



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

*Dynamic Education
Centered in Christ*

THE PEACEMAKER...

PIECES

Vol. 15 Issue 10

January 12, 2011

Registration 2011/2012

Registration packets for next school year will be sent home on February 4. Our Registration deadline will be February 17. For your convenience, once again coinciding with Parent/Teacher Conferences, Sue and/or Suzanne will be available **Tuesday evening, February 15**, from 5–8 p.m. & **Thursday afternoon and evening, February 17**, from 12:00 – 3:00 & 5 – 8 p.m. to process your registration materials. Family registration fees are as follows:

*\$75 for one student \$200 for three students
\$150 for two students \$225 for four or more students*

Variety Show

Answer: It will be held two times on January 28th and all are welcome.

Question: What is the 2011 Variety Show?

Yes it's that time of the year folks. Time to show everyone that you are part of the Variety of Saint Thomas School! Our show is scheduled and the rehearsal dates are reserved. All we need is you and a permission slip! Rehearsals will be in the church basement from 3:30-5:00pm. This year we will all practice together! The dates will be January 25th and 26th with a dress rehearsal on January 27th.

Get your parents' permission, have them read the lyrics for any songs you will be using, and have them sign the permission slip that you will drop off at the office. Also, I will need a CD of any music, preferably as a single on a disk. There will also be opportunities for involvement for anyone who is NOT part of an act. Just let me know that you want to help and I will put you to work for the show! I can be reached at 635-1090 if you have any questions or concerns.

~ Mike Trenshaw

Yearbook Orders

They grow up so fast! Remember the year with a full-color yearbook. If you haven't ordered a yearbook, there is still time. Orders must be submitted no later than March 14, 2011. Yearbooks cost \$10.00 each and order forms are available in the Welcome and Information Center near the school entrance.

~ Sue Ysasi

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

This year we are celebrating Vocations Awareness twice! The National Vocations Week is this week (January 10-14). Our Saint Thomas Vocations Awareness Week will be celebrated March 14-18, 2011. That week will culminate with the annual parent luncheon at the end of the week, Friday, March 18th. Mark your calendar now for this inspiring event. Details to follow!

~ Vocation Committee

PICTURE REMOVED FOR
INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to our 2011 Spelling Bee Hornets!!! Our winner was 5th grader, Jameson VanDokkumburg, and first runner up was 5th grader, Kristen Salinas. Both students will represent Saint Thomas at the Regional Spelling Bee on Feb. 22. Other participants were Hannah DeBoer, Claire Salinas, Pablo Corcoran, Chris McWain, Anna Bockheim, Joseph Blanco, David Bridge, Anna Valente, Nevada Flynn (not pictured) and Madeline Sebestyen (not pictured).

~ Amy Zakrasjek



ATTACHMENTS

- January Hot Lunch Menu
- Vocations Awareness Flyer
- Enrichment Opportunities Flyer
- Karate/French Class Registration
- Art Class Registration Form

With Love from the Principal

Somewhere between Christmas and New Years, I clearly realized that I desperately missed your children, and longed to be back at school. I even missed the smell of spilled chocolate milk in the lunchroom...I suppose that this is a good sign that God has placed me where he wants me. Despite the longing for school, I know that there is nothing like family time and long lazy days to make you thankful for all that you have. I hope that you were able to capture some memories with your children and family during the holiday, and are as happy as I am to be back in our beloved school again.

We are one week away from being mid-way through our school year! This week we began MAP testing. I know that the nearly immediate results that we get from this testing will affect the way we individualize our educational efforts for each child at Saint Thomas. I will address MAP testing in our next Pieces newsletter, once we have completed it.

Jeanne and I have already begun touring potential families, and believe it or not, we already are creating waiting lists in some of our classes. We do still have openings in other classes, and I hope to be able to report that next year will begin again with new families, new faces, and new gifts to be shared with our school community. We are continually blessed by the people that God brings to Saint Thomas and our school is blossoming! I want very much to be accessible to you, and hope that you feel comfortable with calling, e-mailing or stopping by with your suggestions or concerns. We are educating your children together, and I welcome your input.

Part of my responsibility as Principal of the school is to immerse myself in the various committees within the parish and school, as well as be involved in Diocesan initiatives, and stay abreast of what is coming from the State, Kent Intermediate School District and Grand Rapids Public Schools. I am doing some work with teachers around the city on the new Common Core Curriculum, which will affect how and what teachers teach in the very near future. What has become clear to me is the reality that technology will become more and more a part of instruction and learning. We have just received five more Smart Boards, and are sending several teachers to training to learn about how to most effectively use this tool to deliver quality instruction. Over the next year, our goal is to have a completely wireless campus and have Smart Boards in every classroom. In the not so distant future, I suspect that students will have one computer, versus a backpack full of depreciating text books. I am preparing for 21st century learning, but with a bit of reluctance. With great pride I tour potential families through our charming school pointing out that while we are very "today" with what we do and use in our classrooms, we hold dearly onto our "yesterday"...the legacy left to us. I love the old fixtures, the beautiful hardwood floors in my office, the original front door, and the cozy feeling of our much loved parish school. As technology enters the doors, I plan to work very hard to retain that original feel and look of our school. I believe we can have the best of both worlds.

We are fabulously, happily blessed with an abundance of children this year, and I suspect that this will continue to be the case in our future. We are so very proud of the responsibility and maturity of our middle school students, especially the leadership of our 8th grade class. You already know that our teachers look upon your children with something very close to parental pride and love...a quality found in very few schools. Our hallways buzz with energy, our children thrive, we are growing together towards very exciting possibilities, and I am so happy to be back with all of you and your children. God is good.

~ Suzi Furtwangler

New Phone Number

David and Mara DeBoer have a new phone number: 616-214-4415. Please update your 2010/2011 School Directory.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2011

That the riches of creation be preserved, valued and made available to all, as a precious gifts 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

Email Address Request

We would like to create an email database that can be used to communicate emergency, vital or relevant information to families in a fast and efficient manner. Examples would be school closings, weather information, hot lunch changes etc... This would not be the final or only communication, but it would be very helpful in providing information to families quickly. If you would like us to include your email address in this database, please fill in the information below and return to the school office. Thank you for your help. ~ *Suzi Furtwangler*

Email address: _____

Student/Family Name: _____

Signature: _____

Our Saint Thomas Carnival is March 5

Mark your calendars! The carnival of all carnivals will be held Saturday, March 5, 2011 from 6 – 9 p.m.

As with any great Saint Thomas event we'll need your help to make it a smashing success. We will be collecting cakes and 2 liter bottles of pop for our cake walk and ring toss games. Kid favorites!

Most of all, we will need MANY volunteers so please consider offering up an hour of your night!

Keep an eye out via "Kid mail" and the next Pieces for more details.

If you have question or can volunteer, please contact: Sue Kuzee at slkuz@hotmail.com (co-chair), Heidi Schliem at rhschliem@yahoo.com (co-chair) or Carla VanDokkumburg (volunteer coordinator) jvandokk@yahoo.com if you can help!



Aquinas College Offers 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.

Labels for Education

Before throwing the Sunday paper in the recycle bin, please look for the Labels for Education sheet in the coupon section. Simply attach the product UPC of items you already have (or feel free to buy more of the ones listed) to the corresponding brand on the sheet and return to school by **2/28/11**. Since copies are not allowed, ask any friend/family/neighbors if you can have theirs. This will help put us on the fast track for points!

SCRIP News

The Saint Thomas SCRIP program is happy to announce that Target is joining their list of retailers. Target gift certificates can be purchased in \$25 and \$100 dollar amounts with a 2% rebate credited toward tuition.

SCRIP is an easy way to earn money toward your tuition and Saint Thomas. Orders for SCRIP are picked up on Monday mornings at 8:00 a.m in the school office, yellow folder in the back of church, and the church office. These orders are usually ready for pick up on Wednesday. To sign up or if you have any questions, please call Stephanie LaVoie at 954-0969.

Paper Gator

Thank you to all who have been donating to Paper Gator and to our 4th Graders for filling it with the school's and parish's recyclable papers! We have just received another check for \$120. Please keep your recyclable papers coming!
~ *Bethann Petkus*

The DeVeau Girls are Princesses/Principals for the Day



Special Thank You's!

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

Thank you to David Brady and Bobby Hazelton who helped Mr. Ted buff, polish and shine the terrazzo of our first floor hallway. We appreciate your very hard work. The floors look amazing!

Home & School Cookie Trays

The Faculty and Staff would like to thank the Home and School Association, the volunteer bakers, the volunteer cookie tray assemblers and Jennifer Dalrymple for organizing this wonderful gift to all. Our families truly enjoy these delicious treats over the Christmas break!!!

~ Saint Thomas Faculty & Staff

Water Bottles Now Available

Our brand new, HIGH QUALITY Saint Thomas water bottles are in and awesome! These special bottles have been featured in biking magazines for their special interior coating that prevents the growth of mold or bacteria. The green bottles feature our full color hornet logo on one side with our Celtic cross logo on the other. Perfect for your Hornet athlete or for your student's desk, or take them to work or the gym and show off your own Hornet spirit! They are priced to sell at \$8 for the first bottle, \$15 for 2, or 3 for \$20. Order forms are available in the office.

Flu Season Reminders



1. **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
2. **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or

shoulder; not into your hands.

3. **Stay home if you or your child is sick** for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). Keeping sick students at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.

Enrollment Advisory

If you are discerning your options for the next year, please be aware that while we support the opportunity to attend either Zoo or Blandford Schools for your child's 6th grade year, we cannot hold a space in their class for their 7th & 8th grade years. This information should be a part of your decision making process, as we are already creating waiting lists for the 2011/2012 school year in some of our classes.

~ Suzi Furtwangler

Art Room News

It's been a great year in the art room. I find it hard to believe it is almost the end of the second quarter. For those of you who have not met me, my name is Jeanne Wretschko and this is my first year as your Saint Thomas School art teacher. It's been a busy and sometimes hectic time organizing the art room and more importantly getting to know the students and their talents and needs.

The school community has been incredible in its warm and friendly welcome and I have been impressed with the energy and vitality I feel every time I walk in the door. The students continue to impress me with their enthusiasm and creativity.

This year we have covered a variety of areas beginning with line and texture and are currently working with color. We have worked with simple color mixing with the younger students and are working with recognizing and using color schemes with the older students. My goal is to teach children how to both appreciate and understand art as well as express themselves in an original way.

I wanted to take the opportunity of this newsletter to inform you of what we are doing in the art room as well as to solicit a little help to make the learning process more complete. I encourage parents to visit the art room. I am available before and after school. An extra pair of hands is always welcome, especially in the larger classes. I can always use help with displaying of art work. Seeing the art in the halls is important to both students and visitors. You may contact the office to find the best way to contact me. Phone calls or emails are always welcome.

There is always an ongoing need for empty plastic containers, meat trays, egg cartons, etc..Think of this before you recycle. The art shirts are getting worn. If anyone has any old t-shirts or aprons they would be greatly appreciated.

I also have the opportunity to be working with a wonderful student teacher from Kendall College, Margaret Howard. I'm sure she will be welcomed into the learning community of Saint Thomas. I hope to be keeping you up-to-date with what is happening in the art room in future newsletters.

~ Mrs. Jeanne Wretschko GRPS Shared Time Art

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 ends)

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



XEROX IS DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL

Xerox is offering a wonderful FREE opportunity to say Thank You to our troops through the website www.LetsSayThanks.com. The site allows you to select a post card and message, and Xerox will print it and send it to a soldier who is currently serving overseas. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the soldiers received a bunch of cards? Whether you are for or against the war, our soldiers need to know we are behind them. It takes just a minute and it's a wonderful way to say thank you. Please take the time to send a card and pass it on to others. We can never say thank you enough. Thanks for taking time to support our military!

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:

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

Saint Joseph the Worker (Wyoming)
225 32nd St. SW
Friday, January 28, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m. (conducted in Spanish)

Saint Pius X (Grandville)
3937 Wilson Ave. SW
Monday, February 28, 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

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: _____

Saint Thomas Library News



Rosloniec Family Wins Library's Gingerbread House Contest



Congratulations to the Rosloniec family for their first place finish in the 3rd annual Gingerbread House contest. Thank you to all who participated. All of the houses were wonderfully creative.

Our Rocker is back!!!

Thank you to Jillian Osbourne (aunt to Colin, Jack and Ian Walch and Ameila and Lucy Kuhn) for making our old rocking chair look bright and exciting. Jillian spent many hours painting some beloved book characters onto the rocker along with our school theme. Come and see Pigeon, Olivia and Lily the mouse, just to name a few!

Classes were Read the Book, *Why Am I Here?* by Matthew Kelly

The book is about a boy named Max. Max was a curious boy. He was curious about other countries, he was curious about animals and nature, and he was curious about life. One day while he is fishing with his Grandpa, Max stumbles upon the ultimate question, Why am I here? His Grandfather suggests that Max is here to become the-best-version-of-himself! In the days and weeks that follow, Max begins to notice when he is and when he is not celebrating the-best-version-of-himself. This single idea becomes the touchstone for his decision-making, begins to guide his words and actions, and fosters a remarkable self-awareness.

Thanks to Our Book Donors

Thank you to the DeBoer family, Emma Jensen and Taylor Molotky for their recent book donations.

Please Return Library Books Promptly Each Week!

Remember, all books are due one week from check-out and students will not be allowed to check out future books until their accounts are cleared. Overdue notices will be sent home via email unless otherwise noted or parent email address is unavailable. It is also important to note that report cards go home with students who have cleared library accounts. In the event a student has an overdue book when report cards are distributed, the report card will be held until the missing book is either returned or the account is settled.

Current Collections

The following collections will be on display in the library through January:

- Dylan White's marble collection
- Cody Skinner's Pokemon Card collection
- Mrs. Furtwangler's German Putz House collection



Saint Thomas Library Info



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

Please have students return their books *on or before* the listed due date. No new books may be checked out until all past books have been returned.

Junior Cougars

2010 Winter "Get In Free" Events



4th-8th Grade Students presenting a valid Junior Cougar ID Card from our Partner Elementary Schools will be given FREE ENTRY into the following Catholic Central athletic events:

Boys Wrestling

Wed, January 12, 6:00 PM

at Catholic Central

Competitive Cheerleading

Wed, January 26th, 6:30 PM

at Catholic Central

Hockey

Wed, January 26th, 8:00pm

Griff's Ice House

Boys Swimming

Tues, February 15th, 6:30 pm

David D. Hunting YMCA

Basketball

Friday, February 18th, 6:00 pm

Boys and Girls game at Catholic Central

Remember to keep your Junior Cougar ID Card until you graduate 8th Grade.

Future Cougars - Catholic Central Basketball Camp and Clinic

First through fourth grade girls and boys have an opportunity to practice and learn more about basketball with Catholic Central's varsity program. Boys' Camp and Girls' Clinic are held on Saturdays, January 8, through February 26. Sign-up sheets went home last week with specific details about dates, times, and tuition for the girls' clinic and boys' camp. Additional forms are available in the foyer of the school entrance. For more information about the girls' program, contact varsity coach, Jessica Tucker at (616) 915-6446. For more information about the boys' program, contact Dan Farrell at (616) 795-2150, or register online at futurecougarscamp@gmail.com.



BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION

The Student Council continues to collect BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION coupons which are located on many product packages. This is an easy way to help support Saint Thomas school financially. We received a check just this week for almost \$300 dollars and another batch was sent in just before Christmas worth almost \$500. Simply look for the dark pink BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION logo on products you purchase regularly or already may have in your home. Clip these coupons and send them in with your child. While you're at it, ask grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors to collect for you. Each class will compete in monthly contests. The class having the most box tops at the end of each month will get a prize from Student Council. Meijer periodically offers bonus coupons. We've received coupons totaling as many as 70 points! That's quite an advantage for any class. Examples of participating products: Juicy Juice, General Mills cereals, Ziploc, Kleenex, Welch's, various frozen foods and baby products. For more information, contact Jeanne Walch at ext. 337.

Saint Thomas Alumni Visit

Former Saint Thomas student, Jordan Yondo, visited music class on December 16 to demonstrate the Australian Didgeridoo instrument. Students got to try it. Pictured is Jordan with Mrs. Vandyke's 3rd grade class learning how to do play the instrument.

Thank's for sharing your gift, Jordan!
~ Mrs. Proulx



Musical Instrument Donation

A special thank you to the Nicholson Family for their donation of a percussion kit and instruction books to the Saint Thomas School Band Program. If you have an instrument collecting dust in your attic or closet, please consider adding it to our band inventory. Please call Kathy Proulx at 458-4228, extension 310 if you have any questions.
~ Mrs. Proulx

THE GIFTS YOU HAVE RECEIVED,
GIVE AS A GIFT

Community Opportunity



Attention Eastown

Residents of Saint Thomas!

The Social Justice Advocacy Group (SJAG) is hosting the **Better Buildings for Michigan (BBfM) program**. In partnership with the City of Grand Rapids and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG), West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC), the Program is designed to promote energy efficiency in homes in the Eastown neighborhood and includes a package of resources for homeowners valued at over \$1,000. The package includes a comprehensive energy audit as well as easy efficiency upgrades that will be determined via the energy audit process. Homeowners are asked to make a \$50 contribution to match the \$1,000 BetterBuildings grant. In addition, the Michigan Saves loan program will be made available.

The targeted neighborhood in Eastown is outlined between Fulton, Fuller, Lake, and Wilcox Park/Aquinas College and includes an estimated 429 homes. This neighborhood will be receiving advance notice of the program and events starting the week of January 3rd. This may come in the form of a direct mailing, door-to-door invitation, or door hangers.

To learn more, attend an informational session in the lower level of Church on Thursday, 1/13/10 from 6-8 p.m. or Saturday, 1/15 from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Or, visit www.betterbuildingsgr.org. Or call Rebecca Goh at 233-9104.

PICTURES REMOVED FOR
INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

Front Row: Riley Neis, Maddie Yuncker, Julia LaVoie
Back Row: Taylor Molotky, Cody Hermiz,
Brennen Rodgers, Brooke Nicholson

PICTURES REMOVED FOR
INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

Front Row: Mary Grace Doyle, Dani Dull, Eden Girum
Middle Row: Jeremy Wolf, Olivia Jepsen, Isabela Karel
Back Row: Christian Dieleman, Jacob Bocian,
Tim Lambert, Isabella Klein

THE GIFTS YOU HAVE RECEIVED, GIVE AS A GIFT

PICTURES REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

Front Row: Quinn Yondo, Julia Caruso
Middle Row: Natalie Smith, Audrey Patterson, Tommy Mikolay
Back Row: Finn Perdue, Jim O'Neil, Ben Dalrymple, Jack Walch

Front Row: Sophia Gumbko, Sophia Herold, Kyra Edwards, Lucas Cuppy
Middle Row: Sophia Jepsen, Amelia Jubelin, Quinn Wilson
Back Row: Kenzie Thomson, Daniel Doyle, Luke Horrigan, Colin Walch



PICTURES REMOVED FOR INTERNET SAFETY PURPOSES

Front Row: Konnor Barth, Jackson Wardop
Middle Row: Elizabeth Jermstad, Regina Faber, Kyria Grinnell, Katie Tanis, Isaac Liang
Back Row: Abby DenBraber, Jessica Trenshaw, Lydia Dykema

Front Row: Daniel Woodruff, Robert Gould, Katelyn Giambenardi
Middle Row: Anna Brady, Luke Lambert
Back Row: Bianca DeBoer, Shokhari Tate, Thomas Murray II

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School Hot Lunch Menu *January 17-28, 2011*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 Nacho Bar* Corn <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Chicken Caesar Salad → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Butternut Squash Soup →	18 Spaghetti* Breadsticks	19 Pizza Honey Carrot Coins*	20 Otto's Chicken Drumstick Potato Wedges	21 Grilled Cheese Green Beans
24 Shepherd's Pie* Corn <hr/> <u>B Lunch:</u> Grilled Cheese → <hr/> <u>C Lunch Soup:</u> Chili →	25 Jambalaya Cornbread	26 Pizza Honey Carrot Coins*	27 Otto's Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes* Brownie	28 Macaroni and Cheese* Cornbread

* Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Recipes

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

Practical Tips for Fostering Vocations in the Home

Try the Alphabet!

The ABCs of Fostering, Supporting and Nurturing Vocations within the Home

Apostles. From the very beginning, help your children see that a Christian is meant to make a difference in the world around him, we are Christ's ambassadors. Light of the world and salt of the earth. Make them aware that their faith is a gift and talent to share.

Answer your children's questions about priesthood or religious life; never discourage them or ridicule them if they bring it up.

Baptism. Celebrate each one's Baptism Day as well as birthday – and yours too. Build family traditions around the celebration... a specially decorated Baptism Candle that you light for the occasion with a special prayer..., displaying photos of their baptism..., writing a card or saying a prayer for the priest who baptized them....

Bring your family to an Ordination Mass or prayer vigil for religious

Catechism. Teach, explain, challenge and have them memorize. Always connect it with life. Challenge your teenagers with Church History and Apologetics. Make them proud of their faith, give them answers, encourage discussion.

Confirmation. Be counter-cultural, make Confirmation the real beginning of personal and mature practice of the faith!

Challenge teens and young adults to consider a Church-related vocation. Tell them the gifts for ministry you see in them. Encourage them to participate in at least one special vocation event (ordination, vocation retreat, Focus 11, etc.).

Discuss your own vocation to family life, explaining that God calls some people to priesthood or religious life, some to marriage, and some to life as single laypeople. You can talk about vocations firsthand!

Eucharist. Need we say more?

Encourage your children to be involved in the liturgical life of the parish as servers, lectors, musicians, etc. (and get them there on time!)

Explore the feelings you might experience should one of your children choose to give his or her life to God and discuss them with your spouse.

Find opportunities to affirm the gifts and talents of your children, and help them relate their gifts to various career and life choices (including priesthood and religious life).

Gratitude. Make this a major element of all family prayer, cultivate their awareness of all God's gifts, both spiritual and material.

Generosity. Lead by example and teach your children to repay God's gifts by loving others and being generous to others as He is with us.

Have a priest come and bless your home.

Have your younger children make a cross to hang in each bedroom in your home.

Include the diocesan vocation prayer in your personal and family prayer, especially on Wednesdays.

Invite a priest, brother, sister or lay consecrated person to your home.

Jesus. From their earliest age, help them enter into a personal relationship with Jesus as their best friend. Encourage simple, direct prayer, a sense of his presence in everything they do.

Join together in prayer as a family; include a short vocations prayer when you pray before meals (especially on Wednesday).

Keep an eye open for TV shows and movies that present Gospel-centered role models. Watch them with your children and engage in a discussion.

Let your children see your own attitude of openness to and love for God's will.

Look for appropriate times to read and discuss with your children stories of calls in Scripture (e.g. Mary's response to God in Luke 1:26-39, Jesus' calling the Apostles in Mt 4:18-22, etc.).

Practical Tips for Fostering Vocations in the Home, *continued*

Matrimony. Your marriage is one of the greatest keys to your children's individual vocations. Share with them the story of your own vocation, especially on your wedding anniversary, how you met, how you "knew", how you made your decision and the importance of faith in your life, all that you have to be thankful for.

Make time for teenagers in your life: your children and their friends, nieces and nephews, babysitters, etc. Never discourage.

Open their minds. Be sure your children learn. Foster their curiosity and love for creation and culture.

Patron saint. Help your children grow in their knowledge and devotion to their patron saint. The saints come from all walks of life and made a positive difference in the world--a goal as real today as it was in their time.

Play. Give sports and adventure their place.

Purity. Both the virtue of purity and consecrated celibacy require the positive appreciation of the gift of sexuality, as well as the awareness of our natural weakness in this area. Communication, timely instruction, good habits, your example, proper vigilance are all key.

Pray for the seminarians of your diocese by name (you can get their names, bios, and birthdays from the diocesan website. Even "spiritually adopt" one of them.

Pray as a couple for the specific vocation of each one of your children.

Prudence and Patience. Pray fervently for these gifts, so as to respect God's work and God's timing in the life of your child, and not to have any personal agenda beyond what is truly best for them. Children, not only parents, make mistakes!

Queen: Enthroned Mary as Queen of your home, form a prayer-chain with other families. (Check: "Pilgrim Queen")

Reconciliation, or the Sacrament of Penance. We all need it. Lead by example.

Remember in prayer by name those who minister to your family and include in your family prayers petitions for those called to priesthood and consecrated life.

Scripture. Pull it out, read it actively as a family – commenting on it, applying it to life. Look for appropriate times to read and discuss with your children stories of calls in Scripture (e.g. Samuel, the Annunciation, Jesus calling the Apostles, etc.).

Service. Together as a family, do things that serve others, especially those in most need. Seek out those in need and find ways to care for them.

Support and participate in any school or parish vocation activities.

Talk about your family's ethnic or cultural heritage and its values.

Talk positively about the priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons in your parish and share with your children the stories of the priests or sisters who have inspired you and how (e.g. priest at your wedding, or baptized your children, priests or religious from school, etc.).

Use books and videos to familiarize your children with saints who are priests or vowed religious. Use these lives of the saints as a springboard for discussion on these lifestyles.

Visit Christ in the Eucharist. Work in a visit to some shrine or famous church while on vacation and offer prayers together as a family.

Witness to your own vocation in your love and care for each other.

X, In Greek it's the first letter of "Christos", Christ, the Anointed One. Anointing is used in Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination and the Sacrament of the Sick.

You. Help your children grow out of the Me-mode and into the You-mode. Where "you" is God and neighbor.

Z, The last letter of the alphabet. The last letter in Greek is Omega, and Christ is the Alpha and the Omega. Make him the Beginning and End in everything you do.

New Enrichment Classes at Saint Thomas!!!

Karate class!! Sherman McElwee of Elite Karate will teach students in grades 1-5 the basics of Karate. Sherman is known and admired among many of our Saint Thomas families for his masterful way of teaching boys and girls the various Karate techniques. Classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 3:15-4:30, beginning Jan. 24 and ending March 2. Cost for the class is \$90.

French class!! Allyson Putt, a French major student from Aquinas, will be teaching French in a fun and creative way! We will open this class to families so young and old alike may experience the excitement of learning a new language together! Having studied abroad in France, Allyson is able to give an excellent first hand account of the language and its people! Classes will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 3:15-4:15, beginning Jan. 24 and ending March 2. Cost for the class is \$90/person or \$200/family.

Art Class!! Don Kennedy, a Saint Thomas parishioner, will be offering his "Abrakadoodle" Creating with Clay class on Tuesdays for students in grades K-3 and on Thursdays for students in grades 4-8. The classes will meet in the Saint Thomas art room from 3:15-4:30. These classes will begin the week of Feb. 1st and continue through the month of February. (Please note: Feb. 17 is a school half day, but the class will still meet 3:15-4:30) Cost for the class is \$84.

Tech Club Update: We will begin our next session of Tech Club end of February/early March.

~To sign up for **Karate and/or French**, please fill out the **registration form** on the back of this flyer and return to Amy Zakrajsek by **Jan. 20** .

~To sign up for **Abrakadoodle**, please fill out the additional attached **form** and return to Amy Zakrajsek by **Jan. 20** or register online at www.abrakadoodle.com/mi01



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

Jan. 2011-Feb. 2011

After School Enrichment Opportunities

French Classes and Karate Classes

French Class

Grade Levels: 3rd Grade-Adult

Class Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays (Jan. 24-March 2)

Time: 3:15-4:15

Location: School library

Instructor: Allyson Putt

Fee: \$90/person or \$200/family (scholarships available)

Karate Class

Grade Levels: 1st-5th Grade Students

Class Dates: Mondays and Wednesdays (Jan. 24-March 2)

Time: 3:15-4:30

Location: Ministry Center

Instructor: Sherman McElwee

Fee: \$90 (scholarships available)

To enroll, please fill out the **registration form** below and check all appropriate boxes including those pertaining to scholarships/financial need. Send form with check to Amy Zakrajsek by **Jan. 20**.

Make checks payable to St. Thomas School.

Saint Thomas Registration Form

Family Last Name: _____ **Child(ren)** _____

Address: _____ **Phone #:** _____

_____ **Cell #:** _____

*Please note: Any student not picked up 10 minutes after class dismissal time will be charged our customary late fee of \$1.00 per minute.

Please write child's name and grade on each blank indicating class selection. If signing up more than one child, use additional spaces.

_____ **French** _____ **Karate** _____ **French** _____ **Karate**

Saint Thomas Payment Options:

_____ Check enclosed for Saint Thomas Program Fee (per class): \$90 (\$200/family)

_____ Partial Scholarship Needed - Check Enclosed For - \$45

_____ Maximum Scholarship Needed - Amount Enclosed - _____

(any amount is encouraged, including a student allowance or money earned)

In exchange for services, the parent/guardian agrees to fulfill obligations of support: financial, spiritual, educational and emotional.

Parent signature _____ *Date* _____

Offered as an Extension of the

DISCOVER Program

A Spectrum of Services

Meeting Needs.....Reaching Out.....Challenging Potential

Because we believe ALL Students are Gifted & Talented and ALL Students have Special Needs

Abrakadoodle® presents: Creating with Clay

White, brown, red or gray, hooray for clay! Roll, pinch, pat, press, glaze, and sculpt your way through our creative classes that feature projects with this renewable natural resource! Children take a mound of clay along with some basic pottery skills and plenty of creative coaching coupled with their excitement and voila! You will be amazed at what your child will create! We have found that all kids are creative when exposed to high quality safe material and an engaging teacher. We provide that, along with all materials and kiln time. Some projects require two steps to complete, and we have that all figured out. Each artist in residence will create 4 projects per month. All material is non-toxic. This a rolling class and enrollment continues with new tuition due the 1st of each month.

We learn about clay and its countless possibilities by:

- Experimenting with a variety of sculpting methods while learning about new art terms and tools
- Learning the basics of clay in a fun and creative setting, from rolling coils and slabs to creating pinch pots – we even get to glaze the pots so they will last forever like ancient cultures
- Creating a wide variety of art, including, sculptures, tiles, beads, masks and pots
- Each child will also have a chance to complete a wrist Rosary plus other items to grow artistically in our faith.

We'll dig our fingers in for a really good time!

Grades K-3

Class dates:
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

Grades 4-8

Class dates:
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

St. Thomas Art Room
3:15-4:30

Tuition
\$84.00/month
Scholarships may be available

Did you know...?

Cultures around the world have used clay to make houses, dishes, jewelry, and sculptures for thousands of years. Ceramics is one of the oldest art forms in the world—clay animals and figurines are believed to have been made as long ago as 24,000 BC

You can fill in the information below and drop it off at the office with a check or the quick and easy way - you can sign up on line on our registration site. No payment is withdrawn until after the first class. Register at www.abrakadoodle.com/mi01 click on the Register Now button and slide down to the bottom of the page and look for St Thomas/ Doodler Creating with Clay. Fill it out and you're good to go.
100% satisfaction with our classes



Registration

session: February

Child's Name _____ Birth Date _____ Grade: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent's Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____ (We will contact you by email about class happenings.) May we photograph your child? () Yes () No

Class Policies:

- There are no refunds for missed classes.
- There is a \$35 fee for returned checks.
- We pro-rate for mid-month starts
- Make ups can be provided if you child is still enrolled

Method of Payment _____
Preferred Payment by Credit Card:

Name on Card _____ Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Our classes are **GUARANTEED** to be both educational and fun! | www.abrakadoodle.com