

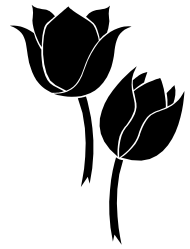


# ST. HELEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

256-1761/Voicemail 254-4789

April 26, 2007

www.sthelenparish.org



Dear Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians,

Today's Gospel is from John 6:44-51 and there is a line in there when Jesus says to the people: "It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God; everyone who has listened to the Father and learned from him comes to me." There is a wonderful commentary on this verse from Sacred Space p.168 which states: "When St. Francis of Assisi sent his friars out to preach, he told them: 'You will spread the good news wherever you go. Sometimes you will use words.'"

On Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, forty-four of our eighth graders were confirmed by Fr. Dave. They have spent many months preparing for this sacrament and have put in hours and hours of service activities. Confirmation is the last of the Sacraments of Initiation to be received by these students and we celebrate with them.

25 more school days....and this last month will be a whirlwind of activity!

-- Our second graders will have a final day of preparation for their First Communion during "Jesus Day" which will occur on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The Mass of First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00p.m. Please pray for them.

-- Our Festival Book Drive begins on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. A flyer will be coming home with more information about the drive.

-- Our junior high students will be presenting the musical comedy "Disco Knights" on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00p.m. Please come and join us for an evening of delightful entertainment.

-- There are multiple field trips planned during the month; come and join us, if possible!

-- Just a reminder: Due to our over-the-limit snow days, our last day of school will be Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Blessings,

Principal

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## MONSIGNOR KRUSLING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Four scholarships of \$300.00 each will be awarded to seventh graders in May to be applied to their tuition for their eighth grade year. The scholarships are in memory of Monsignor Krusling, the founding pastor of St. Helen. Criteria for the scholarships include parish membership, consideration of Christian leadership, service and scholastic effort according to ability. Students who wish to apply may obtain application forms in the school office. **Application deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>**



Announcement of winners is made at the Awards Assembly in May.

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2007-2008

Registration for next school year is well under way. Classes are beginning to fill up. If you have not filled out your registration form for next school year, please send it to the office as soon as possible along with the \$50.00 registration fee. If for some reason you did not receive a form, please leave a voice mail message on extension 300 and one will be sent to you.

## POWER OF THE PEN

After qualifying at the district level, several of our students participated in the regional tournament at Clark State University in Springfield. The students on the Power of the Pen team who competed in the regional tournament on March 24 were Reece Timbrook, Juliann Leny, Ben Heil, Colleen Moloney, and Mackenzie Timbrook. They represented St. Helen School very well. Most all of them received HONORS for their writing, which is a high mark given in the competition. They all have put in a lot of time and work practicing their writing skills, and both the seventh and eighth grade teams have done a great job!



We congratulate all our Power of the Pen students. The seventh grade team consists of Ben, Mackenzie, Coleen, Juline, Taylor, and Melanie. The eighth grade team includes Tiffany Rinehart, Juliann Leny, and Reece Timbrook. They have all worked hard to become better writers, and they've all shown us what fun creative competition can be. St. Helen School is truly blessed to have such dedicated, talented people.

## JR. HIGH UPDATE

Junior High students had the opportunity to experience first-hand what lunch might be like for millions of poor people around the world when they participated in the annual Lenten Meager Meal. Fifty dollars was raised and will be sent to the International Rescue Committee in Washington, D.C. to help them in their work with refugees in Darfur. Thank you students!

## 6th Grade News

The sixth grade has had a great April! Last Friday we went to Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum for a scavenger hunt with our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade prayer partners. We also viewed the "Magic of Flight" I-MAX movie and had a picnic lunch. The weather was beautiful and it was a great cooperative learning/mentoring experience for both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Chaperones- THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We had the smoothest year ever, and we really appreciate your time.

In Language Arts, students have begun their final projects of the year. Students are creating their own projects related to the reading theme – New Frontiers: Oceans and Space. Students have also been working on reciting poems for two voices. Some of the poems were really challenging – great job 6<sup>th</sup> grade for rising to the challenge!

Did you know that there is a famous mathematician for every day of the year? Students will research their "patron" mathematician this quarter. They will discover what made the mathematician famous and what their contributions to the field of mathematics were.

In Social Studies, students have begun working on their "Slice of Life" projects. Students will research events and people from a specific decade and present it in a timeline format. They've also been encouraged to "spice" it up with popular music, fashions, and fads from their decade.

Students got to examine mushrooms up close in their science lab last week. As part of our exploration of the Fungi Kingdom, students are learning to compare and contrast fungi with all of the other kingdoms of living things.

## FIFTH GRADE BULLETIN

The fifth graders are enjoying their study of the forces of electricity and magnetism. In the science lab, the students made a circuit, a switch, and an electromagnet with assistance from their lab partner. We're looking forward to more magnet play as we explore the fields of forces around them.



We hope you got a chance to see our student illustrated *Stations of the Cross* that graced our halls during the Lenten season. We are also enjoying the celebration of the Easter season; ask your fifth grader about our scripture egg hunt. Our next unit of study will be the seven sacraments.

## ART ROOM NEWS

It's getting close to the end of school and I encourage all students to keep up the good work and finish strong. For 5th-8th grade students, we will have two more out-of-school drawing assignments due on May 2 and May 16. I am still

willing to stay after school on Tuesdays in order for students to work on their paintings, pastels, or other projects. Just please remember to have a permission slip signed prior to the date you want to stay.

All 7th and 8th grade students who have not taken their sculptures home need to do so by Wednesday, May 2.



- May 1- Kindergarten screening  
Cafeteria will not accept charges for rest of year
- May 4 - Jesus Day  
Gr. 4 to Carillon Park  
Carroll Band Concert – 1:15 P.M.
- May 6 - First Communion – 2:00 P.M.
- May 7 - Festival Book Drive begins
- May 10 - Gr. 5 to Begamo
- May 11 - Gr. 3 to Narrows
- May 12 - May Crowning after 5 P.M. Mass
- May 15 - Jr. High Play – Disco Knights – 7 P.M.
- May 17 - Gr. 2 to Boll Theatre at U.D.
- May 22 - Pizza Party for Festival Book Drive winner



### FROM THE LIBRARY...

This is TV Turn Off Week. Your child brought home a notice last week describing this national event. Some families had their own "TV Turn Off" for Lent. Other families would have a hard time giving up even one of their favorite TV shows! Television is not a bad thing, but statistics show that we watch too much of it. TV Turn Off Week reminds us to look for alternate ways to fill our time and in turn increase the quality of our lives.

Please remind your children that all library books are due back to the media center no later than **Friday, May 18**. Any fines or fees for damaged/missing materials should be taken care of by that date as well.

Local libraries offer wonderful summer reading programs. Schedules are coming out soon,

so see what's offered at the branch closest to you and build this into your summer schedule.

### OPERATION RICE BOWL

A HUGE thank you to the students of St. Helen School!!! We contributed over \$700 to Operation Rice Bowl, the Catholic Relief Services' Lenten solidarity program. Remember, 75% of our contributions support development projects that help families and communities around the world and 25% of our contributions remain in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to fund local poverty and hunger alleviation efforts. Thank you again for your awesome efforts!

### SPRING PICTURES

Spring pictures were passed out on Thursday, March 29.

**If you do not want the pictures**, return the entire package of pictures to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

**If you decide to purchase any or all pictures**, be sure to remove the pictures you have chosen to purchase and enclose a check made out to **Lifetouch** and return any pictures you have not decided to purchase along with the check to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

### SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS

Order forms for school supply kits were sent home with every child April 19. Don't miss out on your chance to order next year's supplies today! Avoid the hassles of cutting summer short, running around town, fighting the crowds, items sold out or getting the wrong supply requested. ***Everything your student's teacher has asked for is included in the kit!*** Write one check now for the entire family and the shopping is done! Orders must be turned into the office by May 4--sorry, no late orders received. For Kindergarten order forms or additional grade forms, please contact the office. Questions about the kits, call Karla, 426-8705.



## 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY

Over 600 4<sup>th</sup> graders representing some 20 school districts will meet for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Fitness Challenge" on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm at Fairborn High School's stadium. Many of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders will go up against the best of the best in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade from around the Miami Valley. Join us and cheer on our "Catholic East" team of Ascension and St. Helen students. Show your spirit, wear St. Helen School colors!!!

### EXTENDED CARE

We're back into the swing of things from Spring Break at Extended Care. We've been enjoying outside play in the afternoons on the warmer days. "Kicking the ball the highest" is a favorite outside activity. The younger children were taught the quick-thinking game of concentration. They also have been gathering rocks, clovers, dandelions, and a plethora of pinecones as if they have never seen them before.

The Spanish lessons are going well. The children are learning to spell and write words in the Spanish language. Mrs. Walters brought in a variety of Mexican foods for the students to get a "taste" of Mexican culture and learn how to pronounce each food. Some of the sampled foods included helados, tortillas, queso, Maria cookies, and salsa. Beverages included leche, aqua, nectar de guayaba, nectar de mango, nectar de Durazno, and nectar de fresa platano. Not surprisingly, the helados (freezer pops) were the favorites.

### FALL SPORTS SIGN-UP

This weekend, April 29 and 30, are the St. Helen fall sports sign-ups. They will be held in the gym Sunday from 9am-12pm and Monday from 6-7pm. There is a annual \$40 family dues fee (this is payable only in the spring), plus the fee for each sport that you may be interested in signing up: football, soccer, cheerleading, or scouts. Please



remember to bring your doctor information/phone numbers. Any other questions can be directed to Andy Heil at 236-0017.

### BOOK COLLECTION CONTEST

St. Helen Festival Book Booth is collecting used books. Please clean out your shelves! A contest will be held among the classes to see which class brings in the most books. The winning class will receive a pizza party at lunchtime during school! The collection will be held for two weeks starting May 7 through May 18.



- Books should be dropped off at the maintenance shed before school (no earlier than 7:30 A.M.) up until the first bell. (Please do not drop off books at other times.)
  - Students should give their teacher a note with the number of books that were dropped off that morning.
- Good luck students and donate those books!

### PATRIOT YOUTH FOOTBALL SIGN-UPS SCHEDULED

The Patriot Youth Football Club is having sign-ups for incoming 7th and 8th graders, for the 2007-2008 school year. The Patriot Youth Football Club is designed to build character and teach the fundamentals of football. The Patriot Youth Football Club proudly welcomes players from Immaculate Conception, Ascension, St. Helen, St. Brigid, Mary Help of Christians, St. Anthony, St. Peter, and St. Luke. We play a full slate of games against feeder programs from surrounding parochial schools. A \$90 registration fee is required. For sign-up forms and additional information, visit our web site at <http://www.patriotyouthfootball.com/>. A copy of your son's birth certificate is required. If you have any questions prior to the sign-ups, please contact Frank Hemmert at 427-0899. Thank you.

# DAYTON DRAGONS TICKETS

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ would like to order  
\_\_\_\_\_ lawn seats for Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. I have included \$7.00 per  
person attending. Please send the tickets home with

\_\_\_\_\_ room# \_\_\_\_\_.

Have all money in by May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
Lisa Simmons

