

St. Ann School Newsletter

Jan. 13, 2010

Volume 17, Issue 7

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

St. Ann School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week: *Catholic Schools ~ Dividends for Life*

**Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life
Knowledge, Faith, Morals and Discipline**

St. Ann School students, staff and parents will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week, Sunday, January 24-Friday, January 29. This is the time each year that we honor our school's excellence and highlight its mission and traditions. It is the time we reflect on the high quality, faith-focused, values centered education that we offer and remind our entire community of the vital contributions we make to education and the quality of life within our community.

Most of all, it's time to celebrate our Catholic uniqueness.

This year's Catholic Schools Week theme is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life". This theme underscores the commitment of Catholic schools to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles as committed citizens and effective faith-filled leaders. Our school is a place where faith and values are taught and practiced each day. At St. Ann School, each student is celebrated as a child of God, is challenged to achieve academic excellence, is invited to embrace the Gospel message and to make a difference in the world.

Many of you, like me, see the wonderful reality of Catholic education every day at our school. It is the dedication and commitment of our teachers and staff members, parents, Education Commission members, Home and School Association members, parishioners and volunteers that make our school possible. It's the hard work and accomplishments of our students who daily are learning and growing in the Lord and gaining a faith and value filled education.

Please join us in our Catholic Schools Week celebration. Participate in any or all of the special activities planned. Encourage friends and neighbors who may be considering Catholic education for their children to visit our school. Not only is this a time to celebrate, but it is a time to share the dividends for a Christian life, knowledge, faith, morals and discipline, through a Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Joan Leonard

Joan Leonard
St. Ann School, Principal

January Calendar of Events

January 14	6:30 PM H&S Assn. Steering Com. Mtg.
January 15, 22, 29	8:10 a.m. School Mass
January 15	2nd Semester, 3rd Quarter and Monthly <u>Tuition Due</u>
January 21	7 p.m. MOPS
January	9:30 a.m. Signing of Proclamation for Catholic Schools Week, in Mayor's office
January 18	No School, Teacher In-Service
January	6:30 PM Pre-Kindergarten Info Mtg.
January 22	End of Second Quarter
**January 25	St. Ann School In Session! Please carpool. No Busing.
January 25	Market Day Pick Up
January	6:30 PM Kindergarten Info Mtg.
January 29	5—8 p.m. H&S Spaghetti Dinner, Specialty Basket Raffle
Jan. 24-30	Catholic Schools Week
See page 3 for Catholic Schools Week Agenda See page 8 for February Calendar of Events	

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Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Informational Meetings

We will be holding informational meetings for our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs for the 2010-11 school year.

The Kindergarten Meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 6:30 –7:30 PM in the Kindergarten Room. The Pre-Kindergarten Informational Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4, 6:30—7:30 PM in the Pre-Kindergarten Room. These meetings are designed to acquaint new families to the programs that we offer at St. Ann School. Letters will be mailed to families who are registered in the Parish and on our pre-registration list and who are new to the school or who have not had a child in PK or Kindergarten in the recent past.

If you know of someone who has a Kindergarten or Pre-K child, please invite them to these meetings.

Prayer for Catholic Schools Week

Dear Lord,

You are the greatest of all teachers.

During this week, we give thanks for the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place each day in Catholic Schools.

We thank you for:

The wisdom and understanding of teachers.....

The enthusiasm and energy of students....

The leadership of school principals and executive staff....

The support of our auxiliary staff and the partnership of parents, careers and local communities.

We pray that our learning journey be inspired by a search for your wisdom and truth.

We pray that we never take for granted the learning opportunities that have been given, and that we use the gifts of learning wisely and responsibly.

We ask that we use what we have learned to create a better world for all people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Home & School Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle Friday, January 29, 5—8 PM School Cafeteria

Many thanks to Catholic Knights, Madison Branch 88, who will provide matching funds up to \$500 to our Spaghetti Dinner/Raffle fundraiser.

Also this year—a raffle offering for a Sanyo 42” 1080P 60 HZ LCD HDTV. Only 500 tickets available for this special raffle.

DiSalvo Spaghetti Sauce	Adults	\$7.50	8 Raffle Baskets: Packers, Badgers, Brewers, Ladies Pampering, Family Fun, Kids Toys and Games, Gourmet, Take-Out. <u>Door Prizes all evening.</u> Raffle Tickets available in the school office and at the dinner. Drawing held at 8:00 p.m.
Meatballs	Children (4-12)	\$5.00	
Warm Breadsticks	Seniors 60+	\$7.00	
Salad	Children 3		
Delicious Desserts	and under	Free	
Beverages			

- Some baskets include sporting event tickets, an iPod Touch, Packer Litho Autographed Football and an overnight stay for a family of 4 at Chula Vista Resort. See enclosed basket description list for the details.
- Just in time for the Super Bowl - a separate raffle will be held for a 42” Flat Screen TV.

Door prize drawings throughout the evening that include American Girl Dolls, various activities at the Wisconsin Dells, and restaurant gift certificates.

Home & School Notes



Lunch Duty Reminders

In order for lunch time to run smoothly at St. Ann School, help from parent volunteers is extremely important. It has come to our attention that volunteers may not be sure of what is expected when working lunch duty, so please take note of these reminders.

Volunteer Start Time is 11:15 a.m.

Volunteer End Time is 12:45 p.m.

Lunch/recess starts at 11:30 and ends at 12:30 for the students. (There may be special circumstances where times change because of field trips; these changes will be noted on the monthly calendar and the weekly Wed. Memo. The general rule for lunch duty is to arrive 15 minutes before lunch/recess starts and stay 15 minutes past lunch/recess end time)

If you will be late, please call the school office at 873-3343.

Both parent volunteers need to wash down all tables and benches before lunch begins at 11:30. One parent then goes outside to help with recess and one parent stays inside to help with serving (you may switch at noon). The splitting of the inside/outside duties is to be decided between the parents that are working together. Both parent volunteers are expected to help with clean up when lunch/recess ends at 12:30 and stay until clean up is complete.

You are responsible for knowing what dates you signed up for. As a reminder, a lunch supervision calendar is sent home every month and is posted weekly in the Wednesday Memo Lunch Menu. If you cannot work the time that you signed up for, please call the school office at 873-3343 ASAP.

Thank you so much for helping St. Ann School with lunch supervision. The lunch/recess staff greatly appreciates your time and dedication.

Simplified SCRIP Has Gone Out of Business

If you are a customer of Simplified SCRIP and are having difficulty receiving your order or if you have a Gift Certificate to redeem, please contact the Home and School Association Chair for the SCRIP Committee, Kari Fernholz at 205-9907 or klferno@wisc.edu to find out how you may get a refund for your purchase. Or contact Simplified SCRIP direct at PO Box 628458, Middleton, WI 53562-8458, Phone 608.821.1020, Toll free: 800.514.1891, Fax 608.821.1025, customerservice@simplifiedscrip.com,

*Check Out our
Catholic Schools
Week Agenda flyer in
this month's
newsletter.*

February Calendar of Events

February 1	6:30 PM Kindergarten Informational Night
February 3	Report Cards Sent Home
February 4	6:30 PM Pre-Kindergarten Informational Night
February 5, 12, 26	8:10 a.m. School Mass
February 9	H1N1 Vaccination Clinic at St. Ann School
February	6:30 PM H&S Steering Committee mtg.
February 15	Monthly Tuition Due
February 17	Ash Wednesday, 8:10 AM All School Mass
February 22	5-6 PM Market Day Pick Up
February 25	8:10 a.m. School Mass Ash Wednesday
**February 26	St. Ann School In-Session—Parents, Please Carpool, no bus service available
See Monthly Calendar for all events in February	



Classroom News



Pre-Kindergarten News

The Pre-K classes are so excited to be back in school and learning again! We are staying busy with the Pre-K 3 group. Everyone came back from the holiday ready to have some more fun. All of the kids remembered the routine of the day, and we changed the look of the name cards. They all look the same now—snowflakes, and still **everyone** recognizes his/her name. WOW, are they smart!

All three classes have been busy decorating our room and the hallway with winter projects. The four-year olds discovered *All You Need For a Snowman* and then cut out and decorated snowmen. The three-year olds heard about *The Mitten* from Jan Brett, then cut out and decorated mittens for the hallway. The three-year-olds also beaded the icicles hanging in our room. It's very shiny and sparkly in here now!



We have learned about the letter "M" and have started letter "N." After "N" week, we will be talking about nutrition, food groups, and about which foods are good for you and which foods should only be eaten once in awhile. We will be going grocery shopping, right in our room!! To make these activities and discussions as fun as possible, parents: please remember to bring in empty, clean food containers/boxes of all kinds. *****Please do not send in peanut butter jars, peanut or nut related food containers!***

During Catholic Schools Week, January 24-30, we will participate in as many activities as we can, including Pajama Day, Reading and Game Time, penny wars, school spirit day, and sports team jersey day. We will be sending home more details soon!
~ Mrs. Fields

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten enjoyed acting out the first Christmas in class, and caroling with the six graders at Nazareth House. We are working on parts of the mass and the Epiphany this month.

In Math, we are working on balancing, estimating, comparing and ordering, measuring, temperature, and then we will start Time and Money units.



In Reading, we are moving (individually) through our Dick and Jane books with great speed, or we have already passed onto harder books to read! We also have learned 15 high frequency words in our Story Town

Reading Series, and we are working on comprehension, robust vocabulary, and blending letters to make words. We are starting to try to touch letters in the lines, and trying to print our name in the lines, a very tough thing to do for this age group, but we will handle it and be printing in the lines by the end of the year!

~ Mrs. McGuire

First Grade News

Hats off to a New Year! At least that's how the first graders are celebrating it. We started the New Year by learning about resolutions. The first graders have come up with some great goals for 2010. Look for their writing projects to be posted on the hallway bulletin board soon.

As we have welcomed in the cold and snowy season, we have been learning how Martin Luther King Jr. showed us how to work peacefully and to respect all people. The students came up with their own dreams to help make our country a better place. We have learned about forgiveness as we delve into the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

We are getting ready for our next FOSS science kit. We will be exploring balance and motion. The first graders will be getting a lot of hands-on experience. In Social Studies, we have begun our mapping unit. We will be learning how a bird's eye view is different than our own.

Shapes, fractions, solid figures, and symmetry have taken up most of our math time. The students are finding all kinds of solid figures in the classroom and at home. It has been great to be back in action. We wish everyone a wonderful start to 2010!



~ Mrs. Hoyer

Second Grade News

December was a busy and wonderful month in second grade. Second graders celebrated their First Reconciliation. We learned about Christmas around the world - from Santa arriving on a surfboard in Australia, to the smallest camel of the Wise Men bringing gifts in Syria. Other winter celebrations such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa were also studied. We enjoyed our focus on the Jesse Tree - Jesus' family tree and all the great Bible stories that go with it.



If it smelled sweet in second grade, it must've been all the gingerbread! We read many kinds of "gingerbread stories" and compared them to the Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone. We liked reading The Cajun Cornbread Boy, Hawaii's Musubi Man, The Runaway Latkes, and Stop That Pickle! Then, each second grader wrote their own gingerbread story. It is a classful of wonderful authors. We decorated gingerbread houses, too. To celebrate the ending of this great unit and the publishing of our books, we had a gingerbread party with our 3-year-old Pre-K friends.

Weather was our focus in Science, but we are now moving on to the States of Matter. There are many fun experiments in this unit for our second grade scientists. In Social Studies we have been learning about United States History and comparing how things change over time. Second grade math has moved into adding and subtracting with regrouping (that's carrying and borrowing for you old folks out there.)

Enjoy the snow! Second graders are!

~ Mrs. Prechel

Third Grade News

The third graders enjoyed learning about many Old Testament people when we made our Jesse Trees during Advent. We learned a new song, *The Best Gift*, which reminded us that Jesus is the greatest gift we received this past Christmas. Now we're learning about how the Holy Spirit can help us be witnesses for Jesus and how we can be an active part of the Catholic Church community.



We spent most of December reading a wonderful historical fiction story called *A Lion to Guard Us*. We also learned how *not* to judge a book by its cover since we all really enjoyed it, but probably wouldn't have picked it off the shelf at the library!

We are plugging away at our rocket math timed tests; many have passed all the addition tests and are taking on subtraction. Two of us are already challenged with multiplication. We are excited to start our unit on multiplication in class. We will soon be making our own flashcards so we can get even better at recalling those math facts in a snap!

We just finished our unit on citizenship in the U.S. Now we will focus on the structure of our government and symbols that represent our great country. Our next focus in science brings together our past units on plants, animals, and ecosystems and shows us how all living things interact, get their energy, and compete for space and resources.

We will *soon* be starting to use *our* first Foss Science kit when we finish this unit. We just began reading our new read-aloud chapter book, *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. It has captured our attention quickly; we all wanted to skip class and just read our new book! It is definitely a can't-put-it-down novel, and it will introduce us to Greek mythology and focus on such topics as courage, loyalty, friendship, and why history is important to all of us. We are excited to read it!

~ Mrs. Donovan

Fourth Grade Religion

Happy New Year!

Fourth grade Religion is off to a wonderful start this year. We are working to more fully understand the daily scripture readings and *consistently* incorporate Jesus' teachings into our lives. Our catechism this quarter will focus on our responsibilities as members of the greater Catholic community and as a part of Jesus' universal church.

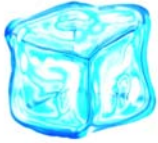
This month we're "adopting" a soldier who is on active duty overseas, and we'll be writing letters of gratitude and sending a care package to him in the near future. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

~ Mrs. Talbert



Fourth Grade News

In Social Studies, we are currently working on the southwest and west regions. Students researched a state in these regions and created a new cereal box about their state. There were cereal names such as California Crunch, Fire O's, and Wildcat Munch. We will wrap up the regions at the end of the month.



In Science, we continue to look at the properties of water. We have done experiments looking at the density of both hot and cold water. We also froze water to see if frozen water is denser or less dense than room temperature water using blue ice cubes.

In Math, the unit revolves around graphs. Students have worked on plotting out numbers on a line, creating bar graphs, and reading information on a line graphs. We also looked at graphing out points on the x and y axis while creating a picture of an arrow and crown.

In Language Arts, students began looking at what is a fact and what is an opinion within non-fiction work. They are learning to spot key words and evidence that support a fact because you need evidence for it to be a fact. We read a story about inventors and how hard they worked in order to create their inventions. In English, we continue to work on pronouns and how they replace nouns. We just finished looking at pronouns as subjects, meaning they are at the beginning of the sentence taking/doing the action of the verb. In writing, the class is learning how to write dialogue between characters as they will begin writing their fiction story next week. ~ Mrs. Grutzner



News from the Gym

During the month of January all grades will be participating in a basketball unit. The younger grades will focus on individual skill building such as dribbling and passing and incorporate these skills in to various basketball activities. The older grades will review basketball skills and then participate in various basketball-like games.

Remember to have your child bring gym shoes to wear on gym days. All grades have gym on Wednesdays. ~Mrs. Jamison

Mrs. Stano's Classes

I can hardly believe the holidays are over and we are back to the daily grind. The Christmas break was extremely relaxing and enjoyable, but I was eager to get back!



The Fifth Grade is spending the first Wednesday of every month going to the Catholic Multicultural Center to offer their services. Recently, the fifth grade spent the morning preparing the large hall for the food pantry, cleaning the chapel and children's playroom, washing entryways, and touring the facility to learn more about what the center offers the community! It was a very rewarding morning for the fifth grade. They are looking forward to returning in February.

In religion class, the Fifth Grade continues with a study of the sacraments. Before the break, they finished a study on the sacrament of Holy Orders. They are currently working on the sacrament of matrimony. The overall theme for this unit of study is understanding that we are a community with many differences, but are united through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Fifth Grade is thoroughly enjoying reading *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowery. They are learning about numerous literary devices that Lowery uses in her writings, such as similes, personification, and the art of setting up a cliffhanger to get us to predict and discuss what might occur next in the story!

In Language Arts, the Fifth Grade is currently working on understanding sentence structure. They have learned to identify complete subject and predicates, compound subject and predicates, and sentence order. The class completed a descriptive essay. Each essay painted a very vivid picture of a place or event. This was another lesson that tied into Lois Lowery's ability to describe places in the novel, *Number the Stars*.



The Sixth Grade is busy completing the novel, *The Westing Game*. We are very close to uncovering who committed the murder of Sam Westing, the main character. It has been a pleasure to listen to the discussions of the chapters, and the thoughts on what character might have committed the murder based on the motives that were revealed through the text. I think that we have some aspiring detectives among this class. As a final project for this novel, the students will be creating their own game based on the novel. (More info to follow on that shortly!)

The Sixth Grade is also working on sentence structure. We recently finished lessons on complex sentences, identifying clauses, and properly punctuating sentences with two independent clauses. ~ Mrs. Stano

Mr. Eliason's Classes

I hope you all had a great Advent/Christmas season. The students are getting back into the swing of things after their long break. In Sixth Grade religion we have continued our study of Old Testament stories. We have begun to talk about Abraham's family including the trials and tribulations of one of his grandsons, Jacob.

In Math, we have just about completed our unit on multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Working with fractions can be challenging, but the Sixth Grade has risen to the occasion. Our social studies travels have taken us



to our neighbors to the south, Mexico! We will discuss topics such as the government, economy, and history of Mexico. We will also

complete the chapter by having a fiesta.

In Science, we have started our first FOSS Kit, Landforms. The students are working to explain how the Colorado River formed the Grand Canyon based on many hands-on experiments using stream tables.

The fifth graders have also been hard at work. In Math, the students have been able to master the concept of long division with whole numbers and decimals. Our next chapter takes a different turn; we will be talking about types of graphs and charts and how they are relevant to everyday life.

In Social Studies, we are continuing our march through the Revolutionary War. We have read about events such as the Boston Tea Party and Boston Massacre, as well as the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Soon, we will delve into the many battles of the war, as well as the effect they had in shaping the United States of America.

Lastly, in Science, the students are currently giving presentations on some of the great earthquakes and volcanic eruptions we have had in the world. Many of the students can't believe how much destruction can be caused by these natural disasters. Soon, we will be moving into our next FOSS Kit, Variables.



I hope you and your families are staying warm and I look forward to seeing you during the many activities we have coming up during Catholic Schools Week!

~ Mr. Eliason

Spanish

The Kindergarten is working on weather, food and transportation words. We are also putting together noun-adjective combinations. In Spanish we say "bear brown" instead of brown bear. It's kind of tricky, but the kids are getting the hang of it!

First and Second Grades are working on numbers (out of order!) and continue to review classroom nouns, days of the week and colors. The second grade will also add shapes such as *circulo*=circle, and *triangulo*=triangle. Most of the shape words are very similar to English, so that helps a lot!



Third Grade is busy with their animal words and will soon be starting *tener* expressions. Some examples are: *tener frio*=to be cold, *tener hambre*=to be hungry. We will be practicing these in the first and third person forms.

Ex. *Tengo frio*=I'm cold. *Ella tiene hambre*.=She's hungry.

The Fourth and Fifth grades are working on a short review unit of ALL we've done in the past three and a half years! Then we will dive into months of the year and seasons.

The Sixth Grade will be working on a food unit starting this week. It is a departure from our regular curriculum, and can be more challenging than what we've worked on so far. BUT....the reward for finishing this unit is a field trip to a Mexican restaurant! Students will use their Spanish skills to order their meal, pay bill, etc...

I want to also express my thanks to Home and School and to all those who sent me Christmas wishes and gifts! I am very blessed to be a part of our St. Ann's community and truly enjoy working with your children here at school!

~Mrs. Wahlin

Music Notes



A big thank you to all those who came to see our Advent concert! The students did a wonderful job with their Advent music and readings! We spent the days after our concert celebrating our success with some Christmas sing-a-long songs. I was surprised to see how many students knew all of the words; especially to the less popular tunes from the old claymation Christmas movies like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus is coming to town". What fun!

As the new year starts, we will be making our way through more music fun in class. Kindergarten started off 2010 by reviewing what great things we already know about music; like steady beat, up and down, and high and low. Next, we will learn all about how music can be loud and soft

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(Continued from page 7)

and can go fast and slow. First Grade is busy practicing the difference between steady beat and rhythm. We will continue to use our unpitched rhythm instruments (drums, maracas, tambourines, etc.) to practice the short and long sounds of quarter and eighth notes.

Second Grade has started checking out meter signatures. We've discovered that the beats in music are grouped by twos, threes, and even fours. Now we will practice figuring out how the beats in familiar songs are grouped. Ask us how many beats are in a group for "Take Me Out to the Ballgame"!

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades have started a Boomwhacker unit at the start of this year. Each class will be using these multi-colored and multi-pitched plastic tubes to create harmony and melody to some familiar and new songs. With these instruments we can learn more about the letter names on the staff, rhythm and playing music as an ensemble. By the middle of February, we'll be Boomwhacker pros!
~ Ms. DePons

News from the Art Room

All students in grades first through sixth will have art work on display for the Second Annual St. Ann Art Show. The art will be ready for viewing the night of the Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday January 29.



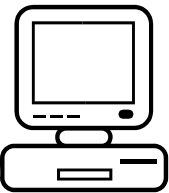
Meanwhile, Fifth and Sixth Grades are becoming familiar with using a compass and ruler to create kaleidoscope-like designs. Along with art they are learning a bit of geometry as well.

Fourth grade students have been having fun creating their own toy character sculpture using an air drying clay. They are mini so painting them will be a challenge.

Second and Third grade students have been working long and hard on their Gyotaku pictures. This is a Japanese art of fish printing which originated in Japan over 200 years ago as a way of recording trophy catches prior to the invention of the camera.

First Grade is working on paper puppets, learning to roll, fold and cut paper to create interesting facial features for their puppet heads.

Remember to look for you child's art work the night of the Spaghetti Dinner.
~ Mrs. Jamison



Technology Classes

There is going to be a big change taking place around St. Ann's in the next few weeks. Thanks to all of you who participated in the Scholastic Book Fair, we earned a Smart Board, which will be placed in Mrs. Donovan's classroom. In addition, Home and School provided the projector as well as hardware and laptop to support the board. Needless to say, Third Grade is pretty excited about the learning opportunities that will take place in their classroom. Thanks to all of you for your support of our school!

Many exciting things are happening in Computer classes as well. The First and Second Grades had a blast recording and creating their Pixie stories. It was hilarious watching their faces light up when they listened to their voices. Typically, I have them just read what's on their page, but we have many students who enjoy adlibbing their lines. Pixie software is a newer, updated software, so the students are able to save their stories as media for Windows Media Player. I will be posting their stories online and will let you know where they are located so that you can watch them at home.

Third Grade is finishing their "I Am" poems, using both Pixie and Frames. They are working with both audio and timing to create more of a movie experience. Next, we will continue keyboarding, and I will then be spending time introducing Ms Word 2007 on the laptops.

Fourth Grade, meanwhile, has finished their Christmas Around the World Powerpoint shows and is moving into Hyperstudio. In a few weeks, Mrs. Grutzner will be working with them on a project, and they will use Hyperstudio to create an interactive presentation to share with each other.

Last year, St. Ann's purchased Web Blender, a web creating software, similar to Hyperstudio but much more adaptable to the Internet. The Fifth Grade is currently learning it and loving it. They are also working with Survey Monkey.com to create a survey for other students. Their results will be posted on the website they create through Web Blender. Finally, Sixth Grade is busy recording their podcasts on a topic of their choosing. They are busy selecting background music and searching for facts. Topics range from sports, to pets, to websites that work to save our planet. Their podcasts, along with the Fifth Grade websites, will eventually be posted to our Ning for others to enjoy.
~ Mrs. Roisum

