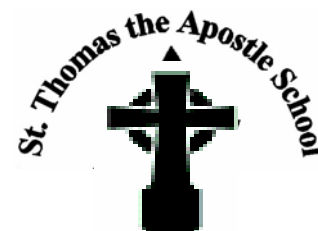


# THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*



1925

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

## School Doors will be Locked

We have recently received communication from the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools requiring that schools lock even their main school entrance after the start of the school day until just before the end of the school day. Because of the number of VIP's, family members, Aquinas students, and others who access our building all day long, it is obvious that we could not just lock our door. In our case this would require assigning someone to sit next to the door to physically open it for visitors because we have no mechanism for seeing who's there or unlocking the door remotely. As a result, the parish finance council has taken action to use parish capital budget funds to purchase a camera/monitor/intercom system that will allow us to both see and potentially talk to visitors and also unlock the door remotely from the office. The equipment has been ordered, and as soon as it arrives Greg Proulx has generously agreed to install it for us. You can expect this work to be completed in the next few weeks, so don't be surprised at some point in the near future when you visit school to find even the main school office entrance locked. Don't worry, you'll also find instructions for operating the new system. In the end we hope that we can create a safer yet friendly way for families and friends to feel welcome when they come to school. Thank you for your understanding.

~ Mr. Faber



## Mrs. Furtwangler Honored

Congratulations to Mrs. Suzi Furtwangler who was chosen as one of West Michigan's Great Teachers! A complimentary article was written in the Grand Rapids Press on Thursday, October 26, 2006. Thank you Mrs. Furtwangler for sharing your many talents with the St. Thomas Community. We are very blessed!

## Conference Reminder

Please turn in your conference preference slip. Teachers will be scheduling their conferences on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!



## Book Fair Coming Soon!

Make sure you stop by the Book Fair in our school library on November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. and November 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00-3:00 p.m. and from 5-8 p.m. Hope to see you there!



## ATTACHMENTS



- November Calendar
- Student Council End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Pizza Lunch Order Form
- Abrakadoodle Flyer
- KCHD October Fact Sheet
- GR Civic Theatre
- Student Council Theme Day Flyer
- MET Flyer

## Peacemaker of the Month

**ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO  
(1917-1980)**

Pope John Paul II called Archbishop Romero "The Servant of God" at the beginning of the his canonization process in 1997. He lived a life serving God as a priest in San Salvador, El Salvador, in Central America. He worked hard for the poor and marginalized of his country and fought against the human right violations that were consuming El Salvador in the late 70s and 80s. He was named Archbishop of San Salvador after serving the people of his country for over 20 years as a priest. Immediately following his appointment as Archbishop, his dear friend and fellow priest, Rutilio Grande was assassinated. This spurred Romero to work even harder for the oppressed and the social injustice of his country. While saying Mass in 1980, he was assassinated. His dying words were, "May God have mercy on the assassins."

He will be remembered for his work for peace, social justice and human dignity for all, especially for the poor of El Salvador. He showed how he could work hard as a man of God and fight and die for something he truly believed in. He is considered the unofficial patron saint of the Americas and El Salvador and is called "San Romero" in El Salvador. He is honored by all around the world for his work as a Peacemaker! Please pick up your bookmark in honor of Archbishop Oscar Romero from the Peacemaker bulletin board. We continue to pray for all those oppressed by violence, social injustice and poverty in our world.

## Very Important Thank You's

Thank you to Mary Blaszak for coordinating the fall skating party. A great time was had by all!

A big thank you to Suzanne VanderZee, Charlene McGue, Jadene Giamberti, Tammie Mushinski, Mark and Claudia Triestram, Marnie White, Andrea Hess and Tonya Molotky. We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to help with the school directory.

Thank you to the many people who were able to volunteer at this year's carnival. We appreciate all of your hard work. A special thank you all the Committee Chairs. Your hard work and dedication made this year's carnival a huge success! The committee chairs were: Michelle Rohn, Carla Klimp-VanDokkumburg, Amy Jaracz, Melissa Skinner, Carole Knapp, Gwen Tate, Patty Kennedy and Julie Line-Neumann.

Thank you everyone! ~ *Angela Yondo & Lisa Wolf*  
*VIP Chairpersons*

## St. Thomas Students Help the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

The JDRF's (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) buy a Dollar Shoe to help find a cure for diabetes was a HUGE success. We raised a total of \$940.54! We would like to thank the students and families of St. Thomas for all of your prayers and support.

Thank you!

~ *The Nemic Family*

## 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). Upcoming training sessions include:

Holy Family Parish (Caledonia)

Thursday, November 2, 2006 @ 6:00 PM

St. John Vianney (Wyoming)

Monday, November 6, 2006 @ 6:30 PM

St. Jude Parish (Grand Rapids)

Wednesday, November 8, 2006 @ 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](http://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

## More Info on MET

MET is Michigan's guaranteed tuition program and allows parents, grandparents, businesses and others to lock in the cost of tomorrow's tuition at today's prices and save for their child's future college education. MESP is a college savings/investment plan that allows anyone to create an account that can be used to pay higher education expenses. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## School Directory Correction

Please change the phone number printed in the directory for the Pinter Family to:  
336-8814.



## Big Winners at School Carnival!

Congratulations to all the winners of the Bucket of Wishes prizes at this year's School Carnival!

- Prize #1 - Toddler basketball & golf games: Alex Mervenne  
Prize #2 - \$50 Gift Card to Chuck E. Cheese: Katelyn Giambernardi  
Prize #3 - Giant Remote Control Car: Jacob Jaracz  
Prize #4 - \$35 Gift Card to Libby Lu & "Girl Goodies": Sara Vrugink  
Prize #5 - Girls Bike: Alex Mervenne  
Prize #6 - Boys Bike: Gabe Rohn  
Prize #7 - \$40 Gift Card to Celebration Cinema & \$10 G.C to Coldstone Creamery: Olivia Odette  
Prize #8 - Awesome Cd Player: Ashleigh Baxter  
Prize #9 - \$50 Gift Card to Abercrombie & Fitch: Robert Abdou  
Prize #10 - MP3 Player: Zack Mushinski  
Prize #11 - Game Boy Micro & 3 Games: Ryan Mangan  
Prize #12 - \$50 Gift Card to The Melting Pot: Claudia Triestram

## Enrichment Event

Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 PM  
DeVos Center, Room 207E  
GVSU Pew Campus (downtown)

Students grades 4-10  
Limited to the first 30 registrants  
Cost: \$5.00 GT Resource Network members  
\$10 non-members

This workshop includes storytelling, acting, and creative writing using Greek and Roman myths. Classics and Honors students from GVSU will guide the students in small groups to produce active interpretations of the myths. RSVP required, by November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006. For a registration form, please see Suzanne VanderZee in the office.

## 3 on 3 Basketball Jam

There will be a 3 on 3 Basketball Jam for all 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (Guys and Gals) hosted by Catholic Central's Baseball Team on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> @ 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](http://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.



## Everyday Etiquette Presentation



With the cold and flu season beginning soon, we are continuing to help keep our students and families aware and healthy. As part of that effort, on November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Schmidt of the Kent County Health Dept. will be in school giving each classroom a 25-minute presentation on Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette. These will be done in the classrooms and are age appropriate for our students. Activity sheets and stickers will be provided for the younger students as well. The children have seen a similar presentation before and love looking at their "washed" hands under the black light and seeing how easy it is to spread germs from person to person. If you would like to come to a classroom to help or observe, or have any questions, please call Mary Hunt at 247-4973. If nothing else, plan on asking your child "What cool thing did you do today?" ~ Mary Hunt

## Important Gym Reminder:



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

## Fun Enrichment Information

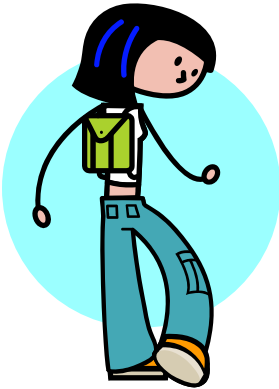
Here is a great website with information for families regarding education, with an excellent tool for determining the gifts of each of your children. You can find it at: [www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com) Check it out!!





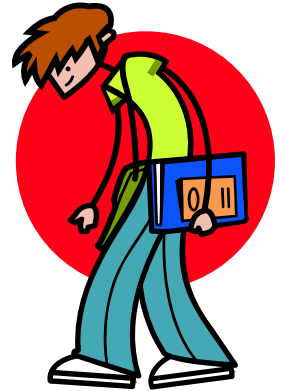
## Home & School Meeting Tomorrow Night

Please join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Home and School meeting of the year tomorrow night, Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Ministry Center. The agenda will consist of updates from our officers and administration, discussion about our Emerald Auction planning, old business discussion to include committee updates (Santa's Secret Shop, Hot Lunch, and Carnival), new business discussion to include budget requests.



## ST. THOMAS PARENT AWARENESS GATHERING

Please join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. in the Ministry Center**. There will be time for a question/answer session so please come and participate!



## Upcoming Grade Gatherings for Parents

The next upcoming Grade Gatherings are for **7<sup>th</sup> grade parents on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Bob and Amy Callaway, **4<sup>th</sup> grade parents on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Greg and GERALYNN Stormzand, and **Kindergarten parents on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Ed and Rachel Perdue. 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.

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# Destination ImagiNation®

The two Junior High teams are currently meeting on Mondays from 3-5 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Please contact your team leader for more information or practice times.

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