

THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*



1925

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 will be taken next Monday, September 25 for grades Pre4-8. Pictures for Pre-3 will be taken on Tuesday, September 26. Order envelopes went home with each student this week. Monday is a Non-Uniform Day. Thanks!
~Sue Ysasi

Coffee with the Principal and Assistant Principal

On Tuesday, September 26, 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



Walkers Crossing Fulton

It has been brought to our attention that a number of students cross Fulton Street unattended. Please take every precaution in planning for your child's safe transportation to and from school, especially if walking across Fulton Street. Please refer to Page 30 of the Parent/Student Handbook:

Safeties

Due to the volume and speed of traffic, students are no longer asked to volunteer as crossing guards. Therefore, parents are responsible for the safe travel of their children to and from school.

Reminder:

We ask that if your student borrows a shirt or pair of pants from school that you wash it and return it ASAP. Thank you!

Destination Imagination

Please see attached flyer inviting you to come hear more about this great program on **Wednesday, September 27 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center.** If you have any questions before then, please don't hesitate to call Jennifer Clemens at 974-0015 or Donna Valente at 874-1357.



Welcome!



A warm St. Thomas welcome to two more new families:
Michael & Jill McElwee Jane (P4/PM)
Lonnie & Theresa Eversole Hannah (P4/PM)

Middle School Study Group Holds Two Forums For Interested Parents and Parishioners

The Diocese will be holding two forums for parental and parishioner suggestions involving the feasibility of middle schools as part of their overall Catholic School Ministry. Please feel free to attend one of these sessions and offer your input on this important subject.

September 20 at West Catholic
October 4 at Catholic Central

Time: 7:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS



- Abrakadoodle
- Inkjet, Laser cartridges, and old Cell Phones Recycling Program
- Home & School Minutes
- Parent Grade Gatherings
- What Is Destination Imagination?
- Rewards Numbers Card
- Challenge "Women's Day Out" Flyer
- Concession Stand Schedule
- Grand Rapids Public Library Flyer
- K4J Flyer



Diversity Opportunities/ Resources

- Kent ISD will present **Dialogue on Racism:** 9/28-29, 10/5-6, and 11/9-10 (www.kentisd.org)
- **Understanding How Children with Down Syndrome Learn** – Susan People, National Speaker & Author will be in Grand Rapids Nov. 3 & 4th

~ Octavia Houtekier

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:

St. Robert of Newminster Parish (Ada)
Wednesday, September 27, 2006 @ 9:30 AM & 6:30 PM

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (Grand Rapids)
Wednesday, October 18, 2006 @ 8:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Holy Family Parish (Caledonia)
Tuesday, October 24, 2006 @ 6:00 PM
Thursday, November 2, 2006 @ 6:00 PM

St. Jude Parish (Grand Rapids)
Wednesday, November 8, 2006 @ 6:30 PM
Wednesday, May 2, 2007 @ 6:30 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

Abrakadoodle: Remarkable Art Education

Abrakadoodle is offering a wide range of art activities in our area this fall. Would you like to attend a parent/toddler class with your 20-36 month old child. Perhaps your preschooler is exhibiting some artistic flair you'd like to nurture. For the elementary aged artist, there are several offerings after school. Take a peek at the attachment in today's "Pieces" to discover the artistic opportunities for your children. Contact Patty Kennedy, Director of Education, at 356-2417 for more information.

"Called to Be Peacemakers"

The Social Justice Advocacy Group (SJAG) at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Grand Rapids is sponsoring a presentation in conjunction with International Day of Peace. "Called To Be Peacemakers" will be presented by Fr. Peter Dougherty from the Michigan Peace Team on Thursday, September 21 at 7 pm in the lower level of the church. Fr. Peter will invite us to explore the Gospel meaning of peacemaking and avenues to non-violent response to conflict in ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods, and in the world.

Fr. Peter is a founder of Michigan Peace Team; he is a non-violence trainer and has participated in active peacemaking in Bosnia, Haiti, Mexico, Iraq and Palestine.

We would like to extend an invitation to all interested people to join us for this wonderful evening. In addition to Fr. Pete's talk, we will be saying a rosary for the intention of peace in our hearts, families, neighborhoods, schools, and world. Please join us in prayer at St. Thomas Church on Thursday, Sept. 21st for Holy Hour at noon, when we will begin the rosary after a brief time of silent prayer. Join us anytime between noon and 1:00 pm to pray, and if you cannot make it please take a moment of silence at noon to pray for peace. For questions/information, call the parish office at 459-4662.

Recycling is Back!

I hope that the summer has been a great one! 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

Earn Money for St. Thomas

Family Fare Cash for Class, and D&W School Days are now the same rewards program!!! No coupons needed, and no store restrictions! Simply shop any of the D&W or Family Fare stores during the designated week, and give our school code upon checkout. Last year we earned about \$600 through this program with D&W. Attached is a business card with the rewards numbers for many of our rewards programs, including the code number for Cash for Class and School Days.

Upcoming Reward Shopping Days:

D&W: October 1-7, and November 12-18

Family Fare: October 8-14, & November 26-December 2

Booster News

What's the Buzz?

The **5th grade** girls Basketball team played their first game on Saturday, September 16th at home. They beat their opponent 32-18.

The **5/6th grade** football team also won their game on Saturday, bringing their record to 1-1.

The **6th grade** girls basketball team have played two games. Their record is 1-1.

The **7th grade** girls are off to a great start. They have won all of their games so far bringing their record to 3-0.

The **7/8th grade** football team won their season opener, but lost their second game making them 1-1.

The **8th grade** girls are also off to a 3-0 start. Congratulations and keep up the great team work!



Games of the Week

The following have been designated as "Games of the Week":

5/6 Football: Saturday, September 23 v. IHM Blue at IHM 12Noon

8th Gr. Girls' Basketball: Saturday, September 30 v SJV at SJV 9AM

7th Gr. Girls' Basketball: Saturday, October 7 v St. Paul at St. Thomas 11:20AM

6th Gr. Girls' Basketball: Saturday, October 14 v St. Anthony White at St. Thomas 10:10AM

The remaining teams' "Game of the Week" will be announced. Look for the full Fall Sports Schedule to come home soon. Come out to the gym, football or soccer fields and support our Hornets. ~ *Helen Vrugink*

Upcoming Concession Workers

The following families are scheduled to work in the St. Thomas gym concession stand on Saturday, Oct. 7th.

Saturday, October 7th 9:00 a.m. Benzer
10:10 a.m. Mirandette
11:20 a.m. Theriault
12:30 p.m. Sykes
1:40 p.m. Skinner

Please see the attached flyer for the complete schedule.

Gr. 5-8 Athletic Sports Buttons

Digital pictures of St. Thomas athletes have now been taken. If you did not receive an order form, or did not yet turn yours in, you may still place an order by calling Don Serba or Kathy Barth or by sending your money, name of student, and number of buttons you wish, to the school office. The cost is \$3.00 each or 2 buttons for \$5.00.

Attention Volunteers

All who volunteer on a regular basis are welcome to have their picture taken on Monday morning, September 25. Geskus Photography will use these photos to create volunteer picture ID's. We ask that you wear these whenever volunteering at school. They will be yours to keep. Please call the school office at 458-4228 to let us know if you are planning on having your picture taken.

~ *Octavia Houtekier*

Calling All Scrap Bookers!

The Girls' Challenge Club of St. Thomas is once again sponsoring a Scrap Booking event entitled, "At Your Service!" on Saturday, October 7th from 1-9 p.m. The event, a fundraiser for our Challenge group, will be held in the Church basement. In addition to great food, snacks, desserts, and lots of time and space to scrap book, what makes this event different from other scrap booking events is that our girls are there to offer assistance throughout the day. Whether you would like another plate of goodies brought to your table, shapes cut out, help actually doing your pages...you name it, and the girls are there to serve you.

So, come spend a day having fun and getting pampered at the same time. Cost for the day is \$50 and includes an Italian dinner with home baked desserts, a variety of snacks and beverages throughout the day, a "Scrap Shop" for you supply needs, a Creative Memories Consultant on hand if you want to browse through the latest in supplies, and SERVICE with a smile. For more information or to register consult the attached flyer or call Chris Alfaro (774-4525), Kathy Barth (742-0173), or ask your nearest friendly Challenge Member!



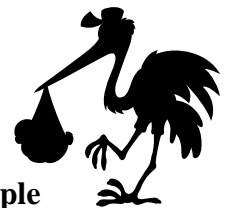
**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL
CARNIVAL COMING SOON!**

**NOTE DATE CHANGE:
Saturday, October 21st!**

Congratulations To~

Todd & Jennifer Dalrymple
On the birth of

Elizabeth Claire Dalrymple



Born on Tuesday, September 5th, 2006
9 pounds and 3 inches & 22 ½ inches
Proud school sibling: Ben(K-AM)
Justin & Gabriel



HOME & SCHOOL



A Special Thank You!

Thank you to Jim and Debi Schueler for hosting the 2nd grade parent gathering last Friday, September 15! Great fun was had by all who attended. **The next upcoming grade gathering is preschool on September 30 at the home of Mike and Maureen Muraski.** If you have a preschooler, don't miss out on this wonderful chance to connect with other parents at St. Thomas. More details will be coming home closer to the event. Also, **please note the change in the 5th Grade Parent Gathering at Jim and Carole Knapp's home changing from Sept 29 to October 14, 2006.**

WE COMMIT OUR LIVES TO JESUS



BACK ROW: Anna Faber, Megan Lown, Alex Colon, Joe Becherer
MIDDLE ROW: Andrea Alfaro, Leah Vruggink, Zack Mushinski, Nicole Poggi
FRONT ROW: Ben Dalrymple, Jim O'Neil, Ashley Baxter



BACK ROW: Addison LaVoie, Ryan Jones, Taylor Rodgers, Maddie Zimelis
ROW 3: Tess Ens, Margaret O'Neil, John Crittenden, Thomas France
ROW 2: Kelli Doyle, Madelyn Yuncker, Jessica Trenshaw, Lauryn Syrba
FRONT ROW: Gabe Rohn, Greta Staggs, Elizabeth Rott, Ethan Alfaro



BACK ROW: Jessica Herold, Cameron Hunt, Shannon McNeely, Joseph Trenshaw, Ashley McLroy
FRONT ROW: Lizzy VanderZee, James Stormzand, Luke Fetterhoff



BACK ROW: Joe Crittenden, Rebecca Faber
MIDDLE ROW: Kathleen Doyle, Gabe Yondo, Colin Tomac, Zach Prindle, Riley Henry, Kathleen O'Neil
FRONT ROW: Tony Hess, Emily Tietema, Patrick Gibbons, Monica Blanco, Zach Drees