

January 26, 2012



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...

January...

Jan. 29—Feb. 4—
Catholic Schools Week—
please refer to pg. 2 for details

February...

Feb. 1—Middle School Ski
Trip to Afton Alps
Feb. 1—3-5 Brunswick Zone
Feb. 1—K-2 Chuck E. Cheese
Feb. 2—Commission Meeting
6 PM
Feb. 13—Edline Posting

Art & Adventure Field Trips

Grade 1—Feb. 14
Grade 3—Feb. 14
Grade 2—Feb. 15
Grade 4—Feb. 15
Grade 5—Feb. 17

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Fr. Michael A. Van Sloun
Pastor and Superintendent

Mrs. Rebecca Gustafson
Principal

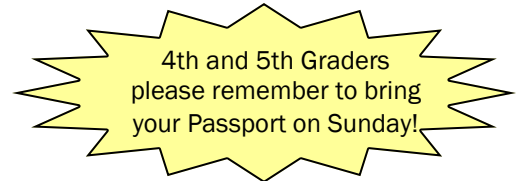
Ms. Sarah Kelly
School Counselor

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....



The most important assignment parents have from God is to see that their children are properly educated. When parents choose St. Stephen's Catholic School for their children, they partner with the school and parish community to ensure a strong academic program, to form their children in the way of the faith, and make Jesus Christ known and loved. Those committed to St. Stephen's Catholic school are convinced that our students succeed for the following reasons:

Catholic Identity: As an educational institution, we continue to emphasize our Catholic identity. Our Archbishop and our Pastor have high standards for our teachers and for our religion curriculum. The entire school staff is committed to achieving those standards and has high expectations of their students as models of the Christian faith.

A Rigorous Curriculum: St. Stephen's has always placed a high priority on the basics that include math, science, language arts, and social studies, with religion being the first of the four R's. Access to technology is important and our students receive specialized instruction in Spanish, Art, Music, Media Science, Computers, and Physical Education. Our 8th grade students as a group tend to score in the top 15% of the nation in Math and Reading on the Stanford Achievement Test.

Classroom Structure: 20 to 27 students are in each classroom. Teacher aids and parent volunteers are welcome and work closely with teachers in classrooms to support student growth.

Staffing and Administration: After the students themselves, teachers are Catholic schools' most precious assets. The Catholic identity of the school, the academic program, the modeling for the students depends upon the faculty. Each person on staff has a teaching license or certificate and expertise in their particular academic area.

As a principal, I have come to rely on the talents of competent parishioners and school parents. Parent committees work on strategic plans, develop new programs, approve policy and offer advice.

Funding: Tuition covers 50% of the per-pupil cost. The contribution from Parishioner Stewardship giving is 31.2%, other income earned in school programs generates 15% and various fund-raising activities generate 3.8% of the total cost to educate each child.

Continued on Page 2...

Parish and school administrators have been intentional about maintaining a fiscally responsible budget while at the same time controlling the tuition prices in order to make our school accessible to all who want to invest in a Catholic School education for their child.


Self-discipline with a Christian focus: The emphasis placed on discipline in our school attempts to foster self-discipline. We seek to develop the Christ-like person. Part of being Christ-like requires students to accept responsibility for their actions and to respect others. The rules established in at St. Stephen’s foster growth in the value of self-responsibility.


High expectations: The teachers expect every student to achieve. They communicate this to their students, who internalized this value. This, in turn, enhances their self-concept. Students are held to a high standard of achievement. Class and homework assignments challenge students.

Commitment of parents: Parents are the first educators of their children in time, importance, effect, commitment and many other ways. The school works with them for the good of children. Our parents take an active part in their children’s education. When parents register their children, they are told the program and asked to commit themselves to work with the school. When some difficulty arises, parents are immediately contacted and asked, "What can we do together to solve this problem?"

Not only are Catholic school parents committed to their own children’s education, they are committed to their schools. Each year our parents provide hundreds of hours of volunteer service to their schools. Parents have assisted in the office, taught classes, taken students on trips and performed hundreds of other services.

Next week, we will be celebrating our identity with all the Catholic Schools across the nation. Our week will begin on Sunday with 9:30 a.m. mass - Open House and book fair to follow. Join us as we pray together and celebrate our faith, our school and our community.



Jan. 29 Sunday Mass 9:30	Jan. 30 One for Books* Penny Donations	Tuesday One for Books* Nickel Donations	Wednesday Field Trip Day One for Books* Dime Donations	Thursday One for Books* Quarter Donations	Friday One for Books* Dollar Donations
Scholastic Book Fair					
Book fair 7:30-3:00	Book fair 7:30-3:00	Book fair 7:30-3:00	Book Fair 7:30-3:00	Book Fair 7:30-3:00	Book fair 7:30-3:00
Book Fair and Open House 10:30AM – 12:30 PM	Dress your best day/Out of uniform Day (see poem on back) 3:00—8:00 Culvers—Anoka 15% 	Color Day for Solidarity Choose a color for your home-room/advisory	K—2—Chuck E. Cheese 3-5—Bowling 6-8—Ski Trip Preschoolers—Promiseland	Mass Day Slippers after mass Food drive day	School Pride Day Spirit day, Wear your Spirit Wear or Uniform! Pep fest Minute to Win it and Volleyball game
Preschool—8th grade in the classroom till 1:00 p.m.		Jeans allowed and your color		Goal: Fill the entire perimeter of the gym with angels.	Food Drive for Pre-schoolers A.M. Teacher Swap P.M. Solidarity Time & Pep fest



St. Stephen’s is now on Facebook! It is updated daily with current calendar information—
Please take a moment and “like us!”

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Stephens-Catholic-School/313582548674649>

PRE-SCHOOL/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

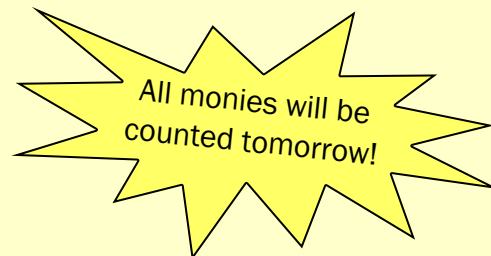
Mr. Tim Burke
Computers

Mardi Gras is quickly approaching and the themed baskets from the school classrooms are always a major hit! Every year families are very generous donating \$5 or more per child to make these baskets top notch. Mardi Gras is a major fundraiser for St. Stephen's and benefits our school directly. Please consider contributing to your child's basket. All monies may be directed to the school office.

The grade level contributing the highest amount will have a Mardi Gras party on Fat Tuesday to celebrate!

Thanks so much for your generosity!

Angie and Greg Burnes
Mardi Gras 2013 Chairs



Teachers Wish List

- LCD Projector for Science Class.
- 16 oz. Gatorade for School Store/Concession Stand (We are ALL OUT).
- Small Parts Storage Cabinet for Lego Robotics Class.
Please see the office for details.
- Clear liter bottles
- Marshmallows (not miniature ones)
- Gumballs
- Paper towel tubes

Sports News from Mr. Werk...

Girls Basketball

Thursday 2/9 Heritage St. Stephen 6:30pm

Wrestling

Tues	Feb 14	RSC vs. St. Stephens	@ St. Stephens	5:30
Tues	Feb 28	St. Paul Area (CDH) vs. St. Stephens	@ St. Stephens	5:30
Tues	Mar 6	Trinity vs. St. Stephens	@ St. Stephens	5:30
Tues	Mar 20	FINAL FOUR DUALS	@ St. Stephens	TBA

Mr. Werk

kwerk@ststephenchurch.org

763-712-7465

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. To live out our Social Justice theme of Solidarity, our school staff recently spent time together at Feed My Starving Children. We enjoyed fellowship while knowing we would be helping children that we will never see. Solidarity teaches us that we need to reach out to our brothers and sisters. We helped by packing food for 85 people in need for a whole year!



Before & After School Enrichment



Director: Teri King

BASE Voice Mail: 712-7453

Week of: January 30th

Morning

Afternoon

Monday

Gym

Color Pages

Tuesday

Gym

Fusion Beading

Wednesday

Gym

Decorate Door

Thursday

Gym

Scribble Art

Friday

Gym

Spin Painting



Don't forget to order your yearbook!



If you still need an order form, they are available in the office. Please make checks out to St. Stephen's school.

Don't forget to reserve your lunch for next week!

Parents Lunch Week

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your family to come and enjoy a meal with your children during Catholic Schools Week.

This is a great chance to check out our cafeteria here at St. Stephen's.

If you cannot make it during this time, remember our door is always open!

We offer a full salad bar as well as hot lunch. Please see our menu for a complete listing of dates, lunch times and prices.

Please make a reservation in advance via edline, e-mail, or by simply giving us a call at 763-712-7460.

Meal tickets will be sold at the door.

Checks, cash, or you may charge on your child's lunch account.



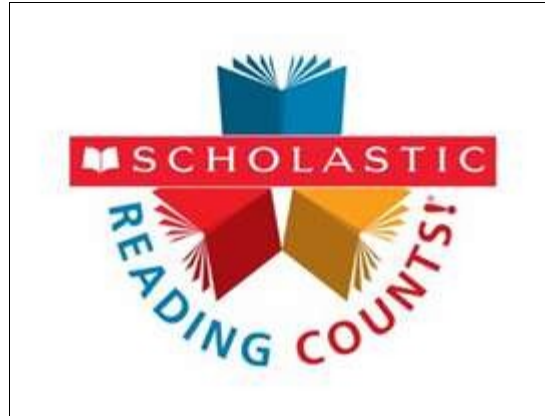
Freshly Baked Cookies will be for sale at \$4.00 per dozen.

Please welcome our Wednesday Health Para...

My name is Diane Dahlberg. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 35 years! We have three wonderful, grown sons and now have five beautiful grandsons (I am still waiting for a girl!). Our boys all attended Catholic school - I love the Catholic school atmosphere and enjoy working in the Health Office each week. I am a retired nurse and spent 30 years caring for new mom's and their babies. One of my grandson's has special needs and I am very blessed to be able to care for him two days a week as his nurse.

Welcome, Diane, to our school. We are so happy to have you with us!





It is Scholastic Bookfair time again and we open this Sunday after the All School Mass!

We're using VolunteerSpot (an online sign up and reminder tool) to schedule our wonderful volunteers.

New this year - For each shift worked, our volunteers will have their name entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to the book fair.

Please sign up - here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1) Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot:

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/7323456312112160105>

2) Enter your email address. (No registration required!) Please note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone or send spam emails.

3) Sign Up!

Note: If you have trouble accessing the site or prefer not to enter your email address - please email julie.lux@cassidyurley.com and I can sign you up manually. Or, you may call me (612) 990-0536 and I can set you up for your preferred time as well.

Thanks very much - see you on Sunday after Mass at the Book Fair!