



St. John the Baptist School Newsletter

November 20, 2009

Dear families,

Life is filled with moments that make me stop and say, WOW or THANKS. Possibly, that is why it is considered a mystery by many. I never know when one of those times is coming. The element of surprise brings a certain joy of itself.

In the last two weeks at school, there have been many WOW and THANKS moments. When Lamaar Steadman of the American Red Cross scheduled an appointment with me in September about holding a blood drive, I had no idea what to expect. Since it was something new and beneficial to the community I agreed and we held our first blood drive in many years. In September, I never thought that the gift of life, donation of blood, would be what saved my daughter in October. So. As I watched the donors during the blood drive, I kept thinking WOW and THANKS. You are saving the life of someone else's child. Our school community provided the donors and the volunteers for a successful blood drive.

Steve Seskin, national recording artist, led an assembly on *Don't Laugh at Me*, an anti-bullying program. Recognition of individual differences and protecting our dignity by being a hero through the use of our hearts, heads and hands was a powerful message for all of us. It took me back to my elementary days when I was alone because I wore glasses, had poor clothes and no friends. Another WOW and THANKS moment that we as a school are trying to help the forgotten ones. This past Tuesday was a Service Break afternoon from 2:15-2:45. Students in Pre-K through eighth grade worked side by side making Christmas ornaments for the parish Giving Tree. There were over 290 students in half the rooms that we usually use. As I walked the halls, students were intently working on something to bring happiness to a total stranger. Another WOW and THANKS moment. On Wednesday, we held our first Education in Action night. Parents are the primary educators of children. Schools are the secondary educators. Our professional educators worked with parents to give an insight on our SIP. Another WOW and THANKS moment to see our

stakeholders experiencing what their children experience.

We are fast approaching the holiday season. This is our last newsletter until December. By that time, we will have celebrated Thanksgiving and Advent will have begun.

It is my hope and prayer for each of you that as you sit down for Thanksgiving dinner, that it is a WOW and THANKS moment. Whenever I am blessed to be with my family, then I am given the time to be WOWED so that I can give THANKS for the gift of them.

Together in Christ,
Mrs. Sandor

MID-TERMS

Students will bring home mid-terms for the 2nd quarter on Wednesday, November 25. Please discuss your child's mid-term with him/her, sign it, and return to school.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. We wish each and every one of our families a blest holiday.

BOOK FAIR

Our fall book fair at St. John's will be November 30

- December 6. The book fair will be open during the Santa breakfast for anyone wanting to shop then.

SKATING PARTY

Our YAC will sponsor a roller skating party on Wednesday, December 2, from 6-8 pm at Roller Dome south. Tickets are \$2.00 each at the door.

SANTA SHOP

Our HASA is again sponsoring a Santa Shop where our students may purchase inexpensive gifts for their family. The Santa Shop will be open December 8 - 11. Gift prices will range from \$1 - \$5.

YOUTH GROUP

Mark Your Calendar!

Youth group meets every 3rd Sunday of the month.

Dec. 20 March 21

Jan. 17 April 18

Feb. 21 May 16

What happens at the meetings:

Bible study/discussion!

Games!

Food!

Guest Speakers!

We also have other activities throughout each month. There are service opportunities and chances to outreach in the community. For example, Saturday, November 28, a mini Youth Retreat at St. Patrick's on Harrison St. from 3 - 8 pm. No registration and no cost!

We are working on an end of the school year summer parent trip.

SQUARE 1 ART

We had a great response and received 84 orders to our Square 1 Art fundraiser! Parents who missed the deadline can deal directly with Square 1 Art to place their own order. Use the code from your order form or child's original artwork. The school doesn't receive any % of these orders and shipping cost is higher but parents can still get the personalized art items. You can print a Retail Order Form online at www.square1art.com or call them at 1-888-332-3294. If you have any questions you may also contact Meg Brouwer at 745-4833.

ABSENTEEISM

We are happy to report that our absenteeism has gone down significantly! We even had one day with only 7 children out! Because of the decline, schools, at this time, no longer have to report the absenteeism to the Board of Health. We will continue to promote healthy habits.

MAYOR HENRY VISITS

We are honored to have Mayor Henry visit our school on Tuesday, December 1, at 2 pm. Mayor Henry will talk to our entire student body regarding responsible citizenship. Parents are invited to attend.

PENNIES FOR LIFE

We are happy to report that we collected 50 pounds of pennies for our pennies

for life project. That equaled \$111.50 given to the Women's Care Center.

SCHOOLBELLES SALE!!

Schoolbelles is having their annual winter sale now through January 3, 2010. Shop now for discounts 25 - 50% off. Order online at www.schoolbelles.com or call 888-637-3037.

THANK YOU FROM THE RED CROSS

We received the following thank you from the Red Cross:

"I wanted to thank you again for allowing us to have a blood drive on Wednesday the 11th! We were able to obtain 30 units from 3 registered on a goal of 30. Well done. That equals up to 90 people that could be helped in our local hospitals because of you and your fellows' willingness to participate with this blood drive.

Thank you again,"
Lamaar Steadman

