

# ST. MARY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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February 17, 2010

## Ash Wednesday

Students attended the Ash Wednesday mass today and a prayer service following mass. During Lent, students will pray the Stations of the Cross every Monday morning at 9:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome to join us. Just a reminder that today and on all Fridays of Lent, students will be given only the meatless meal option. If a student is allergic to fish, please let me know and that would be an exception.

Third quarter is underway! Once again, we will be having third quarter conferences for all parents. A conference schedule is included with this newsletter. If you cannot make your scheduled time, please reschedule directly with your child's teacher. Conferences are wonderful opportunities for both teachers and parents to talk about ways to give each student the best education possible. It is always nice for teachers to talk with parents – not only about academics, but also student's social skills, feelings about school, and other issues.

Teachers were at an all-day workshop last Friday and spent the afternoon portion of this workshop discussing special education issues in Minnesota. Karen Sportel from Freshwater Education District was the presenter, and she did a wonderful job educating all of us about the rights and responsibilities of private schools, parents, and students. Special education services are available to all children in Minnesota, regardless of where they attend school.

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Staff, Students, and Parents thank St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Christian Women for sponsoring our 25<sup>th</sup> annual auction/dinner! What a wonderful gift to us!

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Parents are serving rolls after the 8:30 A.M. mass on Sunday, February 20, 2010. If you would like to help serve or bring in rolls, bread, fruit, or breakfast treats, please contact me as soon as possible – it is this Sunday! The students really could use the help and donations.

## “PROJECT KRISOPHER’S DAD”

With just another click of the keyboard, we once again slightly changed the name of our program, but the purpose never changes. Ryan Hanson, father of Kristopher Hanson, one of our adorable prek(4) students, has been called to serve our country, and we are starting up our “Project Christopher” in a new way. This time, “Project Kristopher’s Dad” will be a way for us to show support not just to Ryan, but to Kristopher, his mom, and his sister. We are asking students to bring in small items to send to Ryan. Items can be simple hand-made cards, pictures, candy, coffee, wipes, or anything you would like to send. Ryan has spent many years as a police officer keeping our town safe, and we would like to let him know how much we appreciate all he has done and is doing for us.

## Pennies for Haiti

During Lent, students will be collecting pennies for Haiti. Today during our Lenten service, students learned that one penny doesn't really go very far these days, but if we collect 10,000 pennies during Lent, we can put them together to send \$100.00 to the people in Haiti who are suffering from the recent earthquake. Students can offer to help at home to earn pennies, or they can take from their savings to help others. Our theme for this quarter is “Share our Service,” so this project is one way we can do this as a school.

## Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - Ash  
Wednesday - day of fasting.
- Thursday, February 18, 2010 - Prek(3)  
Roundup from 1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
and from 6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
- Sunday, February 21, 2010 - School  
coffee and rolls after the 8:30  
A.M. mass.
- Monday, February 22, 2010 - Mrs.  
Gugglberger will be in St. Cloud at a  
principals' meeting.
- 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.
- 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.

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**

"Share Our Service" is our Lenten journey. We will be spending time each day to share our thoughts and prayers with Jesus in our prayer journals and with others. Our acts of kindness/service will help us to realize there is "No Greater Love" than Jesus! The promises we made are just between Jesus and ourselves! Our 100th day was AWESOME! We did everything the 100th way! Reading - grammar/proper nouns. Math - adding & subtracting. Health - Nurse Melissa showed us the correct ways to care for our teeth. Current Event - the Vancouver Winter Olympics. (visit the internet for videos). Social - Black History/Ruby Bridges, Washington Carver and more. Jesus' Peace!

**Second Grade**

For math this week, we are studying the number 100 in honor of the 100th day of school that we celebrated on Tuesday. Our focus in religion is on Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. This special time is ours to look at the crosses we bear and how we can become better followers of God. In reading, will be busy taking our theme 3 test. In social studies, we will be taking a unique look at the Olympic Games in Canada. Have a great week!

**Third Grade**

We are preparing during this Lenten season by praying, doing good deeds, and working on class goals. Angles, turns, and polygons are this week's math focus. During art, we will be making Lenten crosses called 'Crux Gemmata'. Thank you to Bethany Rondeau and Riley Steinmetz for being Disciple of the Week these last couple of weeks. Bethany's kind gestures to her fellow classmates make her a wonderful follower of Jesus. Riley's caring attitude and prayers to all those around her and in our world make her also a wonderful example of Jesus' love. Thanks girls!

**Fourth Grade**

This week we begin our Lenten journey. The class did a wonderful job of leading us at Mass today. They are learning the Ten Commandments and have been reciting these to me. We have begun our next unit in Math. It is learning to divide bigger numbers. We will also learn how to use a protractor to measure angles. We will be writing our "neat sheets" that go with our own amazing stories. We are collecting pennies as part of our Lenten journey, Share our Service. The money collected will go to the Haiti relief.

**Fifth Grade**

This week in the fifth grade room, we are working very hard. In Math we are adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. We continue to study about the United States History in our social class. Lent is our focus in our religion class. We are working on a special sacrifice for Jesus and collecting pennies for the unfortunate. Thank you all for the beautiful Valentine's last week. Only 14 more days until camp; we are all excited. We hope you all have a Jesus filled Lent.

**Sixth Grade**

During Lent, we are going to focus on sharing our service. We are all keeping our eyes open for pennies. How many can we collect to donate to those whose needs are great? In language arts, during "I Love to Read Month," we are going to study and practice reading skills beginning with main ideas, supporting details, and summarizing. Next week is guitar week, so remember to bring in your guitars early so we can get them tuned.