



# Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

*Dynamic Education  
Centered in Christ*

THE PEACEMAKER...

# PIECES

Vol. 14 Issue 11 January 14, 2009

## Catholic Schools Week 2009: Encounter the Living God

January 25 – January 30

- Sun., Jan 25** School Open House following 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 Masses
- Mon., Jan. 26** Appreciation & Diocesan Prayer Day / Non-Uniform “Catholic Schools Gear” Day
- Tues., Jan. 27** Mass with Bishop Hurley & Student Service Drive
- Wed., Jan. 28** Volleyball Game: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade vs. Faculty
- Thurs., Jan. 29** Ice Skating Field Trip/Non-Uniform “Spirit” Day
- Friday, Jan. 30** School Mass & Hot Lunch with Special Guest (see order form)

A flyer with additional information is attached and available on the website homepage at: [www.stthomasgr.org](http://www.stthomasgr.org).

## Student Service Drive:

We will be participating in a diocese wide service drive for Catholic Schools Week. Each school is being asked to collect items to donate to Catholic Charities of West Michigan for use in their Healthy Start, Foster Care and Pregnancy support programs. The Student Council will deliver the items during Catholic Schools Week at the diocesan liturgy.

Thank you, in advance, for your donations. St. Thomas will be collecting the following items on January 22, 2009:

- Baby shampoo
- Baby wash/soap
- Baby wipes
- Baby lotion
- Diaper rash cream
- Safety plugs
- Safety door latches

## Coming Soon - Registration

Parents please note registration materials will come home on February 6, and be due with appropriate fees on February 19. Registration fees remain \$75 for one student, \$150 for two, \$200 for three, and \$225 four or more.

## Saint Thomas School News

Recently the pastors of IHM and St. Paul's have communicated that they are considering a merger of their schools as a result of a decline in enrollment. We have received many calls asking if St. Thomas and St. Stephen are considering the same. The simple answer is, no. Our St. Thomas enrollment is robust, our programs continue to grow and expand, and each year we welcome new families that have wonderfully enriched our community. It is our goal to continue to offer a model PK-8 program founded on a mutually supportive relationship between the parish and school. We remain open as always to creative collaboration with neighboring Catholic schools to provide greater efficiency and programming opportunities for our students.

## Important Reminder:

There will be **no school** on **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** for Diocesan Inservice and Teacher PLCs. There will be no After School Program as well.

## Vocations Awareness Week

Vocations Awareness Week is THIS week, January 12<sup>th</sup> – January 16<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached flyer for details.

## Get Ready for the Variety Show!

The annual St. Thomas Variety Show will be held January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Start getting your acts together now! A rehearsal schedule and parent permission form has been sent home. If you have any questions, please call Mike Trenshaw at 455-0540.

## ATTACHMENTS



- Vocations Week Flyer
- Catholic Schools Week Flyer
- Special Guest For Lunch Order Form
- Auction Ticket Order Form
- Auction—3 Simple Ways to Help

# SAINT THOMAS AUCTION 2009

## Classroom Contribution Volunteers for our Auction

Below is the current list of Auction Classroom Contribution Volunteers. The deadline for all items is Friday, January 30, 2009. If you are able to help, please call the chairperson for your child's class.

P3	Tara Simonait
P4AM	Maggie Kaspura
P4PM	Amy Jaracz
KAM	Tara Simonait
KPM	Marie Strickland
ALL 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jennifer Dalrymple
ALL 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ellen Mikolay
3M	Melissa Skinner
3V	Amy Sebestyen
ALL 4 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Nicholson/ Julie Line-Newman
ALL 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Furtwangler
6	***OPEN***
7	Patti Mirandette
8	Paula Gleason-Zeeff/ Tracy Bandlow

As you can see, we still need one more class covered. Please give me a call if you can chair the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Auction this year is going to be on February 14, 2009. I hope you will come to bid on these items. This is a great way to get some fun memories of your child and their classmates.

If you have any questions please call me at 452-8314.

~ Tracy Bandlow

## Important Change to the Calendar



Unfortunately Father John Meyer is unable to be our guest speaker on Friday, January 30, 2009. Therefore the Wine and Cheese Chastity Presentation at 7:00 p.m. scheduled for that day has been cancelled. However, we are pleased to announce that Sr. Jo Marie of the Consolata Missionaries will join the students in grades 1-8 for afternoon presentations about her vocation to the religious life.

## Auction Raffle Tickets

Please continue to sell your raffle tickets for the Auction. Return all ticket stubs and money to the school office. If you are unable to sell your tickets, please return them to school by February 12th. If you need additional tickets, please call Amy Bocian at 559-8803. Thank you!



## Thank You!

There has been a new addition of school spirit within the walls of St. Thomas, actually it is on the walls! A belated Thank You to Tom Jordan, father of Charlie (5P). Tom spent a weekend balancing on scaffolding to complete two paintings on the stairway walls leading up to the second floor. We are grateful for the donation of time, talent and paint! A thank you also to Glenn Domagalski, father of Jack (2B) who transported the scaffolding for the project.



## 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

## Diocese of Grand Rapids New Catholic Elementary School Survey

A survey is being mailed on January 16, 2009 to parish families with children ages 5 and younger and to Catholic school families. The purpose of the survey is to determine potential interest in a new Catholic elementary school to be located in the Ada/eastern Kent County area. Your response will help Bishop Hurley and diocesan leaders make important decisions about the proposed school. Your individual responses will be completely confidential.

Meitler Consultants of Milwaukee, Wisconsin has been contracted to conduct the survey. When you receive the survey, please complete and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided as soon as possible, but no later than January 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support and participation.

### Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

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

St. Pius X (Grandville)  
3937 Wilson Ave SW  
Monday, January 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Consolation (Rockford)  
4865 Eleven Mile Rd  
Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 2:00pm  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Cathedral Square (Grand Rapids)  
360 Division S  
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

St. Jude (Grand Rapids)  
1120 Four Mile Rd NE  
Wednesday, May 12, 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](http://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

## Community Opportunities

### CLC Network Annual Auction

The CLC Network annual auction will be held on Saturday, January 31 at the Calvin Christian Middle School, 3740 Ivanrest, Grandville. Doors open at 5:00 with dinner items available. Live auction by Mediema Auctioneers starts at 6:00. Show your support of families with special needs children who receive services in our local Christian schools through the CLC Network (Christian Learning Center). To donate items or to volunteer with auction solicitation calls, set-up or clean-up, call the CLC Development office at 245-8388. Thanks, and hope to see you at this exciting, fun event!

### Catholic Central Cheerleading Mini-Camp

The CC Cheerleading Mini-Camp will be held Tuesday, June 9 through Thursday, June 11 from 8:30-11:30am. Camp is open to preschool -8<sup>th</sup> grade and will be held at the Catholic Central Gym. Cost: \$50.00 Registration deadline is June 1st. If you have any questions, please call (616)534-2108 or email [cc.cheer@hotmail.com](mailto:cc.cheer@hotmail.com).

### Camp Geneva

Geneva Camp and Retreat Center is taking applications for the 2009 summer camp season. The faith based camp provides a week long opportunity to help students focus on their relationship with God throughout every day. Brochures are available in the Welcome and Information area of the school.

### Aquinas College Winter Reading Clinics

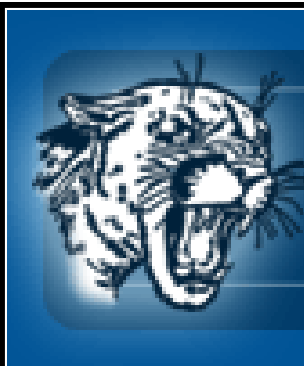
Aquinas College Elementary and Secondary Reading Clinics Spring 2009 Registration will be offering three opportunities for tutoring for students (Grs.1-5) who need additional assistance in reading and writing skills. Aquinas College tutors consist of teacher candidates (elementary and secondary – various 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. Early Registration Night has been changed to Tuesday, January 20, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. The original night, December 15 came with a terrible snowstorm and many parents could not make it to campus. For more information call Erin Melcher at 616-632-2433 or [mulhaeri@aquinas.edu](mailto:mulhaeri@aquinas.edu).

# Spanish Phrase of the Week—La Frase Espanola de la Semana

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.

Spanish Phrase of The Week of January 19-23: Yo tengo \_\_\_\_\_ anos.  
English translation: I'm \_\_\_\_ years old.

Spanish Phrase of the Week of January 26-30: ¿Que dia es hoy?  
English translation: What day is today?



## JUNIOR COUGAR

Get-In-Free  
Athletic Schedule:

### Just Show Your Junior Cougar ID Card

#### Girl's Basketball at Catholic Central High School Gym:

Tues., Jan. 13 vs. Hastings 7:15 PM

Tues., Feb. 10 vs. Thornapple Kellogg 7:15 PM

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

#### Boy's Basketball at Catholic Central High School Gym:

Sat., Jan. 17 vs. Byron Center 7:15 PM

Tues., Feb. 17 vs. Thornapple Kellogg 7:15 PM

#### Boy's Swimming & Diving at the Downtown Y.M.C.A.:

Thurs., Jan. 15 vs. Forest Hills 6:30 PM

Thurs., Feb. 5 vs. Wayland 6:30 PM

#### Wrestling at Catholic Central High School Gymnasium:

Wed., Jan. 21 vs. Hastings 7:00 PM

#### Hockey at Griff's Icehouse at Belknap Park:

Fri., Jan. 16 vs. Gaylord 8:00 PM

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



## URGENTLY NEEDED: Your Time and Talent!!!

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is in **DESPARATE NEED** of a school banner. Each year at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Diocesan Songfest there is a parade/display of school banners. We have been using the school flag, and dimensions are much larger than what we are supposed to have. The banner needs to be 3 feet by 3 feet, have our school name, some simple symbols, and be folded over at the top in order to put a rod through it to hang it up. If you have the time, and are interested in making a banner, it would be greatly appreciated. Please give Mrs. Bethann Petkus a call and she can answer any additional questions. Thanks much!!!

## A Word of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who is keeping our Paper Gator bin filled. We received a check for \$173.16. Thank you to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders who empty the school and rectory bins daily.

## Spelling Bee Winners



Congratulations to the winners of the Saint Thomas the Apostle Spelling Bee which was held on Monday, January 12. The winner is Sara DenBraber. The runner-up is Gabe Yondo. They will represent our school at the Regional Spelling Bee on February 24, 2009. Thank you to all who participated.

~ Amy Z

Dear St. Thomas Family,

On behalf of my entire extended family in Wisconsin/Illinois, I would like to thank ALL of you for your prayers, your love, your support, your meals, your beautiful flowers, plants, and all the hundreds of cards and emails that have flooded our home and hearts. If you haven't had a chance to see my Mom's obituary yet, you can find it at [www.daleymurphywisch.com](http://www.daleymurphywisch.com) Click on her name, Connie Hounsell, and you will see where I get my looks and energy!

Our grief and sadness is not unique in the world and unbelievably, seeing the violence of her death, the senseless nature of someone killing a widowed woman in her rural country home, makes my faith even stronger and perhaps will for you too. In the face of such a tragedy, one that we can't even wrap our minds around, we tend to focus on the unknown: Why my Mom? Who would do such a thing? Did she suffer? Why our family, Lord?? The reality is there is so much we don't know and may never know BUT the good news is there is so much more that we DO KNOW!!!

We DO KNOW that God is GOOD! We DO KNOW that He tells us in His Living Word that we WILL have eternal life with Him if we believe in Him and journey through life WITH Him! We DO KNOW that my Mom was a passionate disciple of Christ. She saw Jesus in every single person she met and literally did not know a stranger. We DO KNOW that our Lord and Savior, Heavenly King, and Prince of Peace took her home to Him as soon as He planned that night. We DO KNOW that any suffering she may have felt here on earth was quickly erased when she entered His arms on the wings of her angel, Mellie, to have eternal life with all those who have entered His Kingdom before her. We DO KNOW that she is safe, at peace and whole with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We DO KNOW that Satan is alive and well in the world and we MUST continue to pray for the person or persons who had so much hate in the heart to inflict this on an innocent loving woman. They represent so many people in the world who have been smothered in the darkness of Satan and think there is no Light. My prayer is that somehow, somewhere, someday, the Light of Christ will shine on their heart so that they may receive divine forgiveness and have glorious eternal life with Jesus just like my Mom is having right now!!!

Finally, we DO KNOW that God continues to bless our family through all of you and those back home lifting up my seven siblings and their families and my Mom's sisters and brother in prayer. He brought us Mom's 18<sup>th</sup> grandchild two months premature. She was born perfect and was my Mom's pure and utter joy. Just as God sent His Son to us as a perfect tiny baby, God once again reminded all of us that we are all Children of God and that through Him, we will never grow old. His Christmas gift to us this year was not what we expected, but yet one that we all pray for....Eternal life with our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is no better gift.

With deep gratitude and love of Jesus, our Lord and Savior,

Kelly, Tom, Ian, Zachary, Jacob and Mary Clare Olive

## Important Bus Information



Bus Riders: If the school district in which you reside closes due to weather, the bus will not pick up or drop off your student. If the school district has a two-hour

delay, please watch the WOTV-Channel 8 for updates to insure the school district resumes classes for that day. If you have questions, please call the Transportation office at 246-6470 or Sue Ysasi at 458-4228 x300.

## St. Isidore Pancake Breakfast

St. Isidore Parish is having it's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast, January 25, 2009, 7:30am-1:00pm in the Parish

Center, 625 Spring St N.E. Menu includes buttermilk and homemade potato pancakes, link sausages, scrambled eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee. Adults (13-61) \$5.50, Seniors, 62 & up \$5.00, Children (5-12) \$3.00, Children 4 & under, Free.



# Encountering the Living God Through You

FRONT ROW: James Stormzand, Alex Mervenne, Luke Ens,  
Camren Stott, Aubrey Serba  
BACK ROW: Vincent Becherer, Doug Zeeff, Sara Den Braber,  
Brooke Knapp

FRONT ROW: Keegan Greene, Kate Hazelton,  
Elena VanDokkumburg, Clare Lignell  
BACK ROW: Jarred Baxter, Finn Perdue, Sam Williams,  
Ben Drees, Hannah Redmond



FRONT ROW: Grace Pinter, Ethan VanDyke, Isaac VanBragt,  
Henry Dykema  
MIDDLE ROW: Mary Claire Mikolay, Madelyn Yuncker,  
Anna Simonait, Sara Vrugink  
BACK ROW: Lydia Dykema, Isaac Liang, Calvin Dent,  
Ian Richards, Ryan Mangan

## Thanks for the Cookies!

Thank you to the parents who made the wonderful cookies and treats for the teachers and staff. The trays looked and smelled great. Also thank you to those moms who helped assemble the trays. I always appreciate the help and company. Thank you! ~ Jennifer Dalrymple

Home and School would like to also thank Lisa Wolf and Jennifer Dalrymple for organizing this event.