

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.

Pieces Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to help assemble our "Pieces" newsletter. Assembling consists of copying, collating and distributing to classroom mailboxes and requires about 2 hours every other Wednesday on the following dates:

- January 14 & 28
- February 11 & 25
- March 11 & 25
- April 22
- May 6 & 20

Please call Sue in the school office at 458-4228 x300, if you are interested.

With Our Thanks....

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU from the 8th Grade

The 8th grade would like to extend our special thanks to Eileen Gould, Veronica Beitner, and Paula Gleason-Zeef for co-chairing our fundraiser. We would also like to thank every one who ordered from our cookie dough/sub fundraiser. The final numbers are not in yet, but we believe the sale went very well. Also thanks to Nancy Mick, Mary Jo Jones, Laura Mangan, Tracy Bandlow, Eileen Gould, Veronica Beitner, and Paula Gleason-Zeef who helped separate all the orders. We could not have done it with out the support of all of our St. Thomas family.

A LIBRARY THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Book Fair a huge success! Your generous purchases will improve our library greatly.

A special thank you to the volunteers who gave of their time to help run, set up, and take down the fair; especially, Marnie White, Christina Rosloniec, Angela Yondo, Jeanne Walch, Ellen Kieras, Michelle Kane, Lynne Benzer, Jennifer McWain, Sharon Aulbach, Claudia Liang, Karen Nicholson, Patti Salacina, Kate Dykema, Tanya Molotky, Linda Kaminski, Jennifer Clemens, Noah Murphy, Chloe Benzer, Aden Shiel and Elijah Shiel.

Auction Raffle Tickets

Auction raffle tickets will be coming home this week with your oldest or only child. Please look for these in backpacks and put them in a safe place. We are encouraging all families to sell 24 tickets. If you would like to sell more, please contact Amy Bocian at chadbo@comcast.net or 559-8803. Details regarding the raffle will be included with your tickets. We are also providing each family with 5 procurement letters. If you are able to distribute these to friends, family, or favorite businesses, we would appreciate your help. Thank You!

In Need of Our Help

Help Pregnancy Crisis Aid, a Catholic agency that assists pregnant and new mothers in crisis, has asked for our help in collecting gently used winter apparel for children. They are in desperate need of winter coats, snowsuits and boots for children from sizes 0-3 months up to 5T. Any gently used winter clothing would be appreciated too. Please see attached contribution form. All donations can be dropped off at school Thursday, December 18 & Friday, December 19 and the week of January 5, 2008 when we return. Thank you for your consideration.



ATTACHMENTS



- New School Feasibility Study
- January Calendar
- January Hot Lunch Menu
- Winter Sports Schedule
- Help Pregnancy Crisis Aid Flyer

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

If you still need to attend Virtus training, (required for all school volunteers), please note the upcoming sessions:

Cathedral Square
360 Division Ave. S.
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:00pm-5:00pm

Cathedral Square
360 Division Ave. S.
Thursday April 16, 2009 9:00am-12:00pm

Catholic Charities GR
40 Jefferson Ave. SE
Tuesday, June 16, 2009
Contact Nikki Taylor for the time. (245-0594)

Cathedral Square
360 Division Ave. S
Wednesday, August 19, 2009 2:00pm-5:00pm

Catholic Charities G.R.
40 Jefferson Ave., SE
Tuesday, October 20, 2009 9:00am-12:00pm

Cathedral Square
360 Division Ave. S
Wednesday, December 16, 2009 2:00pm-5:00pm

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

Aquinas College Winter Reading Clinics

Aquinas College Elementary and Secondary Reading Clinics Winter 2008 Registration will be offering three opportunities for tutoring for students (Grs.1-5) who need additional assistance in reading and writing skills. Aquinas College tutors consist of teacher candidates (elementary and secondary – various content areas) and certified teachers. Tutors will use individualized lesson plans for each student and provide parents with a personalized report at the end of the tutoring sessions. Information is available in the Welcome and Information Center. The first session will begin in February, 2009. For more information call Erin Melcher at 616-632-2433 or mulhaeri@aquinas.edu

Important Library Reminder

The library is collecting money through December for the matching grant through the Cameron Foundation. Thank you to all who have already contributed to make this matching grant a success!

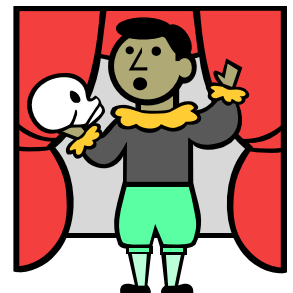
2008-2009 Home and School Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 14th @ 12:00pm
Wednesday, March 11th @ 8:15am
Wednesday, May 27th @ 7:00pm

Please plan on attending at least one meeting this year and assist us in planning for our school and children.

Variety Show Scheduled!

Please mark your calendar: The St. Thomas Variety Show is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2009. Please consider a talent to share on that day. More information will be sent home following Christmas vacation. If you have questions, please call Mike Trenshaw at 455-0540.



The Church Speaks

~ An awareness of Mary's presence can be a great help toward making the school into a "home." Mary, Mother and Teacher of the Church, accompanied her Son as he grew in wisdom and grace; from the earliest days, she has accompanied the Church in its mission of salvation.

THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF EDUCATION IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1988
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education



HORNET ATHLETIC NEWS



Coaches

A big THANKS to our head coaches (listed below) and their assistants for the fall sports teams! Thank you for sharing your time and talents with our young men and women.

- 5th Girl's Volleyball Sandy Choffel
- 7th Girl's Volleyball Rick Roth
- 6th Girl's Volleyball Nikki Nachttegall
- 8th Girl's Volleyball Nikki Nachttegall
- 5th / 6th Boy's Football Jim Ens (Merged with St. Andrew)
- 7th / 8th Boy's Football Don Gasper
- 5th Girl's Sideline Cheer Tara Hickey and Catholic Central Cheerleaders
- 5th / 6th Boy's Soccer Johrone Gooch (Merged with St. Andrew)
- 7th / 8th Boy's Soccer Mike Bottema (Merged with St. Paul/St. Stephen/St. Andrew)

Winter Sports

Boy's Basketball and Girl's Basketball seasons start the weekend of 12/6/08.

The head coaches for the winter sports teams are as follows:

- 5th Girl's Basketball Joe LaVoie
- 5th Boy's Basketball Brett Lambert
- 6th Girl's Basketball Dan Koorndyk
- 6th Boy's Basketball Doug Murphy
- 7th Girl's Basketball Don Serba
- 7th Boy's Basketball Matt Ensing
- 8th Girl's Basketball Louis Bandlow
- 8th Boy's Basketball Michael Corcoran

Come out and support your Hornet Teams!

Spring Sports Signups

Look for Spring Sports Signups to be posted in classrooms at the end of January. These signups are for 5th – 8th graders for Boy's Baseball, Girl's Softball, Boy's Track, Girl's Track, & Girl's Soccer. Practices may begin as soon as 3/16/2009.

St. Thomas Coaching Opportunities

The St. Thomas Hornet athletic program offers various athletic opportunities for our 5th-8th grade students. Volunteer coaches are needed to lead these teams. The school and Athletic Director will provide coaching guidelines. The Athletic Director will make final selections of all Head Coaches.

Please sign up in the school V.I.P. program and/or contact Louis Bandlow (452-8314 – home) if you are interested.

Sport Physicals & Permission Slips for School Year 2008/09

Important Reminder: Both a new Physical & Permission Slip are required EACH school year.

Students planning on participating in the St. Thomas Athletic program during the school year are required to have a ST. THOMAS SPORTS PERMISSION SLIP and a SPORTS PHYSICAL (showing a doctor's clearance) dated after 4/15/08. **These forms must be on file with St. Thomas School prior to participation in any practice or game.** These forms will be valid for the entire 2008-2009 school year, so please fill out the Permission Slip for all sports that you are allowing your son/daughter to participate in.

~ Louis Bandlow, Athletic Director

Basketball Practice Time – Reminder

Please remember that due to having boys and girls basketball play at the same time during the winter, that practice time in the gym is at a premium.

The maximum allowed team practice time (per league rules) per week is 4-1/2 hours. This can be broken down into three 1-1/2 hour practices. We typically have 8 teams (4 boys and 4 girls) to schedule practice time for. We can break the gym schedule down as follows for 1-1/2 hour blocks (the kids get out of school @ 3:15): 3:30-5:00; 5:00-6:30; 6:30-8:00; and 8:00-9:30 (typically used for 7th or 8th graders). These 4 spots per day would equal 20 spots per week. 20 spots do not cover 3 practices for all 8 teams. So, please be understanding when your child's team has to use a late practice time slot or practices on the weekends.



Auction Action News

Auction preparations are underway and the auction committee members are busy working their magic. We have received lots of calls and emails on how one may help with auction. We decided to share these wonderful questions with all of you.

WHY DO WE DO AUCTION?

Our auction provides ALL the funds for the entire Home and School Budget. Instead of having lots of little fundraisers like wrapping paper, candies, magazine subscriptions, we pool all our efforts into one magical evening called *The St. Thomas Auction*.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE AUCTION?

The actual auction is made up of three main events. The Silent Auction allows you to bid silently with a pre-assigned number. The Live Auction, held with a live auctioneer, has items that are often the "hot items". Raffles are given sold and given away throughout the evening.

WHERE & WHEN IS AUCTION 2009?

Auction 2009 is being held at the beautiful riverfront Eberhard Center on the downtown GVSU campus on February 14, 2009.

WHAT IS THE TICKET COST?

The ticket price this year is the same as it was last year -- \$35.00 per person. This is a great price for a wonderful evening of dining, socializing AND donating money to our wonderful school and parish. One thing that has changed for this year is that the committee felt it was necessary to switch over to a cash bar instead of an open bar. The auction is a fundraiser after all, and even though we all love free beer and wine, the reality is that having an open bar is a huge cost and means less money going to support the school and parish.

HOW DO I GET TICKETS?

You may purchase tickets after all masses on January 10/11 in the lower level of the church. You may buy individual tickets or buy a table for 10 (ten). In addition, we will be selling raffle tickets and table sponsorships for special guests that weekend. Raffle tickets for school families will be coming home in time for the Christmas break.

CAN I BRING MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS?

The more the merrier! Buy a table and make it a night to remember with your family and friends (adults only, please)!

WHERE DO YOU GET THE ITEMS TO SELL AT AUCTION?

Awesome question....from YOU. We hope that every family will prayerfully consider donating at least one item, service, or experience to the auction.

CAN I GIVE YOU CASH?

Oh yes, cash works great and helps the auction committee purchase the "big" ticket items for our raffles or fill in any "holes" in donations.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAKE BASKETS OR HELP AT THE AUCTION?

Angela Yondo, VIP Coordinator will be coordinating volunteers for the Auction. We so appreciate any help you may lend to the committee.

CAN I ADVERTISE MY BUSINESS IN THE AUCTION BOOK?

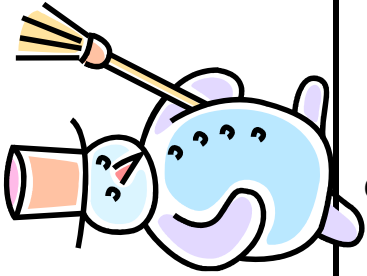
Yes, we will be selling advertisements in the booklet again this year. For \$500.00 your company can place a full page color ad in our auction booklet. Call Claudia Triestram if you are interested in this great opportunity.

HOW CAN I HELP RIGHT NOW?

Think of a donation, buy things at the Christmas sales, buy an auction ticket and pray, pray, pray! We will be sending home donation forms along with the raffle tickets for you to use when you are out and about this Christmas break.

Thank you again for your support and prayers.

The Auction Committee



Saint Thomas the Apostle School January 2009

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
CHRISTMAS VACATION CONTINUES THROUGH JANUARY 4TH						
4	5 SCHOOL RESUMES	6	7	8	9 9:55 am Mass	10 High School Placement Test at CC 8:30-11:50 am Check in at 8:00 am
11 Confirmation Cand./ Sponsor Mtg. 6:30-8:30 pm	12 Jean Pass Day Spelling Bee 1:30 pm K4J 3-5:30 pm	13	14 Pieces Out H&S Mtg. 12 noon Budgeting Workshop at CC 7 pm Ed. Com. Mtg.	15 Multicultural Mtg. 6-8:30 pm	16 End of 2nd Quarter 9:55 am Mass	17
VOCATIONS WEEK						
18	19 NO SCHOOL Teacher Inservice & PLC's	20	21 St. Council Officer Mtg.	22 Student Council Donation to Catholic Charities Baby Item Drive	23 Report Cards Home 9:55 am Mass Variety Show 7 pm	24 High School Placement Test at WC 8:30-11:50 am Check in at 8:00 am
25 School Open House after all Masses	26 Non Uniform Day Diocesan Rosary	27 Student Council attends Diocesan Mass	28 Pieces Out Student Council Mtg. 8th Gr. vs. Staff Volleyball Game 1:30 pm	29 No PM Kdg or PS Afternoon Skating Party Spirit Day	30 9:55 am Mass Special Guest - Mass/Lunch 1:15 Fr. John Meyer 7 pm Wine & Cheese Chastity Presentation	31
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK						