

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.



School Pictures

School Pictures are scheduled for Monday, September 22 for P4-Grade 8 and Tuesday morning, September 23 for 3-year-old Preschool only.

This is a non-uniform day for all students. If you are a parent volunteer, please come and have your picture taken on Monday. Your photo will be placed on a plastic ID card and attached to a green lanyard. These ID Lanyards are hanging in the school office next to the VIP sign in sheet. If you had your picture taken in a previous year and you look the same, you may continue to use this ID Lanyard. Please call the school office if you have any questions.

Early Dismissal on Sept. 19th

REMINDER: Our first early dismissal for the year will be on **September 19 at 2:15 p.m.** Busses will run one hour early. The Diocese of Grand Rapids is requiring continued professional staff development through the development of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) for our teachers. This will require early dismissal at 2:15 p.m. on the following dates: September 19, February 27, and May 8. There will be NO After-school care on those days.



Save the Date

The Saint Thomas **CARNIVAL** is almost Here!

October 11, 2008
6—9 p.m.



We are in need of cake bakers, pop donations*, and volunteers. Please contact **Michelle Rohn at 457-3266** if you can help. *Parents please send one two-liter of pop per student to school for the carnival by October 3rd.

Sports Schedule Changes

Reminder: Parents, students/athletes and coaches please check the schedules on the GRACEAC website at www.graceac.com, for possible revisions. There may be possible revisions throughout the year.

Memorial Mass for Mr. J, Our Official "Great Grandpa"



On Friday, September 19, 2008 our school Mass at 9:55 a.m. will be a Memorial Mass for Mr. Frank Jakubowski, affectionately known as Mr. J, Great Grandpa J, and Knarf. Please join us as we remember Mr. J and all the gifts that he shared with the St. Thomas Community.

Date Change for Coffee with the Principal and Assistant Principal



Change: Coffee with the Principal has been rescheduled for Tuesday, **September 30** from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars.

ATTACHMENTS



- October Hot Lunch Menu
- Technology Club Flyer
- Home & School September Minutes
- Emma's Thank You Party Invitation
- Armstrong Potatoes Press Release
- Used Shoes Needed Flyer
- HOPE 139 Parent Meeting Flyer



Fall Skating Party

When: Monday Sept 29
Who: Saint Thomas 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 & 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

An Invitation To Pray The Rosary in Church



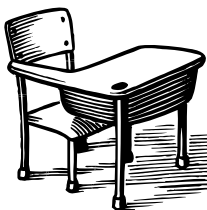
Every day at St. Thomas School you can pray the Rosary with other parents and friends.

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)



School Furniture Available

We have old school furniture that needs a new home. If you could use any, check out what we have behind the school gym this weekend. It is available free of charge. Please take what you can use.

2008/2009 Student Council

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council Officers. They are:

President: Shomari Tate
Vice President: Chase Morgan-Floyd
Secretary: Molly McNeely
Treasurer: Tara Bandlow

Thank you to all the students who ran for office. Each one did an outstanding job and is to be commended. Thanks, also, to our Faculty Advisor-Ms. Octavia Houtekier and our Parent Advisor-Mrs. Lisa Becherer for all their hard work with Student Council each year.



Operation Christmas Child Project 2008 Update

We are getting ready for our 2nd annual Operation Christmas Child Project this November. You may have noticed the donation box in the main hallway at school. Many thanks to those who have already donated items for this year's project.

If you have the means, please consider purchasing extra items for our project when shopping for school supplies for your children. The large chain stores have many of these items on clearance now. We are in need of small pads of paper and small notebooks. Another item we ran short of last year was small-sized stuffed animals. Remember, all items must be small enough to fit inside a shoebox.

We will be having a project kick-off meeting on Friday, September 26 at 2:15 in the St. Thomas School Library. We welcome everyone to come join us and be a part of the team. We will begin planning this year's event at this meeting and could use your input.

Please call me at 454-2107 with any questions. We're looking forward to another successful project this year.

~ Maureen Jones

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



HORNET NEWS



Games of the Week

Sport

Game

Boys' 7/8 Soccer September 13 @ IHM vs. Holy Spirit @ 11:00 a.m.

Boys' 5/6 Soccer September 20 @ Holy Spirit vs. Alls Saints/St. Anthony @ 1:30 p.m.

7/8 Football September 28 @ SJV vs. SJV/Corpus Christi @ 3:00 p.m.

5/6 Football October 4 @ IHM vs. IHM @ 9:00 a.m.

Girls' 8th Volleyball October 11 @ St. Thomas vs. SJV Purple @ 10:00 a.m.

Girls' 7th Volleyball October 18 @ IHM vs. All Saints Red @ 10:00 a.m.

Girls' 6th Volleyball October 2 @ St. Thomas vs. Holy Spirit at 4:30 p.m.

Girls' 5th Volleyball October 5 @ St. Anthony vs. Holy Spirit at 7:30 p.m.

Schedule Changes

There are a couple of **changes** in the fall sports schedule:

Girl's 6th grade Volleyball - Match 7 will be on 10/22/08. That is a Wednesday at 6:30pm at St. John Vianney against All Saints Academy-Red. This is an additional match.

Cross Country (7th & 8th grade) - Meet 3 is at Rockford East Middle School.

5/6 Boys Soccer will make up their rained out Sunday, Sept. 14th game on Tuesday, September 23rd at 6 p.m. at IHM.

Jean Passes and Game of the Week Tickets

To celebrate student birthdays here at St. Thomas, each student is issued a Birthday Jean Pass. To encourage attendance at our Hornet Sports activities, we have a "Game of the Week" each week during each sport season. Students who attend the "Game of the Week" will receive a game of the week ticket. When they have collected two of these, they may turn them in for a Jean Pass. Jean Passes (both birthday and game) may be redeemed by wearing jeans on designated Jean Pass days, as indicated on the monthly calendar.



Fall Concession Worker Schedule

PLEASE REMEMBER—You are responsible for providing a substitute if you cannot make your scheduled time. If we are forced to close the concession stand because no one shows up to work, there will be a \$25 NO SHOW fee charged. This is one of the main ways we raise money to provide the uniforms and other equipment needed for our teams. Thank

Sunday 9/21/08	1:00 PM	6 th Girls Volleyball / Syrba
	2:15 PM	/ Lambert
	3:15 PM	/ Doyle
	4:15 PM	/ Stormzand
Sunday 9/28/08	1:00 PM	5th Girls Volleyball / Heffron
	2:15 PM	/ McWain
	3:15 PM	/ Deveau
	4:15 PM	/ O'Neil
Saturday 10/11/08	8:30 AM	7 th Girls Volleyball / Poggi
	9:45 AM	8 th Girls Volleball / Blanco
	10:45 AM	" / Baxter
	11:45 AM	" / Mirandette
Sunday 10/19/08	1:00 PM	6 th Girls Volleyball / Augustyn
	2:15 PM	" / Spica
	3:15 PM	" / Jensen
Monday 10/20/08	6:00 PM	8 th Girls Volleyball / Tate
	7:15 PM	" / Fiorenzo
Wednesday 10/22/08	6:00 PM	5 th Girls Volleyball / Alfaro
	7:15 PM	" / Gould
Sunday 11/02/08	1:00 PM	5 th Girls Volleyball / Jaracz
	2:15 PM	" / Ziemke
	3:15 PM	6 th Girls Volleyball / Kane
	4:15 PM	" / Lignell

Rain Outs Rescheduled

5/6 Boys Soccer 9/23/08 at 6:00 p.m. at SJV

7/8 Boys Football 10/26/08 at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Spirit

All Saints Bowl will be held November 2 (time and location to be announced)

Girls 6th Volleyball 10/22/08 at 6:30 p.m. at SJV

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 a 11:00 a.m. dismissal

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

If you still need to attend Virtus training, (required for all school volunteers), please note the upcoming sessions:

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

St. Thomas the Apostle (Grand Rapids)
Saturday, October 25 @ 9:00 AM

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

Paper Gator is a Success!

A BIG thank you to all who have used the Paper Gator to recycle their paper. The latest amount we have received is \$116.00. Please continue to recycle your paper! The Paper Gator is located on the north side of the gym.

Recycling is Back!

I hope that the summer has been a great one! I know that it has been for me. I want to remind everyone about our school recycling program for inkjet cartridges, laser cartridges and used cell phones. We participate in a program called Funding Factory. This organization refurbishes these items and we earn for each item we give them. These points give us credit on new computer equipment.

~ Maryly Skallos

Educational Resources

Aquinas College Secondary Reading Clinic

If you have a son or daughter in grades 5-12 who struggles with comprehension while reading, this could be your chance to get some additional help during the school year. It is time to register for the Aquinas College Secondary Reading Clinic. Tutors consist of teacher candidates (all content areas) and certified teachers. The clinic will be held on Monday nights – November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1 and 8, from 6:45-8:30 p.m. Participants MUST attend all six nights. It will be held on campus at Aquinas College. The cost is \$50, which includes materials and a snack each night. The deadline for registration is October 10, 2008. If you have any questions and/or would like a registration form, please contact Patti Ward at (616) 887-7743 or paw001@aquinas.edu or go to <http://www.aquinas.edu/resources/readingclinic>.

Grand Rapids Art Museum

The Education Center of the Grand Rapids Art Museum offers family programs and youth workshops. For more information please call the Education center at 616 831-2927 or edprogram@artmuseumgr.org.

The Gray Center for Social Learning and Understanding

is hosting a Family Resource Expo on Saturday, September 27 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Sunshine Community Church, 3300 E. Beltline Ave., NE, Grand Rapids, MI. The main topic is Autism. There will activities for children and presentations for adults. For more information call: 616-954-9747 or

www.thegraycenter.org.

Special Invitation to Parents

Have you ever wondered how your child's (or your) brain works?

Would you be interested in learning how children (and adults, too!) can learn how to achieve full, sustained focus in a calm, relaxed state...whether in school, at work, or on the playing field?

If you are interested in maximizing potential in the classroom, on the playing field, at work, or at home, this opportunity is for you! **You are invited to attend a free parent meeting with Hope 139 on Monday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. with Dr. Timothy G. Royer. Chris Kaman, of the Los Angeles Clippers, will also join in the conference - live via satellite.** The meeting will be held at Holy Spirit School, 2222 Lake Michigan Drive NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Encountering the Living God Through You

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Internet safety purposes.

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Internet safety purposes.

FRONT ROW: Ashleigh Baxter, Emily Lambert,
Jameson VanDokkumburg, Armand Hess
BACK ROW: Arthur Jones, Nick Merriman, Vincent Becherer,
Elizabeth Tietema, Nicole Poggi

FRONT ROW: Finn Perdue, Jeremy Wolf, Kara Wheeler,
Jacob Jaracz
BACK ROW: Mark Heun, John Libriani, Veronica Treece,
Lauren Kuzee

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Internet safety purposes.

“Encounter the Living God” 2008-09 St. Thomas School Theme



FRONT ROW: Erin Mangan, Hannah Redmond, Charlie Muraski,
Daniel Betten
BACK ROW: Olivia Jepsen, Kathryn Clemens, Jarred Baxter

We proudly recognize those students who have been selected by their teachers, peers, or others working or volunteering at the school as having demonstrated Christ-like actions or virtues in keeping with our school theme.



A Special Thank You!

Thank you to **Chris and Amy Drees** for hosting the 1st grade parent gathering and **Mike and Kiki Lown** for hosting the 4th grade parent gathering! Great fun was had by all who attended.

Please see the schedule below for upcoming gatherings. Also, 2nd grade parents, please note the date has changed for you gathering. If you are interested in hosting the 8th grade gathering, please call Amy Bocian. 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 18th @ 7:00pm
K AM and PM Host:	David & Shannon Rodgers	Saturday, September 27th @ 7:00pm
Second Grade Host:	Paul & Rosa Dull	Friday, October 3rd @ 7:00pm
Third Grade Host:	Michael & Christina Rosloniec	Saturday, November 15th @ 7:00pm
Fifth Grade Host:	David & Shannon	(date to be determined)
Sixth Grade Host:	Cary & Becky Yunker	Saturday, September 20th @ 7:00pm
Seventh Grade Host:	Bill and Linda Fetterhoff	Friday, October 17th @ 7:00pm
Eighth Grade Host:	<i>to be determined</i>	

2008-2009 Home and School Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, November 12th @ 8:15am
 Wednesday, January 14th @ 12:00pm
 Wednesday, March 11th @ 8:15am
 Wednesday, May 27th @ 7:00pm

Please plan on attending at least one meeting this year and assist us in planning for our school and children. The meetings are about one hour in length and are held at school in the Ministry Center or Lower Level of the church (specific time and place will be published in the Pieces prior to the meeting). Thank you!

New Family/Mentor Family Reception

A special thanks to Helen Vruggink for hosting the New Family/Mentor Family Reception last Wednesday night. Thanks for coordinating this reception to welcome all of our new families and those who have agreed to mentor them. Thanks, also, to our Mentor families for agreeing to take on this special and important role.

~ Angela Yondo, VIP Coordinator





Saint Thomas Moving to Communicate Electronically!



It is clear from parish and school comments made on the Long Range Planning Survey that Saint Thomas families would like us to use more electronic means of communication and less paper.



PIECES Newsletter

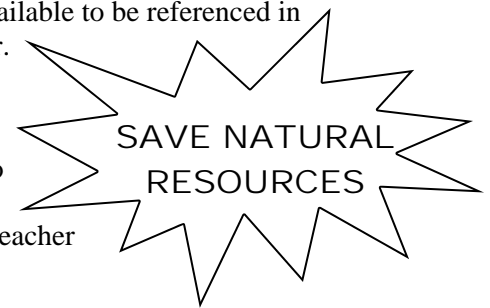
How will we do this?



We will continue to produce the bi-monthly Pieces Newsletter as our major source of communication between school and home. However, we will be offering the opportunity to receive the Pieces via **email** versus a paper copy which is time consuming to produce and takes a lot of paper. In addition, the Pieces will continue to be made available on our **website** at www.stthomasgr.org under a new easier to use tab. The Pieces will still be available in print for those without ready computer access and copies will be available to be referenced in the School Welcome and Information Center.

Email Correspondence

By providing us with your email address, you will be providing us with another way to communicate important information and updates such as your hot lunch balance and teacher communications.



Website

In addition to the current and past copies of the Pieces, you will also find the school calendar, monthly calendars, hot lunch menu, updated sports schedules, announcements of upcoming events, and current stories of interest to our Saint Thomas School community on our website. These are all updated regularly. In addition, many of the teachers post their newsletters on the site. You can also reference everything from our Vision/Mission statements, to the Student Handbook, Long Range Plan, classroom curriculums, tuition and registration info...if it's important and of interest to you...it's there. If not, please let us know what we're missing and we will be happy to add it! Check us out at www.stthomasgr.org.

Email Addresses Needed

Regardless of whether you would like to receive the Pieces electronically or in paper form, we would like your email address. Your email address will be used **for school communication only**. If you would like to receive the Pieces electronically, please check the appropriate box. Please fill out the form below, detach and send it back to the office. Thank you.

Parent Name: _____ (Please print)

Email Address: _____

Secondary Email Address: _____

Yes I would like to receive the Pieces electronically in the future

No I prefer to have a paper copy of the Pieces sent home with my child

I give my permission to use my email for school purposes. _____ (Signature)