

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

March 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,

ITBS testing is underway. The students in grades 3, 5 and 7 have been busy taking sections of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills every day this week. Test completion and make-up tests will take place next week. We should be getting the results by the end of April.

The "Refer-a-Family" has gotten off to a great start. We have already received two referrals! Remember, you will receive a \$100 tuition credit off next year's tuition if the family you refer enrolls their child/children at St. Matthew School. If you do not have an e-mail account, you can still refer a family either by calling the school office or sending a note with the family information.

I will be away from school until Wednesday while I attend the ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) convention. The ASCD is a professional organization that develops programs, products, and services essential to the way educators learn, teach, and lead. The theme of this year's convention is "Critical Transformations." I plan on attending sessions on Differentiated Instruction, Response to Intervention (RtI) and Using Technology in the Classroom, among other workshops. I am looking forward to sharing what I learn with our faculty. Mr. Keane will be the "teacher in charge" during my absence.

Thank you for supporting Catholic Education.

Mrs. Barber

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, 3/7 – Grade 2, Sacramental Meeting, 10:30 a.m. **OR** March 8

Monday, March 1 through Friday, March 12 - Grades 3, 5, 7, ITBS Testing Window

Monday, 3/8 – Grade 2, Sacramental Meeting, 6:30 p.m. **OR** March 7

Tuesday, 3/9 – Grade 8, Graduation Photo, 9:00 a.m.; SMPAA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 3/10 – Home and School Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 3/12 – All School Liturgy by Grade 3, 9:15 a.m.; Grades 6, 7, 8, "Pre" Pi Day

Sunday, 3/14 - GIFT

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS KNOWLEDGE CONTEST – Congratulations to the following students who took 1st place in the Knights of Columbus Knowledge Contest and can compete at the next level of competition this weekend: Nick Cheaney, grade 8, Spelling; Mathew Peter, grade 8, Math; Evan Siira and Emma Sims, grade 6, (tied), Spelling; and Thomas Dolan and Noah Stout, grade 5, (tied), Spelling. Good Luck! Great Job to Amanda Lee, grade 7, who placed 3rd in Spelling; Michael Armanious and Matthew Peter, grade 8, who tied for 2nd in Spelling; and Frankie Wermerskirchen, grade 8, who placed 2nd in Math.

MR. Z'S FUNDRAISER - Enclosed in your family folder this week is the order form for the Mr. Z's Pizza fundraiser. The sale begins Friday, March 5 and goes through Friday, March 19. Please turn in all orders with one check made payable to St. Matthew Home and School. This fundraiser counts toward your fundraising obligations. In addition, your family can earn free items and your child can earn prizes. Delivery will take place on Wednesday, April 14th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser, please contact Bonnie Sikora at 414-573-9301 or bonnie.sikora@cnh.com.

COOKIE DOUGH - We have 8 boxes of cookie dough left from the 8th Grade fundraiser. There are 3 boxes of sugar cookie dough and 5 boxes of white chocolate macadamia nut dough. The cost is only \$15.00 per box. If you would like to purchase a box or two, please contact Toni Wermerskirchen at 414-761-3634 or wermer@msn.com. Thank you.

HELP WANTED - The Buildings and Grounds team is preparing to start the ceiling tile and new lighting work in the lower level of the school building. This work is being funded by the Faith in Our Future (FIOF) campaign. The plan calls for the work to begin during Easter Break. If you can help with the ceiling tile removal or if you have experience putting in new ceiling tile grids, please call or email Diane Shadd in the school office at 414-762-6820 Ext. 10 or school@stmatoc.org. We urgently need help with the ceiling tile grids and will train willing individuals.

THE BIG BACKYARD – This new Home and School fundraiser from The Big Backyard, an indoor children's playground (www.thebigbackyardwi.com) is going on now. This is a great place for kids to burn off some energy, stay active and have a blast during the cold winter months and rainy spring days! It's also a great location to host meetings, book clubs, etc.—let the kids play while you catch up with friends! The 10-visit punch cards are discounted \$20 and \$5 from each sale goes directly to the school—submit your order no later than March 15 to Sharen King with checks payable to St. Matthew Home and School.

McDONALD'S CERTIFICATES – There's \$1,700 of certificates left! You can still order. Remember that every \$1 purchased, McDonalds donates \$.30 to Home and School which is applied to your Home and School fundraising obligation. Order forms are in your family folder today or in the school office. Any questions, feel free to contact Kelly Koronkowski at 414-762-8815.

PARTYLITE FUNDRAISER - It's not just candles anymore! The 8th Grade class is holding a fundraiser for their trip to DC this year and would love all of your help. The fundraiser started Thursday, February 25 and the order forms/envelopes are due on Monday, March 8. A check for the total amount should be written to St. Matthew School. Your orders will be sent directly to your home within 1-2 weeks of the order going in. You will not have to pick up your orders from school. If you would like an e-mailable information sheet to send to your family and friends that don't live in the area, please contact Ann DiLorenzo at anndilites@yahoo.com and she will e-mail you a sheet. Also you may contact Ann by phone at 414-477-0207 with any questions. Thank you all for your help!

LIVING OUR FAITH – The March 14 "Catholic Knights presents Living Our Faith" episode, hosted by Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI, spotlights The Season of Mercy. Fr. Marty Pable takes the fear out of going to confession and speaks to the value of the sacrament of reconciliation. Vicki Thorn, founder of Project Rachel, a post-abortion ministry celebrating its 25th year in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, talks about the healing that needs to take place for those who have experienced abortion. Fr. Mark Brandl, associate pastor, St. Alphonsus Parish, Greendale, shares the story of his journey from lapsed Catholic to Catholic priest and explains how to help others who have drifted away from the church to find their way back. Watch "Catholic Knights presents Living Our Faith with Archbishop ListECKI" Sunday, March 14, at 11:00 a.m., on WISN TV 12. The program also airs on Time Warner Cable's Wisconsin On Demand, Channel 411 and is replayed on Relevant Radio. If you miss a show, every segment is available at www.livingourfaith.net.

BULLDOG NEWS –The 5th grade girls basketball team ended the season with another victory over St. Joseph's by a score of 30-14. This win was the last one needed to complete their perfect season. Congratulations on going undefeated. The 6th Grade Girls St. Matt's/Divine Mercy basketball teams had a great season. The Gold team took 2nd place with a record of 9-3 and the Blue team tied for 5th place with a record of 5-7. Way to go Bull Cats / Wild Dogs!! The 6th grade boys' team played their last game of the 2009-2010 season. They unfortunately lost the game by a score of 30-32. Even though they lost, they still had enough wins to take first place in the league. Their name will be put up on the boys league champs banner in Divine Mercy's gym. Their overall record for this season is 11-1. The two members of the team from St. Matt's are Bryce Schultz and Chris Reyes. The 7th grade boys took 3rd place in the St. Leonard basketball tournament this weekend. Their coaches followed through with shaving their heads after team photos on Sunday. Mr. Duchniak states, "it feels cold!" Way to go Bulldogs!

DIVINE SAVIOR HOLY ANGELS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS THE TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE PROJECT - Christopher Piehler's, The Triangle Factory Fire Project recreates one of New York City's most horrific disasters and the positive effect the tragedy had on working conditions, wages, and women's rights. On March 25, 1911, the shirtwaist factory which occupied the top three floors of the Asch Building caught fire. In just half an hour the three floors were completely engulfed in flames. Immigrant workers, mostly women, found themselves trapped and forced with either succumbing to the fire or jumping from the 9th story windows. The fire took 146 lives and was the worst workplace disaster in New York City until September 11, 2001. The play demonstrates the pain and struggle caused by the fire and reenacts the heated indictment of the factory owners for keeping exit doors locked, as well as conveying the spirit of hope and the need for change that came as a result of the horrible tragedy.

March 11-14, 2010
Thursday-Saturday, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
DSHA's Robert and Marie Hansen Family Fine Arts Theatre
4257 North 100th Street, Milwaukee
Tickets: \$10.00

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.dsha.info (at Shop DSHA) or by calling the box office at 414-616-2813.

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 –	March 6	5:00 p.m.:	Emma Sims	Cross:	Marie Hofmann
	March 7	7:30 a.m.:	Abby Czerwinski	Cross:	Nick Cheaney
		9:30 a.m.:	Joshua Duchniak	Cross:	Shannon Dugan

WE COLLECT – St. Matthew's School collects the following items to earn money and/or supplies: McDonald's receipts, used ink/toner cartridges, General Mills box tops, Campbell's UPC codes, Kemps milk caps and labels, Golden Guernsey/ Morning Glory milk caps and cancelled postage stamps. It is helpful if you separate the items. They can be placed in the marked drawers in the plastic bin in the hallway outside of church or sent to the school office. In addition to these collection programs, the school also participates in the Pick 'n Save We Care Program as well as the Target Red Card program. Thank you for helping to support our school.

"It's never too late to have a happy childhood but the second one is up to you and no one else."

Go Make a Difference