

St. Maurice Monthly



St. Maurice School

Volume 2 Issue 5

Notes from the Principal

Peace and Joy. How often do you hear those words in the Christmas Carols that are sung or during the reading of the scriptures at Mass? How often do you see those words on the Christmas cards that you send or receive?



These are powerful words. Just imagine what your life would be like if you were joyful, with a smile on your face for others. What if you always had a sense of peace in all that you did and all the decisions that you

made. What a difference this would make, not only in your life but in the lives of all the people with whom you came in contact.

So this is my prayer for you and your family during this Blessed Season – May your heart be filled with the Peace and Joy that only the Christ Child can give. Enjoy this time with family and friends but don't forget to go to Mass on Christmas and New Year's Day to ask God's blessing on everyone.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 23-Jan. 3— Christmas vacation
- Jan. 4—School resumes
- Jan. 18—No school, Martin Luther King day
- Jan 19—No school, clerical day
- Jan. 27—Faculty meeting, 11:30 dismissal
- Jan. 31-Feb. 6—Catholic Schools Week
- February 9—2nd grade parent meeting
- February 23—8th grade parent meeting for Confirmation
- March 9- First Reconciliation
- March 12- 8th grade Confirmation Retreat
- May 2—First Communion—noon

Clearances and Database

If you haven't registered on the Diocesan database please do so as soon as possible. After you have completed the registration the Diocese will automatically submit your criminal clearance. I will then send you a copy of the criminal clearance and the application for the Child Abuse Clearance. If you do not submit your child abuse application within one year of obtaining your criminal clearance you have to reapply for the criminal clearance. Once you receive your child abuse clearance, please send a copy to the school so that we can update your records.

Any registrations left incomplete for thirty days will be deleted and you

will have to start over again.

There has been some confusion about the online updates from Virtus. Once you take the course, Protecting God's Children, you do not need to take it again. You do not need to be recertified. However, the short articles and quizzes from Virtus help to clarify some of the situations that might arise involving child abuse.

If you haven't taken the course, be sure to check on-line for the schedule and take it as soon as possible. The Code of Pastoral Conduct, which is also required for all volunteers, can also be found on-line.

Classroom Update—Kindergarten

Twas the weeks before Christmas
And all through room 201,
The children were busy having holiday fun.
They colored, cut and glued
Making many special things for you.
Along came Ms. S and then Mr. C
They both admired our Jesse Tree.
They went right to work
Helping all to learn their letter and sound.
With “super socks” and a “colossal cap”
There was no time for a long winter’s nap!
When what to our wondering eyes should appear
But Jingle-Bob, the elf, moving here and there.



He watched and listened each school day
As the children worked hard and played.
At night he’d zip back to the North Pole

And tell Santa how the children were “cool.”
Thanks to our very own two elves,
Who helped us make snowmen and not for the shelves.
The manger was built anew each day
The children had fun building it in their own way.
As quickly as angels our Advent calendar filled
With shepherds and animals and lots of good will.
We filled many hearts with love, peace and joy,
And gave a little girl a wonderful toy.
So as we end Advent and look forward to Jesus’ birth,
We wish to all a Merry Christmas and Peace on Earth!



Classroom Updates—Second Grade, Room 204

Miss Sloan’s students have been extremely busy preparing for the coming of Jesus. During our morning meetings, we have been counting down the days to Christmas by reading excerpts from our Advent Calendar.



Pennsylvania, Ohio, Australia, Virginia, and Maryland! We can’t wait to hear more Flat Stanley adventures!

The second grade has also been eagerly practicing their cursive writing. So far, we have learned the letters I, T, U, W, E, and L. We have begun to practice joining two letters as well. The students are extremely anxious to learn more letters when we return from Christmas break!

Miss Sloan would like to wish all families a safe, relaxing, and joyous holiday!

Social Studies classes have been busy with the returning arrivals of many Flat Stanley bodies! As the students bring their Stanleys back into class, we have been marking their destinations on the map. So far, we have had Stanleys visit California, Florida, Washington, D.C.,



RVS Gradebook

RVS has done some updating and it is now possible for me to see how often a parent has checked the grades on gradebook. Some parents check on a daily basis while others have only been on the site a few times.

The teachers are under the impression that all parents are checking the gradebook for missing as-

signments so are not sending deficiencies home. If you do not have access to a computer, please send in a note to the teachers so that they can keep you updated on your child’s progress.



January Celebration of Music and Talent

New to St. Maurice this year is our mini musical which is a new venture for Mrs. Marcinko and Mrs. Zitelli. Students in grades five through eight will sing, act, and dance on stage on Friday, January 29, at 7:30 for your pleasure and enjoyment. The first act features tales from Aesop's fables which concern life and learning from a frog's point of view. The second act is a middle school adaptation of "Once on This Island", and the third act features the ancient Greek tale of Arachne and the goddess Athene. We are enjoying ourselves

and hope you will too when you come to see our production. Admission will be \$3.00 / adult and \$2.00/ student and seniors. This money will be used for the production of musicals in years to come.



Sports: Flag Football Intramurals

Congratulations to the 2009 St. Maurice Flag Football Champions. Team DiGioia defeated Team Johnston to win the 24th St. Maurice Super Bowl. Intramurals will resume in March of 2010 with Gym Floor Hockey and conclude with Volleyball.



Basketball Season

With our St. Maurice basketball season underway, please think about coming out to attend our games and support our players. The kids do an awesome job; we should be there to cheer them on! Family season passes are available. Contact Patti Sullivan for information.

Little Hoopers (gr 1-3) will begin in early 2010. Look for flyers when we return in January.



Science—Mr. Lamanti

Our 6th & 7th grade students along with their teachers, Mrs. Janov, Mr. Lamanti, & Mrs. Lepsch, were part of a spectacular experience on December 16th. Through a grant provided by Thermo Fisher Scientific and the support of WQED's effort in supporting S.T.E.M. education initiative in our region and in making science education interesting and exciting for today's youth with the goal of fostering future interest in careers in the field of science and research, our students had the opportunity to learn about WQED Multimedia and be part of the University of Pittsburgh Mobile Science Lab, "Touch the Truck Event". The students had an opportunity to play the role of scientists and health officials trying to identify the source of a pathogen while using scientific inquiry and state of the art equipment and facilities. They were also exposed to a simulated

electron microscope, tissue culturing, PCR (Polymearse Chain Reaction), and gel electrophoresis. Ultimately, the students were able to use their inquiry skills to ascertain a solution to the "outbreak" dilemma and save the day. We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Waldron, 7th grader C.J. Waldron's mother, who played a big part in our participation as a school.



Another special thanks go to Thermo Fisher Scientific, who gave our Science Department six brand new Compound Light Microscopes and a special gift package to each one of our 6th & 7th grade students. **WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL!**

Student Council News

In November, Student Council collected canned goods from the Haunted garage and donated them to the Little Sisters of the Poor. This month, money for gifts was collected to go to children in Catholic Charities to celebrate Christmas.

The list of students who volunteered to help the teachers in the morning and during lunch was made. Here are the following students:



- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Keely Sapienza | Maria Brucker |
| Stephanie Mazur | Megan Marmol |
| Maria Lamonde | Claire Ozolek |
| Marley Shovlin | Melissa Dzadovsky |
| Talia Orriola | Clare Duffus |

- Alexandra Stambolis
 Blaire Thomas
 Emily Arbutina

- Mimi Astle
 Malle Winters

A dance is currently being planned for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in January or February. More information will be sent home after Christmas.



Open House/Walking Tours

Walking tours for prospective students for the school year 2010-2011 will be scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (except where noted) on the following dates.



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|---------|---------------------|
| Jan. 7 | Feb. 4 and 18 |
| Mar. 11 | Mar. 24 (at 7 p.m.) |

Catholic Schools Week Open House
 Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010—after the 12:00 Mass.

Please RSVP so we can plan ahead for how many will be coming.

Lost and Found

- Be sure to check the Lost and Found for any items your child may be missing. We have
- sweatshirts, tee shirts, gloves, lunchboxes,
- sneakers, etc. on the bookshelves near the cafeteria.

Also any lost jewelry or money that is found is kept in the office. Please ask for it. Unclaimed items will be used in the flea market sale.



Thank You!

On behalf of the teachers and staff at St. Maurice School I want to sincerely thank all the parents for the many, many wonderful gifts and cards sent to us for Christmas. All of us have tried to thank you in person or in writing, but in case your gift tag or card was separated from the present and we were unable to identify the giver, please know that we deeply appreciate

your kindness and thoughtfulness in remembering all of us at this special time of year. You are the best parents and we value the wonderful relationship we have with each of you. It is indeed a pleasure to work with your children.

We are grateful for our partnership with you in setting high standards for our school and are determined to continue offering the same quality education to our children.

St. Maurice School

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Rooted and growing in our Catholic
Faith

Gala Celebration

Looking for Alumni—60th Anniversary Celebration in March

Are you an Alumni? Are you married to an alumni? Do you know the whereabouts or current addresses of a relative/friend or anyone who attended St. Maurice?

We are trying to put together an updated list of our graduates so that we can invite them to celebrate with us. If you have this information, please fill out an alumni profile for yourself or your friend/relative. These sheets are available in the school office or the back of the church.

Please help us make this a truly wonderful celebration of our 60-year history and all those who helped make our school and church family what it is today! More information about the Gala will be forthcoming.

January 8

In order to raise money for the class projects for the Gala, the school will sponsor a dress down day on Friday, Jan. 8.

Students may dress down if they bring in \$1.



PTG Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

It's the time of year to celebrate the many things that make our school the special place that it is. More details will follow, but PTG needs your help to make this year one of the best yet. Please consider volunteering a little of your time during the week. The fun kicks off January 31st. Go Warriors!!

PTG Reminders

One of the most fulfilling jobs is volunteering your time for a worthy cause. What better cause than our school? It takes all of us to make our school the wonderful place that it is. To the many faceless volunteers who are there in the trenches, we offer a big thank you. If you have been thinking of getting involved but aren't sure who to talk to, it's never too late!! PTG meetings are held monthly and open to any parent who wants to help. We hope to see you at our next meeting - Monday, January 11 at 7:00pm.

