

St. Anthony Grade School

February News

January 24, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

While the month of February is the shortest month it is not any less busy. The month begins with Catholic Schools Week still ongoing. Please note there is a noon dismissal on Friday, February 10. Samba is sponsoring a Variety Show on February 12. Lent begins on February 22. Add to this all the extra curricular events taking place and it makes for a busy time.

The Open House on February 21 for potential new families is quite exciting and important. This is the first step for us to begin to plan for next year, long before this year is over. Please encourage your acquaintances to come "look us over". I totally enjoy talking about the students and the school to prospective families. They tend to say that my enthusiasm and pride show. I just hope it is catching! Please know your positive comments go a long way to encourage those who are curious to check us out.

Happy Valentine's Day to you and yours. May Lent be a positive experience for you as you prepare for Easter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Lynn Byers

Principal

OPEN HOUSES

Grade School Open House - St. Anthony Grade School is planning an Open House for Tuesday, February 21st for all 2012-2013 new families of incoming (new) students in grades K-8. The Open House begins at 6:30 p.m. Please feel free to extend the invitation to families that may be interested in learning more about St. Anthony Grade School! Contact the grade school office at 217-347-0419 with any questions.


A separate registration night is planned for Thursday, March 22nd, for all new students for the 2012-2013 school year in grades K-8. Existing school families with incoming kindergarteners will receive an invitation for the March 22nd registration night.

High School Open House - St. Anthony High School is planning an open house for Wednesday, February 1st for all 2012-2013 incoming freshmen and interested families. The open house begins at 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to extend the invitation to families that may be interested in learning more about St. Anthony High School! Contact the high school office at 217-342-6969 with any questions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/29-2/3/12 **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**
1/30/12 "Catholic Identity" Little Theatre Plays, 10 am Gr. K-4, 12:45 Gr. 5-8
1/31/12 "Faith" - All School Mass, 10:00 a.m.
2/1/12 "Service" - Canned good collection
2/2/12 "Academics"
2/3/12 "Celebrate St. Anthony"
Midterm
2/7/12 "Break the Dress Code"
2/10/12 Noon Dismissal - Teacher Inservice
2/17/12 Student Council Junior High Dance, 7:00 p.m. @ Parish Ctr.
2/20/12 NO SCHOOL - *Presidents' Day*
2/21/12 Open House - 6:30-8:00 p.m.
2/22/12 *Ash Wednesday* - All School Mass, 8:30 a.m. 
2/23/12 Gr. 8 to Lake Land College - Career Day
BFE Spelling Bee
2/29/12 Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee, 3:30 p.m.
Confirmation Stole Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
3/4/12 Gr. 6 to Space Camp
3/5/12 NO SCHOOL - *Casmir Pulaski Day*
3/16/12 Noon Dismissal
3/26/12 Gr. 8 Confirmation, 7:00 p.m. @ Church
3/27/12 Gr. 8 Free Day
4/6/12 NO SCHOOL - *Good Friday*
4/9/12 NO SCHOOL - *Easter Monday*
4/13/12 *Alice in Wonderland*, 7:00 p.m.
4/14/12 *Alice in Wonderland*, 7:00 p.m.
4/15/12 *Alice In Wonderland*, 2:00 p.m.
4/22/12 Gr. 2 First Communion, 1:30 p.m.
4/23/12 Gr. 2 Free Day

PINK OUT Day at High School Boys' Basketball Game

Fill the stands with PINK on Friday, February 3rd at the high school boys' basketball game, with a 6:15 p.m. start. Join the grade and high school students as they show their support for High School Guidance Director Tammy Keller in her fight against breast cancer. The students will also celebrate Mrs. Brenda Milleville, a 7 year breast cancer survivor, and Mrs. Sandy Gillespie, an 8 year survivor! 

In combination with Catholic Schools Week, the high school will include daily activities to create awareness around breast cancer and to also raise money for cancer research. Proceeds from the week and also from the game will be donated to Crossroads Cancer Center for their Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois Charitable Fund and to St. Anthony Hospital's Women's Wellness Center.

Be sure to join us! Show your support by wearing pink!



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

It is expected that ALL our volunteers and coaches take part in a 2.5 hour program entitled Protecting God's Children. ALL chaperones also are required to take this class. The next one offered here will be on Monday, January 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center. Please call the parish office to register, 347-7129.

Thank you

The grade school recently received a check in the amount of \$1,366.30 for the Box Tops labels that have been collected so far this year. Once again we would like to express our continued gratitude to everyone who made this possible. This includes anyone who contributed labels and those who volunteer to do the work involved to turn in the labels. *Thank you* and please continue to save the labels.

Virtue for February

Humility - Humility means being humble, considering others as important as yourself. You are thoughtful of their needs and willing to be of service. You don't expect others or yourself to be perfect. You learn from your mistakes. When you do great things, humility reminds you to be thankful instead of boastful.

THE GREAT CENTRAL U.S. SHAKE OUT

St. Anthony Grade School will be participating in this earthquake drill on Tuesday, February 7th at 10:15 a.m. We will practice the "Drop, Cover, and Hold On". You are encouraged to visit www.ShakeOut.org/centralus for more information.

Inclement Weather

With the Alert Now system we notify parents by phone when there will not be school. Because we use Unit 40 buses the decision to not have school is based on Unit 40's decision. Sometimes we do not get the notification of Unit 40's decision before we hear it on the local radio stations. Therefore, you are encouraged to listen to any of the following radio stations: WXEf (97.9 FM), KJCountry (102.3 FM), WCRA (1090 AM), or WCRC (95.7 FM). If Unit 40 does not have school assume we do not either.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students from our school that placed in the top three in their age bracket in the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest.

Pre-K and Kindergarten - 2nd place to Allison Geen

1st & 2nd Grades - 1st place to Noel Chi

3rd & 4th Grades - 2nd place to Kaitie Rogers

3rd place to Grace Hakman

5th & 6th Grades - 2nd place to Megan Hodge

3rd place to Nathan Schultz

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Each month we will be highlighting a few of our staff members in this section of the newsletter. We hope that this will allow everyone to get to know the staff at St. Anthony Grade School.

Mrs. Janet Cummins - Mrs. Cummins started her teaching career here in 2000 and has been teaching 4th grade ever since. Mrs. Cummins lives in Newton but was born in Effingham County and grew up near Dieterich. She received her Associates degree from Olney Central College and her Bachelors degree from Eastern Illinois University. In 2004, she received her Masters degree from Rockford College. She is married to Scott, who works at Ameren CIPS, and they have two daughters in college, Jena and Maura. Jena is in her fifth year of Pharmacy School at SIU Edwardsville and works in the pharmacy department at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. Maura is a freshman at Eastern Illinois University majoring in Kinesiology/Physical Therapy and is on the track team for the Panthers. Mrs. Cummins likes to watch sports. For relaxation, she enjoys shopping and riding her bike. She also enjoys traveling.

Mrs. Robin Lipka - Mrs. Lipka teaches 7th grade American History and 8th grade Geography. She is also the Junior High Coordinator. She was born in Litchfield, IL but considers Mattoon home. She is married to Kevin, who works at Vesavius and is also a farmer. Mrs. Lipka earned a Bachelors in Social Science and a Masters in Administration, both from Eastern Illinois University. Prior to teaching, she worked 14 years at First Mid Illinois Bank in Mattoon. In her spare time, she enjoys the outdoors, flower gardening, her dogs, and reading. Most of all she enjoys spending time with her husband and family.

Mrs. Jeanne Pike - Mrs. Pike is in her 13th year as a cook at our school. She was born at St. Anthony Hospital in Effingham and graduated from St. Anthony Grade & High Schools. Prior to working here she cooked at Lakeland nursing home for five years and also babysat for many years. She is married to Dennis, an employee of Effingham Truck Sales. They have three children, Carrie (Aaron) Bartimus, Chad and Cory, and they are grandparents to Bryn Marie Bartimus. Mrs. Pike and her husband like to go to Nascar races. She also likes to spend time with her family and babysitting for her granddaughter.

Mrs. Lindsey Storm - Mrs. Storm teaches junior high language arts along with computer classes to grades 4-8. In addition she is the Software Coordinator for the parish and schools. Mrs. Storm was born in Effingham and is a 2001 graduate of St. Anthony High School. She earned her Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Illinois State University, and her Master's in Education from the University of Illinois. She taught fifth grade at St. Joseph Middle School (St. Joseph, IL) prior to moving back to Effingham and is in her fifth year here at St. Anthony. Mrs. Storm's husband, Adam, works at St. Anthony Hospital. They have one son, Connor. She says that Connor has already been working on his basketball shot and baseball swing for St. Anthony! She enjoys running, bike riding, spending time with her family, along with spoiling her niece and twin nephews.