

## HOT LUNCHES

The January 14<sup>th</sup> hot lunch is being sponsored by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents. The menu is roast turkey with mashed potatoes, corn and dessert.

Cost for hot lunch is \$1.50 and money must be turned in to your child's teacher on Monday or Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.

The hot lunch on January 28<sup>th</sup> will be sponsored by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents. The menu will be a chicken patty sandwich (with condiments), macaroni & cheese, and dessert..

Cost for hot lunch is \$1.50 and money must be turned in to your child's teacher on Monday or Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>.

***Remember, money is NOT to be sent to parents preparing the hot lunch.***

## PIZZA DAY MONEY

Pizza days this month will be January 8-15-22 & 29.

If you pay for pizza monthly, please remember that Friday, January 29, 2010 is the last day to pay for pizza for the month of February. There are two pizza days in February.

## WAY TO GO CHEERLEADERS

This year's cheerleading squad is off to a great start. Under the leadership of advisors Mary Lynne Reimold, Robin Bates and Chris Cianci, the girls' routines are peppy and precisioned. Student helpers Katie Ammann and Deanna Uzarski have been a big help.

Thanks to Mary Ammann for making all the decorations for the boys' games.

One of our eighth grade cheerleaders, Courtney Cianci, is a member of a competitive cheerleading group called, "*The Tumble Zone Aces*". Her group (Junior Level 2) placed first in a competition at Slippery Rock University and earned a trip to the regional competition.

## ERIN SCULLIN TOURNAMENT

Saint Michael will host the Erin Scullin Tournament on January 8-9-10, 2010. This is the tenth anniversary for the tournament, so we invite everyone to come and watch local teams and our JV girls compete.

Special thanks to our sponsors, our parent workers, our officials, our Athletic Committee and members of the Scullin family.

This tournament is a wonderful tribute to a valiant, courageous young woman.

## PARDON OUR SLIP

Nolan Cianci, Grade 7, received first honors for the first grading period and Haley Bates, Grade 7, earned second honors. Their names were omitted in the December newsletter.

Congratulations Nolan & Haley!!

## GEOGRAPHY BEE WINNERS

Congratulations to the classroom winners of the first round of the National Geographic Geography Bee.

Grade 4	Gina Maloney
Grade 5	John Cianci
Grade 6	Aaron Emmett
Grade 7	Christian Riggle
Grade 8	Shelby McElhinny

Thank you to our social studies teachers, Mary Pat McParland and Nancy Kremm, for helping to prepare the students.

Our school competition to select a qualifier for the state competition will be held on January 7, 2010. The winner of that round takes the test to see if he/she qualifies for the state level.

Several years ago, John McElhinny, earned the right to go to both the State and National competitions. He prepared by reading through National Geographic books on different countries and reading encyclopedia articles.

## JEANS DAY

Our December Jeans Day money (\$60.50) was sent to the Good Shepherd Center to help with their holiday food baskets and increased numbers of needy families.

## THANK YOU VERY MUCH

\*To Kelly Campbell and Jen McElhinny, our Santa Land chairpersons, and all teachers, parents, and grandparents who helped in anyway to make Santa Land such a success

\*To all who support our school by using SCRIP gift cards, and to Shannon Thomas and Natalie Blatt for chairing that program.

\*To all who helped with the December hot lunches and pizza days.

\*To all who remembered our teachers, principal, and staff members over the holidays with cards, gifts, prayers and various homemade goodies. Your kindness is much appreciated.

\*To all homeroom parents and others who helped with the classroom parties and caroling trips on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

\*To our PTO for a wonderful Christmas dinner and thoughtful SCRIP gift cards for our faculty and staff.

\*To all who supported our Avon fundraiser and seventh grade Book Fair.

\*To our Student Council for decorating the front doors of our school for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

\*To all parents and teachers who helped Mr. Hogan with the Christmas program on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, especially Mrs. McConnell and our accompanist, Mrs. Sharen Seiple. Thanks, too, to Kathy Leonard and Cheryl Clark for helping with decorations.

\*To all who have contributed to our annual fund drive.

## THE HERALD SPELLING BEE

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Herald Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Sharon High School.

The contest is open to students in grades 4, 5 and 6. The word list may be found on-line.

Encourage your child to participate. The words are hard, but a challenge is good for everyone. First prize is a new computer.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2010

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated January 31-February 6, 2010 across the nation and here at Saint

Michael. Our theme this year is: **Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life.**

### January 31

9:00 Mass to open CSW  
Basketball Tournament at Kennedy Catholic

### February 1

Family Skating Party  
6-8 PM at Olympic Fun Center in Hermitage

### February 2

Eighth Grade Mass & Communion Breakfast  
(Hosted by Saint Michael)

### February 3

Breakfast With the Principal  
Jump for Heart - Grades 4-8

### February 4

Open House  
6-7:30 PM at Big School  
6:30-8 PM at Margaret Brown

### February 5

Closing Mass 9:00 AM  
Buddy Day Lunch  
Student Assembly

## WE STAND PROUD

\*Of Natasha Pacifico, Reynolds freshman and St. Michael alumna, whose artwork was selected for the Reynolds School District Christmas card.

\*Of Donovan Lambert, Grade 8, whose poem "A Red Rose" was recently published by the American Poet Society. It was printed in a book called Inspired. The book will be on display in the school library from January 11-15<sup>th</sup>.

\*Of Nicolas Cianci, alumnus and Kennedy senior, who has been nominated for both the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point.

\*Of Bianca Morris, Grade 8, who did a beautiful job of singing the National Anthem at the boys' game on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*Of Zack Hershberger, Grade 7, for volunteering to serve as our school mascot for basketball games. His leprechaun outfit was designed by Mrs. Kathy Leonard. Back in the 1960's, Melvin Gillingham was our leprechaun mascot.

\*Of the children in Grades 1, 3, 5, & 7, and the band and choir for a wonderful Christmas program.

## **PARKING AT MARGARET BROWN**

A special thank you to parents, grandparents and visitors to our Margaret Brown building who are following our parking policy.

**Remember, no cars are to enter the fenced in area before school in the morning or between 2:00-2:30 PM in the afternoon.**

For the safety of our children, we are asking everyone to make following this policy a top priority. Be sure to tell aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc. about the policy on days that they may be transporting your child. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and may save the life of a child.

Also, please be careful when pulling in to the alley behind the school as traffic flows both ways and we cannot block the alley. It is best to use the lot across the street.

Parent volunteers for library, preschool, lunch supervision, etc. are asked to use the marked spaces (along the alley fence) or the Hillside Presbyterian Church parking lot.

## **CHESS CLUB**

Saint Michael School is starting a Chess Club this month for any student in Grades 1-8 who has an interest in and knows how to play chess.

The club will meet after school twice a month from 2:30-4:00 PM.

Any adult or high school student in need of service hours, who may be interested in helping with the Chess Club, should contact Miss Lipani, our principal.

Our first session will be Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

## **SUPERBOWL COLLECTION**

It has become a tradition here at St. Michael Parish to set aside Superbowl Sunday as a time to take up a special collection at Church to raise money for the youth activities we sponsor – soccer, basketball, cheerleading, volleyball, swimming, student retreats, etc.



This year, we will take up this special collection on Sunday, February 1, 2009. Please be generous. Contributions may be directed to our school principal, Miss Lipani if you won't be at church that weekend.

## **PRO-LIFE MARCH—WASHINGTON, D.C.**

You are cordially invited to join the 36th annual Pro-Life March in Washington, DC on Thursday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bus leaves St. Michael parking lot on Wednesday at 11 PM and returns the next day at approximately 11 PM.

Cost for Adults is \$30 and for students is \$15. Please note that students younger than eighth grade must have a parent accompany them. The Greenville Knights of Columbus Council #1446 will gladly subsidize the cost for anyone who needs help with the fare. Call the Office of Religious Education at 724-588-7198 for more details or to make your reservations.

## **ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL GIFT CARDS**

- Convenient gift cards! 130 different card choices!
- 50% goes to tuition credit for any family you choose.
- 50% goes to St. Michael School.
- Cards can be purchased for home improvement, gifts, clothing, gas, restaurants, groceries, pharmacies, etc.
- Payment due at time of order. Cash/check accepted.

Please buy gift cards to support St. Michael School!

Call Shannon Thomas at 724-588-1612 or Natalie Blatt at 724-588-7526.

## **EITC PROGRAM**

You have probably been hearing about the EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Program recently.

This is a program where people who have a business operating in the state of Pennsylvania have an opportunity to redirect their tax money that would otherwise go to Harrisburg, to be used towards scholarships for Private Schools. You can also request that it be sent directly to St. Michael School to help those families that need tuition assistance in order to send their children to our school. (Over 50% of our families requested and received tuition assistance last year.) This can also be written off as a charitable deduction on the federal tax return, so in essence, there is no cost to the business and it would be put to very good use right here at our school.

If you yourself own a business, work for a company that might be interested in participating or know of someone who might like additional information, please call the school and ask for Joanie Micsky at 724-588-7050.

## **POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

On days when the district in which you reside declares a two hour delay and a parent makes the effort to bring their child to school, the child shall not be marked tardy if he/she arrives before 10:15 AM (the two hours of the delay).

There has been some confusion on this issue in the past. Hopefully, this will clear up any questions a parent may have. We appreciate the efforts of our parents to get their child to school on time and modeling for their child that school is a priority.

## **BUDDY DAY**

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> will be Buddy Day at Saint Michael School.

Students will be paired up with a student from another grade and will eat lunch with that child. Lunch will be provided by our PTO and consists of a hamburger, pretzels and an ice cream bar. There is no cost for the lunch.

Students may make a bookmark or card for their buddy, or bring a healthy treat to share. No gifts should be purchased for buddies.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS**

❖ Winners of the Christmas drawing contest were:

### **Grades 6-8**

1<sup>st</sup> Katie Ammann  
2<sup>nd</sup> Alyson Derrick

### **Grades 3-5**

1<sup>st</sup> Madison Dickson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Williams  
3<sup>rd</sup> Makayla Utlak

### **Grades K-2**

1<sup>st</sup> Caroline Hoovler  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brianna Hennigh  
3<sup>rd</sup> Melina Liszka

## **DAFFIN'S CANDY SALE**

Our annual Daffin's candy sale will begin on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and end on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Payment must be included with orders.

Delivery will be on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **MATHCOUNTS**

The regional Mathcounts Competition will be held at Grove City College on February 9, 2008.

Representing our school will be the following students from Grades 6-7-8: Patricia McIntosh, Nathan Demarest, Dominik Pflieger, Gavin Cianci, Gwen Pflieger, and Deanna Uzarski. They have been preparing with Miss Lipani, their Mathcounts coach.

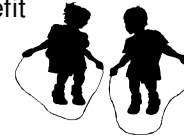
To learn more, check out the Mathcounts website at [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org). You will find:

1. Go Figure! Math Challenge, where students can work problems at their own pace.
2. Problem of the week – updated every Monday.
3. Coaches Forum, where coaches for Mathcounts can exchange ideas and tips.

## **JUMP FOR HEART**

Once again, it is time for our students in Grades 4-8 to seek sponsors for our Jump for Heart event during Catholic School Week on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Proceeds benefit the American Heart Association. Please join Miss Roche and our students by supporting this worthy cause and being a sponsor.



## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Kindergarten registration will be held during the week of February 19-22, 2008.

To register, a child must be five years old by September 1, 2008.

When parents register, they will need to complete a diocesan application form. They will also need a copy of the child's birth certificate, baptismal record, immunization record and social security number. There is a \$25.00 registration fee.

Due to the amount of paperwork involved, parents may phone the school and when the registration packets are ready, one will be mailed to you. (Packets will not be ready until early February.) You may complete it at home and bring it to the school when you come during the week set aside for registration.

School office hours are from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR STAR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

If you would like to apply for a financial aid scholarship for your child(ren) attending Catholic elementary or high school, applications are available at our school office.

- ◆ STAR assistance is available to both elementary (preschool-8) and secondary (9-12) students, and is only available to students of Pennsylvania.
- ◆ Applications are due **March 15, 2008** for tuition assistance in the 2008-2009 school year.
- ◆ Money to fund STAR tuition assistance has been donated under the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The legislation creating EITC allows for businesses to designate specific schools to receive their

donation. As such, some schools have money designated only for them. As of this date, we are unsure of the amount of funds available in the non-school-specific pool.

- ◆ A family only needs to complete one application to either or both funds for tuition assistance. They will automatically be considered for either or both funds, depending on their eligibility.
- ◆ Families are only eligible for one STAR award per school year. For example, a family with two children attending a K-8 school will, if eligible, only receive one grant (a minimum of 25% of the first child's tuition). A family with a child in an elementary school and a child in high school may be eligible to receive two awards.
- ◆ Tuition assistance applications must be accompanied by a Pennsylvania Income Tax Return, copies of W2s and 1099 forms.

Several families received help last year, so don't fail to apply.

## **DAFFIN'S CANDY SALE**

Our PTO is once again sponsoring the Daffin's Candy Easter Sale.

Maureen Riggle is our chairperson and looks forward to a successful sale to help our school.

Orders for candy will be taken in February. Brochures will be sent home with each student. Please look for them.

Candy will be delivered to Saint Michael School before Easter. Your support is appreciated.