



## St. Gabriel School Newsletter December 2010



### IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER

- December 1 8:45a Grade 6 Reconciliation  
6:30p E. Des Lee Showcase at Powell Hall (Selected students from grs. 4 & 5)
- December 2 8:45a Grade 3 Reconciliation  
7:00p Winter Vocal Concert – Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and Honor Choir
- December 3 Grade 2 – Jesus Day
- December 4 10:30a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation
- December 5 7:00p Honor Choir to sing at Our Lady of the Snows
- December 6 Thursday Schedule  
8:00a All School Mass – St. Nick’s Mass (students are to bring a toy for Immaculate Conception/St. Henry and our Giving Tree Program)
- December 7 3:15p Faculty Meeting
- December 8 **No School – Feast of Immaculate Conception**
- December 9 Monday Schedule  
8:45a Grade 4 Reconciliation  
7:30p Winter Band Concert
- December 10 Lake children to be “Principal for the Day”  
8:00a Band to perform for school
- December 15 8:45a Grade 7 Reconciliation
- December 16 8:00a Baptismal Celebration (December and June)  
8:45a Grade 5 Reconciliation
- December 17 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
2:05p Holiday Treats for Grades K-8  
3:00p Dismissal (Christmas Holiday begins)

### Thanksgiving Observation

The students and faculty celebrated Thanksgiving with our annual all school Mass. This year, the students made posters in their “special school families” group of things that they were thankful for in their life. Representatives carried the posters in the entrance procession. These posters were hung throughout the church during the Mass and moved to the vestibule and hallway of church for the parish Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday. During the homily, Fr. Tim had a few students share what they were thankful for. Here are a few that were shared:

**M. Smith, Gr. 6:** “I am truly thankful to live in a country like America. To have the right to vote for a leader and to believe in our own religious beliefs is an immense gift. This country holds the very heart of western civilization and culture. In a world like today, with wars constantly raging across our planet, we are seen as the land of opportunity and a home to people of all ethnicities, religions, and morals. I feel grateful to live in this country and to have such a free life.”

**E. Schroder, Gr. 4:** “I’m thankful for all the talents God has given me and all the challenges He has given me so I can turn them into achievements. I’m thankful for all the food that is at my table each night. God has blessed me with all sorts of wonderful things that I am thankful for. I’m thankful for my family and friends, and all the support that they give me. I am thankful for everything that I’ve been blessed with and I pray for the people that aren’t as fortunate as we are.”

**J. Schwartz, Gr. 7:** “ I am thankful for my family. My family is always there to support me in all decisions I make. They provide for me a safe shelter and food. Without them I could accomplish nothing.”

The students took up a collection \$600.00 at offertory. This money will help the parishioners that serve the community of Sts. Peter and Paul at the Soup Kitchen. Food, gloves, socks, etc. will be purchased to help those who are less fortunate.

For those who attended this Mass, it was a very moving experience. I had many parents comment that this really puts into perspective why we send our children to a Catholic school.

### **Advent at St. Gabriel School**

As we begin Advent, a season of being prepared, we are keeping our advent activities at school simple. Our theme this year is “Patience, People”. At St. Gabriel the Archangel School you will see our hallways and classrooms decorated with ancient signs and symbols of the season like Advent Wreathes, Jesse Trees, O Antiphons, empty cribs waiting for the Baby Jesus and more. Each morning, our prayer include symbols of the Jesse Tree.

We will have our annual St. Nick’s Toy Collection on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the All School Mass. It is important to keep in mind the needs of others.

Students have had the opportunity for Reconciliation prior to Advent. The following classes are scheduled for December:

Grade 6 – December 1	Grade 7 – December 15
Grade 3 – December 3	Grade 5 – December 16
Grade 4 – December 9	

### **Kindergarteners Attending Mass**

Beginning with Advent, the Kindergarteners will attend Mass on Tuesdays with Grades 1-3. They will not attend any of the all school Masses this year. When we have special Masses, such as St. Nick’s, they can bring the items to be donated to their classroom.

### **Holiday Happenings**

As we look at the December calendar, there are a variety of activities happening within the school community. We know that December is a busy month for everyone, but we do hope that you can join us for the various events.

The students in Grades 2, 4, 6, and 8 and the Honor Choir will get us in the holiday spirit at the Winter Vocal Concert on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

On Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, all students will have the opportunity to bring a toy to be given to a needy organization. St. Nick will visit during the Mass. If Kindergarten students would like to bring toys, they can bring them on Monday and we will collect these from their classroom since they do not attend the all school masses. These toys can be new or fairly new. We ask that you do not donate toys that require batteries or electricity. Many of the families that receive the toys are in such financial need that they cannot afford batteries and/or have difficulty paying their electric bill. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Members of our Honor Choir will sing at Our Lady of the Snows on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. Please join us and then visit the light display afterwards.

The members of the Beginning, Intermediate, Concert and Jazz Band will share their gift of music at the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

### **First Reconciliation**

On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., our Second Graders will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We ask you to pray for our Second Graders as they continue to prepare for the reception of this sacrament. All of us extend our congratulations to them.

Students in Grades 3-8 have had the opportunity for reconciliation after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at various times during November and December.

### **Important Dates for December**

There will be no school on Wednesday, December 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> is a full day of school. Our Christmas holiday begins at 3:00 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Classes resume on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Food & Fuel Weekend**

This month our Food & Fuel Weekend, December 4 & 5 will focus on Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This center assists families in the North City area. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade is asked to donate food for this month. Students can bring the canned goods to any of the masses on this weekend.

The next Food & Fuel Weekend is January 1 & 2. We are asking our 4<sup>th</sup> grade families to donate food for January. The focus for this month is St. Vincent's Poor Fund. This center assists families in the Souldard Area.

### **Lunch Ordering**

Since December is a short month, we will e-mail the January menu on December 7<sup>th</sup> and ask that you return it no later than Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. If you do not turn in the menu prior to the Christmas break you can mail it directly to: **Two Mike's Catering, 2713 Lynch, St. Louis, MO 63118.**

### **Buzz Book Corrections**

There was a typing mistake on the e-mail address for Debbie Wells. The correct e-mail is [wellsdkf@aol.com](mailto:wellsdkf@aol.com)

The Paul Lauer Family has moved. Their new address is 6216 Itaska.

### **Students Making a Difference**

8th Grader, B. Uxa and his Confirmation sponsor took the initiative to create their own "Hike-a-thon". He asked only family members only to pledge this 5 mile hike. He raised \$302.00 which he is donating to Elba's Orphans, one of our mission focuses this year.

Alumna, Allison Zanaboni '01, is attending the University of Missouri School of Medicine. She informed us that March 2011, she will be participating in a week long medical mission trip to the city of Chichicastenango, Guatemala in Central America. She will be a part of a team of other medical students, doctors, and volunteers. They will provide the native peoples with health education and medical supplies.

### **Reporting Absences**

It is very important that you inform the school office if your child(ren) will not be in school for vacations, funerals, doctor appointments, high school shadowing, etc. Families are very good about reporting for illness, but not the other reasons. It helps our office staff if they know in advance. If we do not receive a phone call from a family reporting an absence, the office staff will call the home. Sometimes this can take about ½ to 1 hour out of the day.

Also, if you are e-mailing to let us know that your child needs to leave for an appointment, please send that to the attention of the office as well. As we have stated many times, the teachers sometimes can only get to their e-mail at lunch, a planning period or in most cases the end of the day. Informing only the teachers does not help since they get to their e-mail after the fact. Thanks for your help in this matter. The office e-mail is [office@stgabschool.org](mailto:office@stgabschool.org). In most cases, you can call the office directly and speak to one of the secretaries to get the message to your child and his/her teacher.

### **Registration Notice for Re-registration**

Please mark your calendar for the Mandatory Re-registration/Re-Enrollment Meeting for the 2011-2012 school year. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the cafeteria. You can attend either evening. All tuition fees, band fees, etc. must be paid up-to-date for your registration forms to be processed. For your budget purposes we want to remind you that ½ of the book bill is due with the registration form, the remainder is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tuition Payment**

This is a reminder that the semi-annual tuition payment is due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send the payment to the rectory office. You will receive an invoice indicating the balance due by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The second quarter ends on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. If a family is delinquent with their tuition, SCRIPS, band fees and/or EDK fees, report cards will be held. Access to grades on-line will be disabled for families whose report cards are held.

### **PFA Auction**

The auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a student raffle January 10 –14. The money collected from this raffle will be used to purchase an item for the auction in the name of St. Gabriel Students. More information will be sent home in January.

### **Book Fair**

Thank you for supporting the School Book Fair. This year we made a profit of \$2500.00 in cash. All profits will be used to purchase books for the library and novel sets for the classrooms.

A special thank you to Mrs. Migneco and Mrs. Heffernan for coordinating the Book Fair. A great big thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help the students select books.

### **A Special Thank You**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade thanks all those who helped with the Trivia Night. They are especially grateful to all the school families, parishioners and friends that participated in the Trivia Night. The profit from this event is \$4700.00. This will help defray the cost of various 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities.

The next 8<sup>th</sup> grade activity is Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars for the “8<sup>th</sup> Grade Follies.”

### **SCRIPS**

Thank you to those who have purchased their SCRIPS or have chosen to buy-out of the program. We want to remind those that have not made their purchases of \$170.00 per month or have not paid \$100.00 for the buy-out program; you need to bring your account up-to-date. Your report cards will be held in January if your account is in the arrears.

### **A Note from Camp Happy Day**

“Camp Happy Day thanks all our parishioners who contributed to the Old Newsboys Day Fund on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Despite the poor state of our economy, Camp Happy Days collected \$5,171.84 from seventeen corners. This was \$142.52 more than last year, which is awesome! The four St. Gabriel students – K. Kimble, E. Cataldo, T. Neill, and J. Masterson – who hawked papers did a great job! They collected \$108.00 for which we are very grateful. Thank you to all who helped make this event worthwhile. Since 1972 Camp Happy Day has donated \$97,879.99 to our camp for equipment, materials, scholarships and field trips.” Thanks again! – Mitch Hanneken, Founder/Director Emeriti.

### **Congratulations to...**

... the following Bellarmine Speech League members who participated at the meet on November 6<sup>th</sup>:

**Red Ribbon:** L. Vitelli (Serious category)

**Blue Ribbon:** H. Randolph (Serious category);

M. Stinehart, E. Rohatgi; M. Rohatgi (Humorous category)

**Gold Ribbon:** J. Barbey (Serious category); H. and M. Zanaboni (Duet category)

...to Mrs. Hoeing, 5th grade teacher, who was recognized at the “Shining Star” Educator Dinner sponsored by the St. Louis Science Center. She is among other educators from the St. Louis Area who attended the awards dinner on Friday, November 19th.

...the following students who were members of the Metro District 8 Honor Choir:

A. Bresnahan

N. Cummings

S. Duda

A. Faust

E. Koeing

M. Mense

V. Wienhoff

These students performed at Missouri Baptist University on November 13<sup>th</sup> with other students from parochial, private and public schools from the St. Louis area.

... the following students who were members of the St. Louis Metro District Honor Band:  
T. Martin (Concert Band)            K. Waelterman (Concert Band)

These students performed at Principia University on November 21<sup>st</sup> with other students from parochial, private and public schools from the St. Louis area.

**Thank You to...**

...our timekeepers for the Bellarmine Speech Meet held at St. Gabriel School: M. Wiley, M. Mense, S. Duda, R. Moeller, E. Cataldo, H. Stelzer-Monahan, K. Kimble, G. Sperkowski, J. Stinehart, H. Hunter, M. Belrose, N. Stevens, L. McCarthy, and Mrs. Walker.  
...to the students who helped to set-up the school for the meet: K. Kimble, E. Crews, G. Sperkowski, E. Cataldo, M. Belrose, M. Madden, and L. McCarthy.  
...our speech team coordinator, Mrs. Doenges and our coaches, Mrs. Bernstein, Mrs. Migneco, Mrs. Walker, Miss Davis, and Mrs. Doenges. The Speech Team would not be possible without the help of our coaches and judges who work with the students.  
...the families who purchased books from the Book Fair and donated the books to the school library and/or classroom libraries. Our profit was \$2500.00  
...the volunteers who helped with our Book Fair.  
...the Frederick Family for donating scrap paper.  
...the Urvater Family for donating office supplies.  
...the Weinhoff Family for donating paper.  
...the Russo Family for donating scrap paper.  
...the Eberle Family for donating scrap paper.  
...the Brad Naeger Family for donating office supplies.  
...the Evola Family for donating books to the library.  
...the Sturma Family for donating scrap paper.  
...the Tom Pike Family for donating scrap paper.  
...parishioner, Mary Callier, for donating magazines to the library.  
...the following 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for babysitting at the November 23<sup>rd</sup> PFA Meeting – A. Faust, A. Kasten, and M. Arteaga.

**Remember to...**

... pick up your Scrips orders on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. in the school meeting room or after masses on Sundays. Now you can use SCRIP-TO-GO for quick and easy purchases. Click the SCRIP Handbook link under 'Quick Links' on the school website.

**Please note that on-line ordering of SCRIP will not be available during our Christmas break.**

On behalf of the school community of St. Gabriel, I want to wish you and your family a very blessed and joy-filled Advent.

Sincerely,

*Ann M. Davis*  
Principal

Go to the website to check the  
school calendar  
[http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool\\_2](http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_2)  
and the cafeteria duty calendar  
[http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool\\_1](http://plus.calendars.net/stgabschool_1)

Attachment: School Tools from Catholic Family Services



Catholic Family Services

# School Tools

November, 2010  
Volume 8, Issue 3

## Teaching Kids To Be Responsible

*Dear Teachers and Parents,*

Your "baby" is walking down the aisle, just having received their high school diploma. "Where did all those years go?" you ask yourself. "Did I give them what they needed to be a responsible adult? Are they going to survive on their own?" If you're asking yourself those questions and feel somewhat panicked, you may want to take some deep breaths and say a few prayers! If you're not there yet, read on for some ideas on how to teach your kids to be more responsible.

As the generations change, it seems that chil-

dren are finding it increasingly difficult to be responsible. Either they are not being adequately taught to be responsible or they don't see the importance of it...especially when things are done for them that they could easily do on their own.

Take the time to teach them this important skill.



### Making Peace In Times of Conflict

How easy is it for children to take responsibility for their part in a conflict? It's tough! After things cool down, most of the time they feel some remorse, but they might not have the words or the skills to make peace with the other party. This can be done at a "peace table" or anywhere. Here are ideas:

1. Have a prayer that they can say together.
2. Create ground rules by which they agree to abide. Some examples are:
  - Take turns talking
  - Respect the other's thoughts and feelings
  - Agree to solve the problem
3. Explore the problem. One person goes first and tells

about the problem from their point of view. The next person does the same. Make sure that the problem stated by each person is understood by the other. You may need to remind them of the ground rules again at this point.

4. Explore solutions. Each person states how they think the problem could be solved to make both people happy. If only one person is happy, then the problem isn't solved. They may have to compromise. Remind them about forgiveness as well.
5. Congratulate them!

**Please copy and distribute to Teachers and Parents**

If you would like to receive School Tools via e-mail rather than mail, contact: [mwilper@ccstl.org](mailto:mwilper@ccstl.org)

## 10 Great Ways to Teach Responsibility

1. **Give them tasks when they are young.** Usually children at that age like to help and there are many things that kids 2 years and older can do.
2. **Don't use rewards with your kids.** If you use rewards a lot, they will grow to expect them and won't develop an intrinsic sense of responsibility.
3. **As much as possible, use natural consequences when they make mistakes.** A natural consequence is what naturally happens rather than being orches-

- trated by you. For example, they get hungry if they decide not to eat their dinner.
4. **Let them know when you see them being responsible.** This will give them more incentive to keep acting responsibly.
5. **Talk often about responsibility with your kids.** Use examples you see in the media or read stories about this.
6. **Model responsible behavior for kids.** Try to be on time, take care of your things. They will see how you handle yourself.

7. **Give them an allowance early in life.** Being responsible for their money and buying certain things with it, is a great learning tool.
8. **Have a strong belief that your kids are responsible.** They will pick up on your attitude about them, either negative or positive.
9. **It helps to talk with other parents or read parenting books on this subject.**
10. **Talk to your kids about ideas they may have which would help them take more responsibility.**

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