

St. Mary's Online Press



St. Mary's School
Pontiac, IL

Providing Excellence in Catholic Education
Since 1902



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May 20, 2010

OUR MISSION: TO KNOW. TO LOVE. TO SERVE.

Please note: This will be the last newsletter of the year. Look for a tentative events calendar to come home in your child's report card.



Star Students of the Week: Elena Carranza, Victor Johns, and Neil Lambert. These students were recognized for helpfulness, responsibility, and courtesy. Thank you!

Quick Draw Winner – The latest raffle winners are Don and Carolyn Wayman, grandparents of SMS student Casey Crowley. They won \$50. The next and final drawing for the 2009-2010 Quick Draw will be on May 28th, and the prize is \$100. **Thank you to everyone who participated in this successful fundraiser this year. You helped update our computer lab with all new workstations! They are scheduled to be installed on May 31st and June 1st and will be ready for the students in the fall!**

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and anyone else who helped us out at Track & Field Day this year. I want you to know that the time you gave is truly appreciated. We quite simply cannot have this day without you! Thank you very much, you are very special! **Mrs. Verdun (Our thanks to Mrs. Lynne Verdun and Mrs. Kathy Fraher who organize this fun day for the students each year. It is a tradition that really impressed Dan Schmitt, the new principal at St. Paul's. Good job to all who helped!)**

Free Computers - Due to the generosity of many individuals and organizations, St. Mary's School will be installing a new computer lab next week. We will be removing some old systems from the classrooms and putting the present lab workstations into the rooms.



The PC's that we will remove from the building will be set up in the new foyer. They are approximately 7-8 years old. We cannot guarantee their performance, but anyone interested in having one

of these systems should come in and look at them. They are free to anyone interested.

Any PC's not claimed will be taken to be recycled before school has dismissed for the summer.

A Message from Mrs. Hoke: I would like to sincerely thank **ALL** the parents, teachers, staff, and especially the students who have helped make being Student Council advisor for 30 years such a memorable experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of building leadership skills in many students over the years. It has been a very rewarding adventure with too many memories to count and one that I will never forget. **THANK YOU! (Mrs. Hoke's dedication to our council over the years has made it one of the most outstanding councils in our region. We thank her for encouraging student leadership at SMS, and the success that her Student Council members go on to achieve as leaders in high school and beyond is a testament to her hard work.)**

A Simple Look at the School Budget – I am told that there was some concern at the TPO meeting about the use of TPO contributions not being designated for "wish list" items. First of all, whenever teachers need something for their classrooms, they may submit that request to the office. Their request would not be denied if there were funds available. **Using last year's figures, it cost \$837,544.06 to operate the school. Subtracting the tuition (\$240,075.35) and the transfer from the parish (\$314,200.00), both of which are used for payroll, there was \$283,268.71 left to be covered by book fees (\$35,216), TPO donations (fieldtrips \$1800, office expenses \$4800, end-of-year \$14,600 for a total of \$21,200), classroom and Student Council fundraisers, memorials, and donations.**



Most other schools make up some of that difference by having much higher tuition than we have at St. Mary's—as much as \$3900 per Catholic child, but we have tried to keep tuition and book fees low so that every child can have a Catholic education. It is not easy to come up with the funding to provide quality education in a Catholic school, but it is worth every gray hair on a

principal's head (covered by coloring and a good hairdresser) to keep trying!

Correction – In the recent Pontiac Leader, the article about our Fine Arts Night unduly attributed credit to Mrs. Wilson for the creation of the 4 “Art Deer.” The deer, which are still in the lobby, were **actually conceived of and created by the whole 8th grade class along with Mrs. Wilson.** This class has created different deer every year over the past four years, and to this date the artistic herd numbers 9. With the 8th graders’ graduation this year, the future of the herd is presently unknown! Great job 8th grade and Mrs. Wilson!



4-H Fair - The fair will be July 19-22. We are in need of volunteers to help us organize this event. All SMS parents are encouraged to get involved. This is a good opportunity for some younger parents to help. There are older volunteers available to help you learn the ropes. **Please help us continue this important fundraiser that benefits both the TPO and the Booster Club.** Call **Christine Stark** at (815)832-4014 or **Melissa Pina** at (815)844-4082 if you are willing to help us this summer. **Kristi Wright wants to remind you to have your 4-H concession slips turned into the office before school is out for the year. This will save the committee the time of trying to contact people to work.**

Vacation Bible School – “BAOBAB BLAST: God’s Great Get Together!” St. Mary’s Vacation Bible Week will take place June 21-25 from 8:30 to 11:30 each day. The fee is \$12.00 per participant. Ages 4 through this year’s 5th graders are welcome. Registration forms for participants and for volunteers (6-8th graders, high school and college students, and adults) can be obtained from the school office.

Up-Coming Fieldtrips:

- **Grade 5:** Thurs., May 20 to Challenger Learning Center 7:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Sponsors Needed – We need 2 new sponsors for the Scholastic Bowl team for next year. If you are interested, please let Mrs. Warfield know. This is an extra-curricular activity that allows our students to show another side of themselves besides their athletic talent, and we want it to remain a strong part of our program. Please help if you can.

Good Things Are Happening at SMS!

- **Gr. 6** students made Bible story scripts in a cross-curricular project for literature and religion.
- 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-Blast Off! Our **5th grade** astronauts are ready to blast off on Thursday of this week, and they are hoping their

mission is a success. They are going to “Rendezvous with a Comet” at the Challenger Learning Center and will have a press conference with **4th grade** on Friday afternoon to inform them of what lies ahead next year. We are hoping that 5th grade can go again with a new crew next year. The class would like to thank everyone for their support, especially the anonymous angel(s) who paid for the trip this year.



- The **Student Council** dance held on Fri., Apr. 30 was a huge success. **Meghan Sanford**, our DJ, provided us with great music, and a good time was had by all the students. We collected a big plastic tub of canned goods that were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry. A special thanks to **Katie Wille, Danielle Gill, and Shannon Dohleman** for helping to chaperone the dance. Your help was greatly appreciated. To end the year, the Council enjoyed a pizza lunch from Pizza Hut on Mon., May 17.
- **Grades 3 and 7** will have a fun afternoon on Mon., May 24 as the winners of the “Saints 500” Program that was run during some P.E. classes throughout the school year. On the 24th, these classes will have a casual day and will spend the lunch hour and the afternoon at Lyons Park with **Mrs. Verdun**. They are to bring a sack lunch and one or two drinks.
- A HUGE thank-you goes out to the **5th grade** for helping **Mrs. Wilson** take down all of the wonderful art from the walls of the MPR. What took many days and nights to put up came down in a class period of hard work! You get a “whole class” Star Award!!!
- The **fourth grade** has been super busy these past few weeks. They have been visiting eighteen states via their annual state reports. Each member of the class researched a state for an oral report, and they also made maps, posters, drawings, interviews and showed souvenirs. One other project involved making food from a state recipe, so they have all gained weight sampling the various delicious treats. (Thanks, moms and dads!) Everyone did a great job on this fun project.

The students have also kept butterfly journals to document the progress of their Painted Lady larva. These were brought to Gr. 4 by Nancy Flessner of the University of Illinois Extension Office as part of their fourth grade curriculum. The class named the larva,



watched each spin its chrysalis, and then placed them in their butterfly pavilion until they emerged as beautiful butterflies. On Monday they released them into the wild and had a celebration. Isn't nature amazing?

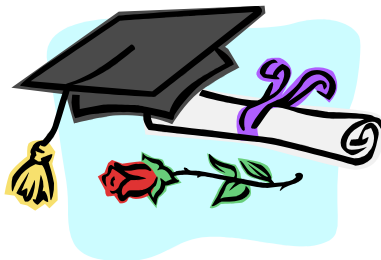
This week finds **Gr. 4** busy authoring and illustrating books about their kindergarten buddies. The class is publishing twenty-three books custom written for their friends. They will share them with a party next week and say farewell to each other until next year. The buddy program has been a real success! ☺

Get More Information in the Office:

- 12th Annual I-55/I-57 Saunemin Summer Basketball Camp for incoming 4th-8th graders June 28-July 2.
- Pontiac Pacers Summer Swim Team & Swim Clinic Registration Sat., Apr. 10 – 9:00-11:00 a.m. and Tues., Apr. 13 – 5:00-7:00 p.m. @ Rec Center in pool lobby. Info. sheet available in school office.
- U of I Baseball Camps in June & July
- U of I Basketball Camps in June.
- Bradley Univ. girls basketball camps.

Next Week's Preview:

- Thurs., 5/20 ***GR. 8 GRADUATION MASS**
7:00 P.M. (8th grade is dismissed at 11:30 a.m.)
 *Gr. 5 Fieldtrip to Challenger Learning Center 7:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Fri., 5/21 ***Mass – Kindergarten Graduation**
9:30; conf. (7)
 *2:00 – Grade 5 press conference with Gr. 4
 *TR-IESA State Tourn. @ East Peoria
- Sat., 5/22 *TR-IESA State Tourn. @ East Peoria
- Sun., 5/23 ***GRADUATES' MASS & BRUNCH**
10:30 Mass followed by brunch in the Parish Hall (Reservations needed.)



- Mon., 5/24 *Gr. 3 & 7 to Lyons Park as winners of the "Saints 500" in P.E. class 11:25 a.m. – returning before dismissal
- Wed., 5/26 ***No buses; no hot lunch.**
- Thurs., 5/26 ***Casual Day**
***No buses; no hot lunch**
 *Last full day of attendance
 *Kindergarten to Mackinson Farm
- Fri., 5/27 ***TEACHERS' INSTITUTE**
NO SCHOOL
- Tues., 6/1 ***REPORT CARD DAY**
8:00-9:45 a.m.
Mass (Fac.) – 8:30
- Sun., 6/5 ***Diocesan Mass for First Communicants @ Cathedral**
4:00 p.m.
- Mon., 6/7 *North Central Accreditation Team to Peoria mtg. – Corrigan, Wille, Duffy, Voigts, Warfield 10:00-2:30

- Fri.-Sat., 6/11-12 * Diocesan Summer Institute at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hoke, Smith, Verdun, Wille, Lawrence, Duffy, Corrigan



*From our whole staff at St. Mary's,
 we wish our families happy summer days!*

