



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.

St. Thomas Has the "WOW" Factor

The Regional Coordinators of the MNSAA (Michigan Non-public Schools Accrediting Association) held their regional meeting here at St. Thomas on Monday and said they were very impressed by St. Thomas School. Several of the Regional Coordinators said St. Thomas had the "WOW" factor they were looking for in determining the School of Distinction Award.

The MNSAA Regional Coordinators reached consensus to recommend St. Thomas the Apostle School for the "Schools of Distinction Award" provided we submit two additional pieces of information to help clarify the results of our goals. Following protocol, this recommendation will be submitted to the MNSAA Leadership Council who expects, in early spring, to designate St. Thomas as one of the first two schools in the state to receive the "School of Distinction" award. MNSAA accredits over 400 member Catholic, Christian (CSI), and Lutheran (Missouri Synod) schools throughout the state of Michigan.

While we look forward to receiving this special designation and affirmation from the MNSAA, we wish to thank the teachers, students, staff, families and countless volunteers who support and contribute to the mission of St. Thomas School. We are truly blessed to be living our call to provide a dynamic education centered in Christ where faith is first, academics are rigorous, the environment is peaceful and disciplined, parents are empowered, technology is optimized, and leaders are formed. Thank you for being a part of the blessing!

~ Kathy Barth

Vespers Tonight

Please join us tonight, Dec. 20th, at 7:00 p.m., for our annual Christmas Vespers service. Singers, ringers, choral readers and recorder players will lead us in a series of readings and music celebrating the prophecies and fulfillment surrounding the birth of our Lord. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas. ~ Mrs. Proulx



Talent Show Coming

The St. Thomas Talent Show is scheduled for Friday, February 2nd, 2007. While you are enjoying Christmas break, please consider a talent to share on that day. More information will be sent home following vacation. If you have questions, please call Mike Trenshaw at 455-0540.

Santa's Secret Shop Thanks

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this year's shopping extravaganza such a success! Maureen Jones and her many "elves" did a fantastic job with the "close" of Santa's Secret Shop. A special thank you to Mr. Keller and the Veterans for once again hosting one of the favorite attractions, the "Trains." We'd also like to recognize the many junior high and high school students who helped with setup and worked the whole day on Saturday. You helped make the day run smoothly. Thank you to Michelle Mier-Fiorenzo for running the concessions. The food tasted as good as it smelled! Thanks to Melissa Skinner for taking on the "big" job of coordinating the volunteers as well as assisting with pictures with Santa! Thank you to the rest of the committee chairs; Julie Augustyn, Laura Mangan, Paula Zeef, Veronica Beitner, Marie Strickland, Michelle Rohn, Karen Lawrence, Mary Fallon and Suzanne VanderZee. We look forward to an exciting "new" Santa's Shop next year!

Date Correction

Please note that the December calendar should read that *school will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2007* after Christmas break.

ATTACHMENTS

- Auction Flyer
- Campbell's Soup Label Change
- Enrichment Opportunities
- "Women's Day Out" Flyer

Community Events

Catholic Outreach Program

The Landings Group at the Catholic Information Center is offering an outreach program for inactive Catholics. Landings is a safe harbor or landing place for Catholics away from the Church to explore their faith and future with the Church. Their winter program will begin in January, meeting once a week from 7-9:00 p.m. at the Catholic Information Center. For more information contact Janet Frederick at 1-161-863-0589.

Free Throw Contest

St. Isidore Knights of Columbus Annual Free Throw Contest, Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Isidore Gym, 625 Spring Street behind St.

Isidore Church. Open to boys and girls 9-14 with the winners of the 10-14 year old categories moving on to the District round in early February. Please arrive between 1:00-1:30 to register and warm up. Please call Bryan Tuck @616-225-1536 with any questions.



Group Suzuki Flute Lessons



Grand Rapids Community College and the Grand Rapids Arts Outreach Program offers studio and group suzuki flute lessons taught by Carmen Maret. This program is open to students 5 years of age through elementary school age. For more information contact Malcolm Brannen, coordinator at 616-234-3944 or mbrannen@grcc.edu or Carmen Maret (616 406-9655).

"Science is for Girls"

Grand Rapids Community College is hosting "Science IS For Girls" on Saturday, February 10, 2007 at the GR Community College Campus, Calkins Science Center, 226 Bostwick, NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. "Science IS for Girls" is a half-day program for 5th and 6th grade girls designed to encourage young women to pursue career opportunities in the fields of math and science. For more information contact Kate Krueger at Girls Scouts of Michigan Trails (616) 784-3341x139 or email: Mary Jane Keeler: mirubi@aol.com.

6th Graders Help Heartside Neighbors

On Friday Dec. 8th Mr. Keller's 6th Grade class and Parent Catechists helped make a blanket for the homeless. We donated it to the Heartside Ministries. GREAT JOB 6TH GRADERS!
~ Tammie Mushinski

Our Newest Authors

The following students have had books published recently in the Publishing Center.



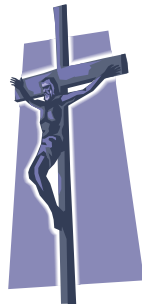
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|---|--------------------------------|
| "A Fall Story" | by Michael Clemens 2/M |
| "The Haunted Ghost" | by Luke Lambert 3/M |
| "The Halloween Night" | by Nevada Flynn 3/M |
| "Fall" | by Anezka Kovarik 2/M |
| "The Weird Pumpkin" | by James Schueler 2/M |
| "The Owl, the Jack-o-Lantern, the Witch and the Skeleton" | by Abby Den Braber 3/M |
| "The Girl Who Turned Into a Witch" | by Mary Claire Coil 2/M |
| "The Halloween Chili Soup Town" | by Anna Valente 3/M |
| "The Black Cat and the Leaves" | by Thomas France 2/M |
| "Halloween" | by Dylan Sykes 2/M |

Educational Outfitters

West Michigan's Premier School uniform providers offers 10% off all in-stock store items the entire month of December. For more information call 531-7592 or their website is: www.EducationalOutfitters.com



WE COMMIT OUR LIVES TO JESUS



Congratulations!

Jason & Carey Horrigan welcome their newest family member:

Tristan Patrick Horrigan

born on September 11, 2006.

Proud siblings are: Madylan (Gr.7), Anna (Gr.6)
& Bailey (Gr.3)



Special Thanks!

Thank the to the following people for providing muffins, fruit, and yogurts (food) for the meeting on the School of Distinction: Lisa Wolf, Amy Jaracz, Patti Mirandette, Denise Deveau, The Heim Family, Carol Paul, Becky Yunker, Jennifer McNamara, and Margaret Murphy.
Thank you! ~ Angela Yondo