



FEBRUARY NEWS

ST. AGNES SCHOOL February 4, 2010

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, February 5	Staff Appreciation Day
Sunday, February 7	Read In (Grades 3-8) – 4:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Boy Scout Sunday – 11:30 a.m. Mass Cub Scout Pack #32 Blue and Gold Banquet 1:30 Dismissal – Faculty Meeting
Monday, February 8	School Board Meeting – 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, February 9	Technology Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10	Enrollment Committee Meeting – 5:30 p.m. Parents' Club Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 11	All School Liturgy – 8:15 a.m. Annual Fund Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, February 12	Valentine Parties - 1:15 p.m. (Grades PreK-3)

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, February 15	No School - President's Day
Tuesday, February 16	Mardi Gras for Missions Auction Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 17	All School Liturgy – 8:15 a.m. Ash Wednesday
Friday, February 19	Mid Quarter

ABSENTEES

Each parent/guardian is required to notify the school office by 8:30 a.m. if a child will be absent that day. Homework requests may be made at this time. Parents can always leave a message on the school answering machine if the secretary cannot be reached. The answering machine is checked regularly. A call should be made each day the student is absent, unless it is known that the child will miss several consecutive days. If such is the case, the school can be informed with the first phone call of the consecutive absence and the reason.

School: 793-1370
School Fax: 793-1238
Athletic Director/Doug Morgan: 546-7094
Late Day: 415-1304

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Today over 20 Dominican Sisters joined us for our All-School Liturgy, shared refreshments in the library served by our Student Council, and visited our children in their classrooms. The theme of this day was "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life in Vocations." The focus of the day was religious vocations. Fr. Steve Janoski, Fr. Bob, Sr. Loyola, Sr. Katherine O'Connor and I visited different classrooms during the morning to speak with the children about the life of a priest and sister.

Tomorrow is staff appreciation day! The Student Council is working with me to prepare this day to honor and thank our teachers and staff for their commitment to Catholic education. Student council officers, commissioners and representatives are asked to be at school by 7:15 a.m. and to bring what they have promised to donate for a breakfast for staff as they arrive. In the afternoon, there will be a student led assembly for teachers and staff. I invite parents and students to take the time to write a praise note to the teachers and staff who have made a difference in the life of your child or your own this year or other years. Thank you to those who have already done this throughout this week.

Catholic Schools Week ends with our traditional Read-In on Friday evening. Students may begin arriving at 4:30 p.m. The evening continues until 9:00 p.m. This year alumni and former staff members will be the readers for the evening. I praise Mrs. Drainer for her wonderful organization of this evening and the many teachers and parents who are helping with this event.

The Parents' Club have been working throughout this week to add to the fun of this week with the Family Movie Night, the donuts and coffee for the Open House, the pizza lunch and gift for students on Student Appreciation Day. I praise our Parents' Club for their support of our school activities.

The music at the special Masses that have been a part of this week have added much spirit to each gathering. I praise Mrs. Cour, Sr. Francis Mary and the student singers for their gift of song!

I praise the Catholic School Committee for the many meetings for planning Catholic Schools Week during December and the preparations for each day of Catholic Schools Week during January. Your work has born much fruit!

I praise our entire school family for the energy and enthusiasm that all have brought to this Catholic Schools Week. Teachers, secretaries, cafeteria, maintenance, students, parents, parish staff, Fr. Bob, have all added gifts to make this week a true celebration. Thank you for the gift of YOU!

Congratulations to our second graders who received the sacrament of Reconciliation last Wednesday. Fr. Bob always comments on how well prepared the children are to receive this sacrament. I praise Mrs. Patterson for the message of faith that she instills in the hearts of our "little" people.

The last two weeks in February have been designated by our local Parish Catholic Schools as the time for hosting Open Houses for those who may be interested in Catholic education. St. Agnes School's Open House will be held on Monday, February 22nd, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Members of the School Board and Student Council will be on hand to give tours and talk with families interested in attending St. Agnes. You are invited to extend an invitation to neighbors and friends and bring them to the Open house on February 22nd. There will be demonstrations in several of the school areas that evening.

Registration for new preschoolers, kindergarteners and new students will be held the last weekend of February. Re-registration for students who already attend St. Agnes will be sent home with the first March Newsletter. We are preparing to send home letters to families that we know have new preschoolers and kindergarteners who have already notified us. Please call the school office if you will have a child in either of these programs so that we can be sure you receive the information about these new registrations. Those that are in our preschool program will automatically be notified.

I have received complaints from teachers who are supervising and parents who are noticing that our families are not adhering to the policies that have been set for drop-off and pick-up of children. We do witness to each other when we choose to ignore the school policies. It makes supervising and adhering to the policies for others very difficult. I ask that you use the two methods for arrival for students in the morning.

Students may be dropped off at the curb near the Church or on the north side of the school where teachers and patrols are present. Only preschool families have permission to park near the school and walk their child into the preschool room. **There should be no double parking to drop children off near the gym. This is very dangerous. Please, also, do not drop children off on Amos. This street in the morning is very busy.**

At dismissal, I ask that you use the car line up except preschool families who must park to come in and sing their child out. Two families from the Auction have bid on special parking places near the school. Asking children to walk to the SHG lot for pick-up is not permitted. This is becoming quite common for pick-up. Please, parents, follow the organized method for pick-up. What are we teaching our children when the schools asks them and you to do one thing and you are expecting another?

Faith Reflection: "Grace Is...a tender word, a lingering hug, peace surpassing understanding, the warmth of God's favor, rainbows, calm within the storm, quiet moments, unconditional acceptance, unexpected blessings, giving and receiving love, an afternoon nap, heart to heart forgiveness, a stranger's smile, the rustle of angel's wings, belonging to God, the kindness of a friend, an inner knowing, a cup of tea and a prayer, finding promises in the Word, the arms of Jesus open wide."

Grateful for God's graces in this Catholic Schools Week,
Sr. Joan

St. Agnes Catholic School thanks
KnR Awards
(Rich Pottier)
for their generous support through their participation in
our M.A.G.I.C. MATCH Business Education
Partnership Program.

GRADE K

Mr. X taught us that it is okay to be different. Each of us has unique talents and gifts from God. We also had so much fun this week with all of the different Catholic Schools Week activities. You should have seen KA dressed all mixed up and KB with wacky hats and silly socks on Tuesday. We also made the groundhog. Hopefully, winter will get over soon and we will have spring! Congratulations to our Students of the week in KA- Lauryl Cherry and KB- Audrey McCamant. Thank you to our Parent Readers in KA- Mrs. Eberding and KB- Mr. Ludoph.

GRADE 1B

During all of January the first graders really concentrated on the history and background that led to why there is a Martin Luther King Day. The first graders learned about slavery and up through the Civil Rights Movement. The class was introduced to a lot of new vocabulary that goes with the span of history like Civil War, Underground Railroad, segregation, and boycott. There is a map of the Underground Railroad on the classroom wall and the first graders made safe houses for the different routes. As we move into Black History Month, 1B concludes our lessons with the life and stories of Martin Luther King.

GRADE 5

We have begun the study of living things in Science. Scientists classify organisms in order to study them. We have drawn and labeled cells and then viewed some specimens under the microscope. In conjunction with our study of living organisms and for our service project we are in the process of collecting money to "adopt" and save an endangered species-the panda. Thank you to all who have donated.

We continue to study the Sacraments of Initiation in Religion. We are currently concentrating on Confirmation.

5A & 5B wish to thank everyone involved in making our celebration of Catholic Schools Week so wonderful!

GRADE 8

8th Graders are patiently waiting for Research Writing Process grades. Please allow time for these to be reviewed as they will be the models for the next independent research paper - topic choices coming at the end of February. History students in 7th & 8th grade need to freshen up on states & capitals. We are also beginning to prepare for the History Fair coming this spring.

7th & 8th grade students have been working very diligently on the origami crane project for Evan Hoffman. All students, staff, parents, & community have been supporting him with these crane wishes and prayers. St. Agnes is an awesome family! Please stop in to see our prayers in flight.

SAFETY PATROL

Safety Patrol students in 7th & 8th grade will no longer receive a personal notice of duty. New rosters are set out in the hall by Friday and also posted in individual classrooms. Usually, Mrs. Harris reviews assignments in the history classes. **Parents of 6th graders** - by the end of March, your students will begin to be scheduled for duties. Bus students will be scheduled for morning duties only. The 6th grade students will be in training with the assigned groups. It is very important for newly assigned 6th graders to promptly & responsibly meet their duties. To all parents, we greatly appreciate all notes regarding absences or delay getting to duties. The Safety Patrol crew is successful through your great support. Thank you to much for your support and encouragement for these students.

REMINDER – 8TH GRADE VIDEO

There are still several families who we need to get photos from for the 8th grade class video. Please contact Lynn DeMarco at 741-3470 (e-mail Lynndm38@aol.com) or Nicole Willis at 502-2554 (e-mail Nicole@willisracing.com) if you have questions. An e-mail was sent on January 27th, and note was sent home with your child on February 2nd with details. Thanks!

RESOURCE

January was a busy month for the Challenge Classes in Grades K-6 constructing giant posters and maps of the seven continents. Each grade level was initially responsible for being the topographers for an individual continent. On-going research the next few months will culminate in student game boards and question cards. Although, the final spring product has not been officially named, we are referring to the long range project as, SO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE SEVEN CONTINENTS.

In addition, each group is exploring and enhancing their learning experiences in critical thinking, mysteries, riddles and math puzzle problems. Energy and enthusiasm abound within the groups as they meet weekly for 30 minutes.

SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 St. Agnes Spelling Bee: 1st Place, Andrew Koehler and 2nd Place, Matthew Simonson. They will represent St. Agnes School in the Non-Public School Spelling Bee on Saturday, February 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Westside Christian School. Good Luck Andrew and Matthew!

MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras is just around the corner, Tuesday, February 16. Tickets will be on sale February 11 and 12 before school and can also be purchased the day of Mardi Gras. Please bring donated raffle prizes to the office with a note indicating it is for the raffle. Baked goods may be brought to the gym on the day of set February 15 at 4:00 p.m. Items must be individually wrapped. No cake please. Please contact the class room parent or chairperson, Michelle Sorenson at 793-1961, or co-chairperson, Toni Quinn at 726-7740.

ST. AGNES CHESS CLUB

The new St. Agnes Chess Club is now playing on Mondays in rooms 4A or 4B. We have chosen the name of "St. Agnes Bishops" for our club. Eight to twelve students are playing now from grades 6th, 7th and 8th. The club is preparing for the city-wide Elementary Tournament in April. Anyone from 6th-8th grade who would like to play or learn is welcomed. Any questions may be directed to Lenny Ferguson at 787-0715.

DRINK POUCH COLLECTION

Please continue to send your empty drink pouches to school (Capri Sun, Minute Maid, etc.). To date, we have mailed over 600 pouches to Terracycle, so they can "upcycle" them into backpacks, purses, and pencil cases. While St. Agnes has earned just over \$12, the environmental contribution is much greater. Thank you for your participation in this project! Contact Ellen Bartletti at 793-2559 if you have any questions.

AUCTION NEWS

Auction Tickets again are being sold in the Gathering Space after all Masses this weekend and they've been selling fast. In just our first two weeks, we have sold more than half of the available reservations. Keep in mind, we've sold out every year, and expect this year to be no different. So don't delay if you plan to attend the Parish's biggest event of the year. Aside from the Auction having awesome food and refreshments (all complimentary for just your \$20 admission), it's an awesome social gathering, and has turned into the "can't miss" event of the year!

Thanks to everyone who got their donations into us by last weekend's January 31st deadline. However, that deadline is not an absolute drop-dead date, rather the cut off for making sure any donations, happy ads, etc., are included in the Auction Program/Bid Book. We will be doing an Addendum on the evening before the Auction, so any donations that come in between now and then still will be included in the Addendum at minimum. Bottom line, we still are in need of your donations!

There are a dwindling number of Corporate Sponsor Tables available. The front Ace in the Hole tables have long been sold out. We still have a few Four of a Kind opportunities available, but we have sold more than in any previous years, so we anticipate these second row tables and reserved seats to be gone soon as well. Plus, the Four of a Kind tables are a relative bargain considering you get half a table and four reserved seats - all for just \$250. Yes, we will be selling these sponsorships after Masses this weekend as well, but if you'd rather not wait, please go ahead and give us a call asap.

As noted, the Auction Team will continue to have a presence after all Masses, and we invite you to stop by our table and colorful "Poker-themed idea tree" for suggestions on what to donate toward this year's Auction. If you need last minute ideas or want to donate but not have to "deal with it," please consider buying SCRIP cards to use as your donation. SCRIP is an easy, convenient and fast way to make a donation to the Auction and there are several levels of both direct and indirect benefits gleaned from each SCRIP card purchase and subsequent donation. We're also happy to accept cash or checks that can be used to off-set Auction expenses or instead by our Basket Makers who can put together any themed baskets (in your name) that we may not have at this point.

Please know, your donations make a huge difference. In just the past 3 or 4 years, the School's portion of the Auction proceeds has resulted in a new Pre-School, new Science Lab and new Computer SMART Lab for our students. Your generosity is more than appreciated, it is directly responsible for enhancing and expanding the educational resources available to the school children of our Parish. Thank you!

Any Auction ideas, suggestions or questions, either visit us after any Mass or contact Event Co-Chairs Joe Khayyat (joekhayyat@yahoo.com or 217-414-7887) and Andy Nichols (andy@proimageil.com or 217-341-1033).

