

ST. MATT'S MATTERS

May 21, 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,

As you know, our school theme this year has been "Go Make a Difference." As a school community, we have made an effort to truly make a difference in our school, in our community and in the world.

The song, "Go Make a Difference," has been sung at many of our school liturgies this year. Mrs. McDonald, our 7th grade homeroom teacher, wrote to one of the co-authors of the song and explained how the song was being used at St. Matthew School. I'd like to share his reply, written to the seventh grade class, with you.

Happy Birthday week! Did you know that the feast of Pentecost is the "birthday of the Church?" That means it is your birthday as baptized members of the Church. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples. On the day of Pentecost, even though they were not sure of what to do without their leader and Lord, and even though they were afraid of what might happen to them, the disciples were filled with the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. They gained the courage to "go and make a difference" in their world.

My hope is that you have also taken up the challenge to "make a difference" this year. Thanks for using the song that Steve Angrisano and I wrote as your theme. I hope it has inspired you to great action and love in the name of Christ. I would love to hear some of your stories and accomplishments.

The idea for the song originally came to me when I was preparing a talk for the National Catholic Youth Convention in Kansas City in 1997. (You were a lot younger then!) I was imagining the big auditorium filled with Catholic teenagers, on fire with their faith and celebrating and singing at the closing Mass. I wanted to give them a song that would inspire them to action, to make a difference in the world. And then I imagined them singing back to me "we CAN make a difference." That became the chorus. But the verses tell the real story of meaning and hope.

EACH of you has been given a unique set of talents. You are the light of the world not to be hidden but be seen. No one else in the world has the gifts and abilities that God has placed in you. Because of that fact, you also have a unique responsibility to use those gifts for others. It's not a gift unless you're willing to give it away. And as I hope you discovered in a deeper way this year, when you give of yourself, you receive back in many other ways. And the Spirit of Christ will be with us as we go. In helping others we discover how God has blessed us and will continue to be with us in whatever joys or sorrows we experience in life.

Do you remember the scripture story when Jesus feeds the 5,000 very hungry people? Where do the disciples get the bread and fish? That's right, from a young person -- pretty much the same age you are today. With the very simple gifts of a young person, Jesus miraculously fed that multitude of people in need. Guess what? He still can. Jesus, the Christ, can touch the lives of those in need when you are willing to open and share the gifts God has already given you. It's that simple, but of course, not always that easy. There are many reasons we don't-- fear of what others will think, peer pressure, gossip, apathy, and many other concerns. Just like the first disciples, my prayer is that the Holy Spirit will inspire you to go past your fears and excuses-- to make a difference in the name of Christ.

Have a great summer. I hope you will return to school next fall with lots of faith stories to share.

God's peace,

Tom Tomaszek

Last Friday, the students of St. Matthew School participated in a school-wide "Jump Rope for Heart" and raised money for the American Heart Association as St. Matthew School continues to "Go Make a Difference."

Julianna Barber

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, 5/23 – 8th Grade Fundraiser Car Wash, 7:00 a.m.-noon

Monday, 5/24 – CD Cover Design Due; Band Concert, 2:15 p.m.; Auction Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 5/25 – Out of Uniform, Spirit Day; Last Snack Cart; Used Book Sale in Library

Wednesday, 5/26 – All School Oak Creek Library Presentation, 2:15-2:45, Home and School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 5/27 – Grades 5, Villa, 9:15-11:00 a.m.; Grade 2, Pinocchio Play, 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mad Science, 3:25-4:25 p.m.

Friday, 5/28 – Grade 5, Wade House, 7:30-2:15 p.m.; All School Liturgy by Grade 7, 9:15 a.m.; Grades 5K and 8, Milwaukee County Zoo, 10:00-1:30 p.m.; Soccer Classic, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 5/29 – Soccer Classic

Sunday, 5/30 – Soccer Classic

Monday, 5/31 – NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

YOU ARE INVITED – Grade 2 will present their play, "Pinocchio" on Thursday, May 27, at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. All are invited to attend.

AUCTION MEETING – The next meeting will be Monday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Room. Please join us!

BAND CONCERT – Students who are taking music lessons with the All Saints Music Program will present a concert on Monday, May 24, at 2:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. All are invited to attend.

CAR WASH THIS WEEKEND - Please help the Class of 2011 raise money toward their field trip to Washington D.C scheduled for May 2011. Enjoy your Sunday for a change and let someone else do the work for you! Check washing the car off your list of things to do, then enjoy some family time in a clean car with a Sunday drive! Bring your car, truck or van to St. Matthew's parking lot this Sunday, May 23, between 8:00 a.m.-noon. Valet parking is available during mass. The cost is any amount you can spare, all donations are welcome. This year's 7th grade class thanks you for your support!

AUCTION CD – The CD Cover Design Contest ends on Monday, May 24. Please submit your design to the school office by Monday.

LUNCH IOU'S – We are no longer accepting IOU's. Anyone that does not have a lunch ticket or money for lunch will not be able to obtain an IOU. The students will receive a peanut butter sandwich instead. In addition, you may not have extra milk if you do not have money. Please pay existing IOU's ASAP.

SNACK CART – The last snack cart this year will be Tuesday, May 25.

PARISH-PARENT CONTRACT – Contracts are due! Complete, sign and return to the school office. A copy will be returned to you.

REPORT CARDS – Report cards will be mailed the week of June 15. Remember that your report card will be held if all contractual obligations are not met. This includes Home and School obligations, tuition and extended care.

BOOK FAIR DINER AND THE FATHER PAT CHALLENGE - To everyone who came to our Book Fair, and to all who volunteered, **thank you very much!** We sold over \$3,700 in books at our buy one get one free fair, which means close to that amount went home with kids for free. Awesome! The One for Books program, with Father Pat's challenge, donated over \$400 in books to the libraries of St. Anthony's and St. Matthew's; additionally, Father Pat will meet his maker . . . Pie Maker that is. How many pies will be thrown and who will throw them? Join us on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. . . . it could be you.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART – Last Friday our Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success. THANK YOU! Our goal was to raise \$1,500 and we raised \$2,118.00 with 45 families participating. Thank you to the top five families who received the most donations: 1) Zoe Buena-Franco, 2) Rachel Chilson, 3) Kaelan McDonough, 4) Hollie and Hannah Poehler and 5) Alyssa, Alex and Abby Reinke.

FAITH A THON – Congratulations to St. Matt's Faith A Thon team. The results are in and they took 6th place out of 24 teams. Way to go ST. Matt's!!!

LOST AND FOUND – The lost and found is on display outside the school office. Please take a few minutes to claim lost items.

USED BOOK SALE – St. Matthew's 2nd Annual Used Book Sale will be held on Tuesday, May 25. All books are 25 cents. The sale will be held in the school library and during the library class times.

USED SCHOOL UNIFORMS - If you have used school uniforms to donate for next school year, please drop them at the school office (in a bag or box that is clearly marked as being for the sale) or you can drop them off at the home of Julie Anderson (414-764-8785) this summer. The sale will be set up and held in late August at school and continues through the first week of classes. Although free uniforms are always the most desired, if you wish to place a price tag on the uniforms you must attach (with a safety pin) an envelope with your name, home phone number and the asking price for each item. Those items that do not sell will be donated at the end of the school year unless they are retrieved by the seller. Please remember that used school uniforms must be clean and in good condition, and only school uniforms may be in the sale. This is not a rummage sale. Watch for more information in your school information packets this summer. Please call Julie with questions.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION - As the school year comes to a close box tops has earned more than \$1,000 from clipping the box tops alone. If you have a stock pile at home, please send what you are collecting to school before the Memorial Day weekend as I plan one more big shipment before the end of school. Please keep in mind that the box tops do expire, so don't leave them sit at home too long as they have to be thrown away. Continue to collect box tops over summer and drop them in the bin outside of church as they will be collected over summer.

FINAL STATEMENTS – The final statements with fundraising, service hours and Home and School Meeting attendance is in your folder today along with an amount due if obligations are not met. Just a reminder that after June 1 fundraising profits will be applied toward next year's fundraising. Also, report cards will be held if Home and School contractual obligations, tuition and/or extended care fees are outstanding. Call the school office if you have any questions.

HOME AND SCHOOL GOLF OUTING – Join us on Saturday, June 5, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start, scramble format, \$90/player. Includes greens fees, power cart, lunch buffet, door prizes, on-course prizes, trophies, \$10,000 hole in one challenge and much, much more. For more information visit www.stmattsclassic.com or contact Dave Sims at 414-571-0565.

YOU ARE INVITED – Celebrate with us as our 8th graders graduate on Sunday, June 6. Mass begins at 2:00 p.m. followed by a social. Best wishes to our graduates! On Wednesday, June 9, our 5K students will celebrate the conclusion of the school year with a kindergarten social. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in church.

5K WALK/RUN TO GERMAN FEST - Help feed the homeless and enjoy a wonderful evening on the lakefront on Thursday, July 22nd. St. Ben's Community Meal receives a donation of 2 pounds of food from Usingers for every person who participates in the Bill Michaels 5K Run – 2M Walk to German Fest for the Hungry. Run, walk, push a stroller or just cheer on your friends and family! Participants can register online or print a copy of the registration brochure at: www.stbensmilwaukee.org/germanfest/.

CONCESSIONS - Please review the Concession Stand Schedule for the upcoming weeks and note if you are scheduled to work. You are responsible to fill the time you are scheduled. If you are unable to work, please arrange for someone to cover your shift or switch with another family. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Daun. Thank you, SMPAA

Saturday, May 22

8:00-11:00

Rodriguez
Slogaski
Janquart

9:00-12:00

Hatfield
Yang
Schaefer

11:00-2:00

Wojnowski
Margraff
Keidl

1:00-4:00

Gonzales
Malison
Galaczewski

Sunday, May 23

11:00-2:00

Hodel
Schleicher
Januszewski
Schroeder

12:00-3:00

Keidl
Boone
Weins

2:00-5:00

Eder
Deschaine
Koch
Bisswurm

SERVERS –

May 22

May 23

5:00 p.m.: Jacob Fakler

7:30 a.m.: Tanner Apple

9:30 a.m.: Hollie Poehler

Cross: Kristin Fakler

Cross: Beck Apple

Cross: Briana Deschaine

WE COLLECT – St. Matthew’s School collects the following items to earn money and/or supplies: McDonald’s receipts, empty HP 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 supporting our school.

St. Matthew School is accepting registration for grades 5K-8.

(We are currently at capacity in 4K but are accepting wait list status.)

Tell a neighbor, tell a friend, remember the Refer-a-Family Program.

“A big problem is a small problem that was never handled.”

Go Make a Difference