

# HEART TO HOME SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Oct. 1, 2015  
Newsletter #3

## Principal's News

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### 2 Hour Early Dismissal

**DON'T FORGET** about  
the 2 hour early out  
tomorrow, October 2nd.

The entire school  
district will be  
dismissing students  
early. Students at  
Sacred Heart will be  
done with school at  
1:12 pm. If you need a  
safe place for your  
student to go during  
this release time, our  
After School Program  
is available for a small  
charge.

### Rolling Along Smoothly

Our transition from summer to school had some bumps, with teachers leaving and new teachers coming in. In some cases teachers had a very limited time to prepare their classroom and themselves for the start of the year. Illness also plagued our staff at the start, taking one teacher out for 6 days of school. We are happy to report that nearly all our wrinkles have been ironed out. Teachers have a handle on the task ahead, and we are back on track. We are very pleased with our new teachers who are still learning about our school and getting to know you. Thank you for your patience with all of us. Let us know if we can address concerns you may have or better communicate with you. Help us be the best educators we can for your children this year.

### Playground Improvements

Starting tomorrow, the next phase of playground improvements will continue with the horizontal drilling and insertion of pipe under 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue for water lines to run from the school to the playground for a water sprinkler system, which will be installed as soon as this weekend. When complete we will have rolls of sod purchased and delivered to the site. We will be asking help from all of you, the parents, to volunteer time to help lay the sod out. If you are able and willing, please contact the school to let us know, so we can contact you when the time comes. Many hands make light work. These improvements will be enjoyed by our children and the whole community for years to come. Please consider contributing your time to this task.

### NWEA MAP Testing Continues

Students in grades kindergarten-fifth grade have been testing this week and will continue next week with the NWEA MAP tests. This first test of the year gives us a baseline to measure student progress against our later

winter and spring testing. This is a great tool for student and teacher to self-evaluate their performance of learning and instructing through the year.

### Workathon

We look forward to our Workathon which will take place on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 12:00pm and ending around 2:30pm. The **Workathon benefits both the Staples community and Sacred Heart Area School while providing a service experience for our students.** Our goal is to raise \$9,000 for SHAS. Remember, this is one of our 3 biggest fundraisers of the year, and one the two that all K-5 families are responsible to help raise funds for our school. The school's budget depends on its success. We welcome, encourage, and count on preschool family participation as well.

### Addressing Concerns

As you likely have read in the paper, representatives from SHAS addressed the district school board last week regarding the hiring of SHAS teachers at the end of summer by district schools. We were well received by the school board and staff. They listened to our concerns, and considered what we had to say. Our intent was simply to clearly communicate our concerns to hopefully avoid the same situations in the future, and also to heal some tensions. One key issue is that a rural Minnesota, Catholic school's pay scale for teachers does not compare to a public school's pay scale. In turn, we need to be the school where our teachers are willing to work here regardless. In many ways we are. The goal of the school advisory board, principal and pastor, is to figure out how we can improve this situation, from our pay scale to environmental and cultural factors, with limited resources.



- Oct 2 2 Hour Early Out
- Oct 5 Mid-Quarter 1
- Oct 9 No School  
SACRED HEART ONLY  
Marzano Training for Teachers
- Oct 14 Work-a-thon
- Oct 15 No School
- Oct 16 No School
- Oct 19 No School
- Oct 27 Picture Retake Day
- Oct 28 Halloween Dance



Educational technology and funding changes daily! To keep up with these changes and expenses, our school is taking part in the Tools 4 Schools program. With the help of the Tools 4 Schools program, we can receive computers, sporting goods, audio-visual aids, science supplies and other teaching tools FREE. To earn these FREE awards, we simply have to collect Jon's Family Food (NOT Ernie's) register receipts from our supporting supermarket. Receipts dated between September 1, 2015 and February 27, 2016 are valid. When you shop at Jon's Family foods save your receipts. Ask your friends and relatives to save their receipts too. Send receipts to school weekly to help our school earn awards. We will tally all the receipts and order the items we need most for our school.



Hello from First Grade!  
We are having a great year so far. We began the year by going over rules and getting to know each other. We started our reading and math books. We are on our third story for the year and have almost completed a chapter in math. We are learning stories from the Bible and really working on our handwriting. Last week, we did our first community service project as a class. We went with the second graders over to the varsity football field and cleaned up the garbage after the quad county football game that was played the night before. The kids picked up enough garbage to fill a barrel. They were great workers. We do brain breaks with GoNoodle, and the favorite in the room is Zap It, Zap It! Make it Happen! It reenergizes the kids and we get to earn points for our class. Our champs we have completed so far are Flo Yo and Flappy Tuckler. We are looking forward to a fun-filled rest of the school year with lots of learning going on.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.



**Mission Statement**

*In sharing our Catholic faith in Christ, we foster spiritual and academic formation in a positive, welcoming atmosphere that reflects love and respect for all.*



**Workathon News**

Please return the pink slips that were sent home in the workathon packet asking for parents to sign up to bring cookies or to help on the day of the workathon. As of today I have only heard back from 7 families.



**Fire Prevention Week**

**We are celebrating fire prevention week next week at Sacred Heart. The firemen will be coming to visit our preschool classes on Tuesday and Wednesday and the rest of the students will be visiting the fire hall on Thursday. Be sure to thank the firefighters when see them for their service to the community.**