

THURSDAY NOTES

February 4, 2010

• Issue #17

This Week's Calendar

- FRIDAY** All-School Mass - 9:00 AM
Middle School Dance
6:00 to 9:00 PM
- MONDAY** MMO - Kindergarten
- TUESDAY** Girls' B-Ball vs Pioneer -
Home - 3:30 PM
- WEDNESDAY** Girls' B-Ball @ Hood Canal -
3:30 PM
- THURSDAY** Girls' B-Ball JV ONLY vs
Holy Family - 3:30
- NEXT
FRIDAY** Buddy Mass, Grades 2 & 7
9:00 AM

Valentine's Day Class
Parties - 2:00 PM

NO SCHOOL
Monday, February 15th
President's Day



OJP Reminder
*OJP (Olympia Jr.
Programs) is just
around the corner!*

*Wednesday, February 24th is the
first performance. Grades 4, 5 & 6
will leave the school at noon and will
enjoy the first play
"Leyendar de Duende".*

*If you have not done so already,
please turn in your permission form
as soon as possible.*



Dear St. Michael School Families:

This past weekend, I listened to the public radio show, the Vinyl Café, where Toronto-based Stuart McLean described his first exposure to ice fishing. As he and his guide raced out

onto the frozen lake and even though he realized that the question was way too late, Stuart yelled over the sound of the motor, "How do you know the ice is safe?" His guide yelled back, "Oh, ice is never safe..."

During the months of January, February, and March, many families considering sending their children to St. Michael School may receive a tour, observe a classroom, and very often will sit down with me as well. The radio program reminded me that these families often give safety as one of the reasons they are considering our school – along with religious/values formation, diversity, academic excellence and challenge, parental involvement, etc.. Sometimes I'm asked how we keep children safe. I describe both the physical precautions (fencing, entrance security, badges for visitors, etc.), as well as the many other aspects that contribute to "safety" in a school setting. Some of these may include but are not limited to: internet policies, committed teachers, teaching kids the social and academic skills they need to keep themselves safe, to have the confidence and security they need to interact with others successfully, and to engage in their class material without feeling threatened, overwhelmed or worried.

The rest of the program went on to explore how sometimes too much protection, too much security, takes the fun and zest out of life. This too is true in school life. One of our student learning expectations (SLEs) is that students will "Model leadership by living Christ's call to action." Another is that they'll "Celebrate the unique gifts and talents of others". These and other aspects of the SLEs require that students be able to take appropriate academic risks, that they feel secure enough to risk a wrong answer or ask a question. Respectful responses from teachers, parents, and peers undergird a child's confidence and ability to grow in these areas.

There are many reasons that parents send their children to Catholic Schools! Learning in a faith filled environment will pay "Dividends for Life". Thank you for supporting your children and St. Michael School.

God bless, Jack Nelson



Mardi Gras Reminder!

There's still time to purchase your Mardi Gras tickets (7 for \$1). Order forms are enclosed in today's packet. The classrooms will have their usual fantastic games and activities. **Order forms must be in no later than Friday, February 12th.** This year's proceeds will go to Catholic Relief Services to aid earthquake victims in Haiti.

This is an afternoon of wonderful fun and fund raising. Remember, too, there are raffle prizes drawn at the end of this fun filled day. Thank you in advance for your support.

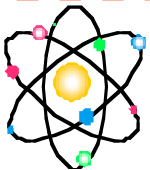
If you can contribute to the prize box, we are looking for games, gift certificates, stuffed animals, toys, etc. Please send items to Mrs. Quebedeaux or Mrs. Graver by February 12th. Thank you!

Tuition Assistance 2010/11 Deadline!



Tuition assistance applications are due to the Fulcrum Foundation no later than 3:00 PM, February 23rd, 2010. This is a few weeks earlier than past years. All applications must be filed online at the Fulcrum Foundation before being printed off and submitted to St. Michael. To file, please go to: <http://www.fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition>.

After applying online, print off your application form and bring it to the school office with copies of the appropriate supporting documents (i.e., 2008 IRS documents). Applications must be in the St. Michael school office no later than February 23rd!



Expanding Your Horizons

Attention middle school girls and parents! "Expanding Your Horizons" is presenting its annual conference at South South Community College, March 6th. The purpose is to encourage middle school girls to take more math and science in middle school and high school. If you are interested, please stop by the school lobby to pick up a brochure.

Upcoming Calendar Reminders



- 2/15/10 - NO SCHOOL - President's Day
- 3/12/10 - 12:00 Early Dismissal - Report Card Planning - No Lunch
- 3/19/10 - NO SCHOOL - Curriculum Development Day
- 4/2/10 - 12:00 Early Dismissal - No Lunch - Good Friday
- 4/5 to 4/9/10 - Spring Break



Online Safety

Please see the attached document. The issue of online safety and appropriate messaging continues to be an important topic for family discussion especially in light of recent developments in Lacey.

ONLINE SAFETY through OnGuardOnline: In Net Cetera: Chatting With Kids About Being Online. OnGuardOnline gives adults practical tips to help kids navigate the online world. Kids and parents have many ways of socializing and communicating online, but they come with certain risks. This guide encourages parents to reduce the risks by talking to kids about how they communicate - online and off - and helping kids engage in conduct they can be proud of. *Net Cetera* covers what parents need to know, where to go for more information, and issues to raise with kids about living their lives online.

Why do Catholics Bless Themselves Before and After Entering Church?



Old Testament Jews washed with water before entering the Temple precincts. Building on a ritual familiar to the Jews, John the Baptist used water to represent repentance of sin and purification.

So when we cross ourselves with holy water entering and leaving the church, we recall that history. We also refer to our Baptism when the priest used water to symbolize the washing away of our sins and to protect us from evil.