



St. John the Baptist School Newsletter

Our Faith Your Family Their Future

February 12, 2010

Dear families,

Our Lenten journey begins next Wednesday, February 17. As a school community, we will begin the journey with Mass and the imposition of Ashes. Attending Mass on Ash Wednesday has always taken me back in time. Growing up in a large family as its youngest member meant that many traditions were well established. I merely stepped in where I belonged and the traditions continued.

Back then, there was a greater emphasis on self-sacrifice through fasting, abstinence and self-denial. Guilt was readily and easily imposed and accepted. In no way, do I regret any of these. Inner growth, spiritually and emotionally, was natural. My family prayed together on a nightly basis. Stations of the Cross every Friday night always took precedent over basketball, watching television, or any other social event. Weekly reception of Reconciliation happened every Saturday morning following 8:00 Mass.

Lent was a time to stop the busy-ness of life. Friday night dinners of scrambled eggs or tuna noodle casserole were anticipated. Whether we "liked" the food was irrelevant. The relevance was found in that food was part of our family tradition and our Lenten journey. Such a gift of simplicity and discipline was a blessing I never understood or appreciated in my youth.

As I prepare for my Lenten journey this year, it is my prayer to return to that simplicity. Remove the self-defined pressures of everyday life. Instill the calm of the quiet moments. Pray, and then pray more. When we take the time to find the time, we have begun to understand what is truly important.

Our focus on the family continues. Our statue of the Holy Family has begun its pilgrimage into your homes. Student prayer intentions will be kept in a prayer journal in the main hallway. This journal will become part of our weekly offering at our all school Masses. Each newsletter will have some suggested prayers or ideas for our families as they travel their Lenten journey.

As I spend more time in prayer, be assured that you will be a part of those prayers. For it is when we

share our faith that we truly live our faith.

Together in Christ,
Mrs. Sandor

CALENDAR CHANGES

Due to the cancellation of school we will be adding days onto the end of the school calendar. At this time, our anticipated last day of school for all students, K-8, will be Wednesday, June 2. This will be a full day of school for all students K-8. Eighth grade graduation will take place that evening. If there are more cancellations, this date will change accordingly.

FIRST COMMUNION

Please note that First Communion will be Sunday, April 25, during 10:30 Mass. Due to the changes in mandatory student attendance as determined by the Indiana Department of Education, second graders will attend school on Monday, April 26. No longer can they be given a free day.

MAY CROWNING

This year we will have May Crowning on Sunday, May 2, following the 10:30 Mass.

BRACELETS FOR SHELBY GRUSS

During lunch on Tuesday, February 16, Mrs. Cindy

Song, will be selling friendship bracelets to support Shelby Gruss and her family as continues her recovery.

Grade Level Masses
Grades 5 & 6 Feb. 16
Grade K Feb 18
Grades 7 & 8 Feb 23
Grades K-4 Feb 24

MENU CHANGE

Due to a FWCS menu change, Thursday, February 18, will be a beef and bean burrito instead of macaroni and cheese.

THANK YOU

The PRAISE Committee would like to thank the many parent volunteers who helped bake, monitor classrooms, run the lunchroom, and serve lunch at the staff appreciation luncheon. It was so nice to see the staff relax and enjoy the time together. Thanks to Ben and AnnMarie Hall for providing the delicious food!

The staff would also like to thank the PRAISE Committee and all of the volunteers! The lunch was absolutely wonderful and it was so nice to have a little time to enjoy everyone's company!

PRE K AND KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

We will be hosting an Open House for children entering PreK or Kindergarten in the Fall of 2010. The Open House will be Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 PM in the PreK and Kindergarten

classrooms. Parents will meet in the library for information while the children are supervised in the rooms. The ages for PreK and Kindergarten are as follows:

3 by June 1, 2010
4 by July 1, 2010
5 by August 1, 2010

CUB SCOUTS

The Cub Scouts are hoping to restart their uniform exchange program. If anyone has any blue Cub Scout Uniform shirts, neckerchiefs and slides that they no longer use and would like to donate, they will be given a good home! Please contact Meg Brouwer at 745-4833.

THANK YOU RECEIVED

"Dear Ms. Sandor,
On behalf of the St. John-St. Patrick Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, I want to thank you and your students for the generous outpouring of canned goods that we handed out along with turkeys for those in need at Thanksgiving time. It was very much appreciated. The extra canned goods were shared with the Food Bank at St. Patrick's.

Please convey our thanks to your students and know that our conference is praying for your students and their teachers, as well as you.

God Bless,

Donna M. Brooke,
St. John-St. Patrick
Conference
St. Vincent de Paul Society"

MATH AWARDS

In November, the Algebra students participated in the 25th Annual American Mathematics Competition. This is an extremely challenging exam taken by 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students across the country. I'd like to congratulate all the students who participated in this contest. The following students received top performance:

3rd place - A tie between Brennan Mullins & Brandon Volmerding

2nd place - Pat Shank

1st place - Nathan Grabner
Congratulations for a job well done!

Mrs. Crawford

NEWS FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

The 2010 campaign to inform low-income working people that they could qualify for tax refunds through the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit has begun. It is vital that we continue this important outreach! For more information, please visit the website at www.cbpp.org/eic2010

NO SCHOOL

We will not have school on Friday, February 19. Teachers will attend ICF day at Bishop Luers.

FIRST COMMUNION MEETING

There will be a First Communion parent meeting on Thursday, February 25, at 7 PM in Ryder Hall.