

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

January 23, 2009

MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christian community of believers at St. Matthew School in Oak Creek, we declare our mission to be one in which we promote academic excellence by providing a high quality, Catholic education. Through value-centered education and spiritual nourishment we strive to meet the needs of our families. Our mission is to build a Catholic community where we encourage others to proclaim the Gospel with compassion and hope.

A Note from the Principal

Dear Parents,

The second semester has begun! As usual, St. Matthew School is a-buzz with activity. On Thursday, the annual Spelling Bee took place. The winners move on to competition at the Oak Creek/Franklin district level. On Friday, the annual Geography Bee took place. Both competitions speak to the strong academic programs at St. Matthew School.

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week celebrations have become a tradition since its beginning in 1974. The various themes assigned over the years have pointed to the outstanding characteristics of education in the Catholic School system. However the 2009 theme, *Catholic Schools Celebrate Service*, is a departure from the usual as it calls for outreach and action in response to needs apparent in the local and global community. At St. Matthew School, we have chosen to "serve" the American Diabetes Association. Today, a member of the Wisconsin American Diabetes Association spoke with all of our students about diabetes and healthy eating. Next week, our student body will take part in a Penny War. The proceeds will be donated to the American Diabetes Association.

You will be receiving a calendar of Catholic Schools Week events in this week's family folder. Please join us at our prayer service on Tuesday and our liturgy on Friday. Open House tours of our school for prospective parents will take place after the 9:30 Mass on Sunday and the 9:15 Mass on Friday.

St. Matthew School is a vibrant educational institution that is blessed by the support and dedication of our parish, faculty and our students and families. Without this tremendous support and dedication, St. Matthew School could not live its mission: "to build a Catholic community where we encourage others to proclaim the Gospel with compassion and hope."

Mrs. Barber

IMPORTANT DATES:

1/24-1/30 – Catholic Schools Week

Sunday, 1/25 – Open House, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Monday, 1/26 – **NO SCHOOL**, Teacher in Service

Tuesday, 1/27 – Service Day; Out of Uniform-Dress as someone who works in a service oriented occupation.; Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/28 – Competition Day; Out of Uniform-team colors.; Relay Races, 9:00 a.m.; Jeopardy, 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, 1/29 – Spirit Day; Out of Uniform-Spirit Wear. High Interest Day, 8:45-11:15 a.m.; Wave Assembly, 2:00 p.m.

Friday, 1/30 – All School Liturgy by Grades 4K-2, 9:15 a.m.; Open House, 10:15-11:30 a.m.; Movie, 12:30 p.m.; Report Cards Sent Home; Middle School Dance, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

"PENNY WAR" FOR DIABETES – Next Tuesday through Friday (January 27-30) we are having a "Penny War". We will be divided by grades/classrooms. The pennies will be collected in canisters before school and during lunch in the cafeteria. The grade that collects the most pennies wins! The teacher will determine the prize that their classroom wins. Students can put silver pieces (i.e. quarters, dimes, nickels, silver dollars) in the opposing grade's collection canister to count against them. Here's an example for how this works: You are in 6th grade. You place 5 pennies in the 6th grade's canister to support your team. You place a dime in the 7th grade's canister to count against them. If your money is the only money in each canister, then the 6th grade has 5 points and the 7th grade has negative 10 points. 6th grade is in the lead by 15 points! Every penny counts!

REMEMBERING PEOPLE WITH DIABETES – We would like to remember anyone with diabetes. Please send the name to school. The names will be added to a "Wall of Honor".

MCDONALD'S MONEY IS COMING! – Information and orders forms will be in next week's family folder. This easy fundraiser runs from February 1st through June 30th. Profits are applied toward your fundraising obligations. Any questions, please call Michelle Luczak at 414-762-5426.

HIGH INTEREST DAY – We could still use general volunteers to assist with the activities and help students move from one session to the next on High Interest Day. If you are able to help on Thursday, January 29, from 8:30-11:15 a.m., please call the school office. Thanks!!!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – A schedule of activities are included in your family folder today. Feel free to attend any activities you would like.

INAUGURATION - Fiona Dolan, an 8th grader, had the opportunity to attend the inauguration of President Obama in Washington D.C. You can read about Fiona's trip to the inauguration at The Journal Times online.

TALENT SHOW – Attention all students who love to perform in front of an audience. The 2008-2009 Talent Show will be held in April. It's time to get your "act" together. Auditions will be held during the first week of February during the lunch hours. Here are some ideas of acts in the past: piano solo, poem reading, dance act, song solo, or joke telling. You may use only approved music with appropriate lyrics. No lip-syncing is permitted. Parental assistance is allowed for set up at audition and at the performance. You don't have to have your act totally polished for the audition; we just want to see what type of act you will be performing. Please sign up now!

FREE THROW CONTEST – The South Milwaukee Knights of Columbus will hold their free throw contest on Friday, February 6. It is for all boys and girls ages 10-14. Registration is at 6:30 p.m., contest begins at 7:00 p.m. District level for 1st place winners will begin at 8:00 p.m. It will be held at Divine Mercy Gym, 1800 16th Avenue, South Milwaukee.

MEMORY BOOKS – Order your Memory Book today. The books are \$12 each and a great remembrance of the 2008-2009 school years. The books are delivered to school at the end of the school year and are distributed at that time to only the students who ordered them. Orders are due in the school office by Friday, January 30. We do **not** order extra books, so if you want to order, please do so at this time. If you need another order form, stop by the school office.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Rehearsals will resume on Sunday, January 25, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass (10:30-11:15 a.m.) in church. The choir will be getting ready to sing at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 22. In addition to January 25, they rehearse February 1, 8 and 15. If your child is interested, please call Judy Wargin at the parish (762-4200 ext. 16).

600 MINUTE CLUB REMINDER (Grades 5K-6) - Please continue reading. Remember to return your reading log to your teacher by Monday, February 9, to earn your Six Flags ticket.

SERVERS:	January 24	5:00 p.m.:	Katie Sullivan	Cross:	Jacob Wolf
	January 25	7:30 a.m.:	Amanda Lee	Cross:	Hannah Tezak
		9:30 a.m.:	Shannon Dugan	Cross:	Erin Dugan

WE COLLECT - McDonald=s receipts, Campbell UPC codes, General Mills box tops, Kemps/Golden Guernsey/Morning Glory milk caps, cancelled postage stamps, Nestle water bottle labels and used ink cartridges. You can drop any of these separated items in the plastic drawer bin in the hallway outside of church. This is a simple way our school earns free items or cash from these companies.

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, January 25, after 9:30 a.m. Mass (10:30-1:00 p.m.)

Friday, January 30, after 9:15 a.m. All School Liturgy (10:15-11:30 a.m.)

Bring a neighbor, bring a friend.

Please share the good news about St. Matthew School.

"If you are not part of the cure, then you are part of the problem."

GIFT: GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER