

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

January 15, 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,

Can you believe that we are half-way through the month of January and five days away from the end of the first semester? As I walk through the building daily, it is rewarding to observe all the progress our children are making, from K4 to Grade 8. My daily walks through the building really affirm that the teachers and students are all about doing God's work.

You will also be hearing and reading more about Catholic Schools as we get closer to Catholic Schools Week (CSW). CSW begins on January 31 and ends on February 4. This year's theme, chosen by the National Catholic Education Association, is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life." While you will see that theme on commercials and print materials, in reality, the most effective Catholic school ambassadors are each and every parent of a Catholic school student who spreads the good news of Catholic education to their friends and neighbors. You know that Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee uniquely balance faith and education. At St. Matthew School, we strive to do more than prepare students for tests in the classroom—we strive to prepare them for tests in life.

In the coming weeks, you will be hearing about a new archdiocesan program called "Refer a Family." This program will ask you as "ambassadors" to refer friends, family or neighbors as potential school families. Personalized email or traditional mail will be automatically sent to the referral. The new referral will fill out their information which will be emailed to the school for immediate follow-up. Incentives will be given to those families whose referrals enroll their student(s) at St. Matthew School.

It is an exciting new program that seeks to keep St. Matthew School a thriving learning community. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you all for supporting Catholic education!

Mrs. Barber

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, 1/17 – GIFT, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, 1/18 – Market Day Pick Up, 5:00-6:00 p.m.; GIFT, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/19 – Out-of-Uniform, Crazy Day

Wednesday, 1/20 – Quarter 2 Ends

Thursday, 1/21 – Grade 5, Villa, 9:15-11:00 a.m.; Spelling Bee, 2:00 p.m.; Art Class, 3:20-4:20 p.m.

Friday, 1/22 – All School Liturgy by Grade 7, 9:15 a.m.; Adult Charity Basketball Game, 7:00 p.m., Divine Mercy

Saturday, 1/23 – Winterfest, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 1/25 – NO SCHOOL, Teacher in Service; Culver's Day; Auction Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

AUCTION MEETING – Please join us on Monday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Room.

PARENTS OF SERVERS - On Tuesday, January 12, your child was given an envelope that had the form letter about server availability for the next schedule which will be for February and March. Deadline to return your Server Form is Friday, January 22, or you may email your response to Judy Wargin (jwargin@stmatoc.org) AND Kim Dretzka (dkdretz@yahoo.com).

WRISA ACCREDITATION – The Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) is pleased to announce the accreditation of St. Matthew School, Oak Creek. St. Matthew School has proven compliance with WRISA education Standards and is a member in good standing. Look for the complete article on the OCNOW website.

OUT-OF-UNIFORM DAY – On Tuesday, January 19, Student Council is sponsoring Crazy Day. Come to school dressed in a wacky style—mismatched clothes, backwards clothes, layered clothes, plaids and stripes are welcome. Hats are allowed, but if they are causing a distraction in the classroom you may be asked to remove it by your teacher. No shorts will be allowed on Crazy Day. Students are not allowed to color their hair or paint their face. No jeans with rips or tears are allowed.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK FIELD TRIP – On Thursday, February 4, we will visit Discovery World. Students will participate in hands on Science activities and labs. The cost per student is \$7.00. Please return permission slips with payment by Monday, January 18.

YOU ARE INVITED – On Thursday, January 21, at 2:00 p.m. in the cafeteria we will hold our **Spelling Bee**. Participants are from grades 5-8. All are welcome to attend!

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

MEMORY BOOKS – Don't forget to order a Memory Book. The books are \$12 each and a great remembrance of the 2009-2010 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. Order forms are available in the school office. All orders are due Monday, February 1. We do **not** order extra books, so if you want to order, please do so at this time.

BULLDOG NEWS – The 5th grade boys' basketball team improved to 6-0 on the year with two victories over the weekend against St. Gregory (19-15) and Nativity Jesuit (21-15). The seventh grade girls' basketball team had two games last weekend. The girls battled hard on Saturday, but fell to St. Matthias, 21-16. The team had its second victory on Sunday by squeaking out a win over St. John the Evangelist 12-11. Keep it up Bulldogs!

SMPAA OPEN GYM WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL - Please 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, please contact Stacy Sims at stacysims@wi.rr.com or 414-571-0565.

ADULT CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME - St. Matthew's Parish Athletic Association Board and Basketball Coaches will be playing Divine Mercy in basketball on Friday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the Divine Mercy gym on 16th Avenue in South Milwaukee. Divine Mercy has invited St. Matthew's to play in the spirit of goodwill and sharing. We would love to see all of you there to cheer on your team. There are planned events during breaks in the game for fans to participate. Call Joe Miller with any questions, 414-331-6732.

SERVERS –	January 16	5:00 p.m.:	Rachel Anderson	Cross:	Emma Sims
	January 17	7:30 a.m.:	Frank Margraff	Cross:	Jacob Hochschild
		9:30 a.m.:	Keagan Wardius	Cross:	Michael Silva

PLEASE SHARE THESE IMPORTANT DATES –

**ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
DURING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Sunday, January 31, 2010 - Following 9:30 a.m. Mass (10:30a.m. -1:00 p.m.)

Friday, February 5, 2010 - 9:15 a.m. All School Liturgy -

Open House immediately following from 10:15-11:30 a.m.

“Your children get only one childhood.”

Go Make a Difference