eyebrows, earlobes and shirt collar. Lipstick and makeup may not be worn in school. If earrings are worn, simple and small will be permitted; girls only.

One necklace, one bracelet, one ring per hand. Each teacher will be responsible for seeing that his/her students are wearing proper uniform. Violations will be handled immediately. They will be noted and submitted to the office each morning and afternoon. Parents will be called to bring proper attire.

Non-Uniform Days

Clothing can be casual or dress but must be appropriate for school. Examples of clothing **not** considered appropriate for school include but are not limited to:

1. Clothing with a bare midriff
2. Halter and tube tops
3. Sleeveless tops
4. Clothing with un-Christian or lewd printed material
5. Clothing made of sheer material
6. Shorts or pants that are fringed, cut off or frayed at bottom, made of spandex material or torn or ripped
7. Shorts above mid-thigh length
8. Skirts shorter than knee length
9. Socks must be worn with shoes or sandals

Jean Passes

Jean passes may be used on the second Monday of any month or on other designated days. With the jean pass the uniform top must still be worn.

Special Circumstances

Parents may make written requests to the principal for variance from this Uniform Code because of special circumstances (i.e. injury, child development, etc.).

If you have any questions regarding the uniform, please call the school office at 458-4228.

Gym Shoes

All shoes used in the gym must have light colored soles. No dark soles will be allowed. Check shoe for indication of a "non-marking" sole.

CHALLENGE CLUB

Attention all 5th-8th Grade Girls! Challenge Club is ready to start! Become a part of this year's Challenge Club.... new members are always welcome. Join us and catch the Spirit of Challenge. If you are interested, please call Mrs. Amy DenBraber at 233-0703 .

VIP FORMS

You may still turn in your purple Volunteer Forms that were included in your registration packet. Please drop them off at the school office. If you have any questions, please call Angela Yondo (452-0444).

Asbestos Notice from Diocese

In order to comply with the requirements of the E.P.A.'s Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, all of the school buildings in the Diocese of GR have been inspected for asbestos-containing materials. If you would like to review the Management Plan for St. Thomas, it is available in the school office. The Management Plan will state recommended activities which will maintain the asbestos materials in a non-friable condition.

~ Ted Coon

The Boosters Need YOU!

Do you have students in grades 5th-8th grades?

Do you have any budding athletes of any age?

Do you have an interest in supporting St. Thomas Athletics?

Are you new to St. Thomas and looking for a fun way to get involved in and support your school?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please attend our first Boosters meeting of the year which will be held on Tuesday, August 26th at 7 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room. We have an exciting year ahead of us with improved facilities and awesome kids just waiting to put on those Hornet uniforms!

So come be a part of St. Thomas Athletics. You won't regret it!



Coffee with the Principal and Assistant Principal



On Tuesday, September 23, all are invited to participate in "Coffee with the Principal and Assistant Principal.", an informal hour, 10-11:00 a.m., in the faculty/conference room during which parents can ask questions, share ideas, and learn about current programs.

Recess Supervisors



All lunch recess supervisors - Mark your calendars!!!!

On Tuesday, September 2, Supervisors will be meeting from 10:00-11:40 a.m. in the lower level of Church. Our first lunch/recess will follow. Please make every effort to attend both the meeting. If you cannot attend, please call Joni Poggi at 485-2800 to make arrangements to go over the rules and theme. Thanks!

~ Joni Poggi & Cheryl Lambert



Important Dates

August

- 22 Faculty & Staff Retreat
School Office Closed
- 25 Diocesan Kick-Off
- 26 10-12 noon Popsicles in Park
7 pm Sports Booster Meeting
- 27 6:30 pm After-School Care
Director available
- 27 7 pm Jr. High Parent Mtg.

September

- 2 First Day of School (1-8)
- 2 9-10am 3-yr Preschool
Open House
- 2 9-10 am AM Kdg Open House
- 2 1-2 pm PM Kdg Open House
- 3 First Day of Kindergarten
- 3 10:00-11:00 AM Assembly
10:00-11:40 AM Recess
Supervisor Training
- 3 9-10am 4-yr AM Preschool
Open House
- 3 1-2pm 4-yr PM Preschool
Open House
- 3 7pm New Family Orientation
- 3 8pm Home & School Mtg.
- 4 First Day for 3-yr Preschool
- 5 First Day for 4-yr Preschool
- 5 Student Planner Orders due
- 5 Student Bible Orders due
- 10 7 pm Family Open House
- 13/14 Catechetical Sunday—School
Open House for Parish after
all Masses
- 15 Jean Pass Day
- 22 Picture Day (P4, Gr. 1-8)
- 23 Picture Day (P3)
- 23 10-11am Coffee with
Principal & Asst. Principal

Pesticide Notification

As a part of our pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the grounds or buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but notice will be following any such application.

School Pictures

School pictures will be taken on Monday, September 22 for Grades 4-yr Preschool thru 8th grade. Pictures for 3-yr Preschool will be taken on Tuesday, September 23. Picture retake day is scheduled for October 28, 2008.

Operation Christmas Child 2008!

As you are shopping for school supplies, please keep Operation Christmas Child in mind. We will have a bin in the hall downstairs for your convenience to store the items.



The most needed items are: crayons, markers, glue sticks, pencils, small notebooks, general items for older boys. Or if you see a fantastic deal, please free feel to purchase for our all-school project. Remember, everything must fit into a shoe box.

Thank you for your continued support!

2008-2009 HORNET WEAR

Once again, The Saint Thomas Boosters are offering the HORNET WEAR promotional clothing items for purchase. Order forms are attached to today's PIECES and are available on the Saint Thomas School website. Order forms and samples will also be available during our Parent Open House on Wednesday, September 10. Check out the NEW sandwich billed baseball cap with the Hornet logo on front and the school Celtic cross logo on back! They look sharp! Please have all orders (with checks) handed in by **Friday, September 19th**. Items will be returned to the students in approximately 2 weeks. Parents, it is your responsibility to deliver orders (and \$) to the school office. Too many orders are late or lost as a result of expecting a student (or teacher) to deliver orders to the office. As a reminder, the Hornet wear items will be offered 3 times throughout the school year. Any orders that come in AFTER those deadlines will be held until the next open order period. Please feel free to contact Matt Tietema (616) 458-6819 with any questions or ideas.



Faith Based Institute for Healing Racism

This fall, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish is once again partnering with GRACE (Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism) to host a **Faith Based Institute for Healing Racism**. An Institute for Healing Racism is founded in the belief that racism is the most powerful and persistent obstacle to the attainment of a just and peaceful society. An *Institute* seeks to create an environment in which men and women of all races can address each other in a spirit of open and honest discussion, free of blame and victimization. An *Institute* recognizes that racism is, above all else, a social and spiritual disease, a disease woven into the moral and spiritual fiber of society. **Please consider answering the call to join for the eight-week series starting September 24 and continuing each Wednesday evening through November 12, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** Call John Graveline, 459-4662 x 203, for more information and to register. Please call early because space is limited.

Band News

2008/2009 Daily Band Schedule

Band classes will begin Wednesday, September 3.
5th Grade-Mon/Wed. 8:15-9:00 at St. Thomas
6th Grade-Mon/Wed. 7:10-7:50 at St. Stephen
7th/8th Grade-Tues/Thurs. 7:10-7:50 at St. Stephen



This year there will be a **5th Grade Band Camp held Mon. 8/18-Thurs 8/21** Camp will be at St. Stephens according to the following schedule:

Flutes 9:00-9:45 each day; Clarinets 9:45-10:30 each day; Percussion/French Horns 10:30-11:15 each day;
Trumpets 12:00-12:45 each day
Trombone/Baritone/Tuba 12:45-1:30 each day.



Home & School Officers for 2008-09

The Home & School Association would like to introduce and welcome its officers for the 2007/2008 school year:

President: Amy Bocian
Vice-President: Amy Jaracz
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: MaryBeth Rott

Please consider serving as **Secretary** of H&SA. The requirements of this position are the taking of minutes during the five meetings throughout the school year and drafting them for the Pieces the following week. This position is a commitment of two years and is a great way to volunteer within the school. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Bocian at 559-8803 or chadbo@comcast.net.

New Family Reception

Attention all new families and their mentor families! We would like to formally welcome you to St. Thomas with a new family reception on Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:00 pm. Please bring your entire family to the Ministry Center to meet the administration, Home & School officers, committee chairs and other new families. We encourage all new family mentors to attend this event as well! Questions, please contact Helen Vruggink at 459-6910. See you there!

First Home and School Meeting

The first Home and School Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd at 8:00 pm immediately following the New Family Reception in the Ministry Center. ALL parents are welcome and encouraged to attend to find out about Home and School. This meeting will provide an overview of all major committees and we will discuss the financial status of Home and School, as well as any new ideas for the coming year. We look forward to everyone getting involved this year. ~ Amy Bocian

Watch the next Pieces for the schedule of
Upcoming Parent Grade Gatherings!

SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE:

8:00 am	School begins
11:20 am-12:15 pm	Lunch/Recess ~ Grs.1-5
11:42 am-12:30 pm	Lunch/Recess ~ Jr. High
3:15 pm	School dismissal
8:00- 11:00 am	P3, P4, K (AM)
12:15-3:15 pm	P4, K (PM)
3:15-6:00 pm	After-School Care

NEW ARRIVALS

We love new babies at St. Thomas!



If you have a new family member and would like to share this wonderful news with the school community, please call the school office at 458-4228 or send written details and your information will be placed in the "Pieces". Thank you!

September 2008 Hot Lunch Menu

Saint Thomas the Apostle School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Labor Day	2 Pizza <u>B Lunch:</u> Sandwich Bar à <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Chicken Noodleà	3 Hamburgers	4 Tacos	5 Grilled Cheese
8 Chicken Nuggets <u>B Lunch:</u> Turkery & Cheese sandwiches à <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Vegetable rice soupà	9 Pizza	10 <u>Roast turkey & Mashed Potatoes</u>	11 Tacos	12 Cheese or vegetable Pizza
15 Chicken Nuggets <u>B Lunch:</u> Cheese Quesadillas à <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Chili à	16 Pizza	17 Hamburgers	18 Tacos	19 Macaroni & Cheese
22 Chicken Nuggets <u>B Lunch:</u> Grilled Ham & Cheese à <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Garlic Chickenà	23 Pizza	24 Roast turkey & Mashed Potatoes	25 Tacos	26 Grilled Cheese
29 Chicken Nuggets <u>B Lunch:</u> BBQ chicken pizza à <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Tomatoà	<u>30</u> Pizza			

Included Daily:

Milk

Food Bar: consists of at least two vegetables, fruit, protein (such as cheese, turkey, ham etc.), and bread products.

Call Michelle with any questions concerning the lunch at 334-2610.