



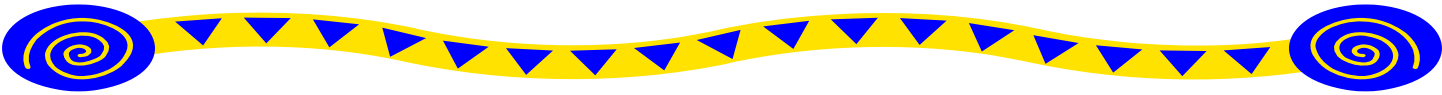
# Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic School

“School of Distinction”

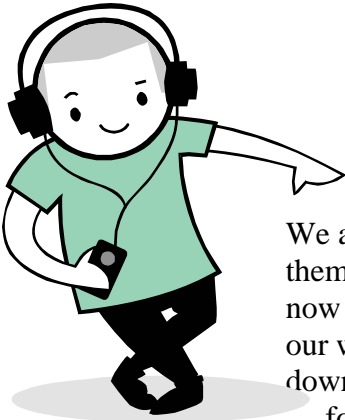
Dynamic Education  
Centered in Christ

## THE PEACEMAKER... *PIECES*

Vol. 14 Issue 16 March 25, 2009



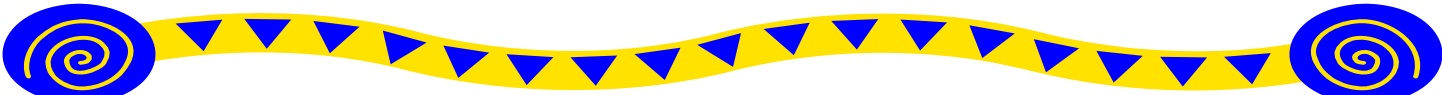
### Saint Thomas School Theme Song Now Available for FREE Download



We are pleased to announce that our 2008-09 school theme song that our students professionally recorded is now available as a **free download** from the homepage of our website at: [www.stthomasgr.org](http://www.stthomasgr.org). You may also download last year’s song and our special school prayers for this year and last. Download them to your home computers, IPODs, MP3 players, cell phones....and enjoy them as our gift to you!



- Track 1 - You are the Life Inside Me (Current School Theme Song)
- Track 2 - Encounter the Living God (Current School Prayer)
- Track 3 - Holy Spirit, Come
- Track 4 - Come Holy Spirit Prayer



### Spring Skating Party TONIGHT



**When:** TONIGHT, Wednesday, March 25th

**Who:** St Thomas the Apostle students and their families

**Where:** Woodland Skating Center  
(behind the 28<sup>th</sup> street Aldi’s; west of Breton)  
2100 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Rapids, 49508

**Time:** 6:00-8:00 pm

**Cost:** \$2.00 per person (includes roller skates)

**Sponsored by:** St Thomas Home and School Association

Skaters may use their own skates/ roller blades, but they must meet rink approval. Concession stand available.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Turowski (Blaszak) @ 430-8166. See you there!

### CHA-CHING CHALLENGE for CHARITY

This annual event is taking place this week and the class totals will be counted up Friday (3/27) afternoon. The Charity of Choice this year is *St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital*. Please send your coins from the couch cushions, the car floor mats or the change jar! Thank you!

~ St. Thomas the Apostle Student Council



### ATTACHMENTS

- April Hot Lunch
- Camp Sancta Maria Flyer
- Red Envelope for Life Flyer
- WaZoBia Flyer

## Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions

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

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

All Saints Academy (Grand Rapids)  
2233 Diamond Ave., NE  
Wednesday, April 29, 2009 @ 6:00 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](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

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

"Let the Music Lift You Up!"

concert will be held at  
St. Thomas Church, 7 p.m.,  
April 24th. This event is for the benefit of our school  
"band experience" program.

Donations of used instruments or cash for the maintenance of those instruments will be accepted.

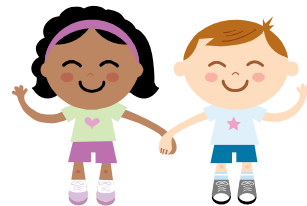
Scott Bell, Bob Haggard, Greg and Kathy Proulx, and Brian Augustyn will be performing.

Come join us for an evening of prayer through music.



## THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge the following people who helped make the Kindergarten/Preschool



Roundup a success. Thank you Lynne Benzer, Karen Nicholson, Heather Koole, Lisa Zeimke and the Strickland family for the delicious baked goods. Thank you Andrea Hess, Maggie Kaspura, Joni Poggi, Sue Heishetter, Nicole Poggi, Leah Vrugink and Elizabeth Tietema for working the Nursery so that parents could gain information about our program. We appreciate everyone's time and energy that helped make our day special!

~ *The Saint Thomas Early Childhood Faculty*

## Needed:

Please save Altoid tins for an upcoming project. Send any empty tins to school for Mrs. Furtwangler. Thank you and God Bless!

~ *Suzi Furtwangler*

## 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.

March 23-27 ¡Hasta luego! (See you later!)

March 30-April 3 Habla despacio, por favor.  
(Speak slowly, please.)

April 14-17 ¿Puedo tomar agua?  
(May I get a drink of water?)

## March Menu Change

The B & C lunches will be changed due to the Lenten Season.

Friday, March 27 - The B lunch will be Cheese Pizza and the C lunch will be Cream of Potato Soup



## The Church Speaks

~ *All men of whatever race, condition or age, in virtue of their dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to education.*

*GRAVISSIMUM EDUCATION*  
(Declaration on Christian Education)  
1965 – Vatican II

## Market Day

Mrs. Petkus' and Mrs. Pieri's 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on an economic unit. This unit will culminate on Market Day, Wednesday, April 15 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. and again from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center Community Room. Students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to bring in some change (money) on that day to support the students. Parents and younger siblings are also welcome! We hope to see you on April 15<sup>th</sup> (The first Wednesday after Spring Break.)

~ Mrs. Petkus & Mrs. Pieri

## Lost & Found

Now that winter may be past us (we hope), please take a minute to check the Lost and Found shelves near the school entrance for snow pants, hats, gloves etc.. All unclaimed items will be donated to Christian Service during Spring Break. Thank you.



## Save the Date

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Annual Spring Dance

Attention 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders—get ready to boogie the night away at the Annual Spring Dance. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The dance will be held in the gym from 7:00 until 9:30 PM. This should be a fun night of dance with the DJ music provided by the Bigg Dogg productions. Look for more details to follow in a flyer after Spring Break.



## After School Pick Up

Dismissal each day for PM Kindergarten and Grades 1-8 is 3:15 p.m. Our teachers rotate supervising the church lot and gate lot ensuring that students are safely placed in their cars. Teachers wait for at least fifteen minutes and bring those students whose ride has not arrived back into school. These students are getting picked up anywhere between 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. Some days the teachers have meetings to attend, students to tutor or parent phone calls to make. Please be considerate of the teachers' and secretary's time by picking up your students in a timely manner. Thank you for your help.



## Keep Feeding Our Paper Gator

Thank you to everyone who has brought their papers, newspapers, magazines, etc. to our Paper Gator. We received a check for \$89.33. Please keep your donations of recyclable paper coming. The Paper Gator is located next to the gym! Thanks!



## GRASP Summer Program

The Grand Rapids Public Schools is again making available their Academic Summer Program entitled GRASP. Attached is an enrollment form. If your child receives Title I services, you are eligible for a discounted rate but must call the school office for a different form. All forms are due in the school office by May 1, 2009. If you would like more information about the program, please call Judy or Marilyn at 819-2548.

~ Sue Ysasi



## ATTENTION ALL PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

In coordinating the school library the past three years, I have become more aware of students needing help with reading and would like to be able to offer these students extra practice. I am coordinating, with St. Thomas Faculty and Staff, volunteers to help read one-on-one with students. Our goal is for students to read with a volunteer at least a half hour once a week. Times available are 8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., or at lunch time 12:30 p.m. Could you

spare one half hour a week? Do you know someone who wants to volunteer, but does not want a big time commitment? Reading is fun! The more children read, the more they will want to read, which affects all aspects of their education. If you are interested in having a positive impact on the education of a child, please call Liz Aschwege at 365-7689.



## Earn Money for the School While You Shop

D&W and Family Fare schedule specific weeks throughout the school year, where families can shop, give our school code when checking out and St. Thomas will receive 2-1/2% back based on your total purchase.



**Our School Code is: 94715.**

The scheduled weeks for both stores are printed below:

### **D&W School Days**

April 12-18, 2009

### **Family Fare Cash for Class**

April 19-25, 2009

## GRPS City-Wide Art Show

Congratulations to the following students whose artwork was displayed at the Grand Rapids Public Schools City Wide Art Show: Sarah Baxter, Luke Braselton, Abby Choffel,

Kathryn Clemens, Sara Den Braber, Christian Dieleman, Molly Fitzgerald, Jeff Gorski, Elizabeth Jermstad, Aubrey LaVoie, Jim O'Neil, Margaret O'Neil, Katie Theriault, Jessica Trenshaw, Leah Vruggink and Julia Walsh.



## 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 30th, 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



## JAPANESE PEN PAL OPPORTUNITY

Erik May, a former resident of St. Thomas Rectory and Aquinas student, is teaching English in Japan. He privately tutors two students (brother and sister). Seiya is a boy age 10, and Yuka is a girl age 8. Both of them lived in Maryland for about two years while their father did research at the National Institute of Health. Seiya is fluent in English while Yuka understands very well but finds it difficult to speak. Erik is seeking pen pals for Seiya and Yuka so that they can share some of their experiences of their life in English. They both read a lot of books and cartoons and watch TV in English. The experiences from what they read and watch on TV cannot be shared with their Japanese friends and places them in a sort of a bubble. It would be great if they had someone their own age to communicate these experiences and also their cultural experiences in English. In addition, their mother would also like to pen pal with another mother of young children and keep her English fluent. She is an ophthalmologist. If you are interested, please call the school office at 458-4228.



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**ATTENTION: Saint Thomas Golfers**  
**Mark your calendars...Now!**

**2009 Saint Thomas Golf Outing**  
**Friday Afternoon- May 15, 2009**  
**Gleneagle Golf Club**



## Saint Thomas Hornet Athletics



### Girl's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Tournament

. Thomas hosted a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball Tournament that included teams from All Saints Academy, St. Anthony, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Assumption, Holy Trinity, St. Stephen, and St. John Vianney. The proceeds from this tournament go directly to the St. Thomas Boosters to further fund our athletic programs.

A big thanks to the many individuals who helped organize and run the tournament beautifully: Tracy Bandlow, Jeanine Serba, Brian Mulder, Anthony Soule, Anna Trenshaw, Logan Bandlow, Tara Bandlow, J.J. Benzer, Justin Kelly, Nick Vrugink, Aleks Serba, Anna Faber, Helen Vrugink, Matt Tietema, Elizabeth Tietema, Leah Vrugink, Elizabeth Faber, Rebecca Faber, and the many other volunteers who helped work the concession

### Spring Sports Signups

Spring Sports Signups were posted in classrooms. The signups were for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders for Boy's Baseball, Girl's Softball, Boy's Track, Girl's Track, & Girl's Soccer. Practices could have begun as soon as 3/9/2009. If anyone missed the signup sheets and wants to play a spring sport, please contact Louis Bandlow @ 452-8314.

### WANTED - Spring Sports Coaches

We are in need of volunteer coaches for the following sports teams:

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Track** – Please contact Amy Drees @ 855-6592 or Louis Bandlow @ 452-8314.

### Winter Sports Coaches

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

5<sup>th</sup> Girl's Basketball **Joe LaVoie**  
6<sup>th</sup> Girl's Basketball **Dan Koorndyk**  
7<sup>th</sup> Girl's Basketball **Don Serba**  
8<sup>th</sup> Girl's Basketball **Louis Bandlow**

5<sup>th</sup> Boy's Basketball **Brett Lambert**  
6<sup>th</sup> Boy's Basketball **Doug Murphy**  
7<sup>th</sup> Boy's Basketball **Matt Ensing**  
8<sup>th</sup> Boy's Basketball **Michael Corcoran**



## Sport Physicals & Permission Slips for School Year 2008/2009 IMPORTANT REMINDER

**A new Physical & Permission Slip are required EACH school year.**

Students planning on participating in the St. Thomas Athletic program during the school year are required to have a ST. THOMAS SPORTS PERMISSION SLIP and a SPORTS PHYSICAL (showing a doctor's clearance) dated after 4/15/08. **These forms must be on file with St. Thomas School prior to participation in any practice or game.**

These forms will be valid for the entire 2008-2009 school year, so please fill out the Permission Slip for all sports that you are allowing your son/daughter to participate in.

~ Louis Bandlow, Athletic Director

### Calvin College Chem Camps '09

Calvin College will be offering chemistry camps this summer for student who have completed 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The camps offer an introduction to chemical concepts through demonstrations and hands-on experiments. The one week camps will be held during the weeks of June 15 and June 22. The cost is \$125 and includes materials and a camp T-shirt. For further information, please visit [www.calvin.edu/chemistry/camps](http://www.calvin.edu/chemistry/camps) or call 616-526-8801.

### Camp Sancta Maria

Camp Sancta Maria is a Catholic summer camp located in Gaylord Michigan. The camp offers 1 and 2 week camps for boys and 1 week camps for girls. Activities include a daily mass (children's liturgy), horseback riding, swimming, a high ropes course, a climbing tower, archery, crafts, sports, a trip to Mackinac Island and more. For more information, please see attached flyer or for a brochure or a DVD, please call (248) 822-8199 or visit [www.campsanctamaria.org](http://www.campsanctamaria.org).



## Youth Ministry News



Summertime fun on the ROCK for those who will be entering & exiting high school.  
(our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders & 12 graders)

### June 25-June 28

High School **High-Adventure Retreat** for incoming freshman through graduating seniors...backwoods camping & hiking, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. \$175.00. Some scholarship money is available. [www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro)  
(32 spots available)

### July 10-12

Steubenville High School Youth Conference, for incoming freshman through graduating seniors, at The Franciscan University/Steubenville, Ohio. \$250.00. Some scholarship money is available.  
[www.franciscanyouth.com](http://www.franciscanyouth.com) (26 spots available)

### August 7-9

High School **SHINE 2009**, for incoming freshman through graduating seniors. Approx. \$100.00. Muskegon Catholic Central, Guest Speaker: Chris Padgett. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) -"High School Shine 08". (unlimited spots available)

\*Please note that registration forms and deposits are due the end of March and balances are due the end of April.

\*\* All registration forms can be found on the Youth Information Bulletin Boards in the Lower Level of Church and in the Youth Room. (except for High School SHINE; that will be forthcoming)

## Direct Service Opportunities for 6-12<sup>th</sup> graders, thus far:

### End of April/First of May

Dominican Center/Marywood. Weeding and Gardening. Dates & Times TBA.

### Friday, May 29

The Gleaners Food Truck will be at Congress School. Volunteers are needed to take donations off from the truck and give to those in need who are waiting in line. The timeframe will be from 5-6:30 pm. June & July dates will be announced later.

\* Please call Patti in the Youth Office (459-4662 x209) or email [preynolds@stthomasgr.org](mailto:preynolds@stthomasgr.org) to volunteer.



# Encountering the Living God Through You

## Pictures Removed for Internet Safety Purposes

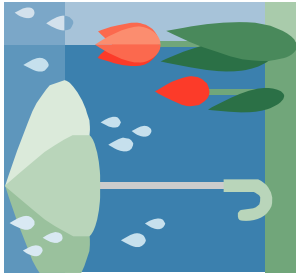
FRONT ROW: Abby Tietema, Margaret O'Neil, Addison LaVoie  
MIDDLE ROW: Ryan Jones, Patrick Fitzgerald, Jacob Augustyn,  
Taylor Rodgers  
BACK ROW: Nick Vrugink, Abby Den Braber, Kate O'Neil,  
Ana Corcoran, Stephanie Kaminski

FRONT ROW: Aubrey Tomac, Tomas Kovarik, Keegan Greene  
MIDDLE ROW: Luke Braselton, Kendal Duimstra, Calvin Dent,  
Finn Perdue  
BACK ROW: Sarah Baxter, Isaac Liang, Regina Faber,  
Bella Gumbko

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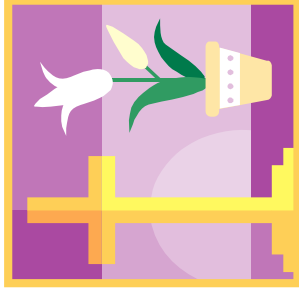
FRONT ROW: Madeline Sebestyen, Carolyn Lignell, Maggie Rott  
Madelyn Yuncker  
BACK ROW: Ian Richards, Brennen Rodgers, John Libriani

FRONT ROW: Emma Den Braber, Cole VanDyke, Caleb Alfaro  
MIDDLE ROW: Nuala Richards, Grace Jermstad, Sydney Rodgers  
BACK ROW: Kristen Salinas, Jeremy Wolf, Sara Vrugink,  
Ethan VanDyke



# Saint Thomas the Apostle School

## April 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				1:30 pm 7T Recon. 2:00 pm Piggy Opera K-PM	9:55 am Mass 9:30 am Piggy Opera KAM 1st Friday Holy Hour 1:30-2 pm 5th Gr. Rosary @ Holland Home 1:30 pm 1/D Recon.	
5	6 Holy Week	7	8	9 Holy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>←</span> <span>SPRING BREAK - April 4th-13th</span> <span>→</span> </div>						
12	13 Easter Monday NO SCHOOL	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Easter</b>		School Resumes	Gr. 4 Market Day 9:30-11:00 a.m. & 12:30-2:00 p.m. 7 pm Ed. Com. Mtg.		9:55 am Mass	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
GRPS Arts Jam Concert & Auction 6-8 pm	Jean Pass Day		'Pieces Out' 11:30 am Student Council Officer Mtg.	Ransom St. Band 6-7:30 pm MDI Mtg.	9:55 am Mass 1st Eucharist Retreat 7th & 8th Gr. Dance 7-9:30 pm in gym 7 pm Music Concert	
26	27	28	29	30		
1st Communion Mass 3 pm	Non Uniform Day		11:30 am Student Council Meeting			