

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

May 28, 2009

Prayer: *Almighty God, as we come to the end of the school year, we thank you for all the blessings and benefits that this year has brought. May we never forget the privilege of being part of a school such as Prairie Catholic, and of having so much when so many have so little. Please bless those who are leaving us at the end of this year, pupils and staff. Be with them, guide them and protect them as they move on to new beginnings elsewhere. Finally, we ask your blessings on each of us reading this today. We pray for our families and for all those with who will spend time with summer. Keep us all safe, and give us refreshment and renewal in the weeks ahead. Amen.*

Thank – You – to all the parents and staff members who continue to support our schools. You will be kept in our prayers during the summer months. Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Tuition Rates – Enclosed in this last brown envelope, you will find our 2009-2010 tuition rates and commitment plan for the school year. You do not need to do anything with it at this time – just information.

School Calendar – Also, in the brown envelope is a copy of our “tentative” school calendar to help you plan for vacations and times we are not in session.

Update Dress Code – Enclosed, please find the 2009-2010 updated version of the dress code that will be enforced starting in August. Please discuss these changes and additions with your child.

Additional letter about Corpus Christi – Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 14th. Additional information for this special day!

Scrip News – *Scrip sales* last week were \$7000 with an estimated profit of \$175!! For those of you not sure of what Scrip is, it is “no-selling” fundraising. We earn money for our school by purchasing everyday expenses like food, gas, clothing and entertainment and paying for them with SCRIP. The money we earn helps to keep our tuition down. Don't forget to purchase scrip for your everyday needs and have a great summer. Remember; if you cannot sell Scrip at your designated time please find someone to trade with you. Thanks for all of your help.

Lost and Found – Parents and students are encouraged to check the lost and found areas at both schools. The bins are overflowing with many items that need claiming. Those items remaining at the end of the school year will be given to charity.

Please contact either school office if your family has a change of address over the summer.

Have a safe and fun summer vacation!

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

May 21, 2009

Prayer: *Dear Lord of Creation, as the Earth awakens around me, and all the creatures rejoice with the spring, let me too, rejoice. Let my heart be filled with thanksgiving, let me count my many blessing. Go forward with me through the year knowing You are near, and will always be my friend. Amen.*

Safe Week-end – With Memorial day fast approaching, please take a moment to remember our brave soldiers that our in all branches of the military and say a prayer for all the fallen soldiers. Have a safe weekend!

Corpus Christi – Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 14th. An informational letter is enclosed.

Scrip News – *Scrip sales* last week were \$8786 with an estimated profit of \$220!! A BIG THANK YOU to those that purchase SCRIP!! We have a variety of in-stock cards available, including Best Buy, Radio Shack, Bath & Body, Barnes & Noble, Hallmark, Walgreen's to name a few. They make great gifts for Dad and the Grads! Stop by and purchase yours today.

Lost and Found – Parents and students are encouraged to check the lost and found areas at both schools. The bins are overflowing with many items that need claiming. Those items remaining at the end of the school year will be given to charity.

Last day for 8th Graders – Tuesday will be the last day for our 8th grade students. They will be graduating on Wednesday, May 27th at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Church. Practice will be on Tuesday, right after Mass. **THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY FOR THE 8th GRADERS ONLY!**

Reminder –All outstanding tuition and fines must be paid. Final report cards will be held and 8th Grade records **will not be transferred** to the High School until all fines and/or tuition is paid in full. Borrowed lunch tickets, Library fines and book damage fines are to be paid in full by May 22nd. Please call the school office to discuss any needed arrangements with Mrs. Schwartz.

Last Day Of School – Thursday, May 28th will be our last day of school. This will be an early release day. All students will meet at St. John's Church at 8:00 a.m. We will begin with Mass and then walk to Lockner Park for a final day of activities. Parents can pick up their children at the park at 12:00. If it rains – we will hold activities at St. John's School! If you have any questions, please call the school offices.

ACT Results – In today's brown envelope parents of 7th and 8th graders will find the results of the ACT explore test taken in March. Also included is an interpretive guide.

Hard Work Counts – All students who are eligible for fourth quarter Hard Works Counts will enjoy an afternoon of games outside on Friday, May 22nd. A special treat will be given by the Home and School Association. A special thank you to the Home & School Association that helps sponsor Hard Work Counts at the Middle School. Please congratulate your child for their efforts in handing in homework on time and for their good behavior at school.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, May 22nd – 3rd Grade Field Trip – House on the Rock

Friday, May 22nd – 4th Grade Field Trip – Villa Louis

Saturday, May 23rd – Student Council Trip – Brewers/Twins Game

Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 26th – 2nd Grade Field Trip – Burr Oak

Tuesday, May 26th – 6th Grade Field Trip – Henry Vilas Zoo & UW Arboretum - Madison

Tuesday, May 26th – 7th Grade Field Trip – Crawford Co. Courthouse, and Jellystone Park

Tuesday, May 26th – 8th Grade Graduation Practice – Last day of school for 8th Grade

Wednesday, May 27th – 8th Grade Graduation – 7:00 p.m. – St. John's Church

Wednesday, May 27th – Kindergarten Field Trip – Osbourne Park

Wednesday, May 27th – 1st Grade Field Trip – Hixon Forest

Thursday, May 28th Last day of school – 12:00 p.m. Dismissal

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade English – DOL Test – Friday May, 22nd

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

May 14, 2009

Prayer: *Inspire us, O God, with a love of all men, and especially for those who suffer and are persecuted; teach us to go in Your name as Christ-bearers, to bring love where there is hate, light of Christian principles where there is darkness of error; help us for Your honor and Glory to renew the face of the earth. Enable us never to flinch where truth and justice are assailed. May we serve You by prayer and good works by bringing into every phase of private and public life the only truth that can make me free, the only love that embraces all mankind, the only peace that will last through the eternal ages.*

Volunteer Mass and Breakfast – Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 20th. We will be honoring our Prairie Catholic Schools volunteers with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. in St. Gabriel's Church with a breakfast and short program to follow.

Scrip News – *Scrip sales* last week were \$9879 with an estimated profit of \$296!! A BIG THANK YOU to those who purchase SCRIP!! We have a variety of in-stock cards available, including Best Buy, Radio Shack, Bath & Body, Barnes & Noble, Hallmark, Walgreen's to name a few. Also, don't forget to purchase Local Scrip and support our local merchants that support the program.

Lock-In – On Friday, May 15th, the student council is sponsoring a Lock-In for the 6th – 8th grade students at the middle school. This is our way of saying thank you for supporting our activities through out the year. Food, games, movies and fun will be provided at no charge! The Lock-In will start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday night and continue until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Polka Mass & Bohemian Dinner – St. John's Church is holding a Polka Mass and Bohemian Dinner on Sunday, May 17th. Serving from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Lost and Found – Parents and students are encouraged to check the lost and found areas at both schools. The bins are overflowing with many items that need claiming. Those items remaining at the end of the school year will be given to charity.

Reminder – All outstanding tuition and fines must be paid. Final report cards will be held and 8th Grade records **will not be transferred** to the High School until all fines and/or tuition is paid in full. Borrowed lunch tickets, Library fines and book damage fines are to be paid in full by May 22nd. Please call the school office to discuss any needed arrangements with Mrs. Schwartz.

Photos of 1st Communion – 1st Communion pictures are on the parish website at www.prairiecatholic.org. However, images will not print correctly if copied from this page. Please contact Deanne Mezera at St. Gabriel's School to request a full resolution image/images that you wish to have. Email her at dmezera@pdccatholic.com or call her office at 326-8624. Please specify the name of the picture you want. To do this, right click on the image and then click on properties. It will then tell you the name of the picture. There is no charge for this. Thank you.

Summer School – The public school is offering a Jump Start program to all school age children. The program begins August 3rd and runs for three weeks. A flyer will be coming – watch for it if you are interested.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, May 15th – 4th Grade Field Trip – Platteville Mining Museum
Friday, May 15th – 5th Grade Field Trip – River Boat in Dubuque
Wednesday, May 20th – Volunteer Breakfast and Mass at St. Gabriel's
Thursday, May 21st – Pre-K Program
Friday, May 22nd – 3rd Grade Field Trip – House on the Rock
Friday, May 22nd – 4th Grade Field Trip – Villa Louis
Saturday, May 23rd – Student Council Trip – Brewers/Twins Game
Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, May 26th – 2nd Grade Field Trip – Burr Oak
Tuesday, May 26th – 6th Grade Field Trip – Henry Vilas Zoo & UW Arboretum - Madison
Tuesday, May 26th – 7th Grade Field Trip – Crawford Co. Courthouse, and Jellystone Park
Tuesday, May 26th – 8th Grade Graduation Practice – Last day of school for 8th Grade
Wednesday, May 27th – 8th Grade Graduation – 7:00 p.m. – St. John's Church
Wednesday, May 27th – Kindergarten Field Trip – Osbourne Park
Wednesday, May 27th – 1st Grade Field Trip – Hixon Forest
Thursday, May 28th – Last day of school – 12:00 p.m. Dismissal

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.
6th Grade Reading – Book Reports due – Monday, May 18th
6 Grade English – DOL Test – Friday, May 22nd
7th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *Hatchet*
8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

May 7, 2009

Prayer for Mother's:

*May God bless all of the Mothers who spread their love, sharing their hope and wisdom
Nurturing each one of us all through our lives.*

*May God bless all of the Mothers who have worked tirelessly praying and providing for us
Anything it takes to give us a better life.*

*May God bless all of the Mothers be they birth Mothers adopted Mother Stepmother,
Mother-in Law, Grandmothers, Aunts, or a Motherly friend.*

For each of these women have touched the hearts, have enriched the minds

Have soothed the souls of the children, young or grown in their lives.

May God bless all of the Mothers on this Mother's Day and everyday.

For her blessings she shares each day of the year

May God bless all of the Mothers for this I pray for if anyone deserves it don't they?

Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4th – 8th is Teacher Appreciation Week, this would be a great time to say “thank-you to the students teacher or former teachers.

National Prayer Day – is Thursday, May 7th, try to say an extra prayer for our leaders, peace in the world and a safe summer for all!

Volunteer Mass and Breakfast – Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 20th. We will be honoring our Prairie Catholic Schools volunteers with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. in St. Gabriel's Church with a breakfast and small program to follow.

Scrip News - Scrip sales last week were \$7480 with an estimated profit of \$224!! A BIG THANK YOU to those that purchase SCRIP, because of you, were able to give \$2000 to the school! Keep up the good work!

Lock-In – On Friday, May 15th, the student council is sponsoring a Lock-In for the 6th – 8th grade students at the middle school. This is our way of saying “thank-you” for supporting our activities through out the year. Food, games, movies and fun will be provided at no charge! The Lock-In will start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday night and continue until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Permission slips are enclosed in today's brown envelope.

Lost and Found – Parents and students are encouraged to check the lost and found areas at both schools. The bins are overflowing with many items that need claiming. Those items remaining at the end of the school year will be given to charity.

LOOKING AHEAD

May 3rd – 9th – 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip

Friday, May 8th – 7th Grade Band Contest – Platteville

Friday, May 8th – Bill Graul from WKBT 8 – LaCrosse – will be at St. John's Middle School for 6th Grade Science

Sunday, May 10th – HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Wednesday, May 13th – 7th Grade Field Trip – River Festival – Noble's Island Boat Landing

Friday, May 15th – 4th Grade Field Trip – Platteville Mining Museum

Wednesday, May 20th – Volunteer Breakfast and Mass at St. Gabriel's

Thursday, May 21st – Pre-K Program

Friday, May 22nd – 3rd Grade Field Trip – House on the Rock

Friday, May 22nd – 4th Grade Field Trip – Villa Louis

Saturday, May 23rd – Student Council Trip – Brewers/Twins Game

Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 26th – 2nd Grade Field Trip – Burr Oak

Tuesday, May 26th – 6th Grade Field Trip – Henry Vilas Zoo & UW Arboretum - Madison

Tuesday, May 26th – 7th Grade Field Trip – Jellystone Park

Tuesday, May 26th – 8th Grade Graduation Practice – Last day of school for 8th Grade

Wednesday, May 27th – 8th Grade Graduation – 7:00 p.m. – St. John's Church

Wednesday, May 27th – Kindergarten Field Trip – Osbourne Park

Wednesday, May 27th – 1st Grade Field Trip – Hixon Forest

Thursday, May 28th Last day of school – 12:00 p.m. Dismissal

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days

7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 30 – Friday May, 8th

6th Grade Reading - *Holes* Final Test – Monday, May 11th

6th Grade Reading – Book Reports due – Monday, May 18th

7th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *Hatchet*

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Grade Reading - *To Kill a Mockingbird* – Test – May 14th or 15th

8th Grade Science – Chapter 23 – Test- after May 11th

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

April 30, 2009

Prayer: *Jesus, I need you. I repent for the life I've lived apart from you. Thank you for dying on the cross to take the penalty for my sins. I believe you are God's Son and I now receive you as my savior and Lord. I commit my life to follow you. Amen.*

Congratulations – to all of our 2nd graders that received their 1st Communion on Sunday, April 26th! May God be with you always. Thank you to the teachers and parents for all of their hard work.

Congratulations – to all of our 8th graders that received the sacrament of confirmation on Wednesday, April 29th. May the Holy Spirit be your guiding light throughout your lives. Thank you to all their teachers and parents for the guidance they have instilled in them.

Update on the Mr. Z's Sales – Again, I would like to thank everyone that participated in our yearly middle school fundraisers. Our profit was \$2,477.50. That is effort money to begin our Accelerated Reading Program at the St. John's Thanks, again!

8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip –our students will be leaving Sunday morning for Washington. We pray for their safe journey and return on Saturday. This year four 8th graders have been chosen to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The students are Lindsey Ariss, Molly Stram, Sarah Mezera and Nicole Trautsch. Please keep them and all the students, parents and chaperones in your prayers.

Volunteer Mass and Breakfast – Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 20th. We will be honoring our Prairie Catholic Schools volunteers with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. in St. Gabriel's Church with a breakfast and small program to follow. Please fill out the enclosed form and return it school office by Monday, May 4th.

Scrip News - Scrip sales for last week were \$8565 with an estimated profit of \$300!! Thank you to those of you that already purchase SCRIP. If you don't currently purchase Scrip, please consider doing so. Every little bit helps! Stop by and see our new selection of In-Stock cards; they make great Mother's Day, Graduation gifts, and end of the school year teacher gifts.

May Crowning is fast approaching – Special devotions in honor of Mary will take place during the month of May including May Crowning ceremonies listed below, students may bring a flower to school for the ceremony.

St. Gabriel's – May 1st at the 8:30 a.m. mass.

5th Grade to Middle School – On Thursday, May 7th the 5th grade class will be spending the day at the Middle School. Each student will be partnered with a 6th grader, and they will have the opportunity to preview their classes for next year. We will be having mass and physical education class that day for the 5th and 6th graders, so please plan accordingly.

Lock-In – On Friday, May 15th, the student council is sponsoring a Lock-In for the 6th – 8th grade students at the middle school. This is our way of saying “thank-you” for supporting our activities through out the year. Food, games, movies and fun will be provided at no charge! The Lock-In will start at 5:00 p.m. on Friday night and continue until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Please mark your calendars!

World Vision – This past week-end twenty of our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participated in a 30 hour famine. The student’s raised \$2,089.00 for world hungry. Job well done!

Lost and Found – Parents and students are encouraged to check the lost and found areas at both schools. The bins are overflowing with many items that need claiming. Those items remaining at the end of the school year will be given to charity.

Box Tops for Education – The school received a check for \$1506.90 from Box Tips for Education. A special thank-you to Rhonda Stubbe for coordinating and sending in the labels. Thanks, and keep saving the labels!

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, April 30th – Mid-Quarter progress reports go home in Brown Envelopes
Friday, May 1st – May Crowning @ St. Gabriel’s
Saturday, May 2nd – Burgers & Fries at St. John’s Church – 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
May 3rd – 9th – 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip
Friday, May 8th – 7th Grade Band Contest – Platteville
Sunday, May 10th – HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY
Wednesday, May 13th – 7th Grade Field Trip – River Festival – Noble’s Island Boat Landing
Friday, May 15th – 4th Grade Field Trip – Platteville Mining Museum
Wednesday, May 20th – Volunteer Breakfast and Mass at St. Gabriel’s
Thursday, May 21st – Pre-K Program
Friday, May 22nd – 3rd Grade Field Trip – House on the Rock
Friday, May 22nd – 4th Grade Field Trip – Villa Louis
Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, May 26th – 2nd Grade Field Trip – Burr Oak
Tuesday, May 26th – 6th Grade Field Trip
Tuesday, May 26th – 7th Grade Field Trip – Jellystone Park
Tuesday, May 26th – 8th Grade Graduation Practice – Last day of school for 8th Grade
Wednesday, May 27th – 8th Grade Graduation – 7:00 p.m. – St. John’s Church
Wednesday, May 27th – Kindergarten Field Trip – Osbourne Park
Wednesday, May 27th – 1st Grade Field Trip – Hixon Forest
Thursday, May 28th Last day of school – 12:00 p.m. Dismissal

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.
6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test & DOL – Friday, May 1st
6th Grade English – Chapter 9 test – Tuesday, May 5th.

7th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *Hatchet*
8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday
8th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

April 23, 2009

Prayer: *O Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, full of compassion and maker of peace, you lived in poverty and suffered persecution for the cause of justice. You chose the Cross as the path to glory to show us the way of salvation. May we receive the work of the gospel joyfully and live by your example as heirs and citizens of your kingdom. Amen.*

Pizza Hut Thank-you – The staff would like to thank everyone that attended the “guest server night” at Pizza Hut. We presented a check for \$465.00 to the Home and School at last night’s meeting.

Practice for First Communion – TONIGHT is the practice for ALL 2nd graders receiving their First Holy Communion. Please meet at St. Gabriel’s Church at 6:00 p.m. This is a mandatory practice for all students (PCS and CCD) and their parents.

NO SCHOOL – There will be no school on Friday, April 24th due to the Spring Teacher Inservice in La Crosse.

8th Grade Reminder – Practice for Confirmation will be Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s Church. Our 8th graders will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, April 29th at St. John’s Church at 7:00 p.m. All are welcomed to attend! There will be a retreat for Confirmation students on Tuesday, April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Scrip News - Scrip sales for last week were \$6298 with an estimated profit of \$220!! Just imagine how much we could earn if everyone would just purchase \$25 a week! For example, if 1000 parishioners would each purchase \$25 that would be sales of \$25,000 for the week and a profit of \$875 for the week! Wow, can you just imagine how much that would help our parishes and school. Thank you to those of you that already purchase SCRIP. Every amount helps!

Server Schedule – The new schedule is included in your brown envelopes. Reminder – please be at church 15 minutes before mass and if you can not serve on the day assigned, it’s your responsibility to find someone to take your place.

May Crowning is fast approaching – Special devotions in honor of Mary will take place during the month of May including May Crowning ceremonies listed below, students may bring a flower to school for the ceremony.

St. John’s – April 30th at the 8:30 a.m. mass.

St. Gabriel’s – May 1st at the 8:30 a.m. mass.

Presidential Physical Fitness Testing – The testing at the Middle School is complete! The top boy and girl in each category will have subway for lunch from Mrs. Kronberg on Tuesday, April 28th. The winners are: Shuttle Run – Luke Rickleff and Lindsey Ariss. One Mile Run: Ryan Antoniewicz and Jamie Kozelka. Sit and Reach: Sam Neisius and Mara Strandlie. Curl-ups: Joey Linder and Courtney Pattison. Push-ups: Vince Weber, Jacob Linder, and Courtney Pattison. Congratulations to all!

Lost and Found – Parents and students are encouraged to check the lost and found areas at both schools. The bins are overflowing with many items that need claiming. Those items remaining at the end of the school year will be given to charity.

Physical Education - Our last unit at the Middle School will be softball, starting on Monday, April 27th. Please remind your child to bring their ball glove with their physical education clothes on physical education days. Thank you!

Needed – If anyone has a good used office typewriter that you would like to donate or sell for use in St. Gabriel School Library, please call school at 326-8624 or Annie Beinborn at 326-4549.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 19th – 24th – “Turn Off The TV Week”

Thursday, April 23rd – First Communion Practice for 2nd Grade students and parents

Thursday, April 23rd – End of Mid-Quarter

Friday, April 24th – **NO SCHOOL**

Sunday, April 26th – 1st Communion 11:30 @ St. Gabriel’s Church

Tuesday, April 28th – Confirmation Practice 7:00 @ St. John’s Church

Wednesday, April 29th – 8th Grade Confirmation

Thursday, April 30th – May Crowning @ St. John’s

Thursday, April 30th – Mid-Quarter progress reports go home in Brown Envelopes

Friday, May 1st – May Crowning @ St. Gabriel’s

May 3rd – 9th – 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Monday, April 27th.

6th Grade Science – Unit D – Chapter 1 test – sometime after April 27th

6th Grade Reading – *Holes* Quiz – Tuesday, April 28th

6th Grade Science - D1 – Test – Wednesday, April 29th

8th Grade Science – Test – Chapter 23 – Thursday, April 30th

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

April 16, 2009

Prayer: *Lord, You have arisen forever in my heart! May the sunrise remind me to shine in Your light. May the caress of a gentle breeze remind me of Your compassion. May the fragrance of a flower remind me to blossom in Your love. May the singing of birds bring a song of joy to my lips, and in the closing of each day. May I remember to quietly pray. Wherever I am, whatever I do, may my thoughts in joy return to You!*

A Huge Thank You – to all the middle school teachers and staff for the time and effort they put into the projects for the Open House – to all the 8th grade students and parents for preparing, serving and clean up of the pasta supper – To Kerri Weber, Joanne Faust, and all the middle school students for a wonderful Easter performances. A special thanks to the volunteers that assisted with the program. Mrs. Jo and all the young actors of the “Living Stations of the Cross” This night set the stage for the upcoming days of Holy Week. A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL!

Mark Your Calendar – The week of April 19th – 24th is “Turn off the TV Week”. On Tuesday, April 21st, the staff at Prairie Catholic will be “guest servers” at Pizza Hut from 4:00 – 7:00. Please come and join us. All money received will be given to the Home and School.

8th Grade Pictures – On Wednesday, April 22nd the 8th graders will be having their spring pictures taken by B & C Photography. Please come with appropriate clothing.

Practice for First Communion – On Thursday, April 23rd, we will hold a practice at 6:00 at St. Gabriel’s Church for ALL 2nd grade students receiving their First Holy Communion this year. This is a **mandatory** practice for all students (PCS and CCD) and their parents.

NO SCHOOL – There will be no school on Friday, April 24th due to the Spring Teacher Inservice in La Crosse.

National Geographic Giant Map – On Thursday, April 16th we will be hosting a National Geographic Giant Map of Africa at St. Gabriel's. All our classes will have time slots that day to take off their shoes, move around and learn lots from this huge vinyl floor map! All are invited!

8th Grade Reminder – Practice for Confirmation will be Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s Church. Application for The Knights of Columbus Achievement Award and The George Eastman Award, are due no later than Monday, April 27th.

Scrip News – *Scrip sales* for last week were \$3440 with an estimated profit of \$120!! Not bad for no weekend sales. **Don't forget** to purchase your Pizza Hut scrip for Guest Server night next week! What a good way to support our School! For a limited time we will be adding additional cards to our in-stock inventory. These include: Radio Shack \$25(4%), Hallmark \$25(4%) and Maurices \$20(7%). Also, Cummings Photography has recently increased their donation percentage from 3% to 5%! Be sure to thank them in person by purchasing and using your Local Scrip at Cumming's Photography!

Middle School Students – Wednesday, April 22nd is Break A Rule Day at St. John’s Middle School. Bring \$1.00 to wear flip-flops or a hat or \$2.00 to wear both. Thank you for supporting student council!

Thank – You – Mrs. Huser would like to thank Mrs. Linder, Mrs. Nicholson and Mrs. Kirschbaum for coloring Easter Eggs with the kindergarten class. Thanks also goes out to all the parents who donated hard boiled eggs and Easter dye. We had some good old fashion Easter Fun!

To All 8th Grade Parents - Excerpt: 2008-2009 Prairie Catholic School Family Handbook, page 25; paragraph 2 - "A policy was passed in January of 2007, that all students going on the Washington, D.C. must pay all tuition, or/and fees prior to the trip. If this causes a hardship, a written timeline for paying must be submitted before the trip to the principal" Please have tuition, and outstanding fees paid by **Thursday, April 23rd**. If arrangements have not been made by that date, your student’s name will be removed from the list of people going on the trip.

Student Demographics – In today’s brown envelope the 8th grade students will find the student demographics sheet. This information will be used next year at the high school. Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to St. John’s School office by **Monday, April 20th**.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 19th – 24th – “Turn Off The TV Week

Tuesday, April 21st – “Guest Server night at Pizza Hut 4:00 – 7:00 – Staff of Prairie Catholic Schools

Wednesday, April 22nd – Break A Rule Day at middle school

Wednesday, April 22nd – 8th Grade Pictures

Thursday, April 23rd – 6th Grade Field trip – Children’s Museum – LaCrosse Grossology

Thursday, April 23rd – First Communion Practice for 2nd Grade students and parents

Friday, April 24th – **NO SCHOOL**

Sunday, April 26th – 1st Communion 11:30 @ St. Gabriel’s Church

Tuesday, April 28th – Confirmation Practice 7:00 @ St. John’s Church

Wednesday, April 29th – 8th Grade Confirmation

Thursday, April 30th – May Crowning @ St. John’s

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade Science – Chapter 21 test – Friday, April 17th

8th Grade English – Final Draft - Persuasive essay – Due Monday, April, 20th

7th & 8th Grade Reading – Book reports due Monday, April 20th

6th Grade Science – Unit D – Chapter 1 test – sometime after April 27th

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*

From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

April 9, 2009

Prayer for Holy Week – *Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. Please forgive my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. I ask you in to my life and heart to be my Lord and Savior. I want to serve you always. Amen.*

The staff at Prairie Catholic Schools wishes you and your family a blessed Holy Week and a Happy Easter!

Attention Incoming Pre-K Parents – If you have not yet received your Registration Packets you can still pick one up in St. Gabriel's school office.

Easter Break – Our Easter break will begin on Good Friday, April 10th. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 14th.

- **There will be no bus service for our students the week of April 14th – 17th. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from school on these days.**

Mark Your Calendar – The week of April 19th – 24th is “Turn off the TV Week”. On Tuesday, April 21st, the staff at Prairie Catholic will be “guest servers” at Pizza Hut from 4:00 – 7:00. Please come and join us. All money received will be given to the Home and School.

8th Grade Pictures – On Wednesday, April 22nd the 8th graders will be having their spring pictures taken by B & C Photography. Please come with appropriate clothing.

Practice for First Communion – On Thursday, April 23rd, we will hold a practice at 6:00 at St. Gabriel's Church for ALL 2nd grade students receiving their First Holy Communion this year. This is a **mandatory** practice for all students (PCS and CCD) and their parents.

NO SCHOOL – There will be no school on Friday, April 24th due to the Spring Teacher Inservice in La Crosse.

National Geographic Giant Map – On Thursday, April 16th we will be hosting a National Geographic Giant Map of Africa at St. Gabriel's. All our classes will have time slots that day to take off their shoes, move around and learn lots from this huge vinyl floor map! All are invited!

8th Grade Reminders – Practice for Confirmation will be Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Church. Confirmation Forms and letter to the Bishop are due on Tuesday, April 14th. Also in today's brown envelope is the Comprehensive Child Consent and Release Form, for the Washington D.C. Trip. Please read over and fill out and return by Monday, April 20th. Finally, the application for The Knights of Columbus Achievement Award and The George Eastman Award, are also enclosed. Students who feel they are eligible for either award should complete the form and return no later than Monday, April 27th.

Scrip News – Tuesday, April 21st is “Guest Server Night” at Pizza Hut from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, the servers will be staff members from Prairie Catholic Schools! Don’t forget to purchase Pizza Hut scrip and join in on the fun. Scrip sales last week were \$10,265 with an estimated profit of \$359!! Thank you for purchasing and using Scrip. We CAN make a difference!

Thank – You – Mrs. Atkins would like to thank Ken and Jane Baker for donating a variety of chicken eggs for incubation. We were successful; eighteen out of twenty-two hatched! Thanks also goes out to Laura DuCharme and her family. They provided us with a deceased five-foot Northern Water snake and a deceased squirrel for dissection. Finally, a huge thank you goes to Bill Schultz. He performed the squirrel dissection for the sixth grade science class. His expertise was greatly appreciated! He did a great job of dissecting and explaining. Very Cool!

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, April 10th – Good Friday – **NO SCHOOL**

Monday, April 13th – **NO SCHOOL**

April 19th – 24th – “Turn Off The TV Week

Tuesday, April 21st – “Guest Server night at Pizza Hut 4:00 – 7:00 – Staff of Prairie Catholic Schools

Wednesday, April 22nd – 8th Grade Pictures

Thursday, April 23rd – First Communion Practice for 2nd Grade students and parents

Friday, April 24th – **NO SCHOOL**

Sunday, April 26th – 1st Communion 11:30 @ St. Gabriel’s Church

Tuesday, April 28th – Confirmation Practice 7:00 @ St. John’s Church

Wednesday, April 29th – 8th Grade Confirmation

Thursday, April 30th – May Crowning @ St. John’s

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade Science – Chapter 21 Test – Wednesday, April 15th.

7th Grade Reading – Projects due – *The Outsiders* – Wednesday, April 15th – Test – Thursday, April 16th.

6th Grade English- Chapter 8 test – Thursday, April 16th.

8th Grade English – Chapter 8 Test – Thursday, April 16th – Persuasive essay – Friday, April, 17th.

7th & 8th Grade Reading – Book reports due Monday, April 20th.

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*



HAPPY EASTER!

“Blessed Is He Who Comes In The Name of The Lord.”

Reflection:

As this joyous season of Easter unfolds, take time to recognize the many opportunities we have to be of service to others. When you see needs, sacrifice your plenty. When you see despair, share hope. When you see loneliness, give of yourself. It is only in serving others that we are serving God.

A Blessed Holy Week and Easter to you and your families from the staff at Prairie Catholic Schools!

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel’s and St. John’s at 2:30 PM for the last time this Friday.

Attention Incoming Pre-K Parents – Registration Packets are now available in St. Gabriel’s school office.

Easter Program – On Wednesday, April 8th, the middle school will be hosting several events:

- The 8th Grade will be sponsoring a Pasta Supper from 4:30 – 7:00 PM in St. John’s school cafeteria.
- Open House at the middle school from 4:30 – 7:00 PM
- Easter performance titled “Amazing Grace” put on by middle school students at 7:00 PM in St. John’s Church
- The Prairie Catholic Youth Group will be performing the Living Stations at St. John’s Church from 7:30 – 8:00 PM

All are invited to attend these events. It’s a good way to get ready for Holy Week.

Easter Break – Our Easter break will begin on Good Friday, April 10th. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 14th.

- **There will be no bus service for our students the week of April 14th – 17th. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from school on these days.**

Thank You! – Please see the letter included in the brown envelopes this week from the Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki.

Yearbooks – Each student will be receiving a yearbook this year. Each teacher will set a time which students will be allowed to get autographs, etc. from classmates and friends. All yearbooks will be distributed by April 8th.

Mark Your Calendar – The week of April 19th – 24th is “Turn Off The TV Week”. On Tuesday, April 21st, the staff at Prairie Catholic will be “guest servers” at Pizza Hut from 4:00 – 7:00. Please come and join us. All money received will be given to the Home and School.

OVER >>>>

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NO SCHOOL – There will be no school on Friday, April 24th due to the Spring Teacher Inservice in La Crosse.

National Geographic Giant Map – On Thursday, April 16th we will be hosting a National Geographic Giant Map of Africa at St. Gabriel's. All our classes will have time slots that day to take off their shoes, move around and learn lots from this huge vinyl floor map! See the separate flyer in today's brown envelope. All are invited!

Scrip News – *How does purchasing Scrip help us raise money?* It's simple—scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount, or accept our Local Scrip dollars and give us a donation based on the percentage they agreed on. Member families like yours buy the Local Scrip dollars and certificates for full face value, redeem them for full face value, and our school and parishes keep the difference as revenue. And scrip is exciting, because everybody wins: the retailer gets repeat business, you get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling, and our school and parishes get a regular source of revenue. Scrip sales last week were \$7304 with an estimated profit of \$219!! Thank you for purchasing and using Scrip. We CAN make a difference!

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday, April 8th – Easter Program, Pasta Dinner & Living Stations @ St. John's

Friday, April 10th – Good Friday – **NO SCHOOL**

Monday, April 13th – **NO SCHOOL**

April 19th – 24th – “Turn Off The TV Week

Tuesday, April 21st – “Guest Server night at Pizza Hut 4:00 – 7:00 – Staff of Prairie Catholic Schools

Wednesday, April 22nd – 8th Grade Pictures

Thursday, April 23rd – First Communion Practice for 2nd Grade students and parents

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Wednesday, April 29th – 8th Grade Confirmation

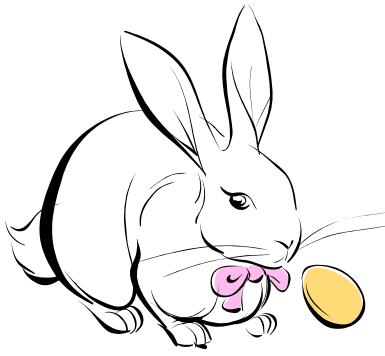
UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

7th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *The Outsiders*

8th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Reflection: Our 5th week of Lent is to HAVE FAITH – RISE TO NEW LIFE.

Death is like a huge stone. We see only this life, from a point somewhere in our past up to the blank, stone wall of our death beyond which we cannot see. As a people baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been truly blessed. The stone has been rolled away centuries ago, the veil between this life and the next ripped apart. The final conclusion of Christian faith is the complete 'death of death', accomplished by Jesus on the cross. After that, it is up to us to DECIDE to have faith. God has done His part to fulfill His promise and has saved us... even though we did nothing to deserve it.

Prayer: *Lord, as we prepare for the final week before Easter, let us think about what life will be like with you! May we live our lives to the fullest; put others before ourselves; and love one another. Amen.*

Report Cards – In today's brown envelope you will find your child's report card. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel's and St. John's at 2:30 PM each Friday during Lent.

Confirmation – The date for Confirmation is Wednesday, April 29th at St. John's Church. In today's brown envelope the 8th grade students will find information regarding confirmation and forms that need to be filled out. Also, there is a note regarding the letter to Bishop ListECKI that all 8th graders will be writing. Please read over all the information and be aware of the due dates. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Jozefowicz.

World Vision – 6th, 7th and 8th grade students can participate in a 30 – Hour Famine. This event will be held on March 27th and 28th. Information was handed out in Religion classes.

Attention Incoming Pre-K Parents – Registration Packets will be available in St. Gabriel's school office between March 30th and April 3rd.

Scrip News – Scrip sales last week were \$8110 with an estimated profit of \$324. This week we are recognizing the rest of our Local Scrip businesses who accept our Local Scrip dollars. They are: Ritchie's Jewelry, Riveland Nursery, River City Roller Rink, Small Engine Doctors, Smarty Pants, Sports World Outlet, and Wall Street. Remember to use your scrip dollars and thank them in person. Also from now until April 3rd, these National merchants are offering extra bonuses (which means extra money for our school): Cabela's 14%, LL Bean 17%, JC Penney 6% and TGI Fridays 10%. If you would like to cash in on any of these great values, use the pink National order form. Thank you for purchasing Scrip!

First Reconciliation – Congratulations to our 2nd graders who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday. May the Lord always be with you.

OVER >>>>

Spring Pictures – On April 1, Lifetouch Photography will be here to take Spring pictures of our students in Pre-K through 7th grade. Information is in today's brown envelope.

Easter Program – On Wednesday, April 8th, the middle school will be hosting several events:

- The 8th Grade will be sponsoring a Pasta Supper from 4:30 – 7:00 PM in St. John's school cafeteria.
- Open House at the middle school from 6:30 – 7:30 PM
- Easter performance titled "Amazing Grace" put on by middle school students at 7:00 PM in St. John's Church
- The Prairie Catholic Youth Group will be performing the Living Stations at St. John's Church from 7:30 – 8:00 PM

All are invited to attend these events. It's a good way to get ready for Holy Week.

Shortened Easter Break – Prairie Catholic will deviate from the public school's calendar again this year. Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th will be our Easter vacation days. **There will be no bus service for our students the week of April 14th – 17th. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from school on these days.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, March 27th – Confessions at St. Gabriel's Elementary School @ 9:00

Friday, March 27th – Saturday, March 28th – 30 Hour Famine @ St. John's school

Friday, March 27th – K – 2 trip to Viterbo – "Stellaluna"

Wednesday, April 1st – Pre-K – 7th Grade Spring pictures

Wednesday, April 8th – Easter Program, Pasta Dinner & Living Stations @ St. John's

Friday, April 10th – Good Friday – **NO SCHOOL**

Monday, April 13th – **NO SCHOOL**

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Fourth Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 14 Works of Mercy 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Grade Science – Earthworm Quiz – Monday or after – Chapter 14 test sometime after Tuesday, March 25th

7th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *The Outsiders*

8th Reading - Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Reflection: Our 4th week of Lent is to HAVE FAITH – OPEN YOUR EYES.

As people of faith we learn to see into the heart with God's eyes. Paradigm shift! A paradigm shift is when your whole idea of the world and how you understand it changes suddenly. You frame what you see in new ways! Think of how different the world would seem to be the poor blind beggar who was cured?

Now WE see a new reality to which we have always been blind, just waiting for us to see it. Have faith...God has been here all along, seeking us, calling us, even while we attempted to avoid Him with the limitations of our human vision and understanding. Have you ever had an experience, good or bad, that made you see everything in a new way?

Prayer: *Lord, give us the strength to see every situation through God's eyes. May we see both sides of a situation and listen to both sides equally. Please God, touch us with your grace, purify our hearts, and grant us humility. Amen.*

Athletic Banquet – Our athletic banquet will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at St. Gabriel's cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. Each family of a basketball player is asked to bring a dish to pass and their own drink and table service.

Forensics News – Prairie Catholic hosted the district Forensics competition on Tuesday. Attending were students from Prairie Catholic, Bloomington St. Mary's and Bluffview. The results are as follows: **Demonstration** – Mallory Fulcher took 1st place and Becky Welsch took 3rd place. **Farrago** – Claire Stoeffler took 1st place and Ellie Antoniewicz took 2nd place. **Group Interpretive Reading** – Nikki Hess, Molly Groom, Sarah Mezera, Jessica Faust and Nicole Trautsch took 2nd place and Katie White and Lindsey Ariss took 3rd place. **Play Acting** – Nicole Trautsch, Lindsey Ariss, Katie White, Lexie Lenzendorf and Sarah Mezera took 1st place. Erin Morovits, Mariah Schwager, Brooke Moret, Jamie Kozelka, and Morgan Pedretti took 2nd place. Tanner Clausen, Cole Pattison, Joey Linder, Molly Stram and Nikki Hess took 3rd place. **Poetry** – Sarah Mezera took 1st place and Jamie Kozelka tied for 3rd place. **Prose** – Courtney Pattison tied for 1st place and Claire Stoeffler took 2nd place. **Storytelling** – Brooke Moret took 1st place. Ellie Antoniewicz and Seamus Murray tied for 3rd place. Great job done by all!

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel's and St. John's at 2:30 PM each Friday during Lent.

World Vision – 6th, 7th and 8th grade students can participate in a 30 – Hour Famine. This event will be held on March 27th and 28th. Information was handed out in Religion classes.

Scrip News – Scrip sales last week were \$5520 with an estimated profit of \$220. This week we are recognizing more of our local businesses that accept our Local Scrip dollars. They are: Knutson Photography, Kozelka's Men's Wear, Krause Monuments, LA Fashions, and Nelson

True Value. Remember to use our scrip dollars and thank them in person! Also, from now until April 3, these National merchants are offering extra bonuses (which means extra money for our school): Cabela's 14%, LL Bean 17%, JC Penney 6% and TGI Fridays 10%. If you would like to cash in on any of these great values, use the "pink" National order form that you will find in your school envelope today. Thank you for purchasing Scrip!

In Today's Brown Envelope – In today's brown envelope you will find your child's results of their recent standardized tests. The test yields information that will help us see the skills students have mastered and the skills they have yet to learn. If you have questions about the results of your child's test, please contact your child's teacher.

First Reconciliation – The second graders will be making the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 25th after Mass. Please keep them in your prayers as we move through Lent.

Spring Pictures – On April 1, Lifetouch Photography will be here to take Spring pictures of our students in Pre-K through 7th grade. More information will be coming your way.

Easter Program – On Wednesday, April 8th, the middle school will be hosting several events:

- The 8th Grade will be sponsoring a Pasta Supper from 4:30 – 7:00 PM in St. John's school cafeteria.
- Open House at the middle school from 6:30 – 7:30 PM
- Easter performance titled "Amazing Grace" put on by middle school students at 7:00 PM in St. John's Church
- The Prairie Catholic Youth Group will be performing the Living Stations at St. John's Church from 7:30 – 8:00 PM

All are invited to attend these events. It's a good way to get ready for Holy Week.

Shortened Easter Break – Prairie Catholic will deviate from the public school's calendar again this year. Friday, April 10th and Monday, April 13th will be our Easter vacation days. **There will be no bus service for our students the week of April 14th – 17th. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from school on these days.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, March 20 – **FULL DAY OF SCHOOL**

Friday, March 20th – Fish Fry at St. John's Church Hall 4:00 – 7:00

Sunday, March 22nd – Athletic Banquet at St. Gabriel's Cafeteria @ 6:00

Wednesday, March 25th – First Reconciliation – Grade 2

Thursday, March 26th – Confessions at St. John's Middle School @ 9:00

Friday, March 27th – Confessions at St. Gabriel's Elementary School @ 9:00

Friday, March 27th – Saturday, March 28th – 30 Hour Famine @ St. John's school

Friday, March 27th – K – 2 trip to Viterbo – "Stellaluna"

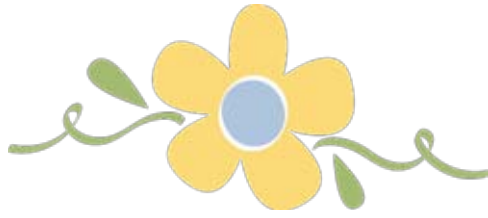
UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

7th Reading Ongoing quizzes on The Outsiders

8th Reading Ongoing quizzes on To Kill a Mockingbird



Our 3rd week of Lent is to HAVE FAITH – Worship in Spirit and Truth.

Part of our “faith life” is in our worship and prayer at Mass and elsewhere, where we look beyond what is just in front of our eyes, through eyes of faith, to a much deeper meaning.

With St. Patrick’s Day just around the corner, our prayer this week is:

An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine be warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields, and until
we meet again may God hold you in the small of His hand.*

St. Patrick’s Dinner – St. Gabriel’s will be holding their annual St. Patrick’s Dinner this Sunday. They will be serving from 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM. Hope to see you there!

Athletic Banquet – Our athletic banquet will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at St. Gabriel’s cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. Each family of a basketball player is asked to bring a dish to pass and their own drink and table service.

Forensics News – On Tuesday, March 17th, Prairie Catholic will be hosting the conference forensics competition at St. John’s Middle School. This event will begin at 6:30 PM.

Middle School Fundraiser – Our annual Mr. Z’s fundraiser is over. The pick up date is Thursday, March 19th at 4:00 PM. Don’t forget to pick up your items!

Lost & Found – A pair of prescription eyeglasses were found on the playground after Mardi Gras. If anyone is missing a pair of glasses, you may pick them up at St. Gabriel School office.

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel’s and St. John’s at 2:30 PM each Friday during Lent.

World Vision – 6th, 7th and 8th grade students can participate in a 30 – Hour Famine. This event will be held on March 27th and 28th. Information was handed out in Religion classes.

Scrip News – Scrip sales for the week of March 2nd – 8th was \$7098 with an estimated profit of \$284. Thank you for purchasing and using Scrip. We CAN make a difference! Great news – We will now carry both \$10 and \$20 Culver’s cards in stock. Be

sure to get yours today. Also, thank you to those who purchased our old Scrip inventory. We do have a few left. Stop in and see what we have. Did you know – Several of our businesses accept the Local Scrip dollars. This week we would like to thank Bloomington Meats, Blackhawk Dry Cleaners, Bob’s Bar, Computer Support Plus, Cumming’s Photography, Eunice’s, Frye Dental and Hartig Drug. Remember to use your Scrip dollars and thank them in person.

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to buy computers. I’m encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletters.

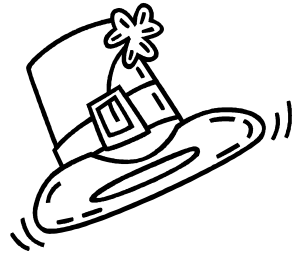
Cold Weather Reminders – Students need to be reminded that we are still in the cold weather season. We must insist that heavy jackets, mittens, hats and boots (when there is snow) be worn. If students do not wear appropriate attire, they will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities. Children wearing boots must carry with them a pair of shoes to be worn inside the building.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 15th – St. Patrick’s Dinner @ St. Gabriel’s
Tuesday, March 17th – Forensics Meet at St. John’s
Tuesday, March 17th – 3 – 5 trip to Viterbo – “The Jungle Book”
Wednesday, March 18th – ACT Explore Testing – 7th & 8th Grade students @ 8:00
Thursday, March 19th – End of 3rd Quarter - **FULL DAY OF SCHOOL**
Friday, March 20 – **FULL DAY OF SCHOOL**
Sunday, March 22nd – Athletic Banquet at St. Gabriel’s Cafeteria @ 6:00
Wednesday, March 25th – First Reconciliation – Grade 2
Thursday, March 26th – Confessions at St. John’s Middle School @ 9:00
Friday, March 27th – Confessions at St. Gabriel’s Elementary School @ 9:00
Friday, March 27th – Saturday, March 28th – 30 Hour Famine @ St. John’s school
Friday, March 27th – K – 2 trip to Viterbo – “Stellaluna”

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.
All Students – Continue to practice Forensics
6th Grade Reading – Book Reports Part 1 due Friday, March 13th
6th Grade Reading – Book Reports Part 2 due Monday, March 16th – Thursday, March 19th
6th Grade Reading – *Bridge to Terabithia* Final Test – Wednesday, March 18th
6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 22 – Friday, March 13th
6th Grade English – Chapter 6 Test – Tuesday, March 17th
8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday
8th Language Chapter 5 Test - Friday, March 13
7th Reading Ongoing quizzes on *The Outsiders*
8th Reading Ongoing quizzes on *To Kill a Mockingbird*



Reflection: God has saved us, as the second reading says today, not because of anything we have done ourselves but because that always has always been His plan. He “will make of you a great nation”, as it says in Isaiah. God loves us because He created us...that’s it! We don’t have to do anything else to deserve His love, which He gives no matter what we do or what we are. We know this because we know that Jesus died for us on the cross and that God then raised him up, showing us that not even death can separate us from God’s love. He promised us this because He loves us. So why do we sometimes doubt? What would you do if you saw Jesus and the prophets standing and talking with someone you know? Do you truly believe in your heart that God loves you no matter what, and that you love Him too...or do you just say the words?

Our theme this Lent is: HAVE FAITH. This second week is BELIEVE IN GOD'S PROMISE.

Tournament News – Congratulations to the 5th grade boys for placing 2nd in the La Crosse Aquinas tournament. Our 6th grade boys also placed 2nd in the same tournament. We are proud of all of you!

Athletic Banquet – Our athletic banquet will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at St. Gabriel’s cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. More information to come!

Middle School Fundraiser – We are putting on the final touches to this year’s fundraiser. Final results will be announced at a later date. Delivery for the Mr. Z’s products will be on Thursday, March 19th.

Lost & Found – A pair of prescription eyeglasses were found on the playground after Mardi Gras. If anyone is missing a pair of glasses, you may pick them up at St. Gabriel School office.

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel’s and St. John’s at 2:40 PM each Friday during Lent.

Home & School Meeting – We will be having a Home & School meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 PM in St. Gabriel’s cafeteria. If you would like to become more involved in your school, please come and join us. You may want to think about running for a position on the board, as we will be taking nominations that night. Also, keep in mind that as summer approaches we will be doing our summer fundraisers. They are Rendezvous, Relay for Life and Back to School Bash. We will be looking for people to help out at these events, so if you are interested in volunteering please let Pam Kiesau, Char Steger, Cassie Rickleff or Rochelle Neisius know and we will be glad to put you to work.

Scrip News – We need your help! The Scrip program needs 1 or 2 volunteers to work Monday mornings (approx. 8 AM to 12 PM) to inventory the Scrip boxes. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please call Laurie Pedretti @ 326-8293. **Scrip sales** for the week of Feb. 16 thru Feb. 22 were \$5310 with an estimated profit of \$212!! Thank you for purchasing and using Scrip. We CAN make a difference! **Did you Know?** Several of our local

businesses accept the Local Scrip dollars. This week we would like to thank the Salons that support our program. These include: A Cut Above, Classic Cuts, Creative Cuts, Designs By Windy, & Kate's Hair Studio. Remember to use your scrip dollars and thank them in person.

Kindergarten Screening – Kindergarten Screening will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at St. Gabriel's school. Appointments are necessary. Please call the school office at 326-8624 to set up a time for your child. **Note – there will be no Pre-K on this day.**

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to buy computers. I'm encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletters.

Cold Weather Reminders – Students need to be reminded that we are still in the cold weather season. We must insist that heavy jackets, mittens, hats and boots (when there is snow) be worn. If students do not wear appropriate attire, they will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities. Children wearing boots must carry with them a pair of shoes to be worn inside the building.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, 5th – Education Committee 6:30 @ St. John's
Friday, March 6th – 7th & 8th Grade trip to Madison
Tuesday, March 10th – Kindergarten Screening at St. Gabriel's
Sunday, March 15th – St. Patrick's Dinner @ St. Gabriel's
Tuesday, March 17th – Forensics Meet at St. John's
Tuesday, March 17th – 3 – 5 trip to Viterbo – “The Jungle Book”
Wednesday, March 18th – ACT Explore Testing – 7th & 8th Grade students @ 8:00
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UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.
All Students – Continue to practice Forensics
7th Grade Reading – Project due Tuesday, March 10th
8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday



Reflection: Yesterday was Ash Wednesday – the first day of Lent. Lent is a season that reminds us to repent and get our lives centered, our priorities straight, and our hearts clean. This holy season offers us a new chance to say, “yes” to the Lover of our Souls who created us, who made us in his own image. Lent is the time for a restoration project that will reveal the beauty of God’s design for us, showing once again the scale, proportion, and priorities intended by our Maker. Lent is a season of hope and with ashes on our foreheads and hope in our hearts, we go forth to love and serve. For by God’s grace in Christ, we do not have to stay the way we are.

Our theme this Lent is: Have Faith.

Week 1: Resist Temptation

Faith is the greatest defense against temptation, because when we surrender completely to God then we have no need of the temptation to replace him with our own meager devices. What are the defenses of your life? In what ways do you not allow God to be in control and instead try to control your life yourself? Take these questions and think about how they apply in your life.

Tournament News – Congratulations to the 5th grade girls for placing 3rd in the La Crosse Aquinas tournament. Our 6th grade girls placed 1st in the same tournament. Our 7th / 8th grade boys placed 1st in the Garnavillo tournament this past weekend and the 8th grade girls took 3rd place in Garnavillo as well. We are proud of all of you!

Middle School Fundraiser - Our students will be selling Mr. Z’s products through March 2nd. This year, our profits will go toward the Accelerated Reader program. Please contact a middle school student or contact the school office at 326-4400. The students had a “Quick Start” drawing in conjunction with the fundraiser. Winners were: Logan Dickman – 5 lb. Hershey bar, Ryan Garrity – Hamburger Telephone, and John David – French Silk Pie.

Full Days of School – We are trying to closely follow the public school calendar this year. With that said, we will have a full day of school tomorrow. We also need to make up one snow day. The March calendar will look like this: Full days on Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th.

Scrip News – We need your help! The Scrip program needs 1 or 2 volunteers to work Monday mornings (approx. 8 AM to 12 PM) to inventory the Scrip boxes. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please call Laurie Pedretti @ 326-8293. Scrip sales for the week of February 9 thru 15 were \$7223 with an estimated profit of \$289. Thank you for using and purchasing Scrip! Did you know? Several of our local businesses accept the Local Scrip dollars. This week we would like to thank the local restaurants who support our program. These include: The Barn, Canteen Café, Coaches, The Depot, Ft. Mulligan’s Grill Pub, Hardees, Huckleberry’s, Hungry House, Jones’ Black Angus, Maggie’s Diner, and Simply. Remember to use your scrip dollars and thank them in person.

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel’s and St. John’s at 2:40 PM each Friday during Lent.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss – St. Gabriel’s school is sponsoring a birthday celebration in the Library on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 PM. Dr. Seuss stories will be read and cake, milk and coffee will be served afterwards. Hope to see you there!

Kindergarten Screening – Kindergarten Screening will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at St. Gabriel’s school. Appointments are necessary. Please call the school office at 326-8624 to set up a time for your child.

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to buy computers. I’m encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletters.

Athletic Banquet – Our athletic banquet will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at St. Gabriel’s cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. More information to come!

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, February 27th – FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
Tuesday, March 3rd – Dr. Seuss’ Birthday in St. Gabriel’s
Thursday, 5th – Education Committee 6:30 @ St. John’s
Friday, March 6th – 8th Grade trip to Madison
Tuesday, March 10th – Kindergarten Screening at St. Gabriel’s
Sunday, March 15th – St. Patrick’s Dinner @ St. Gabriel’s
Tuesday, March 17th – Forensics Meet at St. John’s
Tuesday, March 17th – 3 – 5 trip to Viterbo – “The Jungle Book”
Wednesday, March 18th – ACT Explore Testing – 7th & 8th Grade students @ 8:00
Thursday, March 19th – End of 3rd Quarter - FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
Friday, March 20 – FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
Sunday, March 22nd – Athletic Banquet at St. Gabriel’s Cafeteria @ 6:00
Wednesday, March 25th – First Reconciliation – Grade 2
Thursday, March 26th – Confessions at St. John’s Middle School @ 9:00
Friday, March 27th – Confessions at St. Gabriel’s Elementary School @ 9:00
Friday, March 27th – K – 2 trip to Viterbo – “Stellaluna”

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days 7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.
All Students – Continue to practice Forensics
6th Grade English – Vocabulary test 20 & DOL test – Friday, February 27th
6th Grade Reading – Section 3 quiz on Bridge to Terabithia – Tuesday, March 3rd.
6th Grade Reading – Book It! Sheets due Wednesday, March 4th
7th Grade Reading – Test on *Number the Stars* – Wednesday, March 4th
7th Grade Reading – Project due Tuesday, March 10th
8th Grade Reading – Test on *The Pigman* – Wednesday, March 4th
8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday
6th Grade Science – Unit C Chapter 1 test sometime after March 2nd
8th Grade Science – Chapter 13 test sometime after March 2nd



From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

February 19, 2009

Prayer: O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor and myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Tournament News – Congratulations to the 6th grade boys who placed 2nd in the Fennimore tournament this past weekend. Also, congratulations to our girls – 5th grade placed 4th, 6th grade placed 1st, 7th grade placed 2nd and 8th grade also placed 2nd in the Wauzeka tournament. We are very proud of all of you!

Middle School Fundraiser - A kick-off was held Monday from Mr. Z's Pizza. Our students will be selling their products for the next couple of weeks. This year, our profits will go toward the Accelerated Reader program. Please contact a middle school student or contact the school office at 326-4400.

Washington D.C. Trip - The final meeting for 8th Grade students and parents will be held **tonight**, February 19th at 6:30 in the cafeteria of St. John's School. **THIS IS A MANDATORY MEETING FOR ALL PEOPLE GOING ON THE TRIP!**

Fire Safety Program – There will be a Fire Prevention program sponsored by the Wisconsin Firefighters Association on Monday, February 23 at the elementary school.

Mardi Gras – Mardi Gras will be held on Tuesday, February 24th. Please see the enclosed flyer for a schedule of the day's activities. Raffle tickets are still on sale and will be throughout the day's events. Hope to see you there!

Ash Wednesday – February 25th is Ash Wednesday. Masses will be held at both parishes at 8:30 a.m. so all students may attend.

Full Days of School – We are trying to closely follow the public school calendar this year. With that said, we will have a full day of school on Friday, February 27. We also need to make up one snow day. The March calendar will look like this: Full days on Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th.

Scrip News – We need your help! The Scrip program needs 1 or 2 volunteer to work Monday mornings (approx. 8 AM to 12 PM) to inventory the Scrip boxes. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please call Laurie Pedretti @ 326-8293. **Great news** – spend your Local Scrip dollars at Smarty Pants on Fat Tuesday (Feb. 24) and receive 40% off your purchase. Scrip sales for the month of January were \$23,210 with an estimated profit of \$928. Thanks to all who purchase and use Scrip!

Stations of the Cross – Students will share in the Stations of the Cross at both St. Gabriel's and St. John's at 2:40 PM each Friday during Lent.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss – St. Gabriel’s school is sponsoring a birthday celebration in the Library on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 PM. Dr. Seuss stories will be read and cake, milk and coffee will be served afterwards. Hope to see you there!

Kindergarten Screening – Kindergarten Screening will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at St. Gabriel’s school. Appointments are necessary. Please call the school office at 326-8624 to set up a time for your child.

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to buy computers. I’m encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletters.

Box Tops - need to be in the school offices by no later than February 25th to be counted for this school year. Please remember that any bonus points received from Piggly Wiggly should be turned in by the 25th also.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, February 19th – Washington D. C. Trip Meeting – **6:30** p.m. – St. John’s Cafeteria

Saturday, February 21st – Chili & Grilled Cheese supper – St. John’s Church Hall

Tuesday, February 24th – Mardi Gras – St. Gabriel’s – More information to come.

Thursday, February 26th – Forensics at the Middle School – Mid Quarter reports go home in Brown Envelope

Friday, February 27th – FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Tuesday, March 10th – Kindergarten Screening at St. Gabriel’s

Thursday, March 19th – FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday, March 20 – FULL DAY OF SCHOOL

Sunday, March 22nd – Athletic Banquet at St. Gabriel’s Cafeteria @ 6:00

UPCOMING

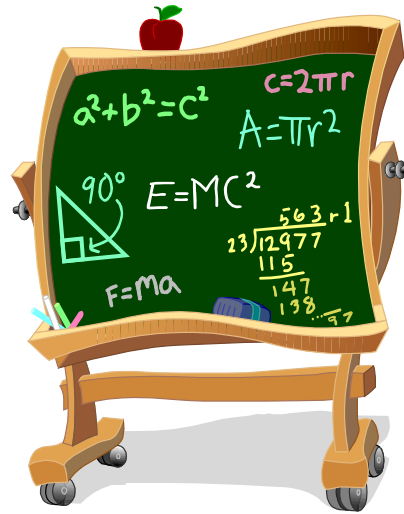
6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

All Students – Continue to practice Forensics

7th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *Number the Stars* and the vocabulary – Project due at the end of book

8th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *The Pigman* and the vocabulary

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday



From the Principal's Office

NEWSLETTER

February 12, 2009

Prayer: Most Gracious Heavenly Father, You gave Saint Valentine the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ, even to the point of giving his life for it. Help us to endure all suffering for love of you, and to seek you with all our hearts; for you alone are the source of life and love. Grant that we may have the courage and love to be strong witnesses of your truth to our friends and family and to the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Iowa Basic Skills Testing – Just a reminder that we have been testing this week and next week. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments during the testing times. All teachers from the Elementary School sent out the days and times they are testing. Please make sure your child is well rested each day and make sure they have eaten a good breakfast.

Book Fair Update - Thank you to everyone (library volunteers, students, parents and staff) who helped make the Scholastic Book Fair a huge success! The 2009 sales totaled \$3429.29 making a total profit of \$1043.79 (30% of our sales) to be used to purchase new books/materials for our library. A very special thanks to our two new chairpersons, Molly Kirschbaum and Crystal Steiner for taking on this big role. Also, a special thanks to Linda Ginkel for her continued helpfulness during the annual book fair. Our library is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers!

Washington D.C. Trip - The final meeting for 8th Grade students and parents will be held on Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 in the cafeteria of St. John's School. Please decide by the time of the meeting if you can chaperone this event.

St. John's School Fundraiser – Our kick-off will be held Monday, February 16th at 2:30 p.m. Please be watching for all the material coming home on Monday, February 16th after the kick-off.

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to buy computers. I'm encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletters.

Math Counts – A team from Prairie Catholic won the first Math Counts Competition of the school year held on February 4th. With over 22 teams and 90 students, the team of Tanner Clausen, Tyler Nack, John David and Justin Panka took first place honors. Tyler Nack took first place individually. Congratulations to all the teams that participated.

Art Show at Effigy Mounds - will feature Prairie Catholic students in K - 5 the weekend of February 13, 14 and 15.

Mardi Gras – Can you believe next month is Mardi Gras? Mark your calendars Now! The date is Tuesday, February 24th. This is a family event sponsored by the 7th graders. The money raised will help with the Washington D.C. trip. To get ready for this event the 7th grade students will be selling raffle tickets ahead of time. The drawing

for the raffle prizes will take place at 2:15 p.m. at St. Gabriel's cafeteria. Each ticket is \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 or 12 for \$10.00 or 30 for \$20.00. Hope to see you there at St. Gabriel's Cafeteria for Mardi Gras.

Box Tops - need to be in the school offices by no later than February 25th to be counted for this school year. Please remember that any bonus points received from Piggly Wiggly should be turned in by the 25th also.

NO SCHOOL – On Friday, February 13th we will not be holding classes. Since we are trying to follow the public schools calendar, this day is a scheduled LaCrosse conference day for teachers.

Ash Wednesday – February 25th is Ash Wednesday, Masses will be held at both parishes at 8:30 a.m. so all students can attend.

LOOKING AHEAD

February 9th – 20th – Iowa Basic Testing

Friday, February 13th – NO SCHOOL – LaCrosse Convention

Monday, February 16th – Kick –off – Mr. Z's pizza sales – Middle School – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18th – Mid Quarter

Thursday, February 19th – Washington D. C. Trip Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – St. John's Cafeteria

Thursday, February 26th – Forensics at the Middle School – Mid Quarter go home in Brown Envelope

Tuesday, February 24th – Mardi Gras – St. Gabriel's – More information to come.

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

All Students – Continue to practice Forensics

8th Grade Science – Test Chapter 12 – Wednesday, February 18th

7th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *Number the Stars* and the vocabulary – Project due at the end of book

8th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *The Pigman* and the vocabulary

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

Prayer: *O my God, I love thee with my whole heart and above all things, because thou art infinitely good and perfect: and I love my neighbor as myself for love of thee. Grant that I may love thee more and more in this life and in the next for all eternity. Amen.*

Congratulations – to 8th grader Tyler Nack for placing first in the West sectionals Spelling Bee, and now he moves on to State. We are so very proud of you!

Well Done – to our team of 7th & 8th graders who participated in the “Brains” competition in LaCrosse on Saturday. They took home the honor of 5th place in the competition! We are all so very proud of each and every one of you. A big thank – you to coach, Mrs. Kari Kronberg and all the parents who came to cheer you on!

Can't Thank you Enough – We are so grateful for all the wonderful volunteers that helped with our Book Fair this past week. You all did a wonderful job and we couldn't have done it without you and the leadership from Mrs. Crystal Steiner.

Student Council – Want a special sweet treat for someone special? The Middle School Student Council will be doing Candy-O-Grams for both schools. Forms went out in last weeks brown envelope, please return form and money to the office by Friday, February 6th.

Iowa Basic Skills Testing – Please be aware that our annual standardized testing will be given in at both schools during the weeks of February 9th through the 20th. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments during testing times. Parents, please talk to your child about the tests. It is important that your child anticipate the tests with interest rather than with anxiety. They should realize that they are taking an achievement test that will yield information about the skills they have mastered, and the skills they still need to learn. Point out to your child that some questions are more difficult than others and some may be new to them. Emphasize that the test will not affect their school grades. **Please make sure your child is well rested each day and make sure they have eaten a good breakfast.**

Washington D.C. Trip - The final meeting for 8th Grade students and parents will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 in the cafeteria of St. John's School. Please decide by the time of the meeting if you can chaperone this event.

St. John's School Fundraiser – We will be holding our yearly pizza sales fundraiser February 16th – 27th. Kick-off will be on Monday, February 16th. More information in next week's brown envelope.

Bishop John J Paul Scholarship – Information for this scholarship was sent last week in the brown envelope. The forms need to be in the school office by Friday, February, 20th. I will then forward them to the Diocese on Monday, February 23rd.

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to

buy computers. I'm encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletters.

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Box Tops - need to be in the school offices by no later than February 25th to be counted for this school year. Please remember that any bonus points received from Piggly Wiggly should be turned in by the 25th also.

NO SCHOOL – On Friday, February 13th we will not be holding classes. Since we are trying to follow the public schools calendar, this day is a scheduled LaCrosse conference day for teachers.

LOOKING AHEAD

Friday, February 6th – 7th & 8th Grade Band students – Band field trip to Madison

February 9th – 20th – Iowa Basic Testing

Friday, February 13th – NO SCHOOL – LaCrosse Convention

Monday, February 16th – Kick –off – Mr. Z's pizza sales – Middle School

Wednesday, February 18th – Mid Quarter

Thursday, February 19th – Washington D. C. Trip Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – St. John's Cafeteria

Thursday, February 26th – Forensics at the Middle School – Mid Quarter go home in Brown Envelope

Tuesday, February 24th – Mardi Gras – St. Gabriel's – More information to come.

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 18 – Friday, February 6th

6th Grade Reading – Section 1 – Quiz on *Bridge to Terabithia* – Friday, February 6th

6th Grade Science – Test Unit B Chapter 4 – Friday, February 6th

8th Grade Language – Chapter 4 test – Friday, February 6th

8th Grade Science – Test Chapter 12 – Sometime after February 11th

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 19 – Thursday, February 12th

6th Grade Reading – Section 2 - Quiz on *Bridge to Terabithia* – Thursday, February 12th

7th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *Number the Stars* and the vocabulary – Project due at the end of book

8th Grade Reading – Ongoing quizzes on *The Pigman* and the vocabulary

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

Prayer for Catholic Schools: Gracious God, thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Day after day, week after week, You give us many opportunities to know Your great love, peace, and forgiveness. May all who enter their classrooms be filled with the gift of Your Holy Spirit and come to know You in a more meaningful way. May Catholic education grow so that Your service be continued to teach children from all around Your world. Amen!

Thank you for another successful Catholic Schools Week – I would like to personally thank all the teachers and staff members for all their hard work on Science Night, Mrs. Kerri Weber for organizing the Opera of the Young, and Mrs. Michele Pattison for pulling off the ski trip to Mr. LaCrosse. To all the coaches and students for the great tournaments, and for all the wonderful parents and community members that helped out in so many ways – **THANK-YOU!** You are the best!!

Ski Trip to Mt. LaCrosse – It's finally here! The Ski Trip will be tomorrow, Friday, January 30th. Students will be departing from St. Johns at 8:00 a.m. and returning at 4:00 p.m. Just a reminder for those students not attending – This is a regular day of school, and students are expected to be at school. Also, all students not going must bring a sack lunch.

Knights of Columbus Knowledge Contest – Congratulations to the following students who placed in the recent competition. The first place winners are eligible to compete at the Diocesan level.

Grade 5 Spelling

1st – Kelly Check

2nd – Lauren Nicholson

Grade 7 Spelling

1st – Ellen Antoniewicz

2nd – Claire Stoeffler

Grade 5 Math

1st – Levi Orr

2nd – Anna Zeeh

Grade 7 Math

1st – Hayley Hemmer

2nd – Becky Welsch

Grade 6 Spelling

1st – Dylan Boisvert

2nd – Dominic Manganiello

Grade 8 Spelling

1st – Tyler Nack

2nd – Isaac Moret

Grade 6 Math

1st – Mara Gerhards

2nd – Brooke Moret

Grade 8 Math

1st – Cole Pattison

2nd – Justin Panka

Spelling Bee Winners – Congratulations to the following winners from St. Gabriel's – Kelly Check received 1st Place and MaKayla Gerhards placed 2nd and from St. John's Middle School – Tyler Nack received 1st place and a tie for 2nd were Sydney Sanders and Dylan Boisvert. Good luck to Tyler and Kelly who will be representing our schools at the sectional Spelling Bee.

Student Council – Want a special sweet treat for someone special? The Middle School Student Council will be doing Candy-O-Grams for both schools. Forms are in today's brown envelope, and please return form and money to the office by Friday, February 6th.

Iowa Basic Skills Testing – Please be aware that our annual standardized testing will be given in at both schools during the weeks of February 9th through the 20th. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments during testing times. Parents, please talk to your child about the tests. It is important that your child anticipate the tests with interest rather than with anxiety. They should realize that they are taking an achievement test that will yield information about the skills they have mastered, and the skills they still need to learn. Point out to your child that some questions are more difficult than others and some may be new to them. Emphasize that the test will not affect their school grades. **Please make sure your child is well rested each day and make sure they have eaten a good breakfast.**

Washington D.C. Trip - The final meeting for 8th Grade students and parents will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 in the cafeteria of St. John's School. Please decide by the time of the meeting if you can chaperone this event.

St. John's School Fundraiser – We will be holding our yearly pizza sales fundraiser February 16th – 27th. More information to follow.

First Communion – This year our First Communion Mass will be on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at St. Gabriel's Church. The time will be at **11:30 a.m.** The time needed to be changed to the priests Sunday Mass schedule. Both priests wish to be present for the special ceremony! Please note the change.

Change of Plans – the 7th grade class will not be fundraising Cookie Dough. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Bishop John J Paul Scholarship – Information for this scholarship is included in the Brown Envelope. The forms need to be in my office by February 20th. I will be forwarding them to the Diocese on Monday, February 23rd.

Tyson Project A+ - Our schools are signed up for this project. The project is easy – if you eat Tyson products, you can help Prairie Catholic Schools earn money! Each label is worth 24¢ - our goal is \$12,000.00 so we can continue to buy computers. I'm encouraging everyone to participate in this program. An update on our progress will be in future newsletter.

Math Counts – There will be a Math Counts Competition on Wednesday, February 4th at Huckleberry's from 1:00 to approximately 3:00. Permission slips are in today's brown envelope. Parents must pick up students from Huckleberry's.

Mardi Gras – Can you believe next month is Mardi Gras? Mark your calendars Now! The date is Tuesday, February 24th. This is a family event sponsored by the 7th graders. The money raised will help with the Washington D.C. trip. To get ready for this event the 7th grade students will be selling raffle tickets ahead of time. The drawing for the raffle prizes will take place at 2:15 p.m. at St. Gabriel's cafeteria. Each ticket is \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 or 12 for \$10.00 or 30 for \$20.00. Hope to see you there at St. Gabriel's Cafeteria for Mardi Gras.

Box Tops - need to be in the school offices by no later than February 25th to be counted for this school year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, January 29th – Basketball evaluation

Friday, January 30th – Grades 5th – 8th – Ski Trip to LaCrosse

Saturday, January 31st – Brains & Braun Tournament in LaCrosse

Sunday, February 1st – Swiss Steak Dinner at St. Gabriel's

Wednesday, February 4th – Math Counts – Huckleberry's – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Friday, February 6th – 7th & 8th Grade Band students – Band field trip to Madison

February 9th – 20th – Iowa Basic Testing

Friday, February 13th – NO SCHOOL – LaCrosse Convention

Monday, February 16th – Kick –off – Mr. Z's pizza sales – Middle School

Wednesday, February 18th – Mid Quarter

Thursday, February 19th – Washington D. C. Trip Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – St. John's Cafeteria

Thursday, February 26th – Forensics at the Middle School – Mid Quarter go home in Brown Envelope

Tuesday, February 24th – Mardi Gras – St. Gabriel's – More information to come.


UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade English – Keep working on research paper

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Day after day, week after week, You give us many opportunities to know Your great love, peace, and forgiveness. Help us respond to Your need to do service in our schools, community, and at home. Amen!

PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SWEEPSTAKES CALENDARS – Our 2nd Major School Fundraiser - Just a reminder to turn in any money and calendar registration cards you have received from the sale of your set of Sweepstakes Calendars.  If you need additional calendars to sell, contact the school office, rectory or John Fischer (326-2827). **Please do your best to participate in this very important fundraiser for our school**

Report Cards – Your child has received his/her report card today. Please call your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding your child's progress. Thank you for your continued support of our school and our efforts to guide your child academically, socially and most importantly, spiritually.

Boys Basketball Tournament – In today's Brown Envelope you will find the work schedule for the upcoming tournament on January 24th & 25th. Please be aware that every parent will be down to work at the tournament. If you are not able to work the time assigned, it is your responsibility to send a replacement of switch with a friend. Also, all parents who have a boy playing are asked to bring a pan of bars, plate of cookies or a snack to sell at the gyms. These items are always in demand so it is important that each family does their share.

Knights of Columbus Contest – Grades 5-8 – Tuesday, January 27th at 3:30 p.m. – St. John's Middle School - Students sign in when they arrive and may choose to compete in Spelling or Math. Testing will run from 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Students may wait in the cafeteria while results are tallied and then announced at 4:30 p.m. Snacks will be available for purchase while students wait for their results. The first place winners are eligible to compete at the Diocesan level.

A BIG THANK YOU - Thank you to the families that will be representing Prairie Catholic School at the Masses this weekend.

St. Gabriel's

4:00 - The Eric Teynor Family

8:00 - The Jeff DuCharme Family

St. John's

7:00 - The Andy Banasik Family

10:00 - The John Nolan Family

Ski Trip to Mt. LaCrosse – The ski trip will take place on Friday, January 30th. Just a reminder for those Middle School students not attending – This is a regular day of school, and students are expected to be at school. They should bring a sack lunch to school that day. Also, students will be returning to St. John's School at 4:00 p.m. and will need a ride home at that time. Any student not riding the bus home must have a note signed by their parent and must be to the office no later than Monday, January 26th. Reminder, all money for the ski trip is due tomorrow, Friday, January 23rd.

Washington D.C. Trip - The final meeting for ALL students and parents will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 in the cafeteria of St. John's School. Please decide by the time of the meeting if you can chaperone this event.
Visit the Scholastic Book Fair – during science night. If you are interested in purchasing a book for your child's classroom, Classroom Wish Lists will be on display at the Book Fair. The Book Fair will be opened all week during school hours and on Wednesday, January 28th from 3:00-6:00 p.m. We hope to see you at the Book Fair! All proceeds benefit our library!

The Spirit Stick – During Catholic Schools week, the Spirit Stick will travel to the homeroom that has the highest percentage of participation for dressing up according to the schedule at the Middle School. That homeroom will also receive a candy prize sponsored by the Student Council.

Cancellation - Information about the cancellation of the Valentine's Day dance is included in the Brown Envelope.

7th Grade Fundraiser - Friday, January 23 through February 6, the present 7th graders will be holding a cookie dough fundraiser for their Washington D.C. trip.

School Closing, Delays and Early Dismissals – **Did you fill out the flyer that went home? We will notify you via email if we have your current email address.** Also, please listen to the radio station WQPC and television stations for up to the minute school closings and/or delays.

Box Tops - need to be in the school offices by no later than February 25 to be counted for this school year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday & Sunday, January 24th & 25th – Prairie Catholic Schools Boy's Basketball Tournament
Sunday – Saturday, January 25th – 31st – Catholic Schools Week – see enclosed flyer
Tuesday, January 27th – Mass for Honor Roll Students – 8:30 a.m. – St. John's
Tuesday, January 27th – Knights of Columbus Contest – 3:30 p.m. – St. John's
Wednesday, January 28th – Clowns for Christ – Science Night
Thursday, January 29th – All School Mass @ St. Gabriel's - Opera for the Young – Basketball Grade Evaluation
Friday, January 30th – Grades 5th – 8th – Ski Trip to LaCrosse
Saturday, January 31st – Brains & Braun Tournament in LaCrosse

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Third Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days
7 Rules of Church – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.
8th Grade Science – Chapter 11 Test – after January 21st
8th Grade English – Keep working on research paper
7th Grade Reading – Unit 3 Test – After January 20th
6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 17 and DOL Test – Tuesday, January 27th
8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

NEW SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monday – Physical Education
Tuesday – Spanish
Wednesday – Art
Thursday – Computers
Friday – Physical Education

Prayer for the New Year – *O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully. Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of the New Year, at the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. Amen.*

**ON SALE NOW
PRAIRIE CATHOLIC SWEEPSTAKES CALENDARS**

First Drawing to be held Sunday, February 1st, 2009

This is our second fundraiser for the school year. Please do your best to support our school through this sale.

Last year the sale raised 8,000.00 for the benefit of our school.

More calendars are available at either school office.

Many thanks to John Fischer for coordinating the project!

Welcome Back – to school for the New Year! Our school year for 2009 is full of excitement. Catholic Schools Week; testing; Mardi Gras; Easter; spring concerts; First Communion; Confirmation and Graduation; etc. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and safe New Year!

Calling all Communities – Cast your vote for our school – Each family is receiving two postcards today in the brown envelope. Please take the time to fill out these cards and drop them in the mail. The top ten schools could win \$100,000.00 from U.S. Cellular! Just fill in your name, city and state. Check Vote for My School, and write Prairie Catholic Schools for School Name. Check Elementary and Junior High (Middle) under School Type. Drop in the mail. All cards must be postmarked before Thursday, January 15, 2009, and you must be 18 years old or older to apply, and may only apply once. We are hoping to have more cards available at all Masses this week-end.

Congratulations – to our three winners of the Fire Prevention Poster Contest sponsored by Prairie du Chien Fire Department. The three winners were 1st Grade – Jack Peterson; 2nd Grade – Caitlin Nolan and 4th Grade – Wesley Schwager. Their reward was pizzas delivered on December 29th by the firemen. Congratulations again!

Tardy Policy – This is just a reminder that the school is mandated to enforce our tardy policy. Below is just a reminder of Prairie Catholic School policy: “Tardiness interferes with a student’s progress and is a disturbance to the other students and the teacher. Every effort should be made by students to be punctual. A student who comes in late to school in the morning or afternoon is to stop in the school office to inform the secretary of their arrival. After three tardies, a student will be issued a behavior detention. Chronic tardiness will be referred to the City of Prairie du Chien Truant Officer.” If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Reminder – If your son/daughter is absent from school due to illness the school must be notified by 9:00 a.m. Students who are absent must present a written note signed by a parent or guardian to their homeroom teacher upon their return. If a student has a doctor or dental appointment **written notification** must be submitted one day prior to the appointment. This also must be signed by a parent or guardian.

This is the Third Week of Advent: O Jesus Christ, Key of David, come and set your people free. Open the gates of heaven for us, come deliver us from evil. King David was a mighty king who built a city long ago. He left a key that Jesus found in the manger hay. Key of David, Jesus Christ, open heaven's gates for us.

*The Fourth Week of Advent: O Jesus Christ, Holy Wisdom, come and teach us your way Word of life, Word made flesh, come speak your truth. Jesus, come and teach me, how to sing and play, how to learn new words, tell me what to say. Teach me how to be a child, for you know the way. On Christmas Day make sure you say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JESUS**.*

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Last year the sale raised 8,000.00 for the benefit of our school.

More calendars are available at either school office.

Many thanks to John Fischer for coordinating the project!

Newsletter – this will be the last school newsletter for the year. Brown envelopes will not be coming home next week. The teachers and staff members from Prairie Catholic Schools would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Christmas Break – A reminder that our vacation begins at the end of December 22nd. We have a full day of school on Monday. We will resume classes on Monday, January 5, 2009.

Brains Team – Prairie Catholic will be participating in the Brains Section of the Brains & Brawn tournament in LaCrosse on January 31, 2009. The Brains tournament is an academic competition where 10 different schools from the diocese compete against each other in the categories of religion, social studies, science, language arts, fine arts, and math. Following a comprehensive exam at the Middle School, we have selected the top ten students to be members of the Brains team. They are Sam Neisius, Tyler Nack, John David, Sarah Mezera, Hayley Hemmer, Jessica Faust, Ryan Antoniewicz, Justin Panka, Sydney Sanders, and Isaac Moret. Congratulation and good luck to the Brains team!

Christmas Eve Mass at St. Gabriel's – Thank you to Rochelle Fulcher and Mary Stoeffler for volunteering to head the Christmas Eve program. Information is in today's brown envelope for students involved. Practices will be held after school on Monday, December 22nd. Thank you, ladies for taking the time to assist with the Christmas program.

Geography Bee – The Middle School held the Geography Bee yesterday. The winner was Sam Neisius: the runner up was Dylan Boisvert. Congratulations and Good Luck to Sam at the next level.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank You - for the generous contributions given at this years Christmas concert. The money will be used for music and other instruments for the music program.

Cold Weather Reminders – Now that winter weather has arrived, we must insist that heavy jackets, mittens, hats and boots be worn. If students do not wear appropriate attire, they will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities. Children wearing boots must carry with them a pair of shoes to be worn inside the building. Reminder – throwing snowballs will result in a detention and a fine. Please listen to the local radio station for school delays and closing as the season of inclement weather unfolds.

School Closing, Delays and Early Dismissals – Please listen to the radio station WQPC and television stations for up to the minute school closings and/or delays. As we begin a new year – we will start a new feature on our internet to alert you to delays/closings. Watch the brown envelope for information in the New Year – January 8th.

Clothing Orders – All orders will be sent home with students. If you would like other arrangements please contact the school office or Chris Mara at 326-4414 ext. 1804.

Catholic School's Week – Mark your calendars now for the Wednesday of CSW! The date is Wednesday, January 28th. This years theme is “Weather and Climate” As always, we will have our book fair, chili, fries, and grilled cheese supper, weather related activities for the students and a science magic show. More to follow in January's brown envelope.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, December 18th – Middle School Band Program at Bluffview

December 23rd – January 2nd – CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, January 5th – First day back to school

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Second Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade Reading – *Tuck Everlasting* – Final Test – Friday, December 19th

6th Grade English – Chapter 4 – Verb Test – Monday, December 22nd

6th Grade Reading – Book It – Sheets due Wednesday, January 7th

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Grade English – work on Religion research paper

May the true spirit of Christmas bring you Peace and Happiness!

This is the Second Week of Advent: O Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, come and save your people. Joy of every heart, strength of those who are poor, come quickly to help us. Prince of Peace, teach the lion and the little lamb, teach the cat and the mouse, the hawk and the tiny bird, teach everyone who doesn't get along to live in peace. Amen.

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More calendars are available at either school office.

Many thanks to John Fischer for coordinating the project!

Christmas Program – If for some reason you missed the St. Gabriel's Christmas program last night, you can purchase a DVD for \$15.00 of the entire performance. Thank you to Mrs. Kerri Weber our music teacher, all her volunteers, all the elementary teachers and a special thanks to all the elementary students for an awesome performance. I really believe the angels did hear your beautiful voices! Great job done by all!

Mid Quarter Reports – In today's brown envelope, Mid Quarter Reports will be found for grades 5-8. Please call the set up an appointment with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

Stewardship/Spiritual Envelopes – today Prairie Catholic students will receive a new set of church envelopes designed especially for children. Notice there is a special place for a child to write who they are praying for each week and how they have used their talents to help others. Students are encouraged to use their envelopes for our stewardship collection at weekday Mass or at the weekend Masses. Please remember to write your name on your envelope.

Pilgrimage to LaCrosse – This is just a reminder that tomorrow is the date. We will be leaving from St. John's at 8:15 a.m. and students will need to bring their own lunch and drink. 5th Grade students should be dropped off at St. John's School. We will be making this special trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse. The group will return to St. John's School and will be dismissed from there. **REMINDER – DRESS CLOTHES ARE TO BE WORN, NO JEANS.**

Home & School News – They are sponsoring an afternoon of "Christmas Fun" for our younger students. There will be arts and crafts, a movie and bingo. The date is Sunday, December 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel's cafeteria. A good will offering will be accepted.

Buy a Computer – Many people ask how they can help the schools besides just giving money, and they don't know what it was spent on. We have received an amazing deal on computers for our school. But we need your help. Any individual, family, business or group that can donate any amount is very helpful. Anyone donating \$300.00 or more will have their name, family name, business or in memory of, on a plaque at school. We are hoping to raise over \$25,000.00 for a large upgrade for our technical department. Technology these days is hard to keep up with, but with your help we will succeed to give our students the best we can. Donations can be dropped of at either schools main office at any time marked "new computers". We would like all donation in before Dec. 19, 2008, so that we can have everything set-up for the students when they return from Christmas break. Thank you in advance for all the help you bring to our schools.

This is the First Week of Advent: O Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, come and dwell with us. Desire of all nations gift to every generation, come; make your home with us. All nations, everybody, is waiting for you, Indians, and Esquimos are waiting for you, People in New York are waiting for you. People in Beijing are waiting for you, Jesus, come to us.

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Last year the sale raised 8,000.00 for the benefit of our school.

More calendars are available at either school office.

Many thanks to John Fischer for coordinating the project!

Food Drive – Thank you to everyone who participated in the Food Drive! We collected over 1,100 pounds of food! Here are the totals for each grade by total:

Grade 8	255 items	Grade 4	109 items
Grade 2	241 items	Grade K	59 items
Grade 3	195 items	Grade 5	58 items
Grade 7	113 items	Grade 1	45 items
Grade 6	112 items		

Congratulations to the 8th grade class for bringing in the most items! Your ice cream party will be on Tuesday, December 9th during 4th period.

December 5th – Hang up your stocking for St. Nicholas to pay a visit. No raw onions or coal, please. We have wonderful kids and fantastic parents!

Christmas Program – Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel's Church, we will be holding our Christmas program entitled "Angels We Have Heard". This program will include our elementary students. Please try to attend! You may purchase a DVD for \$15.00 of the entire performance. Forms for ordering the DVD's were in last week's brown envelope. **ALL GOOD WILL OFFERINGS WILL GO TO THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT.**

Holy Day – Monday, December 8th is a Holy Day, both the Elementary and Middle School students will be attending mass at 8:30 a.m. There will be NO MASS at St. Gabriel's on Friday, December 12th due to the LaCrosse Pilgrimage.

Math Counts – A team from Prairie Catholic won the first Math Counts Competition of the school year held on December 3rd. With over 22 teams and 90 students, the team of Tanner Clausen, Tyler Nack, John David and Justin Panka took first place honors. Justin Panka took first place individually. Congratulations to all the teams that participated, and keep up the good work.

Christmas Eve Mass – The priests have elected to have the 4:00 p.m. Mass as the Children's Mass at St. Gabriel's. **WE NEED A PARENT TO ORGANIZE AND BE IN CHARGE OF THIS EVENT. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DO THIS.**

Do Not Miss It – St. John's Arts and Crafts Fair is December 6th, at St. John's Middle School. Don't miss it.

Pilgrimage to LaCrosse – On December 12, 2008, our Grades 5 - 8 will be making a special trip to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine. Our students will be traveling by bus and they will be bringing their own lunch and drink. We will leave school by 8:15 a.m. and all students need to report to St. John's, and will be dismissed from there also. **Reminder – dress clothes are to be worn, NO JEANS.**

November Is A Thankful Time – *November's caravan arrives in colors bright and gay, with leaves swirling to and for, against a sky turned gray. Asters, mums and marigolds are prominently displayed throughout autumn's tapestry in shades of marmalade. November is a thankful time, for every heart is blessed as we celebrate the harvest when Nature's at her best. The dignity of human labor is proudly on display as people come together in prayer Thanksgiving Day. As we pause to count our blessings, we feel God's presence there, for November's a thankful time we consecrate with prayer.* Clay Harrison

5th Grade Fundraiser – Looking for Advent calendars? The 5th Grade class will be selling them through the month of November. This money will be applied to their 8th Grade class trip. Please contact any 5th grade student.

Letter to Service Members – Please see the included flyer labeled Messages from America. What a great family project to begin the holiday season! Please have your messages to the school offices by November 25th. Let's try to get 100% participation. Thank – you.

Free Passes – Everyone at Prairie Catholic Schools received a free pass from the Jaycees for the performance of "Magic and More" on Tuesday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the High School. Please try to attend.

Information about Pilgrimage – in today's brown envelope you will receive a flyer regarding a Pilgrimage to Washington D. C. sponsored by the Diocese of LaCrosse. If you are interested please contact Rose at St. John's Middle School at 326-4400.

Kohl's Teacher Recognition – If you would like to nominate a teacher for this award, please fill out the form you received in the brown envelope and return it to the school office by November 26, 2008. All forms must be typed. I will then forward them on to the Diocese for evaluation. Additional forms can be obtained at the school offices.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – The PCS Student Council will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving Food Drive at both the elementary and middle Schools. The class that brings in the most food items will win an ice cream party. The items can be brought in to your child's homeroom teacher from Monday, November 10th to Wednesday, November 26th. Please remember to think of others during this holiday season. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars – Our Christmas Program is Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel's Church. This year's musical is titled "Angels We Have Heard". Please try to attend! All good will offerings will go to the Music Department.

Basketball Grade Evaluation – The first grade evaluation for basketball will be as of today, November 20th. I will meet with each student on Friday, November 21st, and explain the problem areas. Parents will receive a notification from their child and coaches will be notified by the school.

Reminder – If your son/daughter is absent from school due to illness the school must be notified by 9:00 a.m. Students who are absent must present a written note signed by a parent or guardian to their homeroom teacher upon their return. If a student has a doctor or dental appointment **written notification** must be submitted one day prior to the appointment. This also must be signed by a parent or guardian.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, November 20th – First Grade Evaluation for Basketball

Wednesday, November 26th – 1:00 p.m. Dismissal

Thursday & Friday – November 27th & November 28th – NO SCHOOL – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thursday, December 4th – Grade evaluation for Basketball

Friday, December 5th – Mid Quarter

Wednesday, December 10th - Christmas Program “Angels We Have Heard” at 6:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel’s Church.

Thursday, December 11th – Mid Quarter Report going home in Brown Envelope

Thursday, December 18th – Middle School Band Program at Bluffview

December 23rd – January 2nd – CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, January 5th – First day back to school

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Second Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade English – Vocabulary test – Friday, November 21st

6th Grade Reading – Tuck Everlasting – Quiz – Friday, November 21st

8th Grade Science – Test Chapter 8 – Friday, November 21st

7th & 8th Grade Spanish – Quiz – Monday, November 24th

7th Grade Reading – Project due Tuesday, November 25th

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Physical Education – Soccer Test – Wednesday, November 26th

6th Grade English – DOL Test – Wednesday, November 26th

8th Grade English – work on Religion research paper

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIALS FOR NOVEMBER 24th – NOVEMBER 26th

Monday – Spanish

Tuesday – Computers

Wednesday – Physical Education

Additions to the Brown Envelopes – If you would like to put something in the brown envelope to announce to the school community please have it ready and into the school offices by the TUESDAY before. Brown envelopes go out on Thursdays.

Home & School News – They are sponsoring an afternoon of “Christmas Fun” for our younger students. There will be arts and crafts, a movie and bingo. The date is Sunday, December 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel’s cafeteria. A good will offering will be accepted. See the flyer in today’s Brown Envelope.

Buy a Computer – Many people ask how they can help the schools besides just giving money, and they don’t know what it was spent on. We have received an amazing deal on computers for our school. But we need your help. Any individual, family, business or group that can donate any amount is very helpful. Anyone donating \$300.00 or more will have their name, family name, business or in memory of, on a plaque at school. We are hoping to raise over \$25,000.00 for a large upgrade for our technical department. Technology these days is hard to keep up with, but with your help we will succeed to give our students the best we can. Donations can be dropped off at either schools main office at any time marked “new computers”. We would like all donation in before Dec. 19, 2008, so that we can have everything set-up for the students when they return from Christmas break. Thank you in advance for all the help you bring to our schools.

School Confessions – We have scheduled our elementary confessions on December 10th after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The Middle School students will have their confessions held on Thursday, December 11th after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The priests will also hear the CCD student’s confessions on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m. at St. John’s.

Cold Weather Reminders – Now that winter weather has arrived, we must insist that heavy jackets, mittens, hats and boots be worn. If students do not wear appropriate attire, they will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities. Children wearing boots must carry with them a pair of shoes to be worn inside the building. Reminder – throwing snowballs will result in a detention and a fine. Please listen to the local radio station for school delays and closing as the season of inclement weather unfolds.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, December 4th – Grade evaluation for Basketball

Friday, December 5th – Mid Quarter

Wednesday, December 10th - Christmas Program “Angels We Have Heard” at 6:30 p.m. in St. Gabriel’s Church.

Thursday, December 11th – Mid Quarter Report going home in Brown Envelope

Thursday, December 18th – Middle School Band Program at Bluffview

December 23rd – January 2nd – CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, January 5th – First day back to school

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Second Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 12 – Friday, December 5th

8th Grade Reading – Test Unit 2 – Friday, December 5th

6th Grade Reading – Tuck Everlasting – Section 4 – Quiz – Tuesday, December 9th

6th Grade Science – Test Chapter B2 – Tuesday, December 9th or after

8th Grade Science – Test Chapter 9 – Tuesday, December 9th

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test 13 – Thursday, December 11th

8th Grade English – work on Religion research paper

Break A Rule Day – This month’s Break A Rule Day will be on Wednesday, December 17th. Middle School students may bring \$1.00 to wear socks or slippers at school. Appropriate shoes must be brought to wear outside. Thanks for supporting Student Council!

Don’t forget – Holiday shopping can be made easier through purchasing SCRIP! Wal-Mart gift cards are now available also. It is a great way to support our school.

Additions to the Brown Envelopes – If you would like to put something in the brown envelope to announce to the school community please have it ready and into the school offices by the TUESDAY before. Brown envelopes go out on Thursdays.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, December 11th – Mid Quarter Report going home in Brown Envelope

Friday, December 19th – Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 17th – Geography Bee at St. John’s Middle School

Thursday, December 18th – Middle School Band Program at Bluffview

December 23rd – January 2nd – CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, January 5th – First day back to school

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Second Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Physical Education – Assignment due Monday, December 15th

8th Grade English – Chapter 4 Test – Around Tuesday, December 16th

6th Grade English – Chapter 4 – Verb Test – Thursday, December 18th

6th Grade Reading – Tuck Everlasting – Test – Friday, December 19th

6th Grade English – Vocabulary Test & DOL Test – Friday, December 19th

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday

8th Grade English – work on Religion research paper

Prayer for the Opening of the New School Year:

Eternal God, Bless all schools, colleges, and universities, especially Prairie Catholic Schools, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome to a New Year at Prairie Catholic Schools:

The staff is anxious about getting started with the new school year! They have been working getting things together and planning for the students. Our custodial staff has worked overtime to make sure everything is working and set to go on Tuesday, August 26th. Our secretaries came in a week early to get ALL the papers run off and field the phone calls. Thanks for all your hard work, it has not gone unnoticed.

HERE'S WHAT NEW:

- ◆ We have a NEW reading series, more to come about the series.
- ◆ Our computer labs have been re-wired and arranged a little differently.
- ◆ We have one new face at St. Gabriel's – Mrs. Becwar – she is teaching 2nd grade.
- ◆ We have one different room assignment – Mrs. Huser will be teaching Kindergarten this year.

Registration Dates – Again this year we will be holding registration in St. Gabriel's cafeteria on Tuesday, August 12th from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, August 20th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. for all families. Each student will have their picture taken, parent will pay tuition, fees, and purchase lunch tickets. It is important that you bring your Tuition Payment Commitment Plan with you. (Included with this mailing) Also, families will receive all beginning of school forms, including class lists. Please try to make every effort to attend one of the registration days. We look forward to seeing you!

QSP Magazine Sale – We will have our Kick-off launch on Wednesday, August 27th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend! We are looking for four helpers to assist with the sales. QSP will pay \$12.00 an hour and training will be provided. You must be available most a.m. of the sale. More to come!

Back to School Bash – It will be held on Sunday, August 24th by St. John's Church. Just look for the games and food. Hope to see you there!

All School Mass – On Friday, August 29th, we will be holding our first mass. Middle school students should be dropped off at St. Gabriel's school by 8:10 a.m. Their teachers will meet them there. Following the mass all Middle School students will be bused back to the Middle School by Southwest Bus Service. Middle School students will receive a permission slip at registration. Please return by the first day of school.

Bus Service – The first day for public bus service will be Tuesday, September 2nd. This is also the first day of school for the public school. There will be a one o'clock dismissal. Until that date parents, please make arrangements to bring and pick up your children from school.

Flash drives for Middle School – In order to continue using flash drives for computer class and other school projects, we are asking each student to pay \$5.00 for the use of these flash drives. This allows us to replace flash drives that get broken and to generate back some of the initial funds used to purchase the flash drives. The flash drives will remain school property, but students are allowed to use them during the school year for any projects they wish.

This is what the beginning week of school will look like:

Tuesday, August 26th – Students and parents come for an Open House. Bring your supplies, meet your teachers and visit with classmates. There will be a sign in sheet for all at both schools.

Wednesday, August 27th – Early Dismissal at 1:00 p.m. School begins at regular time. Magazine Kick-off at 9:00 a.m. at St. Gabriel's. After School Program (Day-Care) begins – No bus service.

Thursday, August 28th – Full day of school – After School Program. No bus service.

Friday, August 29th – All School Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel's Church – full day of school – After School Program. No bus service.

Tuesday, September 2nd – Dismissal at 1:00 p.m. – same as public school – After School Program.

Wednesday, September 3rd – Full day for all - First day of school for Pre-K program – After School Program.

If you have any questions, please call me at school or home 1-608-476-2557. My door is always open. Thank you for entrusting your precious child/ren to us this year!

Blessings to all!

Catholic School's Week – we will be releasing a day-by-day detail schedule **Next Week**. Please watch for the schedule in the brown envelopes.

Cold Weather Reminders – Now that winter weather has arrived, we must insist that heavy jackets, mittens, hats and boots be worn. If students do not wear appropriate attire, they will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities. Children wearing boots must carry with them a pair of shoes to be worn inside the building. Reminder – throwing snowballs will result in a detention and a fine. Please listen to the local radio station for school delays and closing as the season of inclement weather unfolds.

School Closing, Delays and Early Dismissals – Please listen to the radio station WQPC and television stations for up to the minute school closings and/or delays. As we begin a new year – we will start a new feature on our internet to alert you to delays/closings. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Ski Trip – In today's Brown Envelope you should be receiving information for the annual Ski Trip (Grades 5-8) as part of Catholic Schools Week. Please read each form carefully, complete all the information, and return the forms with your check to school by **Wednesday, January 14, 2009**. If you did not receive forms it is because we are showing that your child is not planning on skiing, if this is not correct, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Server Schedule and Scrip Sellers – in today's brown envelope are sign up sheets for both servers and scrip sellers. Currently we are updating both of the lists. Please read over the forms and return to the school office by Tuesday, January 13th. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, January 15th – Basketball Grade Evaluation

Friday, January 16th – End of 2nd Quarter – 1:00 o'clock Dismissal

Saturday & Sunday, January 17th & 18th – Prairie Catholic Schools Girl's Basketball Tournament

Thursday, January 22nd – Prairie Catholic Middle School Spelling Bee – 2:00 p.m.

Friday, January 23rd – Hard Work Counts at the Middle School

Saturday & Sunday, January 24th & 25th – Prairie Catholic Schools Boy's Basketball Tournament

Sunday – Saturday, January 25th – 31st – Catholic Schools Week

Tuesday, January 27th – Mass for Honor Roll Students – 8:30 a.m. – St. John's

Wednesday, January 28th – All School Mass – Clowns for Christ – Science Night

Thursday, January 29th – Opera for the Young – Basketball Grade Evaluation

Friday, January 30th – Grades 5th – 8th – Ski Trip to LaCrosse

Saturday, January 31st – Brains & Braun Tournament in LaCrosse

UPCOMING

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Religion – Second Quarter – test each week on 7 Sacraments – 10 Commandments – 6 Holy Days – 8th Grade also Beatitudes.

8th Grade Science – Chapter 10 Test – Friday, January 9th

6th Grade Reading – Book Reports due – Monday, January 12th

6th Grade Reading – Book Report Oral Presentations – January 12th – 15th

8th Grade English – Research paper note cards due – Monday, January 12th

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Physical Education – Assignments due Monday, January 12th

6th Grade Science – Unit B Chapter 3 Test – After January 14th

7th Grade Reading – Unit 3 Test – After January 15th

8th Grade Reading – Unit 4 Test – Friday, January 16th

8th Grade English – Vocabulary Test – Every Friday