



CRUSADER NEWS AND VIEWS

The Mission Statement of Holy Cross Catholic School is to partner with its families in the education of tomorrow's Christian Leaders by fostering academic excellence in a Christian community.

December 2, 2010

A Word from St. John

I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I.

I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. -Matthew 3:11

Protecting God's Children Workshops for All Volunteers

The Archdiocese of Detroit's "Protecting God's Children" workshop is held periodically throughout the Archdiocese—to find one that fits your schedule: go to www.virtus.org and select "Registration." You will be directed to a prompt to search for locations. You will need this to do ANY classroom volunteering! Contact Mrs. Smith (810.765.8300) or the "virtus" website for more information.

Remember, you need this workshop completed in order to volunteer for field day or camp or chaperone field trips.

PARISH MISSION STARTS THIS WEEK END

We have a wonderful opportunity to really prepare for Christmas by being a part of the Parish Mission. A Parish Mission is a "retreat" for the entire parish without going away. The mission will begin at the Masses this week end. Each night, Fr. Michael Sullivan, director of the mission, will speak at the St. Catherine site from 7:00-8:30pm. There is no charge for you and your family to attend. In return, you will get great blessings and joy. A free will offering will be taken at the end. If you really want to be ready for Christmas, make the decision to attend as much of the mission as you can so that you and your family will really be ready when Christmas comes.

MID TERM REPORTS

Beginning this marking period, the school will no longer be sending out mid-term reports. With the launching of Engrade, parents can check their child's progress weekly, thus eliminating the need for a five week mid-term report.

got scrip?

SCRIP office hours:
Mondays and Fridays 7-9am;
Mondays 5-7pm; and

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Thursdays 1-3pm

"Peddler" hours: almost 24/7/365!

Peddlers:

Kelly Glowski (Algonac)
Sue Sharpe (Marine City)
Melanie Heitz (St. Clair)

This is the time of year that backorders and shortages are most likely. Please be sure to plan your shopping and place your order early to have the best chances of getting your SCRIP (and, therefore, your credit!) on time.

DID YOU KNOW...you can buy non-specific SCRIP gift certificates as gifts that the recipient can redeem for the SCRIP of his/her choice? These certificates are available in any denomination (but are redeemable for only the denominations offered by the individual store); talk to your favorite SCRIP peddler for more details!

Boys' Basketball

Our boys' first game was on Monday at St. Augustine. The game scheduled for December 1st was played Tuesday night, instead. Although they may not have won the games, they are winning the respect of the other schools for their tenacity and spunk.

Next week our boys have two away games: Monday, against MCA (playing at St. Edward-on-the-Lake in Lakeport) and on Thursday at St. Peter's. Go, Crusaders!!

INSTALLATION MASS

Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 9:30
Mass at Holy Cross Church, Fr. Bob will be installed as the pastor of Our Lady on the River Parish. Please keep our pastor, Fr. Bob, in your prayers. Even though we know he has a big job, we know that God is bigger and will help him and us succeed.

Please Mark Your Calendar:

No East China buses (and no East China shared time classes) Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 20 & 21.

CHECKING IN WITH YOU

During conferences, a mini-survey was available for parents to take. It is a one question survey with a place for a written response if called for and an option to give your name if so desired. If you did not have a chance to take the survey during conferences, please type in the web address below and take the survey now. The survey will close at the end of the day December 9, 2010. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LH2TP9G>

Needed: (An) Awesome Person(s)

We could still use more help at lunch on Wednesdays. (We could also use an extra pair of hands on Mondays and Fridays...) Are you available to spend some quality time with our students? You'd be needed from 10:45-11:25am. Please contact the school office (810.765.3591) if you can help. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Feast

Thank you to Mrs. Sweet, Mrs. Laster and Mrs. Rogus for coordinating yet another memorable feast! Thank you, too, to the parents, grandparents, and graduated-but-still-with-us parents who served us: **Mrs. Schafer, Mrs. Dorcey, Mrs. Schuh, Mrs. Zichi, Mrs. Tomlanovich, Mrs. Templeton, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Bryer, Ms. Garshott and Mrs. Guiliat!**

Congratulations, Julia!

Seventh grader **Julia Blicharz** submitted the winning design in the parish's Christmas card contest. The card was mailed to all OLR parishioners (with the schedule of holiday services). Julia wins a gift card--way to go, Julia!!

First Friday Food Collection for St. Vincent de Paul Pantry

Tomorrow is the first Friday of the month: time for our monthly nonperishable food drive to restock our St. Vincent de Paul pantry. Can you bring something to mass tomorrow to give? The pantry is in special need of breakfast foods (cereals, pancake mix and syrup, breakfast bars,...) and pasta and sauces/macaroni and cheese; they always need canned protein foods like tuna, peanut butter, hash, or canned ham or chicken, as well as canned fruits. Our hungry neighbors thank you.

"Go Nuts!"

Thanks to Mrs. Schultz for chairing this Booster fundraiser again this year. Koeze products are delicious and make elegant gifts. Orders **MUST** be in first thing tomorrow morning. Proceeds of the annual Koeze sale benefit our athletics program.

Texas Hold 'Em

Thank you to Randy Bryer, again, for 'corralling' workers! Our Lady on the River parish is sponsoring a Texas Hold 'Em weekend next Thursday-Sunday, December 9-12. Workers are needed Thursday, Friday, and Sunday just about any time during the day (about noon to 2am), and Saturday, mostly during the late shifts. Please contact Randy c/o school if you think you might be able to help.

DROP OFF / DISMISSAL TIMES

When you drop off your student in the morning, please **DON'T PARK IN FRONT OF SCHOOL**. If you need to go into the school, park in the lot. At the end of the day, if you intend to leave your car, please **PARK IT** in the parking lot. The front of school is for standing cars only. It is a loading zone designed for the safe loading of children and movement of traffic. Your car being parked there makes a traffic hazard for those behind you. Thank you for doing your part to keep the traffic flowing.

Stuffed Animal Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to the stuffed animal drive for sick children at Port Huron Hospital. Ms. Evans's class collected over 70 stuffed animals. They will be delivering them December 8th to Port Huron Hospital.

Dress Down Nov. 22

We collected \$192.25. That money has been sent to Shane Reifert's family to use for gifts for his platoon. We pray that the Reiferts are able to take comfort in the good deeds they set into motion.

School Mass Next Week

...will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 8 (instead of Friday, Dec. 10) as Wednesday is a holy day of obligation. Students: please use the mass day dress code for Wednesday next week instead of Friday.

Latchkey

Students who get to latchkey late—e.g. after drama or basketball practice—will need to bring a snack if they'll want one. (Parents: please be sure to touch base with either Mrs. Nicaise or the school office to let us know when to expect your children at latchkey, so we can watch for them.)

POETRY BY ABBIE

A first grade child in our school wrote this poem. After reading it to Mrs. Pavlov all by herself, she told me that her teacher said that it could go in the newsletter. Mrs. Pavlov agreed, so here it is.

FAMILY

By Abbie

Mother, father, sister

Brother

We are a family that

Loves each other

We eat and pray

Every day

Even when we want to play

God can hear

Us when

We pray

Every night

And every day

Lunch Menu Changes

Chartwells has just informed us that until further notice there will be **ONLY** cheese or pepperoni pizza as the alternate entrées.

Christmas Program

We have begun to practice for the program, which will be held in church on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 6pm. (All are invited!) Thank you to Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Knotts for directing the program, and to Mrs. Wassenberg for providing the accompaniment.

Camp Fundraising

"T-shirt catalogs and candy bars have gone home to those of you who requested them. We are still setting up church bake sales. If you would like to participate in any of these and did not receive a letter, please send in a note and we'll get you started." —Mrs. Wade

"Thank You!"

"Mrs. Pavlov,

"Please extend our most sincere thank you to all your staff and students for their most generous donations for our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. All your efforts have assured many, many families healthy meals not only on Thanksgiving Day but throughout the year. We truly appreciate your effort and generosity. You have made it possible for us to fulfill our mission to feed the poor. May God continue to bless all of you for your kindness and generosity.

"Sincerely, Paul Ivan, President, Holy Cross Conference St. Vincent de Paul Society"

Thank You!

...to **Mrs. Goldenbogen** and **Robert** for cleaning out our flower beds!

...to **Rachelle LaFontaine** for donating the book "Chronicles of Narnia" to the library!

...to **Mr. Barr, Mrs. Templeton, Ms. Ward, Mrs. Ann Ward** and **Mr. LaBelle** for putting together and taking down our parade entry, to **Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Steinmetz** and **Mrs. Rittner** for providing hot cocoa and cookies for our parade-goers last night, and to everyone who came out to march with the Holy Cross parade entry!

That Unpleasant Topic...

Your December statement is on its way. Just a reminder: preschool families should have 50% of their tuition paid by now and school families should be making their 8th (10%) payment at the end of the month. Archdiocesan grants have arrived!—16 students shared \$9600 in those grants.

POPCORN FRIDAYS

We are happy to announce the return of popcorn Fridays. Mrs. Rock's class will be making and selling popcorn to students whose parent allows them to purchase it. The cost of the popcorn is \$.50 a bag. Order forms can be found outside the third grade classroom. This project will help fund the bus for grades 3&4 to go to Lansing.

Marine City's Christmas Parade

The night was perfect for a winter parade, with wisps of snow, bright Christmas lights around town and on floats, and music filling the air. People were bustling around preparing for the start of the parade. Holy Cross Catholic property was the staging ground for the Marine City Christmas Parade. The school was the nice and warm staging ground for over 100 Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scouts as well as over 30 Holy Cross students and their parents. The PTO partnered with Ms. Ward to create a lighted float depicting the Nativity story as our entry. Accompanying the Nativity was a host of angels complete with "lighted wings" from the Holy Cross Girl Scout troop under the direction of Mrs. Rittner. To complete the scene, many other Holy Cross students provided the "star light" to accompany the sacred scene. By the time you add the teachers and parents who accompanied the stars, the angels and the nativity, Holy Cross Catholic School had about 70 people in the parade. We were well represented! The evening held a wonderful ending. All who were a part of the parade returned to our nice warm school, where Mrs. Steinmetz and Mrs. Smith had hot chocolate and hot coffee waiting for all of us to enjoy. We wanted to have a picture, but it was just too dark. Hopefully, this article will give you a picture in your mind.

Holy Cross Alumni Earning First Quarter Honors at Cardinal Mooney:

ALL A's: Hollis Glowniak, Alyssa Khalifa and Annika Peterson.

FIRST HONORS--minimum of 3 As and no grade lower than B: Maggie Bachler, Cale Chaltron, Daniel David, Caroline Glowski, David Glowski, Veronica Heitz, Oliver Hopton, Marissa Khalifa, Marie Lizee', Alexandra MacKenzie, Elijah Nicaise, Brittany Rickel, Mariah Rickerman, Kourtney Rogus, Kylie Schuh, Staci Shackett, Jamie Sharpe, Libby Shepherd, Kelsey Simon, Craig Sykes, Erik Sykes, Natalie Sykes and Jeremy Todd.

SECOND HONORS--all Bs with 2 or fewer As: Dana Hardwick and Julia Schafer.

Congratulations!!

SINGING AT RIVERBEND

On Friday, December 10th, all of the students and teachers plan to go to River Bend Nursing Home on Meisner Road to sing Christmas songs for the residents there. Permission slips went home this week with your child. We **REALLY NEED DRIVERS**. If you are available to drive to and from River Bend, please let your child's teacher or the office know of your availability. We will leave school at noon and should be back by 1:30. Drivers will have to have an up to date driver form in the office. (We can send it to you if you need it.) Drivers also will have to have taken the Archdiocese's "Protecting God's Children" workshop.

SNOW DAYS

Now that winter weather is arriving, just a reminder of two things:

First: have your child dressed for the weather every day—both for traveling

and for outdoor recess when weather permits.

Second: Holy Cross Catholic School follows the school closings for East China Public Schools. Once Mrs. Pavlov has been notified, she will notify radio stations WPHM AM1380, WHLS AM1450, WJR AM760, or TV Channel 4 or 7. (You can arrange to have WJR send you an email--to register for this service, visit WJR.com, click on the school closing link, and enter your information in the fields provided; once the school closing has been reported by the administrator, WJR will provide an immediate email notifying you of the school closing.) You can also watch / listen to those TV / radio stations: **whenever East China Public School District closes its schools due to weather, Holy Cross School and preschool will also be closed.**

The Day After Christmas (or: Don't Let This Happen to YOU!!!)

by Mrs. Steinmetz

The day after Christmas, somewhere in some house,
a gift-buyer started to whimper and grouse,
"I spent so much money! Made so many trips!
Things would have gone better if I had used SCRIP!

"I bought extra food and made sure I had drinks—
two or three hun-der-ed dollars' worth, methinks;
But I SPENT CASH!! Had I used SCRIP instead, it
would have earned me some tuition credit!

"Johnny's eyes sparkled, imagining the elves;
mine misted--I'd emptied out Toys R Us' shelves!
Another small fortune; and at two percent,
I'd've saved a sum equalling half a month's rent.

"Susie was lovely in her new Christmas clothes.
Kohl's offered me 5% back, but: NO--
I'd forgotten to order pre-holiday SCRIP,
so deeper into my wallet I dip.

"I did think ahead—sent, to loved ones afar,
certificate gifts--but the toll on my car!
Drove to Applebee's, Best Buy, Border's, Lowe's--
and into a world of vehicular woes.

"To think: all I needed to do was to call—
the SCRIP office could have ordered them all!
My friends got their gifts, but I got no break.
(My mechanic, though, is pleased with the fortune he'll make.)

"I finally get it!--next vacation fare,
I'll be calling for Hyatt and American Air;
I'm finally planning: gonna take a long trip—
so Happy Holidays to all--and don't forget to buy SCRIP!"