

Heart to Home School Newsletter

October 3, 2013
Newsletter #4

Jim Opelia, Principal

Principal's News

Inspiration and Illumination

Monday, September 30th, was Diocesan Ministry Day. School and Parish staff attended this conference at the River's Edge Convention Center in Saint Cloud, with a celebration of the Mass, learning sessions, and keynote speaker Fr. Fred Kammer. It is always an inspiration to be present with hundreds of souls who share the same goals and mission in ministry. One of the highlights of the day was a two hour session with guest speaker, Dr. David Walsh, one of the world's leading authorities on family life, and the impact of technology on children's health and development. A big part of his lecture was on the difficult job parents face today, in a world of "More, Fast, Easy, and Fun". He shared a great deal of knowledge on the development of the human brain and the effects that the stresses of the modern world put on the young mind. He also spoke of parenting and the family life of yesteryear, and how much easier of a job it was to parent in a world that supported family values. And lastly, he discussed the importance for a child to hear "No" in developing self-control and character. All of this stirred my soul as to the importance of our Catholic School and the huge job we share together as teachers and parents instilling faith, morals, discipline and knowledge in our children. I encourage parents and staff to further investigate the books and videos by Dr. David Walsh regarding the development of our children.

see sample video: David Walsh "Marshmallow Test" on WCCO
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amsq_eYOk--w&noredirect=1

Volunteering

As parents, we understand the importance of volunteering in our small school and realize our commitment to do so. If you are a K-6 parent and have volunteered since July 1st, be sure that it is recorded at the school to count toward your 8 hours of volunteer time. Attached is a sheet for you to fill out to better inform us of preferences in volunteer opportunities. Please take the time to fill it out. Also, as a school family, we would like to have a volunteer appreciation for all those who are not parents and volunteer to help our school

from the goodness of their heart, through working with children, putting on the garage sale, maintaining our technology, library, buildings, grounds, etc... It is incredible what these people have given to this school. We are asking parents if they are interested in contributing to a special luncheon for these people this fall at the school. **Please inform us of your interest** in sharing your appreciation toward these wonderful people.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week will be celebrated at SHAS October 7th-11th, with fire drills, classroom discussion, a student visit to the fire hall, and 3rd-5th grade students taking part in the fire prevention week poster contest. This annual tradition is meant to make children more aware of the dangers of fire and how to stay safe at home and school. We thank all the men and women of the Staples Fire Department for their service to our community.

13 Days to Marathon

October 16th is our 2013 SHAS Marathon for Non-public Education. This fundraiser is very important to our school. Funds are anticipated as part of this year's budget in the continued operation of our school. Our budgeted goal this year is to raise \$10,000 for the school, or \$150 per student. As incentives for the children's efforts, if we raise the \$10,000, the students in preschool and kindergarten will be bused to the Leroy and Julie Peterson farm for pony rides, while the 1st through 6th grade students will enjoy a swim party at the Staples Community Center. These prizes have been donated to the school by the Petersons and the community center. The top fundraising student in each class will also receive a ride on a fire truck to the Staples Dairy Queen and a \$5 gift certificate to have lunch there. Each student who reaches the \$150/person goal will receive a SPECIAL prize. K-6 families are responsible to help raise funds with this event. We also welcome, encourage, and count on preschool family participation as well. Remember that this is your school, not owned, operated, and funded by the government. God bless you for all you do for it!



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2 HOUR EARLY OUT

DON'T FORGET about the 2 hour early out tomorrow, October 4th. 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. Call the office or send a note if your child will be attending the After School program on Friday.





- Oct 6 2 Hour Early Out
- Oct 16 **School for SHAS** students
No School at the elementary school
- Oct 16 Vision and Hearing Screening
- Oct 16 Marathon
- Oct 17 No School
- Oct 18 No School
- Oct 21 No School
- Oct 23 Picture retake day
- Oct 23 Halloween Dance
- Oct 27 Sacred Heart Church Fall Dinner



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD WILL BE THE SACRED HEART AREA SCHOOL HALLOWEEN COSTUME DANCE FOR PARISH AND SCHOOL CHILDREN. SAVE THE DATE. WE SHOULD HAVE A SPOOKTACULAR TIME.



In order to keep your child safe **PLEASE** call the school right away in the morning if your child is ill so we are not looking for him/her. We have an answering system, so please leave a message if your call is not answered. Also, please **check in at the office** when coming to the school during the day, and if you are picking your child up we ask that you come into the school and check them out at the office. Thank you for your help with these matters.



Happy October! This is such an exciting year for the 2nd graders as they are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. We are learning about God's forgiveness when we make a wrong choice. In math we are learning strategies to help us with our addition and subtraction facts. During our reading/language arts, we are reviewing long and short vowels, subjects, predicates, and synonyms. We are also learning about main idea and details when reading a story or short passage. Our social studies has been very interesting! We took a field trip to the City Hall and Police Department to learn more about how our community works. A special thank you to Mr. Mathews and Officer Matt for taking the time to give us tours! There will be a mandatory Reconciliation meeting for parents Thursday, October 24th, at 6:30 pm in the school gym.



“Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper.”
Proverbs 19:8



BRRR it's getting cold. Kids need to be coming to school with jackets, and soon they will be needing hats and mittens also. As soon as it snows, boots and snow pants are also **required!** Thank you!



Last chance to order your Praise God S'more t-shirt.



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.