



February Newsletter
St. Gabriel the Archangel School
February 2010



IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 1 | Catholic Schools Week – 6:45 p.m. doors open in the gym for Storyteller Bobby Norfolk |
| February 2 | DQ/LeGrands Lunch for students (Bring canned goods for parish Fuel & Food for Life) |
| February 3 | Student Dress Down Day – School Spirit
8:00a All School Mass – Feast of St. Blasé (Thursday schedule)
DQ Ice Cream Treat in the afternoon (AM Kdg will take theirs home at 10:45 a.m.)
1:30p FANFARE to perform for students in gym
5:30p Skating Party at Steinberg (Bring a canned good for St. Patrick’s Center Food Pantry) |
| February 4 | Wednesday Schedule; Bring socks for Whole Kids Outreach |
| February 5 | 12:30p Dismissal |
| February 6 | Bellarmino Speech Meet at Holy Infant School – Ballwin
8 th Graders receive their High School acceptance letters |
| February 11 | Concert Band to play at the Fox Theater 7:00 p.m. |
| February 12 | Jump/Hoop for Hearts money due to Mrs. Voelpel
2:05p Valentine Treats |
| February 15 | NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day |
| February 16 | 2 nd Grade Field Trip to Symphony
Mardi Gras – students can add beads to uniform |
| February 17 | ASH WEDNESDAY (Thursday schedule)
1:45p All School Mass |
| February 18 | Wednesday Schedule
7:00p School Board Meeting |
| February 19 | Dress for Red (students who returned their Jump/Hoops for Heart Money can wear red school shirt with jeans. |
| February 23 | 3 rd Grade Coalition Parent Mtng 7:00 p – café |
| February 25 | 8:00a Baptismal Celebration – All School Mass |
| February 26 | 2:05p Stations of the Cross |
| February 27 | Black & White Auction |
| February 28 | Elementary Band Festival at DuBourg High School 10:00a |

February is filled with many activities. Please take some time to mark important dates in your calendar.

Help for Haiti

We, as a school, will have some activity to raise money for the children of Haiti. Miss Davis is coordinating efforts with other Catholic schools in South St. Louis to work on something during Lent. The hope is to present a check to Archbishop Carlson for Catholic Relief Services from the students of South St. Louis. This check would be presented after Easter as a sign of New Life/Resurrection for Haiti. More information will be sent home as we finalize the plans for this endeavor.

Lent 2010

Wednesday, February 17th begins Lent. The teachers are finalizing the Lenten activities that will take place with the students. You will be receiving more information in the weeks to come.

Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection

This year we will have classes in the morning. After lunch we will begin Lent with some special activities for the whole school.

- Within grade level, students will do a variety of grade appropriate activities to focus on Lent.
- At 1:30 p.m. the students will gather in church for Ash Wednesday Mass. Mass begins at 1:45 p.m.

Registration 2010-2011

Registration for families with children currently attending St. Gabriel School will be held soon. We have to delay registration since we do not have the teachers' salaries for the 2010-2011 school year from the Archdiocese as well as other information to set the tuition rate. Due to the economic situation, the Archdiocese is reviewing their finances as well. Once we get the financial information from the Archdiocese, we will begin working on our budget to determine the tuition.

We will let you know as soon as possible when the Enrollment Meeting will be held. It is very important for families to attend this meeting so all can understand the budget process for the school and to get your registration packet. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you will have to contact Miss Davis to receive your packet.

Since we have opened our enrollment to families outside of the parish, it is more important than ever that you return your registration packet by the date indicated.

Please note that our open enrollment policy states that if a family is coming from a parish that already has a school, they must get approval from their pastor to attend St. Gabriel School. The only families that this would not apply to would be those that are non-Catholic and those whose parish does not have a school. We want to make this process very clear to everyone so there is no misunderstanding with our neighboring parishes.

2nd Quarter Report Cards

Report cards were given to the students on Monday, January 11th. If a family has a balance due on tuition, band fees, EDK fees, etc., a letter was in the envelope in place of the report card. We ask that you take care of your fees as soon as possible. Once your fees are paid in full the report card will be mailed to you or given to you if you come to the office in person. Registration packets will also be held for families that are delinquent on any tuition and/or fees.

Playground Monitor Application

Information regarding the application process for these positions will be included in the registration packet. We want to offer the application to new families as well. The application deadline will be determined once the Enrollment Meetings are scheduled.

Financial Assistance

The Financial Assistance and Compliance procedure for applying for financial assistance is the same as last year. You will need to contact the school office for the forms. The Archdiocese is now using one form that can be used for any children attending a parish school and/or an Archdiocesan high school for the 2010-2011 school year. It is your responsibility to contact the office for this packet. The application is due April 1, 2010.

If you are not a parishioner of St. Gabriel you are not eligible for assistance from our parish. However, if you are registered in another Catholic parish, you may be eligible to receive assistance from your home parish. Non-Catholics are not eligible for assistance from St. Gabriel or the St. Louis Archdiocese.

This application will also be used to determine if you are eligible for the Catholic Family Tuition Assistance Program.

High School Letters

Letters of acceptance from various Catholic high schools in the area will be mailed to our 8th Graders on February 6th. All letters should be mailed at the same time; however, when an individual student receives his/her letter, depends on the local mail service. We do not receive any letters from the high schools until Monday. If you have any questions regarding the high school letter, please do not call the office until Monday.

All of us at St. Gabriel School will be praying for our 8th Graders during this time of waiting. It is difficult to go through this process and also difficult to wait for "that" letter to arrive.

Fine Arts Night at the Fox

St. Gabriel Concert Band will perform at the Fox Theatre on Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Our band is the only Catholic elementary school represented. Two area Catholic high schools will perform as well. Many public junior high and high schools will be showcased. This is a great honor for our students to be able to perform in such a fabulous venue.

Hoop for Hearts and Jump for Hearts

The students in Grades 1-3 participated in Jump for Hearts. Students in Grades 4-8 participated in Hoop for Hearts. Students will have a chance to wear jeans on Friday, February 19th if they collected money for Hoops or Jump Rope for Hearts. Students need to turn their pledge money to Mrs. Voelpel by Friday, February 12th.

Mandatory Parent Meeting for 3rd Grade Parents

The Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding mandatory meetings for parents of 3rd Graders. The high schools, both private and Archdiocesan began meetings for parents of freshman. They have found the need to have meetings for the younger students. The meeting is Tuesday, February 23rd at St. Gabriel School. The meeting begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. and will conclude at 8:00 p.m. Information regarding the meeting was mailed January 28th.

Auction

Thank you to all who have made donations for the auction that will be held on Saturday, February 27th. It is not too late to make a donation. Remember gift certificates, tickets for sporting and/or theater events are always needed. For auction reservations, please go to:

http://www.stgabschool.org/parent/auction/Auction_Reservation_Form_Parent.pdf

The profit from the auction goes directly to the school. The auction has eliminated all the fundraisers like candy sales, wrapping paper, pizza, etc. Hope to see many of you at the auction.

Supplies Needed

We are in need of good scrap paper, clean on one side. Any amount that you can donate would be appreciated. We also are in need of regular size envelopes. If your place of employment has old stationary these envelopes are great for our office.

Absences and Tardies

If your child is late arriving at school, please make sure they come to the office to sign-in. After the homeroom teacher takes attendance, the office needs to verify anyone coming in late. This also applies to those who sign their child out for a doctor's appointment and return to school. The student needs to sign back in upon their return. We do not want to alarm any parent by calling because your child is marked absent but you know that they are in school.

Students are marked tardy if they are not in their homeroom when the 7:50 a.m. bell rings. Please allow some time in the morning so your child is here on time. Most of the tardies are students who are only about 2 minutes late.

Any student having three (3) tardies in a quarter will result in the student serving a detention. A student begins each quarter with a clean slate. The 3rd quarter began on January 4th

Yearbook

St. Gabriel School offers our students the opportunity to purchase a yearbook. Each year we have more and more students purchase books and we run short. In order for us to have enough yearbooks, we will have pre-sales. Information will be coming home with your child in mid-February or late February. The yearbooks are given to the students in mid-May.

Please note that we try to keep the cost of the yearbook to a minimum so everyone is able to purchase one. The cost charged just covers our cost; this is not intended to be a fundraiser. Yearbooks are \$11.00. The order form and payment are due March 12th.

Box Tops and Campbell Labels

Please continue to save both Box Tops and Campbell Labels. These programs end in June. All of these programs help to purchase educational materials for our school. We recently received a check from Box Tops for \$1252.00

Thank You...

...to all who supported the student raffle for the PFA Auction.
...to the Blair Family for donating file folders, tablets of paper and good paper.
...to the Simokaitis Family for donating 5 reams of colored paper.
...to the Banker Family for donating good scrap paper.
...to the Bergman Family for donating books to the library.
...to the Sturma Family for donating scrap paper.

...to the Bob Elliott Family for donating “goodies” for the teachers.
...to the Zetzman Family for donating 2 reams of paper.
...to the Wienhoff Family for donating scrap paper.
...to all the students for their generosity at the Pro-Life Mass. All of the baby items will help the Birthright organization and Nurses for Newborns.
...to the Jazz Band and Sr. Gail for performing during the Open House for Catholic Schools Week.

...to the 7th & 8th Grade students who served as tour guides for the Open House:

C. Wiley	M. Stone	E. Simon	N. Cummings
A. Crecelius	B. Weinhardt	T. Killingworth	S. Duda
B. Gliedt	K. Kirner	M. Lenhart	V. Wienhoff
A. Bongiorno	M. Erger	T. Gasperoni	T. Ryan
C. Reape	O. Rohatgi	C. Millikan	

...to the PFA for hosting the cookies and punch for the Open House for Catholic Schools Week.
...to the School Board for organizing our Family Story Night with Bobby Norfolk.
...to the 5th Grade parents for organizing the DQ/LeGrand’s student lunch on February 2nd.
...to the 4th Grade parents for organizing the Ice Cream Treat on February 3rd.
...to the 1st Grade parent for organizing the Faculty Luncheon on February 5th.
...to the PFA for providing the finances for the Faculty Luncheon on February 5th.

Congratulations...

...to M. Layton, Grade 8, our Spelling Bee finalist. He will represent our school in the St. Louis Regional Bee on March 6th to be held at Maryville University. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is the sponsor of this event. T, Martin, Grade 7, placed second. Good luck!

...to our school winner of the Geography Bee, S. Genovese, Grade 8. She has taken the qualifying test in order to compete in the upcoming Missouri State round. We hope she is able to go to the State round and on to Washington D.C. for the National Geographic Final. Good luck!

...to the following students whose artwork was on display at the Galleria during Catholic Schools Week (January 31st – February 7th):

E. Adrian (Gr. 1)	K. Kirner (Gr. 4)
A. Bene (Gr. 2)	R. Davis (Gr. 5)
J. Wilson (Gr. 2)	L Pfitzinger (Gr. 6)
M. Fernandez (Gr. 3)	D. Siebum (Gr. 7)
M. Bokern (Gr. 3)	T. Finazzo (Gr. 8)

I ask that you pray for our Archdiocesan leaders, parents, students, teachers, and community that we can continue to offer Catholic education as a viable option for our children now and in the years to come.

Thank you for supporting Catholic education; it is truly a “Dividend for Life”.

Sincerely,
Ann M. Davis
Principal

**Go to the website to check the
school calendar**
http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_2
and the cafeteria duty calendar
http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_1

Want to get involved at St. Gabriel the Archangel School?

Here's your chance!

The PFA is looking for a few good officers. Do you have talent in organizing activities? Do you have good math/finance skills?

We are looking for officers for the following positions for the 2010-2011 school year.

- **Co-Chair of PFA**
Two year term
2nd year Chair of PFA
- **Treasurer**
Two year term
- **Co-Chair of Home and School**
Two year term
2nd year Chair of PFA

Contact Dee Simokiatis (752-1860) or Liz Foppe (647-2370) if interested in any of these positions.



Catholic Family Services

School Tools

January, 2010
Volume 7, Issue 5

Family Issues—Birth Order & Sibling Rivalry

Dear Teachers and Parents,

Every one of us was born into a family...some of us were raised in our biological family and others in an adoptive family. Needless to say, family is an important part of our lives. The type of family we have, which includes our parents (or other adults who have raised us) and siblings can affect our personality and the way we respond to life's circumstances.

As children are born into the family, each one in relationship to other members of the family develops his or her own approach in an effort to gain a place within the group. Birth

order and relationships with our siblings can make a difference in the family. It should also be said that human beings react differently to the same situation. No two children born into the same family grow up in the same situation.

Read on for more information on this topic.



What To Do About Sibling Rivalry

While it is fairly common for siblings to fight, it is still not pleasant to hear around the house. Here are some general guidelines to follow:

- Whenever possible, **don't get involved**. You can step in if there's a danger of physical harm, but always intervening creates other problems. The kids may come to expect your help and may not learn to solve problems on their own. There's also the risk that one child may think you are siding with the other one.
- If you are concerned about language or name-calling, try to coach the kids on ways to handle their feelings by using more appropriate words.

- If you have to step in:
 1. Separate kids until they are calm and their emotions have died down.
 2. Don't focus too much on which child is to blame—it takes two to fight.
 3. Try asking them what they could do to try to work things out.
 4. Focus on a "win-win" situation. For example, they could take turns playing with the game.
 As kids cope with disputes, they learn basic life lessons—like how to compromise, negotiate and how to control aggressive impulses.

Characteristics of Birth Order

There are general characteristics among a child's place in the family constellation, some of which are listed below.

The Only Child

1. Enjoys his position as the center of interest.
2. Sometimes has a feeling of insecurity due to the anxiety of his parents.
3. If his requests are not granted, he may feel unfairly treated.

The First Child

1. Has to be first—in the sense of gaining and holding superiority over the

next children.

2. Becomes a "de-throned" child with the birth of the second child.
3. Sometimes strives to protect and help others in his struggle to keep the upper hand.

The Second Child

1. Never has his parents undivided attention.
2. Always has in front of him another child who is more advanced.
3. If the first child is successful, the second child is more likely to feel uncertain of self and his

abilities.

The Youngest Child

1. Is often like an only child.
2. Usually has things done for him—decisions made and responsibility taken.
3. Often allies with the first child as being different from the rest.

The Middle Child

1. May feel unloved.
2. Becomes a "squeezed child" whenever a third child is born.
3. May hold the conviction that people are unfair to him.

Please copy and distribute to Teachers and Parents

If you would like to receive School Tools via e-mail rather than mail, contact: mwilper@cstl.org

Published by:
Catholic Family Services
School Partnership
Program
9200 Watson Rd.
Suite G101
St. Louis, MO 63126-1528
314-544-3800 phone
314-843-1450 fax
www.cfstl.org