

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.

Friday's Thanksgiving Mass Will Honor Volunteers

St. Thomas Volunteers ~ Please join us *this Friday*, November 17, at the All School Thanksgiving Mass at 9:55 a.m. We will be honoring all St. Thomas volunteers who, despite busy schedules and their own family and personal commitments, make the time to share their gifts and talents with us. Without you, St. Thomas would not be the extra special place that it is. For those of you who are unable to attend, know that we will be giving thanks for all you do and praying that you'll be blessed with a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday.

~ Angela, Lisa, Dave & Octavia

SANTA'S COMING!

Santa's Secret Shop will be held in the School & Ministry Center on Saturday, December 2nd from 9am to 2pm. All students **enrolled** in St. Thomas School can purchase and wrap gifts for their family and friends. The Railroad Club will have several toy train displays running and Santa himself will make an appearance from 9:30 – 11:30 am. New this year, beginning at 1pm, parents and other siblings may also purchase gifts from Santa's Secret Shop! You should have received a detailed letter about this year's event in your child's backpack in mid-November. If you are interested in volunteering for this year's event, please contact Melissa Skinner at 942-5582.



Fall Conference Schedule

Thursday, Nov. 16th	5:00-8:00 p.m. (<i>All Grades</i>)
Monday, Nov. 20st	12:00-2:00 p.m. (<i>4 Year Preschool only</i>)
Tuesday, Nov. 21st	12:00-3:00 p.m. (<i>All Grades except Preschool</i>) 5:00-8:00 p.m. (<i>All Grades</i>)

Please note that both Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st are half-days of school with an 11:00 a.m. dismissal. Letters with specific conference times for your family were sent home.

"Specials" teachers will be available for conferences at the following times:

Computer -	Nov. 16, 3:30-8 p.m. and Nov. 21, 12:00-8:00 p.m.
Spanish -	Nov. 16, 5:00-8:00 p.m. and Nov. 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
P.E. -	Nov. 16, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Art -	Nov. 16, 5:00-8:00 p.m.



BOOK FAIR OPENS TOMORROW!

Please stop by the Book Fair in our school library during conferences, November 16th from 5-8pm & November 21st from 12-3 and 5-8pm. It's a terrific way to purchase wonderful books for gifts at Scholastic's great prices! There will be a "Classroom Wish List" display at the fair. We've asked teachers to create a wish list of books they would like to add to their classrooms. If you are able, please consider donating a book to your child's classroom library. Your generosity can make a classroom more exciting and stimulating to young minds. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



~ Rebecca Shiel

ATTACHMENTS



- 8th Grade Sub Sandwich Sale
- Cookie Dough Sale
- December /January Milk Order
- Home & School Association Meeting Minutes
- The Nutcracker Ballet Flyer



Special Advent Invitation

Reserve time for a beautiful setting for Advent reflection. Amanda Vernon will be giving an Advent concert, featuring songs on her newly released Christmas CD. The St. Thomas Youth Choir, handbell choir and a concert choir will perform as the “opening act” to Amanda. A reception will follow and Amanda’s CD will be available for purchase. Get out your calendars and reserve Sunday, December 3rd, 6:00 p.m. in the church.

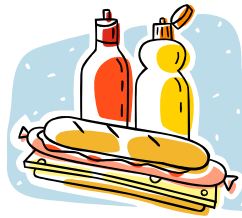
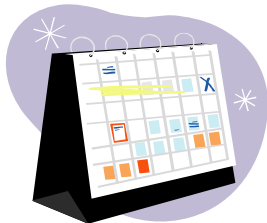


Pieces Schedule Change

Due to Thanksgiving Break, we will not be sending the “Pieces” home on November 29. The ‘Pieces’ will go home on December 6 and December 20. Please have all articles to Kathy Barth at kbarth@stthomasgr.org or Sue Ysasi at: sysasi@stthomasgr.org by the Friday preceding the above dates. Thank you. ~ Kathy Barth

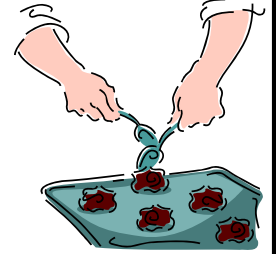
Upcoming December Events Mark your calendars!

- November 30** Band Combined Rehearsal (Grs.5-8)
- December 1** December Milk begins
8:15-10:30 a.m. Pre4 visits
Meijer Gardens
10:30 a.m. Mass
12:45-2:15 p.m. Pre-4 visits
Meijer Gardens
- December 2** 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Santa’s Secret Shop
- December 3** 1st Sunday of Advent
- December 4** 3:00-5:00 p.m. Jr. High Destination
Imagination Meeting
- December 5** CCHS visits 7th & 8th Grade
7:00 p.m. Partner School Band
Christmas Concert
- December 6** “Pieces” home
- December 7** K for J
- December 8** Feast of the Immaculate Conception
9-11 a.m. Parent Catechists in Rooms
7th & 8th Grade NET Retreat
12:30 p.m. All School Mass



8th Grade Sub and Cookie Dough Sale

The 8th Grade Class will be selling sub sandwiches and cookie dough beginning November 13 through November 27. The money collected will help fund eighth grade class trips. Order forms are attached, 8th grade students will be selling them, and there will be volunteers taking orders during Conference times on November 16 and November 21. Thank you for your support.



St. Thomas Cookie Bake and Exchange



You are invited to participate in a Christmas cookie bake and exchange.

When: Monday,
December 4, 2006
– (6:15 pm to 7:30 pm)
And Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006
– (6:00 pm to 7:25 pm)

Where: Church Kitchen (lower level)

What: St. Thomas has two large convection ovens that will bake several trays of cookies in approximately ½ the time it normally takes. We also have two regular ovens that can also be used to bake cookies.

Bring: Your favorite cookie dough, ready to bake, along with your cookie decorations, and we will provide the ovens, the ambience, and the fellowship.

Child Care: We will also provide child care in the Nursery.

Exchange: Once you are done baking (and decorating) your cookies you can either choose to exchange some of them with the other bakers or you can keep them for yourself.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Dawn Olney by Tuesday, November 28th at 459-4662 x 204 so that we know how many people to expect for each date. Or email Dawn at dolney@stthomasgr.org.

Go Hornets!



Uniform Check Reminder:

Mr. Faber and Miss Houtekier will be checking uniforms over the next few weeks.

HORNET NEWS

Congratulations to all the St. Thomas Girls' Basketball teams on a wonderful season! The 5th graders finished their season this past weekend undefeated by winning the St. Thomas Invitational Tournament on Sunday. The 6th graders placed fourth in their Invitational, ending their season with a record of 6-3. The 7th grade team finished the season first in their division and took fourth place in the City Tournament which finished Saturday at West Catholic, while the 8th graders tied for first in their division and took third place in the City Tournament. Congratulations to all the girls and a special thanks to their coaches for their hard work and dedication.

Many thanks, also, to the parents and high school students who volunteered their time at the gate, concessions, scorer's table, etc., during the St. Thomas 5th grade tournament. The money raised helps fund all our sports programs. Your time and help was much appreciated!

Competitive Cheer

Competitive Cheer teams are being formed. This is open to all girls in grades 7 & 8. There is an informational meeting for coaches, parents, student/athletes-Thursdays, 11-16-06 at St Joes Center at 6:00PM (in the Heritage Room).
~ Louis Bandlow

Thank you to our Recycling Volunteers

A year ago we asked for recycling volunteers. Thank you to Erica McIlroy and Dorothy Spiegel for placing our recycling containers in front of school every other Wednesday! We appreciate your efforts.
~ Sue Ysasi

Earn 5% of Your Grocery Bill for St. Thomas

Everyone needs groceries!! No coupons needed, and no store restrictions! *Simply shop ANY of the D&W or Family Fare stores in Grand Rapids during the designated week, and give our school code 94715 upon checkout.*

Upcoming Reward Shopping Days:

D&W: November 12-18

Family Fare: November 26-December 2

~ Suzanne VanderZee



Publishing Center Needs Volunteers

In an effort to get the Publishing Center up and running this year, we are looking for volunteers to interview the student authors. Please look for the sign up sheet in your child's elementary classrooms during conferences. Please call Mary Hunt at 247-4973 if you would like to know more before you sign up. All it takes is a few hours every other week during the school day. We have lots of new improvements to make the process quick and easy and can't wait to get your help!
~ Mary Hunt

Thank You Parent Catechists

Thank-you to all the Parent Catechists, for taking time from your busy schedule to help in the classroom. Jon Kuzee, Bob Shapton, Lisa Wolf, Amy Bocian, Laura Mangan, Kate Dykema, Patricia Corcoran, Melissa Skinner, Janet Jepsen, Michelle Kane, Linda Fetterhoff, Tammie Mushinski, Denise Deveau, Amy Jaracz, Shawn Doyle, Natalie Syrba, Mary Hunt, Tanya Molotky, Sarah Faber, Joni Mauren, Tracy Bandlow, Veronica Beitner, Kay Gibbons, Laura Routzahn, Kathy Barth, Mary Fallon, Dori Ayers and Jan Sprenger. BLESS YOU ALL

~ Joni Poggi

Online Training for students

Did you know that because we all are Michigan residents, we all have access to online training for ACT, SAT, and other online courses? Go to mel.org and click on MeL Databases. Scroll down through the listing and select Learning Express Library (formerly Learn A Test). You will need your library card number or your driver's license to access the Learning Express Library. Learning Express Library is a comprehensive, interactive online learning platform of practice tests and tutorial course series designed to help patrons—students and adult learners—succeed on the academic or licensing tests they must pass. You'll get immediate scoring, complete answer explanations, and an individualized analysis of your results.

~Maryly Skallos,
Technology Coordinator





HOME AND SCHOOL QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When will hot lunch return to St. Thomas?

In order to include free and reduced meals for qualifying families, the process to obtain federal subsidy has taken longer than anticipated. However, this process is well underway and we are anticipating a mid-January start date. Thank you for your patience.

PARENT AWARENESS GATHERING – THANK YOU

Thank you to Dean Vernon for an incredibly enlightening discussion on peer relationships last Wednesday, November 8th. We appreciate his willingness to be a light for the St. Thomas parish and school community.



Grade Gatherings for Parents

Thank you to Ed and Rachel Perdue for hosting the Kindergarten gathering last Saturday, November 11th.

The final grade gathering for the year will be this weekend! **Sixth grade** parents are gathering **on Saturday, November 18th** at the home of Dave and Joni Poggi.

If you are interested in hosting a gathering at your home for the 2007/2008 school year, please contact Jennifer Clemens at jmclmens8@comcast.net. Thanks to all of the families that hosted this year and to all of the parents that participated.

Destination ImagiNation®

The St. Thomas DI Teams are off to a successful start and loving every minute of it! Each team is choosing a particular Challenge which they will present first at St. Thomas and then at district competition in March.
