

# HEART TO HOME SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Jan 10, 2013  
Newsletter #17

## Principal's News from Jim Opelia, Principal



Sacred Heart Area School  
324 4<sup>th</sup> St NE  
Staples, MN 56479

Phone:  
(218) 894-2077

Fax:  
(218)-894-2994

E-mail:  
SacredHeartAreaSchool@  
Arvig.net

Web Address:  
SacredHeartAreaSchool.org



Goal: 1,000  
Total this month:  
300



There will be a  
carnival and  
dinner meeting  
Thursday,  
January 10<sup>th</sup> at  
5:30 at SHAS!!

### Movie Night

The Home and School is sponsoring a movie night in the SHAS gym Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Our feature presentation will be "Ice Age 4 Continental Drift" (88 minutes - Rated PG). We hope your family can attend. Family fun events are facilitated throughout the year for our school families in hopes of continually building our sense of school family. Thank you to our Home and School officers Elizabeth Mathews, Sue Storry, Stephanie Japke, and Nan Hanson for all your efforts.

### Front Doors

Due to the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut last month, our school, like others around the country, is re-evaluating the security of its buildings. The school advisory board, along with the school maintenance committee, is making plans to change the layout of our school building's front entrance. This would include updated front doors, possibly a larger entrance way, and an inside set of entrance doors which could be locked and unlocked from the school office. Because of accessibility to the building and winter weather, any changes would most likely be made over this upcoming summer. If you have any concerns about these plans, please let us know.

### Big Decisions

When you have good ideas or concerns for the future of Sacred Heart Area School, we want to hear them. Your school's advisory-board meets with the principal and pastor each month, to discuss the needs and future plans of the school. This year's board members are: Bernie St. Pierre (former SHAS principal and parish trustee), Amy Thompson (SHAS parent), Bryan Winkels (SHAS parent), Linus Koval (SHAS parent), Elizabeth Mathews (SHAS parent), and John Reese (SHAS grandparent). These individuals share a deep passion for our school and are continually working to maintain and improve it. Last year's board made important decisions such as adopting the Minnesota State Academic Standards and the tough decision to only keep sixth grade until May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2014, when SHAS will become a preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> grade school. This year the board has been working hard to improve staff pay and benefits, which included an extensive study and creation of next year's budget and most recently building updates. Individual board members also act as liaisons

to various school committees: including budget & finance, curriculum, fundraising, PR & marketing, and personnel & human resources. If you see a need or have a vision for the future of SHAS, bring it to the principal or one of these board members. We will listen.

### Helpful Hearts

We want to thank all parents for all the work you have done for the school this year. Our new minimum volunteer hours policy for K-6 parents has brought new faces to "the table" and new life to our school. Many of you have already completed your 8 hours and want more. Your spirit and hard work makes our children's school better than ever. If you still have hours remaining, keep in mind that we will need a lot of help to set up and operate the carnival and dinner, which will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Catholic Schools Week is approaching quickly. The CSW Kick-off Masses will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart and January 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's. We hope all of our families, regardless of denomination, are able to attend one of these two Masses and allow your children to participate in the celebration and worship.

# Big Thank You!

To the Knights of Columbus for all of the work they did on the calendar raffle. With their sales and with what the students sold, the Knights presented our school with a check of \$4,500.00. Wow! The top family for selling the most calendars was presented a prize of \$100.00 cash. Accepting the top prize for the Koval family was Gabe and Thomas Koval. Congratulations!



- Jan 10 Carnival meeting 5:30
- Jan 11 2 Hour Early Out
- Jan 18 End of Quarter 2
- Jan 21 NO SCHOOL
- Jan 26 Catholic Schools Week  
Kick-off Mass at Staples  
5:00
- Jan 27 Catholic Schools Week  
Kick-off Mass at Motley  
10:30
- Jan 28 – Feb 1  
Catholic Schools Week
- Jan 30 Dance at SHAS 6:00
- Feb 1 Two Hour Early Out
- Feb 3 SHAS Carnival & Dinner
- Feb 15 NO SCHOOL – winter  
break
- Feb 18 NO SCHOOL – winter  
break
- Feb 20 Spring Blast Meeting 7:00
- Feb 25 Mid-Quarter 3



### Mission Statement

*As believers in God, and moved by the power of the Holy Spirit, we foster spiritual and academic formation of our students in a positive, welcoming atmosphere that reflects a respect for all people.*



We will be having a family movie night with popcorn and refreshments on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We will be watching “Ice Age 4 Continental Drift”. Plan on coming out for a fun night with your family and all of your friends at Sacred Heart!



There are only 25 days left until the Carnival. We need 100% participation in order for this to be successful. So, please keep selling raffle tickets, and having the kids turn them in right away so we can keep track of how many are sold and how many we need to sell.



### Preschool News

I am so very proud of all the preschoolers and kindergarteners on their Christmas Program. They worked so hard and they did an awesome job. In exchange, they were rewarded with an ice cream party!!! The preschoolers are off and running this New Year! We have been working very hard in our new handwriting curriculum and learning lots! We are all working hard with our letter recognition and sounds. We have also been working hard with our number recognition and counting by 10's to 100! ! This week, we began memorizing weekly bible verses and we are off to a great start. I am so proud of all the preschoolers. After all our hard work, we are looking forward to a fun filled Catholics Schools Week at the end of the month.



If you want more raffle tickets to sell, please send a note with your student or call the office telling us how many books you want, and we'll send more home. Please return the tickets to school as you sell them, it is a lot easier for us if the kids turn them in as they sell instead of on the last day. Remember, this is one of our school's biggest fundraisers of the year. Please do your part to help our school meet its goal!!!