

ST. MARY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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February 24, 2010

Lent

Lent is a time to journey with Jesus. Staff and students will be praying the Stations of the Cross every Monday morning at 8:30 A.M. Note the time change – I had 9:00 A.M. in last week's newsletter. In addition to this opportunity, students are saving pennies for people in Haiti, filling their rice bowls, and working hard on their Lenten resolutions.

If you have not turned in your 2010 -2011 registration forms, please do so as soon as possible. We have a wonderful group of students signed up for next year, and we are anticipating having more students in our school than this year! This is a wonderful testimony for our school, especially since many schools are seeing dramatic enrollment declines. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped with or brought items to coffee and rolls on Sunday. We had a wonderful turnout!

I will be having another "Coffee and Chat" meeting on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 9:15 A.M. All parents and parishioners are encouraged to attend to share their thoughts and ideas on how to keep our school successful and viable in the coming years. There will be coffee, tea, juice, and morning snacks.

If you are a family that has automatic tuition taken out on the 20th of each month, it will not come out until the 25th this month. I apologize for any inconvenience. If you are behind in your tuition payments, I will be contacting you next Monday to revisit your payment plan so we can work on creating a situation that works for you and St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School.

Students in grades 4-6 brought home chaperone forms for the field trip to the capital. If you are interested, please complete the forms and return with your child.

Our second and fourth graders have begun a pen pal exchange with the Long Prairie Memorial Nursing Home residents. This exchange is a wonderful way for our students and the nursing home residences to share a bit of themselves and forge friendships with people of different ages.

Please keep Alice Foote and her family in your prayers. Alice's uncle died this past week. May God grant them comfort during this difficult time.

Fundraising Meeting Tonight!

There is a silent/live auction fundraising meeting tonight at 7:15 in the church hall. We encourage parents to come and help us plan this big event!

Pennies for Haiti

Wow! The children are doing a wonderful job collecting pennies for Haiti! I haven't seen so many pennies in a long time – the first week our big container was almost half full. Keep up the good work!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 -
Fundraising meeting at 7:15 P.M. in
the school.

Friday, February 26, 2010 -
Kindergarten Roundup from 8:30
A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 - Faith and
Education Council Meeting at 5:00
P.M. in the church hall.

Friday, March 12, 2010 - No School -
Teacher In-service.

Saturday, March 27, 2010 - Father
Richard's birthday.

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 - Early out
at 1:00 P.M. No childcare.

Thursday, April 1 - Monday, April 5,
2010 - NO SCHOOL - Holy
Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter
Monday break.

Tuesday and Thursday, April 13 and 15 -
MCA II Math Test for grades 3 - 6.

Tuesday and Thursday, April 20 and 22 -
MCA II Reading Test for grades 3-
6.

Sunday, May 2, 2010 - First Communion
at the 10:30 A.M. mass.

God our Father, your wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways. Send your blessing upon our Catholic schools. Give your seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit to pastors, students, administrators and teachers, parents, board members and alumni, staff members, employees and volunteers, and to all who promote education in our Catholic schools through their prayer, service and donations. Grant that students and teachers may grow in wisdom and grace through their classes. Help them to learn the Catholic faith and live it daily in a spirit of humility, goodness, fidelity, and obedience to your will, with gratitude to you, O Giver of every blessing, and with a commitment to continue the ministry of Jesus in the world. Show them how to follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. Lord, we praise you through Jesus Christ, your Son, in the love of your Holy Spirit, both now and forever. Amen.

Prekindergarten

See weekly newsletter.

Kindergarten

See weekly newsletter.

First Grade

Jesus said, "Return to me with your whole heart." We are taking 10 minutes out of our day to return OUR HEARTS and write our thoughts to Jesus in our Prayer Journals. We really enjoy the relaxing and quiet time that we share with Our Savior! S.O.S./Share Our Service by finding and collecting pennies for the Lenten penny jar. Thanks! Reading-Colors, Colors, Colors, short o words, drawing conclusions and exclamation points. Math-addition, subtraction, measuring and money. Social-Honoring the Presidents! Art-caricatures of George and Abe! Have a FUN weekend!

Second Grade

This week in second grade, we are working on keeping our Lenten promises and learning about the Stations of the Cross. We will also be choosing mass parts for next Wednesday's mass that will be prepared by our class. In math we are doing equal sharing and grouping activities that teach the process of multiplication and division. In reading we will be starting Theme 4 - Amazing Animals. There will be a surprise visitor coming into our room to help get this theme underway. In social studies, we will be looking back on the different presidents that have run our country. Enjoy the rest of the week!

Third Grade

Gabe Abraham is a wonderful disciple of Jesus. He enjoys a good laugh and spreading love to those around him! During math we are learning how to measure angles. Our hilarious story for this week is called, "Raising Dragons." One skill we will be learning this week through this story is present time. Our theme for this week's mass is, What We Do For Others, We Do For Jesus. May we carry this theme throughout this Lenten season and beyond.

Fourth Grade

We are becoming masters at dividing bigger numbers. This week we also began using a protractor to measure angles. We have completed the story The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. This is the last week of the month, so I hope everyone makes his/her AR goal! Almost all of the students have recited the Ten Commandments to me. We are learning about the Holy Spirit and Confirmation in our religion class. During Lent we read a verse from the Bible every day. We also picked a task to do, such as eating all of our food at lunch. In Science we are learning about weather. If someone has a barometer that we could use for a few weeks, please let me know.

Fifth Grade

The fifth graders are very excited for the upcoming Environmental Camp; only one week away. We continue to work very hard on fractions in math. In social we continue to learn about our U.S. History, and we also are quite interested in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Lent is our theme in religion. How are our Lenten sacrifices going? Midterms are soon approaching. Do we have 50% of our AR goal? Do we have all of our work turned in? Just a few questions to ask our students. Watch for the list of supplies for camp. Please contact me with any last-minute questions or concerns. There is still room for more chaperones for our May 20th field trip.

Sixth Grade

We started the week with a prayer service where we went through the Stations of the Cross, and Mrs. Hebert and Mrs. Twardowski also presented an option for us at the "fishing pond": catch ANGER and try to walk in those heavy old boots, or catch PATIENCE (a keeper!) instead. We'll try to work on that in the classroom, on the bus and on the playground. Thank you to all students who have been serving as music ministers at weekend masses. You are a blessing as you share with others your time and singing. In language arts this week, we will be learning and practicing rules to make plurals. We will also be studying and practicing the structure of paragraphs. In so doing, we will be writing summary paragraphs as well as compare/contrast paragraphs. Lake Carlos next week! (Wednesday through Friday) Please return the spring field trip chaperone forms by next Tuesday.