

St. Patrick School

Shamrock Newsletter



Issue 3

September 18, 2009

Principal Notes

Sunday was another great day for St. Patrick School. Under a sunny blue sky, our students in grades 5 and 6 had the opportunity to take the field or cheer on a team for the first time in school history. It was great to see the football team come away with a 6 – 0 victory in their inaugural game.

This day was also exciting because we brought back football and cheerleading for students in grades 7 and 8. The outcome of the game wasn't what we had hoped for but the team played hard and improved over the course of the game. There were too many people to name that were involved with making this happen for our students in grades 5 - 8, but I would definitely like to thank everyone who had a part in making this first day of Shamrock youth football a resounding success.

I have chosen to release our test scores to the press this year as you may have noticed by the recent article in *The Ionia Sentinel Standard*. I made this decision because I could not think of one good reason why we would want to hide the fact that an education at St. Patrick School is the best one can get in this area. There are many people who believe in our mission and since we are missionaries, we want to share that opportunity with everyone. Congratulations to the Class of 2010 on their excellent test scores.

Sharon Lay is in charge of finding workers for Kidsfest and is in serious need of workers for Sunday, October 11. Kidsfest is

the name given to the games that are available for children to play located upstairs in the school during the Fall Festival. The money raised goes towards helping the school make purchases when the need arises. This is one of the groups that made the purchase of teacher lap top computers a reality for us. We are hoping they will be able to help purchase more multi-media video projectors for the school in the near future. If you can work the 1:00 – 3:00 shift on Sunday, October 11, please contact Sharon Lay (517) 647-6568 as soon as possible.

Marcia McEvoy will be at the school next Thursday and Friday working with our students. We are working to implement her program which is called the "Four Pronged Approach to Violence Prevention in Schools." One major facet of this program is to help staff and students prevent bullying in our school.

Marcia will hold a parent session on Thursday evening beginning at 6:00 in the multipurpose room which will last approximately 90 minutes. Please plan to attend if possible. Parental support is a big part of making sure this program is successful.

A big THANK YOU to the middle and high school student councils for leading mass this week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org or call the school office at (517) 647-7551.

More UPCs to Save

St. Patrick School has enrolled in Aunt Millie's School Spirit Program. Aunt Millie's believes that education is vitally important to our children and our communities. That's why they've created the School Spirit Program – a program that will help us earn money when parents do something you already do anyway: Buy bread!

It's easy! All you have to do is clip out and save the UPC codes on the bottom of the bread bags. When we collect and turn them in, Aunt Millie's will pay us a nickel for every UPC. Those nickels add up fast, and we can use the money for any school-oriented program.

Clipping and Saving UPCs

Just save proof-of-purchase symbols (UPCs) with the School Spirit symbol from eligible products, and bring them to the school office. The proof-of-purchase is the bar code and School Spirit symbol found on the bottom of the bread wrapper. Just clip it out! Please do not send entire bread bags.

And last, but not least, we also collect Tyson UPCs. Tyson returns \$.24 for each UPC.

School Pictures



Students in grades DK - 12 will be photographed by Lifetouch Studios on September 22, 2009.

A yearbook for elementary grades DK - 8 will be available again this year. A yearbook envelope is being sent home this week if you wish to order yearbooks.

Students may bring an appropriate shirt or pants to change into for pictures. They are not allowed to change for pictures if they are not purchasing a picture package.

Free/Reduced Hot Lunch Program

The deadline to apply for the free or reduced hot lunch program is September 26. Forms are available in the St. Pat's school office. You may return your application to St. Pat's in a sealed envelope and marked "Food Service" or "Hot Lunch Program" and we will forward it to Portland Food Service at Portland Public Schools.

Fall Festival 2009

Don't forget that the 2009 Fall Festival is right around the corner...Sunday, October 11. Every athlete in grades 5-12 is selling tickets to the dinner, so contact any of them to buy yours in advance. Tickets will also be available at the door. The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. -3 p.m. and take-out meals will be available.

Activities include:

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Dinner (11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Featuring three kinds of meat, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, vegetable, huge salad bar and dessert. Held in the school cafeteria.

Arts & Crafts Show (10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) In the gym, classrooms and hallways. Contact Connie Vallier (517-647-2225) for more information.

Cookie Booth and Spin to Win (formerly called Fancy Goods Booth) in the gym.

5K Race (9:00 a.m.) Will start at Thompson Field on Canal Street. Contact Dan Lawless (517-647-1709) for more information.

Kidfest (11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) On the second floor of the school. Games and activities for children. Contact Sharon Lay (517-647-6568) for more information.

Euchre Tournament (12:30 p.m.) Will be held in the Parish Hall.

Teen Activities (Noon-3:00 p.m.) Free activities for teens will take place in the Multipurpose Room, adjacent to the cafeteria.

Raffle (3:15 p.m.) In the Parish Hall. \$2500 in cash prizes.

Go to www.portlandstpats.com and click on Fall Festival for complete information about this

Elementary Tardies/Absences

Elementary and middle school students arriving 15 or more minutes late are considered absent for AM or PM session.

Calendar of Events

- 9/19 Var. Football vs. Dansville (Homecoming) 7p
JV VB @ Bath Invitational 9a
- 9/21 MS Girls' BB @ Bath 5p
- 9/22 School Pictures
JV & Freshmen VB @ Portland Tri. 5p
- 9/23 **PTO Meeting** Room 110 6p
MS Girls' BB @ Potterville 5p
- 9/24 Anti-bullying program for students
Violence Prevention Program—Parent Meeting
6-7:30p Multi-purpose room
JV Football vs. Carson City-Crystal Home 5p
Freshmen, JV & Var. VB vs. Dansville Home 5:30p
- 9/25 Anti-bullying program for students
Var. Football @ Carson City-Crystal 7p
JV VB @ Potterville Invitational 9a



Parents of Seniors and Sophomores

The Jostens' representative will meet with all Seniors on Wednesday, October 14, to hand out graduation packets and to measure them for caps and gowns.

He will return on Wednesday, October 21 at 7 a.m. to collect senior orders.

On Wednesday, October 7, the Jostens' representative will meet with Sophomores and hand out class ring packets. He will pick up the orders on Wednesday, October 14, in the cafeteria during their lunch period.

Dismissal

Please note that students must bring in a note if their dismissal procedure changes for a day. If a student rides the bus and no note is brought in regarding alternate transportation arrangements, they will be put on the bus. We cannot rely on the student's word-of-mouth.

Protecting God's Children Awareness Session Sunday September 27 – 2:00pm to 5:00pm

St. Patrick Parish will be hosting a "Protecting God's Children" Awareness Session from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm Sunday, September 27, 2009 in the Parish Hall. Attendance is required for all parish staff and for all volunteers and chaperones who work with children. If you have not already attended a session, here is your opportunity.

Note: **ALL Registrations MUST be completed on-line.** Pre-registration is required in order to insure that enough materials will be shipped to the parish for attendees. Go to the Diocesan website at: www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org and select the "Our Diocese" at the top of the page on the left above the picture. Select "Child and Youth Protection" on the left side of the web page. Under the title "Protecting God's Children Awareness Sessions" in the middle of the page, select Pre-register/Register. The organization is: Grand Rapids, MI (Diocese). You will be asked to create a username and password and fill out additional information. Please register by the end of the day Wednesday, September 23. If you have any questions or have any difficulties, please Contact Deacon Don at 517-647-6505 x409.

Please note that because of the seriousness and importance of the video part of the session, there can be no admittance after the video portion has begun. Please arrive on time.

UPOMING SESSIONS Diocese of Lansing and Diocese of Grand Rapids

St. Mary	Westphalia	10/6/09	6:30 p.m.	Parish Hall
St. Michael	Gr. Ledge	9/24/09	6:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
St. Patrick	Portland	9/27/09	2:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
		1/24/10	2:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
		4/25/10	2:00 p.m.	Parish Hall

Homecoming 2009

Saturday, September 19, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Portland High School Football Field

Saint Patrick School 2009 Homecoming Court



**Queen
King**

**Katie Simon
Tyler Smith**

Representatives

Seniors

**Rachel Miros
James Spohn**

Juniors

**Emily Schneider
Matt Schrauben**

Sophomores

**Laura Spohn
David Simon**

Freshmen

**Ellesse Lehman
Collin Lay**



Shamrock Fight Song

Shamrocks we're cheering your name.
You bring St. Patrick victory and fame.

Keep our colors flying bright
Let's make St. Patrick proud tonight.

Whatever the odds we're in there to win.
Shamrocks keep fighting never give in.

Shout and cheer with all your might,
for Shamrocks will win tonight.

Rah! Rah! Rah!

St. Patrick Homecoming Tailgate Party

When: Home Football Game—September 19, 2009

Where: Portland High School Parking Lot

Time: 6 P.M.

Bring: A dish to pass, your own table service,
beverages and lawn chairs

A grill will be provided if you wish to
bring hot dogs to grill.

Come show your
SHAMROCK PRIDE!