

St. Patrick School Shamrock Newsletter



Issue 7

October 16, 2009

Principal's Notes

I have been very impressed with all the great things that I am seeing around the building. There are so many amazing projects that the students have been working on. It seems like every classroom I enter is working on something amazing. I hope you were able to check out all the student work while you were attending conferences. Kudos to the teachers and students for all their efforts this past week.

Speaking of conferences, I want to say, "Thank you," to all who attended conferences this week. The support of your child's education is crucial to their success. Also, if you have an opinion about conferences being held earlier this year in lieu of holding them during the week of Thanksgiving, please feel free to let me know what you think.

Thank you to the freshmen class for doing a great job of leading Mass this week.

Thank you to Officer Tom Teitsma for helping us run our lock-down drill this week.

If you are in the lobby outside the main office, be sure to stop by the Father Flohe Foundation area to check out their display. This summer, the Father Flohe Foundation built a nice storage cabinet, put up a bulletin board, and the Father Flohe Bell was moved from the church over to the school. The area outside the office looks very nice and very welcoming. Thank you to all who have assisted in making this area look welcoming and professional.

Since October is the Month of the Rosary, many of the religion classes are praying a decade of the Rosary each day. I encourage families to say a rosary at home together and have your son or daughter take a turn at leading the prayers so they can practice what they are learning at school.

I also want to encourage you to keep buying scrip. The best thing about scrip is that it is money that one would spend anyway and it is funding that comes from outside our community. The word from the scrip committee is that if 80% of the families sending their kids to St. Patrick School purchased 100% of their gas through the scrip program it would turn into approximately \$40,000 for the school. That is just for gas. Imagine if everyone used it for groceries, going out to eat, shopping for clothes, etc. Could it be possible if everyone took full advantage of the scrip program we might have more money than we would know what to do with? That might be an exaggeration but I sure would like to try to find out.

No Bussing—Monday, October 26

There will be no bussing on Monday, October 26 due to Portland Public Schools having a Staff Development Day. St. Patrick students will have to arrange for their own transportation to school on this day.

Appalachian Project

A local group is organizing a collection of new or slightly-used "Happy Meal" toys to send to the children who live in the Appalachian area of the United States. This is an extremely poor part of our country, and many children will go without a new toy for Christmas.

Hopefully you will be able to help by sharing your extra "Happy Meal" toys that are still in good shape, but not played with anymore. These children would greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The toys will be packaged with a few pieces of candy. Therefore, we would also welcome any bags of candy you may wish to donate. Extra Halloween candy is always welcomed.

If you decide to join us in making a brighter Christmas for these children, please send your donations to school before November 26, 2009.

Thank you so very much in advance for your generosity!! We wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas season!

If you have any questions, please call Linda Smith at 989-593-2186.

Christmas Giving Program

APPLICATIONS for the Portland Community Christmas Program are available, and must be returned by November 16. Scheduled pick-up is December 18 at the old Portland Credit Union building. Applications are available at the school office, local churches, Tom's Pharmacy, and Portland City Hall.

A Christmas dinner will be provided to families and gifts will be provided to family members 18 years old and under. Any family in the Portland school district that may need assistance or anyone who knows of someone who could use extra assistance should fill out an application.

Calendar of Events

10/17	Var. Football vs. Potterville Home 7p Paper Drive & PTO Pop Can Drive
10/18	5/6 Football @ Williamston 1p 7/8 Football @ Williamston 3p
10/19	MS Girls' BB @ PW 5p
10/20	National Day of Silence (wear red) Pastoral Council Meeting Parish Hall 7p
10/21	PTO Meeting Room 110 6p MS Girls' BB @ Laingsburg 5p
10/22	AP English to Aquinas Var. & JV VB vs. Potterville Home 5:30p JV Football vs. PW Home 5p
10/23	Var. Football @ PW 7p
10/24	Var. VB @ Central Montcalm Invitational 8:30a Freshmen VB @ Bath Invitational 9a
11/12	Fall Sports Banquet K of C Hall

