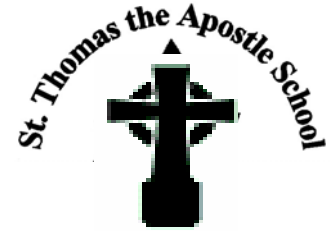


THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*

St. Thomas School community prepares children for life in a respectful and supportive environment by providing a dynamic education centered in Christ.



1925

ANNUAL PARENT MEETING AND FAMILY OPEN HOUSE NEXT WEEK Don't Miss It!

On *Wednesday, September 10th* 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.

7:10-7:45 ~ PARENT MEETING

Parents will remain in church while teachers and staff will lead students (Preschool-grade 8) to their classrooms. The parish nursery will be open for younger children during the parent meeting only. Parents pick up young children from nursery, preschool and kindergarten then join your other students (grades 1-8) in school.

7:45-8:30 ~ OPEN HOUSE IN SCHOOL

Please begin with your youngest child's classroom and proceed from youngest to oldest, keeping your children with you as you go to each new classroom. Thank you!

Tonight—

New Family/Mentor Family Reception

Attention all new families! We would like to formally welcome you to St. Thomas with a New Family/Mentor Family Reception *tonight, Wednesday, September 3rd*. Please bring your entire family to the Lower Level of the church at 7 p.m. to meet other new families and the families who have agreed to mentor them.

First Home and School Meeting

Welcome back! The first Home and School meeting of the new school year will be held *tonight, Wednesday, September 3rd* immediately following the New Family/Mentor Family Reception in the Lower Level of the church at 8 p.m. It would be wonderful to see you there!

Calendar Changes:

- Catechetical Sunday will be held the weekend of September 20 & 21. There will be a School Open House after all Masses.
- First Non Uniform day is Monday, September 29, Wednesday, November 19 is a full day of school. There will not be an 11:00 a.m. dismissal

School Pictures

School Pictures are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday morning, September 22 and 23. If you are a parent volunteer, please plan to come in and have your picture taken for your ID lanyard. See the next Pieces for more info.

Important Notice

Mercy Respite will be paving their driveway on **Tuesday, September 9**. **Parents will not be able to use the Gate Line for drop off and pick up on that day**. All families must use the Church parking lot off Wilcox Park. Thank you for your cooperation.

ATTACHMENTS



- September Calendar
- Revised 2008/2009 School Calendar
- Catholic Choral Academy Flyer
- Hornet Wear Order Form

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHINA EARTHQUAKE DONATIONS!

What a fantastic response we had for the Chinese earthquake victims at the end of last school year. **The St. Thomas families as a whole donated \$1,555 and the second grade classes raised \$1, 513.65 through a read-in, for a total of \$3, 068!** We are so proud of the second grade classes under Mrs. Baxter and Mrs. Michels for their sacrifice and hard work to gather sponsors for a day-long read-in. They demonstrated in a marvelous way how much can be accomplished by young people who have a heart and a will to help. Their efforts and the generous donations by the school families will help build new schools for Chinese students in poor rural areas who lost theirs in the quake. Isaac Liang, who was a second grader, and his family met with the president of the China Youth Development Foundation in Beijing in June and told him about your love for the youth in his country. It was a wonderful testimony of being Jesus' hands clear around the world. China Youth Development Foundation is the largest private foundation in China and has built over 14,000 schools for poor Chinese children. We are pleased that St. Thomas has a had role in helping these unfortunate children.

Thank you again to all who gave,
The Liang family

Isaac Liang giving Mr. Tu, president of the China Youth Development Foundation, St. Thomas' donations.

A Special Saint Thomas Welcome!

We would like to welcome another new family to our school:

Cecilia Cunningham Katolina Norton K-PM

We would also like to welcome the following new students from existing St. Thomas School families:

Chris & Chris Alfaro	Caleb Alfaro K/PM
Louis & Tracy Bandlow	Tyler Bandlow P4/AM
Dave & Jennifer Clemens	Michael Clemens 4/Petkus
Michael & Patrica Corcoran	Danny Corcoran P3
William & Jackie Cuppy	Lucas Cuppy P3
Kevin & Casey DeBruyn	Jack DeBruyn P4/PM
Doug & Shawn Doyle	Daniel Doyle P4/PM
Brian & Andrea Gumbko	Alina Gumbko 1/D
Tom & Sharon Herold	Sophia Herold P4/AM
Rolfe & Sarah Krachenberg	Katie Krachenberg P3
Carlos & Tabitha Lourido	Hannah Lourido P4/PM
Ed & Ellen Mikolay	Billy Mikolay P3
Mike & Maureen Muraski	Kayleigh Muraski P3
Brad & Anne Pinter	Maggie Pinter P3
Alan & Coleen Redmond	Michael Redmond P4/AM
Chip & Helen (Scott) Richards	Claire Richards P3
Mark & Tara Simonait	Sara Simonait P3
Dan & Mary Sue Stegehuis	Sophia Stegehuis K/AM
Tom & Sonia VanBragt	Emma VanBragt P4/PM
Marc & Lori (Fedewa) Wadaga	Lucy Wadaga P3
Mark & Marnie White	Dillon White K/PM
Ward & Angela Yondo	Quinn Yondo 1/Lake

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

If you are new to our school or an existing volunteer who still needs to attend Virtus training, (required for all school volunteers), please note the upcoming sessions:

St. Pius X Parish (Grandville)
Monday, September 8 @ 6:30 PM

Our Lady of Consolation (Rockford)
Sunday, September 14 @ 6:00 PM

St. Pius X Parish (Grandville)
Tuesday, September 16 @ 6:30 PM

St. Robert's (Ada)
Wednesday, October 1 @ 6:30 PM

Holy Family Parish (Caledonia)
Tuesday, October 21 @ 6:30 PM

Catholic Charities GR (Grand Rapids)
Thursday, November 13 @ 2:00 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

An Invitation To Pray The Rosary in Church



Dear St. Thomas School Families and Friends:

Every day at St. Thomas School you can pray the Rosary with other parents and friends.

You can pray for our School you can pray for our teachers ... you can pray for your children ... you can pray for the sick ... you can pray for a special intention ... you can pray for yourself ...

For any reason at all, please feel welcome to join many other men and women who would like to lift up a Rosary to Our Blessed Mother. No prior experience necessary.

3:00 pm every **Monday, Wednesday, Friday** (right before school lets out)

8:00 am every **Tuesday, Thursday** (right after school starts)

Fall Skating Party



When: Monday Sept 29

Who: St Thomas the Apostle students and their families

Where: Woodland Skating Center (behind the 28th street Aldi's, west of Breton)

2100 28th Street — Grand Rapids, 49508

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

Cost: \$2.00 per person (includes roller skates)

Sponsored by: St Thomas Home and School Association
Skaters may use their own skates/ roller blades, but they must meet rink approval.



Concession stand available.

Questions? Contact Mary Turowski

(Blaszak) @ 430-8166

** change in regular time from previous parties

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.

Girls—Come Join Challenge!

All girls, grades 5-8 are invited to join in the spirit of Challenge. The starting date for this year's Challenge Teams is Friday, September 12. Please meet in the Ministry Center Community Room, at 4:30pm. The meeting will last until 6:00 pm.

All moms (or dads) are requested to stay during the first day for an informational meeting. Instructions for registration will be given at that time.

Hope to see you all there!

Questions? Call Amy Den Braber at 233-0703.

The Church Speaks:

“From the first moment that a student sets foot in a Catholic school, he or she ought to have the impression of entering a new environment, one illumined by the light of faith, and having its own unique characteristics.”

THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF EDUCATION IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL
1988 - Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education

The Multicultural, Diversity & Inclusion (MDI) Committee Needs You!

Help us to support our school in being a place where everyone is understood and respected. Our next meeting is on September 25, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room. Bring your uniqueness, ideas and vision to enrich our school. It's fun to embrace our differences!

Community Events

Camp Compass, a grief support day camp, is a result of collaboration between Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Spectrum Health, Spectrum Health Hospice, Gilda's Club, Hospice of Michigan, and Wedgwood Christian Services. This year's camp will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2008. The camp serves children 5-15 years of age who have been affected by the death of someone important in their daily lives. The cost for the day is \$10 per child. To register a child or to ask for more information, please contact Nancy Kingma, Bereavement Services Coordinator at 616-391-3232.

Pieces Schedule

The Peacemaker Pieces is a home-school communication tool intended to carry home many informative "pieces" of information. Please take the time to read it and record important information on your school calendar. All articles should be sent in to the school office by the end of the day on the Friday preceding the publication date (see schedule below). You may send them to the school office or email them to the office at [sysasi@stthomasgr.org](mailto:syasi@stthomasgr.org).

We will be sending issues of *The Pieces* and other important communications with the oldest or the only child in each family. **You can also access the most recent issue of the Pieces on the homepage of our website at www.stthomasgr.org.** Past issues of the Pieces are also available on the site at: www.stthomasgr.org/news/pieces.htm.

Issues of the 2007/2008 *The Pieces* will be sent home on these dates:

September 3, 17
October 1, 15, 29
November 12
December 3, 17
January 14, 28
February 11, 25
March 11, 25
April 22
May 6, 20

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.

~ Dave Faber

Congratulations!

Congratulations to:

Jason & Carey Horrigan

as they welcome their 8th child to the Horrigan Family!



Isibea Josephine Horrigan

was born 7/15/2008
weighed 7# 2 ounces and was 19" long

She came home on 7/16 to meet her brothers and sisters and is doing very well.

Proud St. Thomas School siblings are:
Anna (8), **Bailey** (5F) and **Lucas** (K-PM)

Save Your Uniform Purchase Receipts From JCPenney

St. Thomas will earn a 5% cash gift reward for any IZOD school wear purchased from JCPenney, stores, jcp.com, and over the phone! Purchases made between June 5, 2008-May 19, 2009. Simply send your original receipts in an envelope marked IZOD Receipts to the school office soon after making your purchase.



You are Invited to Our Fifth Annual Parent Grade Gatherings

The following families have graciously offered their home to host our annual parent grade gatherings. This is a great opportunity for parents to connect with other parents from their children's grade and is a great adult night out. More details on location and what to bring will be provided one week prior to each event. So call your sitter and mark the date on your calendar now! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email Amy at 559-8803 or chadbo@comcast.net. Thank you!

All Preschool Host:	Dan & Amy Jaracz	Saturday, October 18 7-9 pm
K AM and PM Host:	David & Shannon Rodgers	Saturday, September 27 7-9 pm
First Grade Host:	Chris & Amy Drees	Friday, September 12 8-10 pm
Second Grade Host:	Paul & Rosa Dull Friday,	September 26 7-9 pm
Third Grade Host:	Michael & Christina Rosloniec	Saturday, November 15 7-9 pm
Fourth Grade Host:	Mike & Kiki Lown	Saturday, September 13 7-9 pm
Fifth Grade Host:	<i>to be determined</i>	
Sixth Grade Host:	Cary & Becky Yunker	(date to be determined)
Seventh Grade Host:	Bill and Linda Fetterhoff	(date to be determined)
Eighth Grade Host:	<i>to be determined</i>	

Popsicle Party Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who attended the popsicle party last week. Thank you also to all of those who helped make it possible: Amy Jaracz, Maureen Jones, Colleen Redmond, Christina Rosloniec, and Jadene Giambernardi.



Reminders— New Family/Mentor Family Reception Tonight

Don't forget the New Family/Mentor Family Reception **TONIGHT, Wednesday, September 3rd**. Please bring your entire family to the Lower Level of the church at 7 p.m. to meet other new families and the families who have agreed to mentor them.

First Home and School Meeting

Again, the first Home and School meeting of the new school year is **TONIGHT, Wednesday, September 3rd** immediately following the New Family/Mentor Family Reception in the Lower Level of the church at 8 p.m. All are encouraged to attend. See you there!

AGENDA

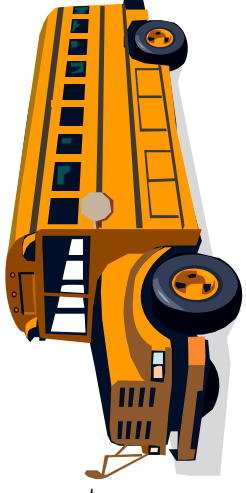
September 3, 2008

Home and School Meeting

1. Opening Prayer
2. Administration Reports
 - A. Principal - Dave Faber
 1. Thank You: popsicles in the park, new family reception, parent grade gatherings, 1st day of school coffee and donuts, etc.
 2. Future programmatic possibilities
 - B. Coordinator of Finance - Dawn Olney
 1. Accounting Procedures and Budget
3. Officer Reports
 - A. President - Amy Bocian
 1. Thank You's
 2. Parent Grade Gathering Updates
 - B. Vice-President - Amy Jaracz
 1. Popsicle Party Report
 - C. Secretary
 - D. Treasurer - MaryBeth Rott
 1. Budget Update
4. Committee Reports
 - A. Carnival - Saturday, Oct. 11th
 - B. Auction
 - C. Operation Christmas Child
5. New Business
 - A. Election of Secretary
 - B. Set Meeting dates for remainder of year
6. Closing Prayer



Saint Thomas the Apostle School September 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9-10 am Pre3 & Kdg Open House 10-11 am All School Assembly & 10-11:40 Recess Supervisor Meeting 1-2 pm Kdg Open House	3 1st day of Kdg 9-10 am & 1-2 pm Pre4 Open House New Family Mentor Reception; H&SA mtg. 7-9 pm	4 1st day of Pre3	5 1st day of Pre4 9:55 am Opening School Mass Bible, Planner, Milk Orders Due	6
7	8	9	10 7 pm Parent/Family Open House/Info Night	11	12 9:55 am Mass	13
14	15 Jean Pass Day	16	17 7 pm Ed. Com. Mtg.	18 Hearing/Vision Screening P3 (both), K,2,4 hearing only	19 Hornet Wear Orders Due 9:55 am Memorial Mass for Great Grandpa J Hearing/Vision P4,1,3,5 2:15 pm Dismissal	20
21 Catechetical Sunday	22 School Pictures →	23	24	25 6-8:30 pm Multicultural Mtg.	26 9:55 am Mass	27
28	29 H&SA Fall Skating Party 6:30-8:30 pm Non-Uniform Day	30				