

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

February 5, 2010

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.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents,

Catholic Schools Week was an exciting week! Our celebration began on the weekend with liturgy. Students, dressed in school uniforms, teachers, and school families were present at every liturgy. The Children's Choir at 9:30 mass was made up of St. Matthew School students and Lauryn Shadd. Those attending Mass received a personalized note. School families and Mrs. Madden helped with hospitality after the 9:30 Mass. After the liturgy, we had many families tour our school with members of the Board of Education. Our teachers were present for the Open House, as well. Everyone helped to make the weekend's events successful.

On Monday, we began the day with a Catholic Schools Week prayer service. Later, the school was filled with blue and gold fever as we celebrated Spirit Day with Mr. Duchniak leading the Pep Assembly during which each class performed a cheer. On Tuesday, Pajama Day, community readers visited each class. An eclectic group, our visitors included such leaders as Archbishop Listecky, Police Chief Bauer and Mayor Bolender. Wednesday, found the students, teachers and Father Pat attired in "wacky wear." During the day, students' throats were blessed by their teachers in honor of St. Blaise Day. The afternoon ended with an ice cream social.

The week's events concluded with an all school field trip to Discovery World on Thursday; Friday included Mass, Open House, Dollar Day Games and a picture presentation of the week.

St. Matthew School is a vibrant learning community that thrives with the support of our entire parish family. The Board of Education, parent volunteers, Mrs. Shadd and I have been involved with many marketing activities during the past month in order to get the good news of St. Matthew School out to the community. Bulletin inserts, newspaper ads, participation in a children's expo and sending postcards are just some of the ways we have sought to promote our school. Our most powerful ambassadors, of course, are you—St. Matthew School parents. Word-of-mouth is the strongest marketing tool. In the next few weeks, I will be sharing information on how to get involved in the "Refer-a-family" program. With everyone's continued support, St. Matthew's will continue to pass on our Catholic faith and values in a school staffed by skilled, caring teachers, and guided by dedicated board members and volunteers.

Thank you for supporting Catholic Education.

Mrs. Barber

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, 2/6 – "Bread" Sunday

Sunday, 2/7 – "Bread" Sunday

Monday, 2/8 – Student Council Lollipop Sale

Tuesday, 2/9 – Student Council Lollipop Sale

Wednesday, 2/10 – Student Council Lollipop Sale

Thursday, 2/11 – Student Council Bake Sale

Friday, 2/12 – 11:20 a.m. DISMISSAL; All School Liturgy by Grade 8, 9:15 a.m. followed by Honors Assembly; Conferences by Request, 1:00-3:20 p.m.; Holy Name Card Party Social, 6:00 p.m.-midnight

Saturday, 2/13 – Catholic Stewardship Appeal

Sunday, 2/14 – Catholic Stewardship Appeal

HONORS ASSEMBLY – The second quarter Honors Assembly will be held on Friday, February 12, following the All School Liturgy at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

SCHOLASTIC CHALLENGE – Congratulations to this year's Scholastic Challenge team. In their first match of the year they defeated St. Romans by the score of 23-12. This year's team is made up of 8th graders Michael Armanious, Drew Butzer and Nick Cheaney and 7th graders Amanda Lee, Frankie Margraff and Jacob Schroeder. They play their next match Thursday, February 4, against Divine Mercy.

LOST AND FOUND – Beginning next week the lost and found will be displayed outside the school office. Please take a few minutes to claim your lost items.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER RECOGNITION WEEK – Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has proclaimed February 15-19, 2010, School Bus Driver Recognition Week. Bus drivers play a valuable role in the lives of the children they transport to and from school. In honor of these dedicated and caring individuals we invite you to help make this week “extra special” for the folks responsible for transporting our most precious resource; our children. Don’t forget a friendly smile and heartfelt thank you from parents and children will help to make this week even more enjoyable for our drivers. Please encourage students to be on their best behavior at all times. Parents please help by reinforcing this message with your children.

COOKIE DOUGH SALE - St. Matt's 8th grade class is holding a cookie dough sale to fundraise for their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. Order forms are in today's family folder. Orders are due in the school office on Tuesday, February 16. Thank you for your support of this DELICIOUS fundraiser. Any questions please contact Toni Wermerskirchen at 414-761-3634.

SMPAA MEETING – The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, has been changed to Tuesday, February 16. Anyone whose child is in St. Matt’s athletics is invited to attend.

BASKETBALL PHOTOS – Hold the date! Basketball photos will be taken on February 28, in the Saints room beginning at 11:00 a.m.

LIVING OUR FAITH – The February 13 "*Catholic Knights presents Living Our Faith*" episode, hosted by newly installed Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI, spotlights vocations and the call each of us has to serve in the Church. Learn about our new archbishop and hear when he first felt called to his vocation. Deacon Dick Niggeman shares his experience of being homeless as a child and how it motivates his work in prison ministry. Seminarian Christopher Klusman, who is deaf, talks about how he “heard” his call to the priesthood and how he plans to not only minister to the deaf community but also to those who can hear. Watch "*Catholic Knights presents Living Our Faith*" Saturday, February 13, at noon, on WISN TV 12. The program also airs on Time Warner Cable’s Wisconsin On Demand, Channel 411. If you miss a show, every segment is available at www.livingourfaith.net.

McDONALD’S MONEY – St. Matt's Home and School is selling McDonalds gift certificates. For every \$1 purchased, McDonalds donates \$.30 to Home and School. What an easy fundraiser. All you have to do is eat at McDonalds! Information and order forms were in your family folder last week. Additional order forms can be found in the school office. Any questions, feel free to contact Kelly Koronkowski at 414-762-8815.

BULLDOG NEWS – The 5th grade girls basketball team remains undefeated and in first place after beating Blessed Sacrament 30-5. Way to go Bulldogs!

SOUTH MILWAUKEE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST - For All Boys and Girls ages 10 to 14. Friday, February 5, 2010. Divine Mercy Gym, 1800 16th Avenue, South Milwaukee. Registration at 6:30 p.m. Contest begins at 7:00 p.m. District Level for 1st Place at 8:00 p.m.

CARD PARTY – St. Matthew Parish, Co-sponsored by Catholic Family Life Insurance (9303 South Chicago Road, Oak Creek) will hold a Card Party on Friday, February 12, in the school cafeteria. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. There will be food, snacks, beer, raffles and door prizes. The cost is \$10 at the door. For further information, call Mike at 414-764-9196.

SIX HOUR READING CLUB (Grades 5K-6) – Keep on reading to earn your free Six Flags ticket. The deadline is approaching soon. Reading logs are due to your teacher by Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

SMPAA OPEN GYM WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL - Join us on Tuesday nights from 8:00-10:00 p.m. at the Parkway Apostolic gym (located at 10940 South Nicholson Road) for women's open gym volleyball sponsored by the St. Matthew Parish Athletic Association. This will run through March 30. No need to sign up, just come when you can. The cost is \$4 per night. Any questions, contact Stacy Sims at stacysims@wi.rr.com or 414-571-0565.

SERVERS –	February 6	5:00 p.m.:	Drew Butzer	Cross:	Bryce Schultz
	February 7	7:30 a.m.:	Frank Margraff	Cross:	Carly Sikora
		9:30 a.m.:	Kristin Fakler	Cross:	Jacob Faker

“What other people think of you is none of your business.”

Go Make a Difference