



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

*Dynamic Education
Centered in Christ*

THE PEACEMAKER...

PIECES

Vol. 14 Issue 14 February 25, 2009

Elizabeth Ann Seton Award Presented to Mr. David Faber

Each year the Student Council has the privilege of honoring a teacher or staff member who they feel is a role model, full of both love for God and promoting a Catholic Education centered in Christ. The award is named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who after her husband’s death became Catholic and founded the first Catholic School in the United States and the American Sisters of Charity.

The Student Council voted to present this year’s award to our devoted and beloved Principal, Mr. David Faber. Mr. Faber and his family are deeply committed to Catholic School Education and to St. Thomas the Apostle School. Mr. Faber works tirelessly to keep the everyday school details running smoothly and on bringing new and innovation programming to the school. He infuses whatever he does with the love of Christ. You can see this in all of his actions, his words and his daily life. He walks with Jesus each day and relies on him for inspiration and strength. We appreciate with full hearts his devotion to this ministry. St. Thomas is proud to have him as our school leader and we wish him “Congratulations” and many, many thanks.

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Mr. Faber with the Student Council officers and reps.

Registration

2009/2010 Registration packets went home with the oldest or only student in each family Friday, February 6th. **Existing family registration packets were due in the school office by Thursday, February 19th.** PSAS Financial aid forms are not due until March 20, 2009.

We anticipate being at or near capacity in the following grades:

P3, P4AM, P4PM

and Grades:

2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Now that the registration deadline has passed, we will extend a one week grace period to all current families until February 27th, after which time new student registrations will be received on a first come, first served basis.

Early Dismissal Friday at 2:15

REMINDER: Our second early dismissal for the year will be this Friday, February 27 at 2:15 p.m. Busses will run one hour early. The Diocese of Grand Rapids is requiring continued professional staff development through the development of Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s) for our teachers. The final early dismissal at 2:15 p.m. will be on May 8. There will be NO Afterschool care on those days.

Hot Lunch Menu

The March Hot Lunch Menu will go home with students this Friday, February 27th. Be sure and look for it then.



ATTACHMENTS



- March Calendar
- Diversity Week Flyer
- America & Me Essay Contest Winners
- Saint Thomas Golf Outing Save the Date Flyer
- Educational Outfitters Customer Service Survey
- Free Youth Basketball Clinic Flyer

VIP News

Did you know that we have 347 parents at St. Thomas? Did you know that we have 2 volunteer grandparents at St. Thomas? Out of the 349, we have 236 (67%) of them who have completed the Standards of Ministerial Behavior, background check, and Virtus training. We would love to have 100%! St. Thomas requires all volunteers to complete these items before they can participate in field trips and classroom events.

A complete listing of the volunteers who have completed the Standards of Ministerial Behavior, the training and background check will be posted in the school office by the volunteer sign-in. If your name is not listed as complete, we would be happy to explain how to do it. We would love to have you volunteer with the children!

Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

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

Our Lady of Consolation (Rockford)
4865 Eleven Mile Rd
Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Cathedral Square (Grand Rapids)
360 Division S
Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

St. Jude (Grand Rapids)
1120 Four Mile Rd NE
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.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

Preschool & Kindergarten Round-Up and Information Session

St. Thomas the Apostle School will hold a Preschool and Kindergarten Round-Up and Information Session on Wednesday, March 4 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. or 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center. This is an opportunity for parents and prospective students to meet other interested parents and our faculty and to investigate our program. Children will visit the classrooms and share a story and discovery time. Parents will learn how to help prepare their child for school. To register for either session please call Sue or Suzanne in the school office at 458-4228.



Spiritual Adoption Meeting



The next meeting for the Junior High students, who have chosen to spiritually adopt a baby in danger of abortion, is Monday, March 2nd, during the Religion classes. I look forward to seeing all of you and sharing in reflection and prayer. Keep up those powerful prayers!
~ Mrs. Valente

Spanish Phrase of the Week— La Frase de la Semana en Español

Each week Mr. Faber introduces a Spanish Phrase of the Week on morning announcements. We would like to share these phrases with you in the event you may start hearing them at home.

Feb. 23-27 ¿Puedo ir al baño? (May I use the bathroom?)
March 2-6 ¿Cómo te sientes? (How are you feeling?)
March 9-13 ¿Adónde vas? (Where are you going?)

The Church Speaks

~ *The Catholic School is at the heart of the Church.*

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL: ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM 1998
- Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education

A Very Important Thank You

I would like to thank Jennifer Clemens, Michelle Rohn, and the entire Auction committee for all of their hard work on this year's Auction. A small committee worked very hard to make it a success for our school! It was truly an evening to remember. Thank you! ~ *Angela Yondo*

PHOTO

Auction Committee Says Thanks

We are so thankful to all of you in our St. Thomas Community who came out in support of the auction this year; whether you donated items, helped us make everything come together behind the scenes, attended the event and bid on the items, or kept us all in your prayers. It couldn't have been done without YOU!! It was a beautiful evening and the generosity was overwhelming—especially considering our current economic climate. Although we are still working on the final numbers, a preliminary look at the outcome shows that we were able to raise a significant amount for our Tuition Angel program as well as provide solid support for our Home and School budget for the upcoming school year. What an amazing blessing for our kids, our school and our parish. God Bless You!

~ *The 2009 Auction Committee*

Auction Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Susan Spica, grandmother of Briana Spica! She was the winner of the Cash Prize Raffle at the auction. Congratulations to the Rellinger Family! They were the winners of the Nintendo DS raffle for having sold raffle tickets.

Thank you also to **all** of the St. Thomas families for selling raffle tickets and supporting our wonderful school.

Congratulations to our St. Thomas America & Me Essay Contest winners. Please see the attached News Release for details!

Lands' End Contribution

Thank you to all those who purchased items through Lands' End. We received a contribution check in the amount of \$48.44, which equals 3% of qualifying purchases from July-December 2008. If you purchase items through Lands' End, please remember to use our preferred school code # 9000-2971-1.



SAVE THE DATE

CATHOLIC CENTRAL BIG BLUE AUCTION PARTY

Saturday, March 14th at the C.A.T.

2770 Knapp St. NE

Mass @ 5:30 pm

Silent/Live auctions, raffles, games, buffet and cash bar @ 6:30 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME: All Parents of Past, Present, and Future Cougars

Proceeds benefit spiritual, academic and extracurricular programs at C.C.

Advanced tickets are \$25.00 each, or \$35.00 at the door

Send \$ to C.C. Main Office, Attention Kim Melcher, prior to March 12th

All Donations: monetary, gifts, certificates, etc.

Send to C.C. Main Office or contact:

Tracy Rosenbach @ 245-2409 or tracyrosenbach@yahoo.com

For information, please check out the Catholic Central Web Site

www.grcatholiccentral.com

Community Opportunities

Free Basketball Clinic

A free Youth Basketball Clinic is being offered through MVP Athletic Club. Please see the attached flyer for details, and if you have any questions feel free to contact: Jeanine Serba at serbacat@yahoo.com or 616-901-2408.

SIBL Basketball League

The SIBL (Summer Instructional Basketball League) is entering its' third year. Many of you have already participated. We have a terrific corps of coaches who understand the game and how to teach the primary skills. This league is highly recommended for players from middle school through high school hoping to improve their competitive skills. The cost is \$100 for an early registration by March 1 or \$125 after the date. For more information, please check the following website: www.MyBasketballBasics.com or call Coach Jim McGannon at 616-296-0191.

Sports & Spirituality Series

The East Deanery Youth Ministers are sponsoring a two-year **Sports & Spirituality** keynote series for adults and youth grades 6-12 in the Catholic School system who are involved in athletics. This Series is a Comprehensive Youth Ministry effort to reach out to our youth and their families; and to the coaches, athletic directors, and referees as well. Please join us in support of this first opportunity on Sunday afternoon, March 8th.

Right to Life Bike & Hike for Life

Mark your calendar now for the Grand Rapids Right To Life 2009 Bike & Hike for Life on Saturday, May 2 at Riverside Park from 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information please visit RTL at their website: www.grrtl.org or call 532-2300.

St. Paul March Madness 3-on-3

St. Paul the Apostle "March Madness" 3-on-3 basketball tourney is being held on March 29, 2009 at the Catholic Central gym. Games start at noon. Registration forms are available in the Welcome & Information Center near the school entrance. For more information please call 949-1690.

FOCA Postcards Available

Additional FOCA (The Freedom of Choice Act) postcards to mail to your Senators and Representative are available in the Welcome and Information Center near the school entrance if you did not get a chance to pick them up at Mass this past weekend.

Arts Jam!

Are you ready for great music, food and the chance to bid on creative works of art? Well then... clear your calendar on April 19th from 2-5pm and come join us at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center! Arts Jam is a fundraiser for the Grand Rapids Public Schools' art and music departments. As you may know St. Thomas participates in the GRPS shared time program. The art teacher, curriculum, and materials are all provided through this program. Money raised from Arts Jam (through cover charges and art auction) provides more art supplies for our art room! Our art teacher Jessica Seitz will have a painting up for bid! Please check the GRPS website at: www.grpublicschools.org and follow the link to the art department for more info!



Citywide Student Art Show!

Please come and support our young artists at the Citywide Art Show! The show takes place downtown at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts from March 17 - 22. The big student reception takes place March 18th from 6-8pm. About 20 students' artwork from St. Thomas will be chosen for this event. Please check the website listed in the article above for more info! Free Admission!

JUNIOR COUGAR



Get-In-Free
Athletic Schedule:

Just Show Your
Junior Cougar ID
Card

Girl's Basketball at CC High School Gym:

Fri., Feb. 27 vs. Caledonia 7:15 PM

Hockey at Griff's Icehouse at Belknap Park:

Sat., Feb. 28 vs. Rockford 7:00 PM

Encountering the Living God Through You

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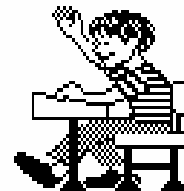
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FRONT ROW: Jacob Augustyn, David Flynn, Kate Lignell,
Madeleine Jepsen
BACK ROW: Joe Ens, Nick Vrugink, Stephanie Kaminski,
Ana Corcoran, Alex Mervenne

FRONT ROW: Mike Strickland, Keegan Greene, Clare Lignell,
Eli Fetterhoff
BACK ROW: Daniel Betten, Ben Dalrymple, Nicholas Lourido,
Henry Dykema



HOME &
SCHOOL



Home and School Officers

Please consider serving as Vice President of H&S for the 2009/2010 school year. The commitment of time can easily be fit into any schedule and the benefits to the school and the children are amazing. You would be actively involved in the budgeting of funds for existing school programs and endeavors and would have a hand in the integral events that make St. Thomas such a wonderful and amazing place for our children to learn and grow. If you

have questions and would like to learn more about this wonderful opportunity please contact Amy Bocian or better yet, attend our next meeting on March 11th at 8:15 am in the Ministry Center.



Thank You!

Thank you to all of the families who provided food for the teachers and staff during conferences last week. We really appreciate all of the amazing volunteers who helped make this happen! Please pick up your dish, crock pot, bowl or pan on the Lost and Found shelf near the school front entrance. Thank You!!

City Tournament Games Rescheduled Due to Snow

7th Grade Girls Basketball

3rd/4th Place Game: St. Thomas vs. O.L.C./St. Patrick
at West Catholic—this **Saturday, 2/28 at 11:45 am**

8th Grade Girls Basketball

Championship Game: St. Thomas vs. St. Anthony
at West Catholic—this **Saturday, 2/28 at 2:45 pm**

Come out and support our Teams!



Saint Thomas the Apostle School March 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 9:30 6B Recon. 8:45-12:45 Grs. 1&2 visit GR Museum 2:10 pm 2B Recon.	3 4th Grade Songfest 7 pm Boosters Mtg.	4 NO KAM or P4AM Pre & Kdg. Info Sessions 9 am and 6:30 pm	5 1:30 pm 8G Recon.	6 1:30 p.m. Mass First Friday Holy Hour 1:30 pm 5th Gr. Rosary @ Holland Home Grs. 4 & 5 attend Mulan 9-11:10 am Gr. 3V Recon.	7
Multicultural and Diversity Week						
8 Confirmation Candidate/ Sponsor Mtg. 6:30-8:30 pm	9 Jean Pass Day	10	11 'Pieces home' 8:15 am H&SA Mtg. 7 pm Ed. Com. Mtg.	12	13 9:55 am Mass	14
15	16 9:30 am 3/M Recon. 1:30 pm 7A Recon.	17	18 CC Spring Musical 9:30- 12:00 noon at Aquinas 11:30 Stu. C. Officer's Mtg.	19 Registrations Due 1:30 pm 8A Recon. 6-7:30 pm Multicultural Mtg.	20 NO SCHOOL End of 3rd Quarter Teacher Inservice	21
22	23 9:30 am P4AM Recon. 1:40 pm P4PM Recon.	24	25 'Pieces home' 11:30 am Student Council Mtg.	26 1:30 pm G1/2 Recon.	27 9:55 am Mass Report Cards Home	28
CHA CHING CHALLENGE						
29	30 Non Uniform Day 9:30 am 6C Recon.	31 7 pm Bandiastic at Catholic Central				