

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.

All Saints Day

It is our goal to have all students recognize Halloween as the eve of All Saints Day. We will be placing special emphasis on the Feast of All Saints. Parent catechists will be in every classroom from 9-11 a.m. on November 1 to lead special All Saints activities. As has also become our tradition, preschool and kindergarten students will dress as saints, biblical characters, positive modern day role models, or one of God's creatures. Several resources on the saints are available in the school office and library. Please work with us as we highlight the lives of the saints and encourage our children to grow in the rich tradition of the Feast.

~ Dave Faber



Standardized Testing

From Oct. 23rd-Nov. 3rd, students in grades 2-8 will be taking the ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) standardized tests. This assessment is designed to measure student progress in relation to academic goals. During the testing period, you can help when you:

- Encourage your child to do his/her best work.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep.
- See that your child eats a healthy breakfast and brings a nutritious lunch and snack (if allowed in class) to school.
- Avoid scheduling any appointments that would result in your child missing any of his/her tests.
- Pray with, and for, your child for God's grace.

St. Thomas CARNIVAL This Saturday Saturday, October 21st 6-9 p.m.



Catholic Central Parent Information Night

Get a jump start on your search for the best high school educational opportunities available for your child. Parents interested in learning more about Catholic Central High School are invited to take a guided tour followed by a brief presentation.

Wednesday, October 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Catholic Central Cafeteria

Pre-12 Catholic Education Tuition/ Financial Management Class

Parents are invited to attend a free workshop sponsored by Mercantile Bank to gain valuable insight on how to afford private education and college education needs as well as tips for managing personal finances. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Mercantile Bank Main Office on Leonard St. Please contact Nancy Beadling, CSS Admissions Coordinator at 616-233-5814 or nancybeadling@grcss.org to reserve your spot no later than Friday, November 10, 2006.

NO SCHOOL REMINDER

There will be **NO SCHOOL** tomorrow, **Thursday, October 19th** and **Friday, October 20th** due to the MANS Conference. Enjoy your break!

ATTACHMENTS



- Picture Retake Reminder
- November Milk Orders
- Educational Outfitters
- Kent County Health Dept. Preparedness Program Flyer
- Junior Achievement Private Movie Screening Opportunity
- Paws with a Cause Movie Opportunity

Peacemaker of the Month

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

These words belong to Blessed Mother Teresa, founder of the Sisters of Charity, and Peacemaker extraordinaire!

The Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (MDI) is excited to bring you words from Peacemakers around the World. Each month we will highlight a different person in the world who has worked their entire life for Peace. We will share their life, their culture and their words through a display on the bulletin board outside the milk room of the school. After reading the words, finding their home on the map, and praying for them, please take a bookmark to remind yourself how you can live a life like that Peacemaker. You can live a life like Mother Teresa by: Helping People who are Homeless and Hungry; Being an Honest and Loving Person. (She always gave her time and love to those who needed it most); Never Judging People, and always seeing the goodness inside people. "Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well."

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).

There is a training here at St. Thomas TONIGHT AT 6:30 pm. Please pre-register online.

Other upcoming training sessions include:

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



Hot Air Balloon Competition Winners

The Junior High science students worked hard to design and construct hot air balloons from only glue and tissue paper. All the discussion and experimentation is done. The balloons have been flown and the winners are ...

In **6th grade Mr. Carr's class**, for creativity: The Electrons (Tara Bandlow, Elizabeth Tietema and Elliot Jelttes); for Longest Hang Time: The Like'ems of Science (Leila Vallarino, Nicole Poggi, Emily Lambert and Jack Gould).

In **Mr. Keller's 6th grade class**, for creativity: Black Lightning (Leah Vrugink, Chloe Benzer and Alex Mervenne); for Longest Hang Time: "Fizzics" (Doug Zeef, Sarah Den Braber and Michelle Valente).

In **7th Grade**, for creativity: The Happy Meals (Katelyn Crittenden, Alex Colon and Brandon Cook), for Longest Hang Time: The Flam'in, Fly'in Fish (David VanderZee, Anna Trenshaw, Karianna Barth and Connor McNeely).

And finally, for **8th grade**, for creativity: The Alaskan Ligers (Theresa Valente, Taylor Knapp, Dan Jermstad and Brendan Mangan), and for Longest Hang Time: The Purple Cow Tippers (Chelsea Treece, Joseph Becherer, Ben Tietema and Maggie Lawrence). Congratulations to all the teams!!!!

School Directories

School Directories are ready. They will go home with the oldest and/or only student in the family today.

Picture Retakes

School pictures were taken September 25 & 26. Picture packages went home with students last week. Picture retakes will be held on Wednesday, October 25 in the Ministry Center from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. This is an option if your student was absent on picture day or you would like your child's picture retaken.

Book Fair Volunteers

Don't forget the Book Fair is scheduled for November 16th and November 21st during school conferences. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time for the book fair, please contact Rebecca Shiel at 456-5412. Thank you!

Booster News

NOTE: GAME CHANGE:

The 7th/8th Boy's Football game scheduled for this Sunday, Oct. 22nd has *changed time* from 1:30 pm to **3:00 pm.**



Upcoming Concession Workers

The following families are scheduled to work in the St. Thomas gym concession stand during the next week.

Saturday, October 21 9:00 a.m. Lambert
 10:10 a.m. McNeely
 11:20 a.m. Mangan (*Note change)
 12:30 a.m. Horrigan

Monday, October 23 6:30 p.m. Jones
 7:40 p.m. Jermstad

Go Hornets!

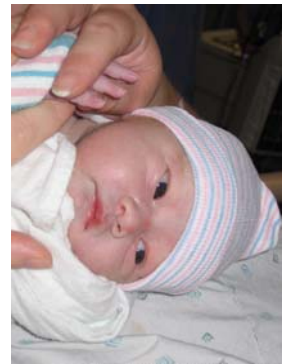
3 on 3 Basketball Jam

There will be a 3 on 3 Basketball Jam for all 5th-12th graders (Guys and Gals) hosted by Catholic Central's Baseball Team on Saturday, November 11th @ 8:30 a.m. Pick up your registration form at the Welcome and Information Center or print a form from the CCHS website (www.grcatholiccentral.com). The cost is \$80.00 per 4-person team (Due by 11/4). Any questions please call Mark Rasmussen at 233-5826 or 634-4670. See you all there.



New Arrival

Congratulations to:
Dennis & Holly Lake
on the birth of
Benjamin Holden Lake



Benjamin was born on
Friday, October 13, 2006.
He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces
and was 20 inches long.

Mom & baby are doing very well!

Milk Orders

November milk order forms are attached to this "Pieces". Please return by Friday, October 27. Thank you for your help. We appreciate your help in ordering on a monthly basis during this transition time and returning your orders on or before the deadline.

~ Sue Ysasi

Important Gym Reminder:

Parents and students please wear only **NON-MARKING** sole shoes during gym class or other activities. Thank you.

~ Louis Bandlow



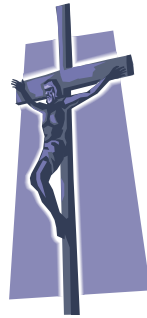
Calling All Scrap Bookers!

Due to very busy schedules and many conflicts, our Women's Day Out Scrap Booking Event has been changed to:

**Saturday, January 13th
1-9 p.m.**

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend! All registrations received by December 1st receive a \$10 discount. Registration forms are available in the Welcome Center near the school entrance. Come support Challenge and give yourself a needed Winter break!

WE COMMIT OUR LIVES TO JESUS



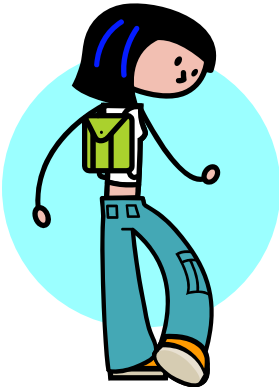
Seminar on Human Life:

Have you ever wondered what the Catholic teachings on family planning and respect for life really are, the reasoning behind them, or how we can live them practically on a daily basis? If so, the Franciscan Life Process Center is hosting a seminar on human life that can help you make sense out of these widely misunderstood teachings. This retreat is for married couples, single young adults and college students, and junior and senior high school students. The seminar will take place on October 28-29 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell. A \$65 fee per person for the weekend includes all meals and materials. Scholarships are available for those who need assistance. There will be a celebration of the Eucharist each day. Please contact Sr. Colleen Ann Nagle, F.S.E., 616-897-7842 or flpc@lifeprocesscenter.org, for more information or to register. Please register no later than October 25.



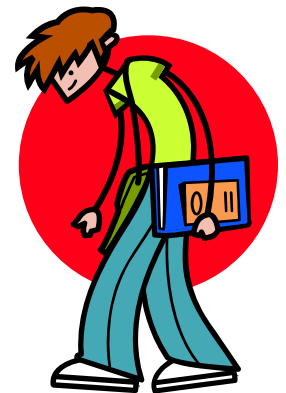
Home & School News

Thank you to Scott and Emily Brew for hosting the 1st grade parent gathering Saturday, October 7, Dan and Amy Jaracz for the 3rd grade parent gathering Friday, October 13, and Carole and Jim Knapp for the 5th grade parent gathering Saturday, October 14! **The next upcoming grade gathering is 8th grade on Friday, October 27th at the home of Michael and Jan Sprenger.** If you have an 8th grader, don't miss out on this wonderful chance to connect with other parents at St. Thomas. More details will be coming home the Monday before the event.



ST. THOMAS PARENT AWARENESS GATHERING

Please join us for our 1st Parent Awareness Gathering of the year! At our last Home and School meeting we compiled the results for the most popular parent awareness topics from the purple VIP forms - **peer relationships (popularity/rejection)** was at the top of the list. We have asked **Dean Vernon** to come and speak regarding this topic on **Wednesday, November 8th from 7-9 p.m. in the Ministry Center.** There will be time for a question/answer session so please come and participate!



Help Your Child Meet His/Her Peak Performance

Mark your calendars! On Tuesday, October 24th, from 7~8:15 pm, Holy Spirit School will be hosting an informational parent meeting on **"Helping Your Child Meet His/Her Peak Performance"** in the Multi-Purpose Room at Church. Recognizing that each child is wonderfully made by God, Dr. Tim Royer, Psy.D., will present information on how we can assist each child "get the most" out of their special and unique skills and talents. Children (and adults, too!) can learn how they can achieve full, sustained focus in a calm, relaxed state...which then allows "peak performance" for each individual ~ whether in school, on the playing field or at work!

Destination ImagiNation[®]

There is a meeting for all students signed up for Destination ImagiNation on Monday, October 23rd after school from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center Community Room.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Clemens at 974-0015 or Donna Valente at 874-1357. Thank you!



Don't Forget Our School Carnival This Saturday from 6-9 p.m.

