

December 8, 2011



St. Stephen's
Catholic School

Newsletter

506 Jackson Street / Anoka / Minnesota 55303 / tel: 763-421-3236 / fax: 763-712-7433 / web: www.ststephenchurch.org/school & www.edline net

Important Dates...

December...

- 8-Mass of the Immaculate Conception - 9:30 AM
- 9-Middle School Science Fair
- 12-Our Lady of Guadalupe mass 9:30 AM
- 12-Edline Posting Day
- 13-Band Concert 1:15 & 6:30 PM
- 15-Christmas Concert 6 PM
- 16-Mill City Museum -Gr. 2
- 16-Polar Express Day -Gr. 1
- 16-Christmas Play 1 PM
- 16/17-Christmas Play 6 PM
- 21-5th Grade FMSC
- 23-Jan. 2-NO SCHOOL!

January...

- Jan. 3- School Resumes
- Jan. 3-Edline Posting Day
- Jan. 10-Pre-School Open House 6:30-7 PM

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Fr. Michael A. Van Sloun
Pastor and Superintendent

Mrs. Rebecca Gustafson
Principal

Ms. Sarah Kelly
School Counselor

School Office 421-3236

Heidi Staggert 712-7473

Dawn Graf 712-7427

Absence Line 712-7467

Kitchen 712-7460

BASE 712-7453

BASE (cell) 612-418-7010*

*After Hours Emergency



From the desk of Mrs. Gus....

Dear Parents :

“Ever wonder what goes on in the middle school?”

When students transition from elementary to middle school, parents and students are usually concerned and anxious. We have a plan to reduce that anxiety and provide a hands-on glimpse of what it's really like in the Middle School. We are scheduling a “Sneak-A-Peek” day for our 5th graders.

The Middle School program has been designed to meet the wide variety of spiritual, educational, social, and emotional needs of children between the ages of 10 and 14. We continue the partnership with you in the spiritual development of your child during these impressionable years. We are committed to the goal of academic excellence and believe that the fundamental skills of math, science and language arts are of the highest priority in the education of our young people. We believe that a child's self esteem is the key to success as a person and have created a safe and supportive environment that enhances the joy of learning for our students.

We believe that the honors and recognition that our alumni have received is the result of wonderful students, supportive parents and dedicated staff working together. St. Stephen's Catholic School provides quality instruction in the basic skills, and in addition, offers enrichment programs and classes in art, music, Spanish and sports. Our class sizes remain small and our programs continue to grow. I've included graphic results from our Standardized Assessment in this newsletter, on page 5. You'll see that our students score higher than the national average in all curricular areas.

Naturally we want your child to know why the Middle School is so exemplary. But it is not enough to just know—we believe they must SEE what is happening in the classrooms to fully appreciate the quality programs at St. Stephens.

We have set aside 3 days, January 9th, 11th, and 12th as the day that 5th grade students will be a middle school student for a day. Teachers will share dates and details with you after Christmas.

We have also scheduled an open house for all parents on January 29th. You are invited to tour the middle school, hear testimonials from our alumni, and get all your questions answered by teachers and administrators. The Sneak-a-Peek Days and the Open House are organized to provide parents and students a unique opportunity to see our Middle School in action.

We hope you can make special arrangements to attend this Open House on January 29th. We will meet in the School Cafeteria at 10:45 for introductions and then visit all the classrooms and meet the teachers.

“Find out what you always wanted to know about middle school....AND MORE.”

PRESCHOOL/ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

Mrs. Angela Tjosaas
Pre-School

Mrs. Deb Cherney
Kindergarten

Mrs. Mary Kay Wesp
Kindergarten

Mrs. Julianne Haenel
First Grade

Mrs. Mary Kay Tyminski
First Grade

Mrs. Jan Applen
Second Grade

Mrs. Sherry Miller
Second Grade

Mrs. Marileen Diederichs
Third Grade

Mrs. Betty Kowalski
Third Grade

Mrs. Marie Penn
Fourth Grade

Mrs. Susie Toenjes
Fourth Grade

Ms. Katie Geis
Fifth Grade

Mrs. Kim Taggart
Fifth Grade

MIDDLE SCHOOL/SPECIALISTS TEACHERS

Ms. Desiree Hyrkas
Sixth Grade Advisor/Media

Mrs. Lynelle Kocher
Sixth Grade Advisor/Art

Mrs. Theresa Hefel
Sixth Grade Advisor/Spanish

Mrs. Jaime Verkuilen
Sixth Grade Advisor/Music

Mrs. Peg Brown
Seventh Grade Advisor/Math

Mrs. Shelly Miller
Seventh Grade Advisor/Social Studies

Mr. Kurt Werk
Seventh Grade Advisor/P.E./A.D.

Mrs. Colleen Hansen
Eighth Grade Advisor/Science

Mrs. Shelley Lysdahl
Eighth Grade Advisor/Literature

Mrs. Judy Radcliff
Eighth Grade Advisor/Formation

Mr. Tim Burke
Computers



Reminder! Please make sure you stop at the Lost and Found table located by the nurses office in our entryway of our school. The bin will be emptied and all items will be donated during Christmas Break!

It's time for a Band Concert!



Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 13th. Performances at 1:15 PM and 6:30 PM in the gym.

*Band members: please arrive at 6 PM—no jeans or tennis shoes.

Teachers Wish List

- iTunes Gift Card for music class
- Stickers and/or Rubber Stamps in Spanish for Spanish Class
- IPEVO Point 2 View USB Document Camera
- LCD Projector for Middle School Spanish and Science
- Old plates of different styles for a Mardi Gras project with Mrs. Kocher

Sports News from Mr. Werk...

B- Team Scores

11/28/11

St. Stephen's- 21
Epiphany- 22

12/5/11

St. Stephen's- 29
Maranatha White- 21

12/7/11

St. Stephen's
Providence White

JV Team Scores

11/28/11

St. Stephen's- 29
Epiphany- 21

12/7/11

St. Stephen's
St. Als Gold

The B-Team will be finishing up their season next week with the end of the year tournament at Calvin Christian in Blaine. Good luck next week boys!!!

*****If any middle school girls missed our basketball sign-up please talk to Mr. Werk ASAP. *****

Thank You Bakers!!

A big thank you to the many school families who donated to the Craft Fair Bake Sale. We had a wonderful selection of goodies that sold quickly. We also had many non-school parishioners who brought in baked goods. With the parish bake sale this coming week-end, Dec. 10th & 11th, we'd like to invite school members to support the sale by again donating baked goods. Items can be dropped off in the Gathering Place South Hallway before Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Thanks for your support.

Bake Sale Co-chairs,
Marie Cox & Susie Leonard



Pre-School Open House and Registration Night:

Tuesday, Jan. 10th 6—7:30 PM

Kindergarten Parent Meeting and Registration:

Thursday, Jan. 12th 6:30 PM

ALL School Open House:

Sunday, Jan. 29th 10:30 AM—12:30 PM

Middle School Information and Tours:

Sunday, Jan. 29th, starting at 10:45 AM

Please feel free to share these dates with friends and neighbors! If they cannot make the date, have them call the office and schedule an appointment with Mrs. Gus for a private tour!

Before & After School Enrichment



Director: Teri King

BASE Voice Mail: 712-7453

Week of: December 12

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MORNING

Gym

Gym

Gym

Gym

Gym

AFTERNOON

Christmas Tree

Roller Painting

Color pages

Popsicle Snowflakes

Stamping



There will be FULL DAY BASE on Friday, Dec. 23 and the week of Monday, Dec. 26 through Friday, Dec. 30. Please register early so we can plan accordingly. You will need a bag lunch each day and proper weather gear.

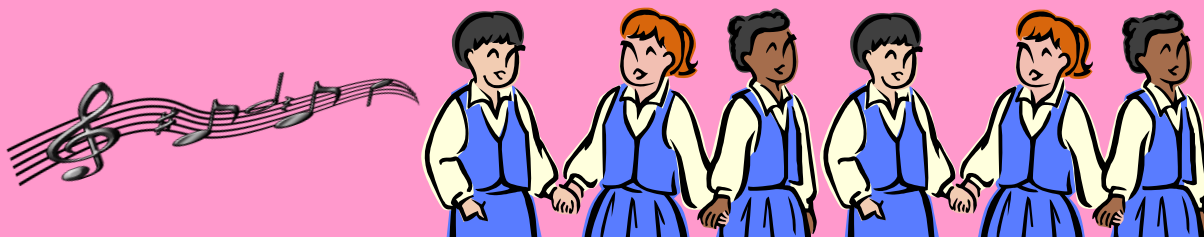
School Christmas Concert!

Students in preschool through grade 5 and the middle school choir will perform their annual Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Please drop your children off with their teachers in the FCC between 5:30 and 5:45 that evening on your way in to be seated. I will post signs on the doors for each class. Participation in the concert is required; students have been working hard on their music since October! The students are excited and ready to share their music with you!

What to wear:

Students need to dress up for the concert; they may not wear jeans, sweats, etc. Girls' dresses, skirts, and all other attire will follow the non-uniform policy.

Please email me if you have any questions about the concert. Thank you!
Mrs. Verkuilen

**Student and Family Enrichment Update**

Our fall session is already coming to an end. Over 60 students participated in afterschool enrichment classes this fall.

Please wish our 4th-6th grade Robotics Team good luck ... they will be competing in the First Lego League Team Robotics Competition this Saturday, December 10th, at Salk Middle School in Elk River. **Go Angels!**

Winter Session Enrichment Classes Begin in January!

Planning is now underway for our winter session! Classes take place at the end of the school day, meeting once a week for 6-8 weeks. The following classes are in our winter lineup:

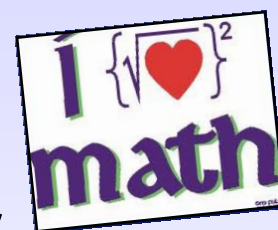
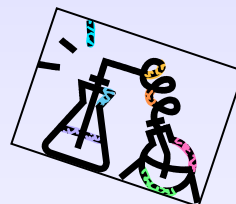
Art Enrichment - Grades K-6

Lego We-Do Robotics - Grades 1-5

Mad Science - Grades 1-6

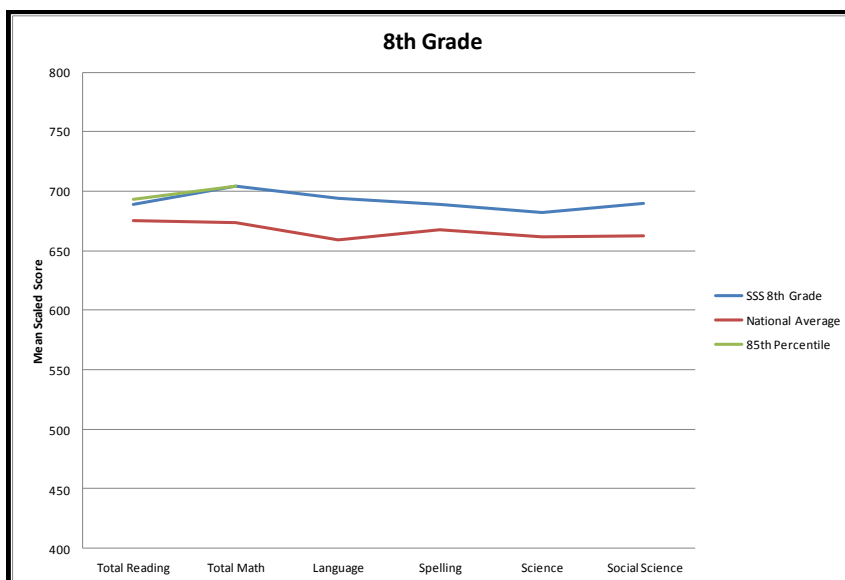
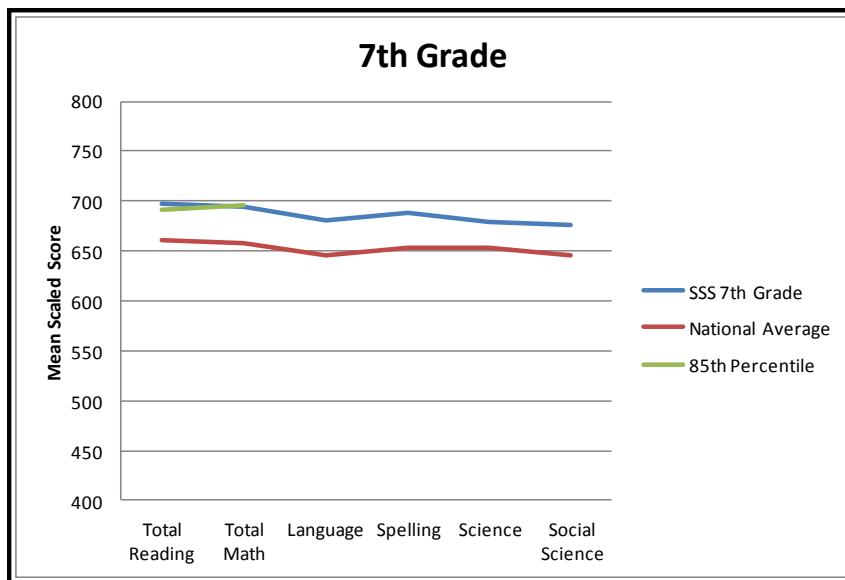
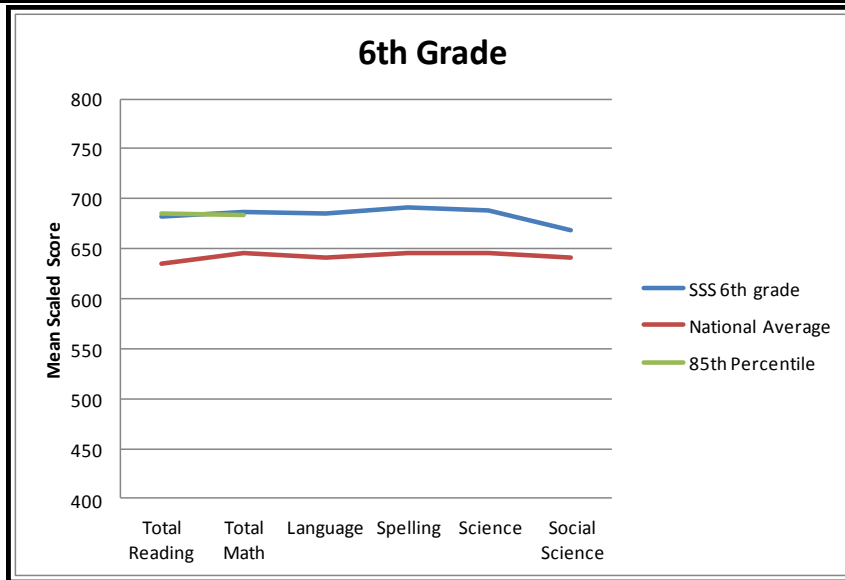
Junior Basketball - Grades 2-5

Math Masters - Grades 5 and 6



Registration forms for Math Masters - Grade 6 are being sent home today, and are due by Friday, December 16th. Registration for all other winter classes will be held right after Christmas break. Registration forms for these will be sent home the first week of January. Please contact Joanne Fonseca at 763-767-6896 or fonsecafamily@comcast.net with any questions.

Continued from page 1...



St. Stephen's Angel Store



Reusable Bags \$5.00



Plastic Water Bottles \$5.00



Metal Water Bottles \$10.00



Plastic Cups \$2.00
Free refill of popcorn for \$.25

Order form below. Return to School Office. Product will be sent home with child.

NAME: _____

CHILD'S TEACHER: _____

Reusable Bags: \$5.00: Quantity _____

Plastic Water Bottle: \$5.00: Quantity _____

Metal Water Bottle: \$10.00: Quantity _____

Plastic Cups: \$2.00: Quantity _____

Religious Key Chain: \$1.00: _____

Metal Cross Key Chain: \$2.00: _____

Religious Silly Bands: \$.25: _____

Kickballs (Hacky Sacks): \$2.00: _____

Total Amount: _____