

St. Matthew Messenger

The mission of Saint Matthew Catholic School is to educate the whole student by Christ centered formation in a catholic environment, leading them to do God's will in this world so as to be with Him in the next.

J.M.J.



MARCH 2010

<http://www.stmatt.net>

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Followers of Christ are called to give alms, sacrifice, and pray during Lent. The students of St. Matthew will be following these guidelines through different means as a school, as a class, and individually. The alms collected through various ways will be given to the Brazilian Missions of the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr St. George (our Sister's Order). There will be projects of service and prayer for the Orphans in Tanzania. Please help your child understand Christ's teaching that as we die to self we will live more fully through our works for others.

"What do we live for, if not to make the world less difficult for each other." George Eliot

SERVICE UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity we collected \$461 for the American Heart Association on "Go Red for Women" day.

Come one, Come all! To the fair! This year at St. Matthew we have been focusing on all the traditions both old and new that give us our identity as a Catholic school, especially the tradition of service in sharing our time, talent and treasure. On March 30th and 31st we are planning an event that will highlight all the time St. Matthew students so selflessly share. In addition, we will also be sharing our talents with musical and dramatic performances, as well as visual arts endeavors. By showcasing our time and talent, our hope is that we can raise some funds for the orphanage in Tanzania, where our sponsored student Erick lives. The orphanage is in desperate need of a water system to help provide fresh water on site. Please watch for details on this unique opportunity that highlights our time, talent and treasure. Shadow Stations, will be Tuesday, March 30, 2010 in Church at 5:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION UPDATE

Registration forms will be mailed home on Monday, March 29, 2010. All forms, registration paperwork, and book fee totals are due to the school office May 1, 2010. The final 2009-2010 tuition payment and parish donation are due May 1, 2010.

LUNCHTIME MONITORS FOR 2010-2011

We are looking for parents who would be interested in committing to one day each week to be lunchtime monitor next school year. The hours are from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. This is a paid position and you will be paid for the days you help. Please call the school office, 359-4114 if you are interested.

LENTEN ALMS

St. Matthew School will have collection jars in each classroom for collecting Lenten Alms. This year's collection will be used for our Sisters' (the Sisters of St. Francis) mission in Brazil. Thank you for your generosity.

LIBRARY NEWS

Books by the Bushel 2010

St. Matthew School will again be participating in "Books by the Bushel", sponsored by the Junior League of Champaign-Urbana and Barnes & Noble Bookseller. This year's dates are April 9, 10, and 11. The public is invited to buy books that have been selected by local librarians for their school libraries. These books are then donated to the schools. At the same time, the Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation will be sponsoring a Book Fair Fundraiser. By mentioning your support for St. Matthew School, a portion of the proceeds from anything you purchase at the store during that weekend will be donated to our school. Please mark your calendars for this special opportunity to donate new books to St. Matthew School.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss, is "Read Across America" Day. The National Education Association promotes this event as a way to encourage families and children to share the joy of reading.

LAST CALL FOR PICTURES!

The yearbook staff is in desperate need of 5th and 6th grade girls' and boys' basketball pictures, track (last spring) pictures, and cross-country pictures. At this point, printed pictures are the best format. Please check your supplies at home, and share pictures of your children at school, enjoying classroom parties, on field trips, etc. Put them in an envelope labeled YEARBOOK and send them to the school office. Thank you in advance for your response before March 8th.

ATHLETICS

Coaching Applications – Coaching applications for next school year are due to the school office no later than Thursday, April 15, 2010. The applications are available online and at the school office. Please note – current coaches need to complete an application form on a yearly basis.

If you know of anyone interested in coaching who may not have received or read this newsletter, please, let them know. (Our communicating to them, to us, and to each other is a key to the success of our programs.) All St. Matthew volunteers must complete the requirements set forth by the Diocese to coach our youths.

Diocesan Requirements state: All coaches must complete ASEP training before their coaching season begins.



PARENTS' CLUB

FAMILY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Saturday, March 13th 1:00-3:00. St. Matthew Parent Club will be assisting some elderly in the community that are in need of indoor/outdoor chore assistance as well as just simple visiting with the elderly residents. Please join us for some Lenten Charity. Thank you to Beverly Baker for helping PC generate hands-on volunteer ideas. If you are interested please contact Tece Hendrickson, tecehendrickson@gmail.com.

Thank you to Stacey DeLorenzo and Jennifer Fackler for a great Winter Carnival. Thank you too, to all the parents who volunteered their time and energy to making the baskets and all that went along with the evening.

Jenn and Stacey will be stepping down from their great roles as WC Chairs. If you are interested in taking on this role next yr. Please contact us!

Thank you too for the Enrichment Committees great Science Night. The U of I Physics Van put on a great show. Thank you too for so many parents that came and supported this Enrichment Event. It was perfect and we look forward to more next year.

If you are interested in serving as a Parent Club Officer or have a name of a parent(s) that you think would do a good job please contact Janet Brown by March 5th. She will be serving as the Nominating Chair this year.

March Parent Club Meeting will be Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 in the St. Mark Room.

Drama Club – We are pleased to announce the 1st Annual St. Matthew Drama Club production of The Phantom Tollbooth! Join us for performances on Thursday, April 29, Friday, April 30 or Saturday, May 1. Save the Date: - Auditions for Grades 6-8 on Wednesday, March 10 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the MP Room. Callbacks are on Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the MP Room. Questions – please contact Susan Flanagan at flanagin@comcast.net or 352-3460.



PEACEABLE SCHOOLS

Parents, Did you know that there are 32 students from grades 5-8 who are learning to serve as peer mediators at St. Matthews School? These students have been through 2 days of Peer Mediation Training and have been meeting each week at 7:15 a.m. with 9 of our teachers to further enhance their skills. The peer mediation process helps students who are in conflict learn to talk, listen, and problem-solve respectfully and peaceably – Pretty good life skills, too. In addition, the peer mediators are working to promote peace throughout the school through their actions and discussions with their peers. We are off to a great start with this initiative. Thanks to the Parent Club for all of your support.

2010 WINTER CARNIVAL THANK YOU!

The Winter Carnival Chairs would like to thank the following businesses, families, and individuals for their generous donations to the 2010 Winter Carnival raffle and silent auction. In addition, we thank **all the volunteers and committee members** for all their hard work preparing for the event and at the event. It is their kindness and generosity that helped to make Winter Carnival a success!

Dinner Sponsors

Manzella's Italian Patio Restaurant

Culver's

Pepsi-Cola Champaign Urbana Bottling Co.

El Toro Restaurante Mexicano

Silent Auction and Raffle Donors

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Espresso Royale

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Illini Studio

Starcrest Cleaners

Goodrich Quality Theaters

Body N Sole Sports

Green View

Jupiter's

Minnecci's Ristorante

Old Time Meat & Deli

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Monsignor Mark Merdian,

Sister M. Margaret, Sister M.

Fr. Mark Miller; Fr. Robert Lampitt

Veronica, Sister M. Vianney & Sister

Mary George

**All the Classes & the
Coordinators for their
Spectacular Baskets**