



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

*Dynamic Education
Centered in Christ*

THE PEACEMAKER... **PIECES**

Vol. 15 Issue 9 December 15, 2010

Christmas Vespers Tonight

Our annual Christmas Vespers service for all parishioners and school families will be held **TONIGHT, Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church. Our students, grades 4-8 have active roles in the service. All Saint Thomas families are encouraged to attend and participate. Please join us for a peaceful evening of anticipation, reflection and celebration.



Student Pick-Up/ Drop-Off

Students must **NEVER** be allowed to cross Wilcox Park Drive to enter or exit a car. **DO NOT drop off or pick up students at the curb in front of school or church.** For the safety of all our children, please pick up and drop off students in the designated areas of the parking lot only. To aid in speeding up the drop off/pick up procedure, please treat Wilcox Park Drive as a one way street (westbound only). Use Hope Street to travel east-bound. When exiting the parking lot, turn right onto Wilcox Park Drive. By creating this ONE WAY environment, we can make the beginning and end of our school days more relaxing for Saint Thomas and our neighbors.

The Fulton Street driveway to the Church lot gate and back out around the Mercy Respite Center can also be used to drop off and pick up students.

Please refer to the attached traffic flow chart and make sure your children know which of the two locations you will be using.

~ Mrs. Furtwangler

Vocations Week

We will be celebrating Vocations Week during the National Vocations Week January 10-14, and here at Saint Thomas, our highlight week will be March 14-18. During the January dates, we will be praying a vocations prayer as a school each morning during announcements. We will also institute a minute of quiet time at the end of announcements each morning! More details to come on all of the events surrounding our highlight week of vocations awareness here at Saint Thomas in March!! Look for a letter in the mail as well as information in the Pieces and bulletin.

Yearbook Cover Contest

Students, you have an opportunity to design the cover of this year’s school yearbook !! Your design must be around our school theme, The Gifts You Have Received, Give as a Gift. Your drawing or picture must be 8-1/2 x 11 and be vertical (like this paper) and submitted to the school office by Friday, January 7, 2011. Contact Mrs. Ysasi or Mrs. Barth in the office if you have questions.

Buff-And-Shine Floor Party with Mr. Ted During Christmas Break

If you would like to volunteer time between Christmas and New Year’s Day to help Mr. Ted bring our original marble floors up to the brilliant shine you see in the entrance hallway, please contact Mr. Ted Coon to set up a time to help. We are hoping to continue this new process in the back hallway on the first floor. While this is a time consuming process, it is well worth it in restoring the natural look of this treasured piece of our school’s history.

Important Reminder:

There is a full day of school next Monday, December 20 and Tuesday, December 21.

Mass Change

On Friday, December 17 the All School Christmas Mass time has been changed from 9:55 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. due to a funeral.



ATTACHMENTS

- Student Drop Off & Pick Up Flow Chart
- January Hot Lunch
- January Calendar
- Auction Volunteer 2012 Flyer

With Love from the Principal

Last Friday I had the pleasure of enjoying the company of ten Aquinas students as they offered babysitting for our parents. They hoped to raise some money for their ASCD chapter, and to give parents a night to go out and relax before the holidays begin. I was touched by the care with which they planned the evening, by the gentleness and devotion that they showed towards our children and with the enjoyment that they obviously felt by being so welcomed by our school. I was moved by the generosity of our own community. Angela Yondo called some of our bakers to send in cookies for the evening. These college kids, many who are homesick and anxious to enjoy their own Christmas traditions with their families, were so shocked that our parents thought to make homemade treats for this evening. The college students went back to their dorms with baked treats, and with a little less homesickness.

I tell you this because I have begun to tour families for enrollment for next year already. Inevitably, by the end of the tour, the family mentions that there is a feeling here that they have not felt in other schools. They want to know what that feeling is...I am only just able to put it into words. The feeling is community. The dynamic energy of community is felt not only in our school halls and classrooms, but in the parish, in our ministries, in all that we do together. Potential families feel this strongly enough to notice it in just the hour that they are here. Amazing...

I invite you to think creatively with me in terms of our future. We need another classroom. I am carefully thinking through the next five years to either grow or stifle the growth of classes upcoming in the effort to just-right size our school. The reality that in five years we will have one more middle school class than we currently have classrooms for, causes me to ponder very creative space solutions. I invite your feedback and ideas in this regard. God has so clearly been blessing us with families who are adding much to our community. He surely intends to provide for our necessary growth as well.

We continue to make wonderful connections with Aquinas College. In addition to our recent Little Saints night, we have had groups of students come to me asking if they might volunteer in our school. They arrive excited to help out, and endeared to our children. Liz Aschwege has connected several Aquinas students with after school tutoring opportunities, and reading with children during the day. Father Jim entertains as many as 17 college students for tea several times a week. We have become very fond of James Clyde, a young man who is a powerful Catholic witness, and who has the ability to connect with our Middle School students. I have been meeting with the Associate Provost to find new and innovative ways to share our respective ministries. Likewise, we are finding more ways to partner with Holland Home and Care Resources to add even more community collaborations to our programming.

Our hot lunch program will be making the news! We were interviewed by the paper last week for our innovative healthy lunch program. It is with a great deal of admiration that I affirm Chris and Michelle Mier for their focus on healthy food, using locally available produce and poultry, making much of what they serve from scratch with organic and whole grain products, and for eliminating processed foods from the hot lunch. Our children can't seem to get enough of the fresh humus and handmade probiotic vanilla yogurt topped with Chris' own granola.

I cannot express the appreciation that I feel for the support that you provide for us. The school grows, the children are secure, safe and happy, and the teachers feel your partnership. Praise God for all that He has given us, and for all that will come in our new year together. I wish a joyous Christmas to the families, the faculty and the parish of Saint Thomas. May our journey together continue to be blessed!

~ Suzi Furtwangler

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2011

That the riches of creation be preserved, valued and made available to all, as a precious gift from God to mankind.

The Church Speaks

"The Catholic school loses its purpose without constant reference to the Gospel and a frequent encounter with Christ."

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL 1977
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education



AQ Little Saints Night at Saint Thomas

Rosa Parks Essay Winners!

Stand Up for Rosa Parks

December 1, 2010 marks the 55th anniversary of the day Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat. In recognition of that historic event, the Rosa Parks Sculpture Committee held an essay contest for middle and high school students in the Grand Rapids area. Students from Mrs. Zoppa's Language Arts classes submitted essays as part of a classroom assignment. Ninety-three essays were submitted from St. Thomas 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Five students received an honorable mention prize for their achievement. Sixth grade students, Becca Dull, Ethan Alfaro, and Zach Olive along with eighth grade students Claire Salinas and Montse Gonzalez-Gutierrez each received \$50.00 at an awards ceremony held at the Rapid Central Station in downtown Grand Rapids. All of the students were able to attend the ceremony with their parents. Congratulations! ~ Mrs. Zoppa

Scrip News

A SCRIP order will be placed on Monday, December 20, however SCRIP pick up will be at the Parish Rectory Office from Wednesday afternoon, December 22 through noon on Thursday, December 23. ~ Stephanie Lavoie

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Calling all former musicians...

We are looking to supplement our band instrument inventory to help Saint Thomas families who are unable to cover the cost of renting an instrument. If you have a percussion, woodwind or brass instrument collecting dust in your closet or attic, please consider donating it to the Saint Thomas School Band Program. Please call Kathy Proulx at 458-4228, extension 310 if you have any questions.



Educational Foundation

Opportunities for helping to make an education affordable this year for our students at Saint Thomas School include: Sunday collection at Mass, Tuition Angel Gifts, Saint Thomas SCRIP Program, Target's Take Charge of Education, D&W School Days, Meijer Community Rewards and more.

One more important opportunity that helps to make an education affordable for students this year and for years to come is the Saint Thomas Educational Foundation. Any donation to the Foundation is tax deductible according to law. Further, the money is not gone after a month, a year, or a decade. Interest from your gift continues to bless Saint Thomas students with an excellent dynamic education centered in Christ for years to come.

Save the Date!

Carnival 2011 Planned

The Saint Thomas the Apostle School Carnival is being planned for Saturday, March 5, 2011. Please mark this date on your calendars! Volunteers are always needed to help with set up, clean up, and especially games! Please consider helping out to make this a great event!

Please feel free to contact Sue Kuzee at slkuz@hotmail.com (co-chair), Heidi Schliem at RHSchliem@yahoo.com (co-chair) or Carla Klimp-VanDokkumburg (volunteer coordinator) jvandokk@yahoo.com if you can help! Much more information coming following the holidays!



Wanted

Would you like a therapeutic and fun job! We are looking for a volunteer to manage the crayons for the next art project. This job would include collecting the crayons and storing them here

at school. Peeling, sorting and bagging crayons by colors can be done at school or at home. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 458-4228.



KEYSTONE PHARMACY COLORING CONTEST

David Miller, owner and pharmacist of Keystone Pharmacy, was thrilled with the coloring contest response from Saint Thomas the Apostle students! One prize didn't seem like enough, so Mr. Miller is awarding a prize to a student from each participating grade. Each winner of the drawing is invited to come to Keystone Pharmacy on Cascade Road to select a Webkin of his/her choice. Congratulations to the following winners:

Lucas Cuppy - Kindergarten, Mrs. Coderre
Sophia Herold - 1st Grade, Mrs. Lake
Noah Simonait - 2nd Grade, Mrs. Baxter/Mrs. Tietema
Ben Dalrymple - 3rd Grade, Mrs. VanDyke

All of the angel pictures are on display at Keystone Pharmacy. Please stop by between 8:30 and 6:00, Monday through Friday, or 9:00 and 1:00 on Saturday to see them. You can also check out the angel picture on Facebook. Mr. Miller thanks Saint Thomas the Apostle School and everyone who helped get the pharmacy decorated and ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

First Annual Little Saints Night A Success!

We would like to thank the ten Aquinas ASCD student volunteers who came to Saint Thomas on Friday, December 10th to offer babysitting for Saint Thomas families. Many parents took them up on this offer, and enjoyed dinner out, movies, shopping or just time to get ready for the holiday. I was so impressed by the thorough planning and preparation that our AQ friends put into this evening. The children were well cared for, each age level having activities that ranged from art to science as well as physical activities. The evening also featured a Christmas movie, a visit from Santa, snacks and even a goodie bag, all complements of our ASCD student chapter. I moved about the rooms hoping to help out, but alas, your children had more than enough attention! We are continually inspired by the desire of AQ students to be more and more involved in our school. Many parents asked for a repeat performance of the evening. A huge thanks as well, to our own volunteer bakers, who provided cookies for the night. I made sure that all of our college students went home with a home-baked package at the end of the night. They were very touched by your generosity, and felt our community's love through your kindness.

~ Suzi Furtwangler



Faces In Time Book Available

Saint Thomas parent Bob Neumann presented FaceIn-Time during Art Prize 2010. Bob and his crew captured pictures of Art Prize attendees and placed their faces in a book entitled, "FaceInTime". Many Saint Thomas students and families had their pictures taken for this book including our own beloved Mrs. Furtwangler whose picture was taken by 6th grader, Ben Line-Neumann!

This wonderful book is available for purchase in the school office for \$26.50. Please make checks payable to: Bob Neumann.



Aquinas College Opportunities

Aquinas College After School Tutoring

The Aquinas College ASCD (Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development) Student Chapter is an education club that focuses on promoting professional development for its members, volunteering in the Grand Rapids community and surrounding schools, and helping the education program at Aquinas College so that it further grows and develops.

In January 2011, they are offering the following schedule for tutoring:

Mondays – 3:15-? Grades K-5 (one tutor available)

Tuesdays – 3:15-? Grades 5-8, English, History, Social Studies (two tutors available)

Wednesdays – 3:15-? Grades 5-8, Social Science, Math, English, History (three tutors available)

Thursdays – 3:15 – 5:00 Grades K-5 (two tutors available)

Fridays – 3:15-? – K-5, K-8, anything but science

There are also three other tutors available who do not now know their availability for the new semester. These students are education majors and are interested in getting valuable experience. Please feel free to take advantage of their willingness to serve and their expertise in these fields!

If you are interested in participating in this program, or have any questions or concerns, please contact Liz Aschwege at laschwege@stthomasgr.org or 365-7689.

Water Bottle Orders Due Friday

Order forms for Saint Thomas water bottles went home with students last Friday. Please return your forms by this Friday, December 17th, if you would like your order before Christmas. If you are placing an order as a Christmas gift or surprise, please check the appropriate space on the order form and we will give you a call to arrange pick up. All other orders will be sent home with students next Monday or Tuesday. Please note that these are a very HIGH quality bottle with a special coating that prevents the growth of mold or bacteria and simply rinses clean with no staining. These bottles sell for over double our cost at bike shops and will feature our very own full color logo and school name. Additional forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center or on our website.

PRAYER REQUEST

Isabela Karel (4th Grade) and her parents would like to ask that you keep all of the Clergy, Religious, Permanent Deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers in your prayers during this Advent and Christmas seasons and in particular their Parish Priest, Rev. Charles Dautremont of St. Dominic in Wyoming, as he celebrates on December 18, his 50th Anniversary' of being ordained a Roman Catholic Priest.

An Invitation To Pray The Rosary in Church

Every day at Saint Thomas School you can pray the Rosary with other parents and friends.

You can pray for our School you can pray for our teachers ... you can pray for your children ... you can pray for the sick ... you can pray for a special intention ... you can pray for yourself ... For any reason at all, please feel welcome to join many other men and women who would like to lift up a Rosary to Our Blessed Mother. No prior experience necessary.



3:00 pm every **Monday, Wednesday, Friday** (right before school lets out)

8:00 am every **Tuesday, Thursday** (right after school starts)

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

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

Saint Mary Magdalen (Kentwood)
1213 52nd Street SE
Saturday, January 8, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.

Holy Spirit Parish (Grand Rapids)
2230 Lake Michigan Drive NW
Wednesday, January 19, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Cathedral Square (Grand Rapids)
360 Division S.
Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 9:00 a.m.

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

Christmas Vacation is December 22-January 2nd

ELECTRONIC Sign Up for the Pieces Newsletter

In an effort to be "more green" and save paper, we are encouraging families to receive the Pieces electronically. In addition to saving paper and ink, the Pieces is much more engaging in color, especially as we continue to include more photo collages of the happenings and community of Saint Thomas the Apostle School. If you receive the Pieces electronically, you can also forward it to family and friends who may wish to follow what your students are doing or view a special picture. Please know that paper copies of the Pieces are always available both in the Welcome and Information Center in the school entrance and in the church basement if you should ever wish to have a paper copy of a specific issue. If you would like to receive the Pieces electronically from now on, please complete the lines below and return to the school office. Thank you!

Email address: _____

Student/Family Name: _____

Signature: _____

Thanks Parent Catechists

I would like to thank all of the parent catechists who volunteered their time on Wednesday, December 8th for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The teachers and recess supervisors attended a Peaceful People, Peaceful Place training and were confident that their classrooms were safe and sound! Thank you to: Julie Kuhn, Melissa Greene, Elma De La Cruz-Kimble, Michele Thomson, Chris Mondroski, Amy Jaracz, Lisa Mullen, Linda Fetterhoff, Shawn Doyle, Shannon Rodgers, Joni Mauren, Shar Betten, Amy Bocian, Laura Mangan, Ellen Mikolay, Mara DeBoer, Denise Deveau, Teresa Steffes, Rachel Perdue, Mike Heffron, Tom Murray, Ward Yondo, and David Bevins!
~ Angela Yondo

HOT LUNCH

I believe everyone is aware that in addition to the normal hot lunch meal, students can order an extra entrée. The cost of this extra entrée is an additional \$.75. Students currently receiving free/reduced lunches, and who order an extra entrée, will be charged the additional \$.75. The extra entrée does NOT qualify for the free/reduced program.
~ Shannon Rodgers

8th Grade Fundraiser

If you did not receive your 8th grade fundraiser order, please contact Lisa Gooch at 304-5996.

A special thank you to all those who supported the 8th grade class trip by participating in this fundraiser.

Saint Thomas Library News

Gingerbread House Contest

The winner of our Gingerbread House Contest will be announced this Friday and published in the next issue of the Pieces. Thanks to all who participated.

Did You Guess Which Gift Belonged to Whom?

Check out the poster in the library showing our faculty and staff and their favorite Christmas gifts from when they were children. Did you match the correct person with his or her favorite gift?

SUPER SCIENCE SATURDAY! Celebrating Chemistry Past, Present, Future!

Saturday, January 29, 2011

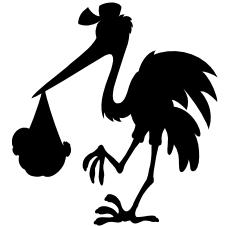
Grand Valley State University Open House
10a.m. – 4 p.m.

Seymour and Esther Padnos Hall of Science,
Allendale Campus.

Join us to celebrate the International Year of chemistry 2011 and Grand Valley State University's 50th Anniversary. Interactive, hands-on science fun for K-12 students, teachers, parents, and community members! No registration required! For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/rmsc or contact the Regional Math and Science Center at (616)331-2267.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to:
Jonathan & Gretchen Siebers
on the birth of
Deegan Joseph Siebers



Deegan was born on November 26, 2010
He weighed 7 pounds and 8 ounces
And was 19 inches long

Proud sibling is: **Jonathan (P3)**



Saint Thomas Library Info



Coordinator:
Marnie White
Denise Deveau
Contact Info:
libadm@stthomasgr.org



Saint Thomas Hornet News



Winter Sports Schedule Change

5th grade boys-green added a game on 1/22/11

8th grade girls opponent on 2/17/11 has change from St. Mary to I.H.M.

Winter Concession Worker Schedule



Saturday, December 18, 2010

8:15 AM	Start-up	Faber
9:00 AM	5 th Girls-Green	Stormzand
10:10AM	5 th Girls	Tanis
11:20AM	6 th Girls	Alfaro
12:30PM	6 th Boys	Gell
1:40PM	6 th Boys-Gold	DeBoer
2:50 PM	7 th Girls	Gould

THE GIFTS YOU HAVE RECEIVED, GIVE AS A GIFT

PICTURES REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

Front Row: Zach Baxter, Solomon Metzger, Gabe Skinner

Middle Row: Jacob Jaracz, Anna Rosloniec,
Adrien Yondo, Francesca Deveau

Back Row: Jessica Trenshaw, Regina Faber,
Lizzie Murphy, Stephen Woodruff

Front Row: Mary Claire Mikolay, Grace Pinter,
Cory Skinner

Back Row: Ana Corcoran, Calvin Dent, Jacob Augustyn

00" PLEASE!

FULTON STREET

Grace Street is for Preschool and PM K only. Do not pick up or drop off students here.

Ministry Center



Do not move Cones!

School

Holland Home

GATE LINE

Mercy Respite Center

Pickup / Dropoff Zone. Do not park your car unless you personally escort your child/ren to or from school.

Church

Rectory

Gym

WILCOX PARK DR

Exit

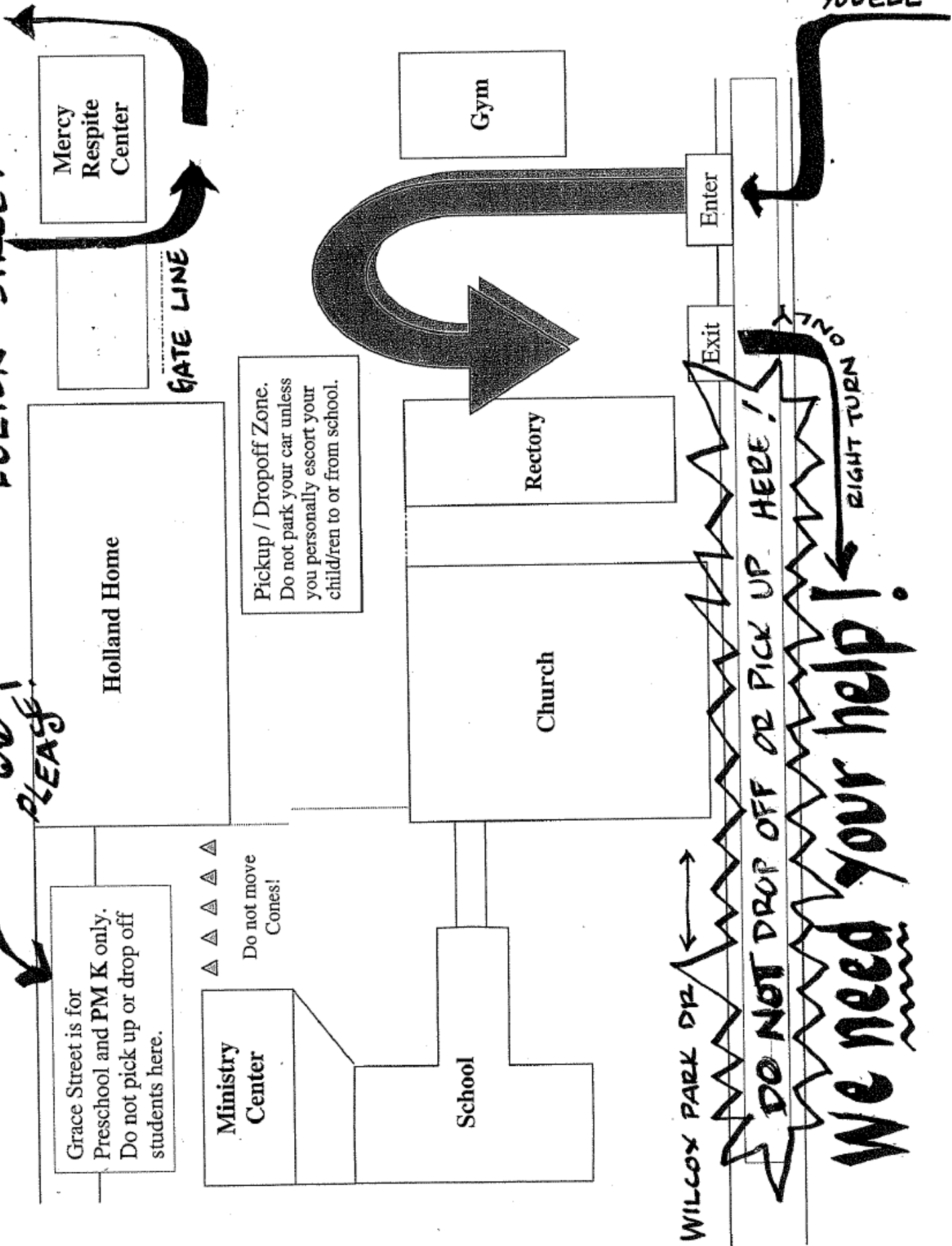
Enter

DO NOT DROP OFF OR PICK UP HERE!

We need your help!

RIGHT TURN ONLY

YOU'LL



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Hot Lunch Menu *January 2011*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Hamburgers Corn <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Sloppy Joes → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Curried Lentil Soup →	4 Roast Turkey Mashed Potatoes Rolls	5 Pizza Honey Carrot Coins	6 Otto's Chicken Drumstick Potato Wedges	7 Pancakes Eggs
10 Tacos Corn <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Grilled Cheese → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Chicken Noodle →	11 Spaghetti Breadsticks	12 Pizza Honey Carrot Coins	13 Otto's Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Brownie	14 Macaroni and Cheese Cornbread

We will have extra Moo-Ville chocolate milk for sale on account of the Christmas vacation.
Milk can be purchased for \$4.50 per gallon from the school kitchen between 8:00am-2:30pm.

Thank You

Some Items on the food bar this month:

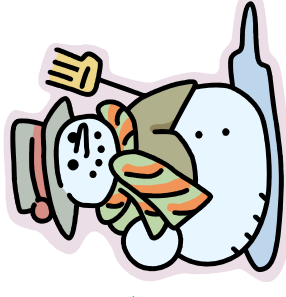
Lettuce
Cheddar Cheese
Croutons
Carrots

Vanilla Yogurt
Homemade Granola
Fresh Apples
Fresh Oranges

Peaches
Hummus
Pita Chips



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School January 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 School Resumes	4	5 1:30 p.m. Spelling Bee 7 p.m. H&SA Mtg	6	7 9:55 a.m. Mass Yearbook Cover Contest ends	8
9 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Meeting	10 Jean Pass Day	11	12 Pieces home 7 p.m. Education Commission Mtg	13	14 9:55 a.m. Mass	15
16	17	18	19 12:45 p.m. Gr. 4 American Red Cross Student Council Mtg	20	21 9:55 a.m. Mass End of 2nd Quarter	22
23 2:00 p.m. First Communion Parent/Candidate Meeting	24	25	26 Pieces home Student Council Mtg	27	28 9:55 a.m. Mass 7 p.m. Variety Show	29
30	31 Non Uniform Day					

Thank you Christina, Liz, Amy, and Michelle and all volunteers for your work on the 2010 Auction. What you did brought out the best in the entire Saint Thomas Community, and as a result, we are blessed, and inspired!

Thanks to you, we have a recipe for continued success in 2012!

FEEL the energy that *is*
Saint Thomas the Apostle

FEED that energy by joining the



2012 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The October 2010 Auction provided a new momentum for our entire community. Let's build on that momentum!

Please consider becoming a Sub-committee Chair, Volunteer, or odds and ends support. In one or more of the following areas:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • DECORATIONS | • COMMUNICATIONS | • DATA ENTRY | • AUCTION DISPLAY |
| • PROCUREMENT | • MENU PLANNING | • TECHNOLOGY | • MARKETING/PUBLICITY |
| • EVENT LOGISTICS | • INVENTORY MANAGEMENT | • EVENT REGISTRATION | • EVENT SETUP/CLEAN-UP |
| • PRINTED MATERIALS | • EVENT CASHIER | • VOLUNTEER COORDINATION | • EVENT WEBSITE |
| • BUDGETING | • PUBLIC RELATIONS | • PHOTOGRAPHY | • ODDS AND ENDS |

About the Auction

The Auction is the largest fundraiser for Saint Thomas. Proceeds fund the entire Home & School budget, support the Tuition Angel Program that aids families in need of tuition assistance and furnishes essential assets to help off-set the Parish's capital expenses.

For more information, to volunteer, or if you have suggestions for the upcoming auction please contact current Auction Chair

Janiece Spicer

616-881-9159

Janiece.Spicer@gmail.com