

# St. Ann School

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# Wednesday Memo



Total for 20 Lunches  
for Oct. : \$60.90

<b>Monday, Oct. 7</b> Supervision	<b>Hamburgers</b> Welhoefer, Pigarelli
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 8</b> Supervision	<b>Soft Chicken Tacos</b> Opitz, Apel
<b>Wednesday, Oct. 9</b> Supervision	<b>Rotini with Meatballs</b> Opitz, McCoy
<b>Thursday, Oct. 10</b> Supervision	<b>Pizza Dippers</b> Mathias, Opitz
<b>Friday, Oct. 11</b> Supervision	<b>Hot Ham &amp; Cheese</b> Probst, Howard

**Lunch supervision volunteers must arrive by 11:15 AM.**

## Campbell's Labels

Many thanks to all who have been saving Campbell's labels for St. Ann School. We recently acquired numerous playground balls and P.E. items through your efforts. Please continue to save labels for our school.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Wednesday, October 16, 4-8 PM**

**Thursday, October 24, 4-8 PM**

Please return your request forms as soon as possible.

## Reminder: No Classes at St. Ann School on Friday, October 4.

There will be no classes on Friday, October 4 for St. Ann School. Stoughton Public Schools are in session. Our teachers will be participating the upcoming self study process for renewal of certification.

## ITBS Testing

St. Ann School students in Grades 3-8 will be administered the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Tests from October 8-11 (with Oct. 14-16 as make-up days). The purpose of the ITBS Tests is to show the progress that each child has made, how much he/she already knows, his/her ability to learn, and the effect our current curriculum has on learning. Our St. Ann School teachers will use the information gained from the ITBS tests to plan future curriculum and new methodologies to better meet the learning needs of our students.

**Here are some ways to help your child do well on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills:**

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before the tests.
- Provide a light, healthy breakfast on testing days.
- Have your child dress comfortably and arrive at school on time each day.
- Send your child off to school with confidence building words of praise and support... "You'll do great! Believe in yourself! I love you!"
- Have your child bring two sharpened #2 pencils each testing day.
- Remind your child to listen to directions carefully.
- Remind your child to read every answer before the best one is chosen.
- Remind your child to check over their answers before they close their test booklet.
- Have your child bring a library book to read after each test is completed.
- Do not schedule any appointments or early pick-ups during testing days.
- If you have any questions about the testing, please feel free to call the school office.



**Last Day to turn in coats is Thursday. Thanks to all who have contributed.**



# Principal's Corner

## Do Small Things With Great Love

As I was traveling the Iowa highways to visit a friend in Waterloo, Iowa this past weekend, I saw a billboard along Highway 20 that read, "Do small things with great love!" The billboard captured the life of St. Therese of Lisieux, whose feast we celebrated yesterday on October 1. When most people think of saints, images of martyrdom (stoning, burning at the stake, public crucifixions) and or acts of self-denial (selling all of one's property, going far away from family to proclaim the Gospel) fill their minds. Therese of Lisieux runs contrary to this idea of sanctity. For her path of sainthood would be found in the most ordinary and simple of ways.

Born in Alencon, France in 1873, Therese was the youngest of five daughters. Tragedy struck the family when the girls' mother died. With her father working to support the family, Therese was left in the care of her older sisters. It felt like another death in the family when her favorite sister, Pauline, joined the Carmelite monastery when Therese was ten. At the age of fourteen, Therese wished to join the monastery but was first refused by the mother superior and later by the bishop due to her young age. Not accepting defeat, she went to Rome where she personally appealed to Pope Leo XIII for entrance into the monastery. Pope Leo XIII responded by saying, "You will enter if it is God's will." Two months later, Therese was allowed to join the Carmelite monastery where her two sisters lived. There she began and lived her religious life fulfilling her duties... praying, cleaning, cooking, gardening and laundering... to the best of her ability and with love. Having undergone tremendous suffering over the years, Therese died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-four in 1897.

Little would be known of her were it not for the discovery and publication in 1898 of her spiritual autobiography, The Story of the Soul. Therese's journal reveals her personality, her struggles and her tremendous love of God. Her greatest gifts were her concentration, which helped her pray and her determination which helped build her character. Her crosses were her shyness, her sensitiveness and her stubbornness. Therese set out to be a saint by what she called "the little way." She decided to do every act for love of God and by doing daily duties well. Therese wrote "that Christ was most often present to her not during hours of prayer but rather in the midst of my daily occupations." She knew God was watching her do "little things with great love." Her "little way" was her path to holiness.

Therese's cause for sainthood proceeded quickly and she was canonized in 1925. In the beginning of her vocation, Therese had a desire to be a missionary, but her fragile health kept her close to home. This did not prevent her from remembering missionaries as she prayed for and wrote letters to those serving others abroad. In 1927, Therese was declared patron saint of the missions. In 1997, Therese's standing in the Church was complimented when Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church.

Just as routine and ordinariness filled Therese's life, so, too, does, it fill ours. My prayer is that we may also follow Therese's "little way" by doing everything with love for God as all things are important in God's eyes.

~ Ms. Leonard

## Career Opportunity:

The Knights of Columbus is seeking an additional Field Agent to represent their Fraternal Insurance Program. This is a full-time career which offers a complete benefits package. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please call: General Agent Dan Baxter at :(608)348-3360/(866) 563-2863, email resume: Daniel.Baxter@kofc.org or fax resume: (608) 348-5360.



A special Thank you to everyone who ordered in September! We received a 15% profit which helped us to earn \$423! That was a great order for us! October has two free items. With every \$40 purchase you will receive free Broccoli Florets and with a \$90 online purchase and the promo code: OCTBONUS, you will receive free ChicNSteakes. Remember to qualify for the Frequent Buyer item. Make two purchases of \$40 or more between September and November then one more in December to receive a free hanging organizer at the December sale pick-up. Don't forget to enter the Great Grocery Giveaway! You could win free groceries for a year! All orders need to be placed by Thursday October 17. All paper orders need to be turned into the Market Day box outside the teacher's lounge by 3pm and all online orders at marketday.com need to be placed by 11pm. The pick-up date is Monday October 21 in the gym at 4:30 to 6pm. Please let Koreen Kuhn know if you have any issues with picking up your order or any other general questions at [jhkuhn@charter.net](mailto:jhkuhn@charter.net) or 712-4126.

# It's a CLASS ACT

*Several times each month we will share with you some of the exciting things happening in our classes here at St. Ann School.*

## Technology Update

Several changes were made this summer with the District and technology. First of all, we have finally updated our operating system and are now officially running Windows 7. Most of the students are already familiar with the



OS, so the transition has been a smooth one. In addition, the District has now established a Google Chrome Educator account. St. Ann's has had theirs for three years now, but now the students also have a Google account with their Stoughton.k12.wi.us Outlook domain. What this means is that they will be able to continue using the Google Drive sharing feature with anyone in the District, now through high school.

In addition to District changes, there have been additions to our technology at St. Ann's. This year, we're piloting a program that allows all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to use a dedicated tablet for the entire school year. So far, the program has been a great success. Students have been using the tablets to complete assignments, read, take notes during class, and study online resources, such as "Cicero." In addition, with access to Google Play's huge variety of apps, the students, with parental guidance, have been given the freedom to download their own apps to use during their free time. Making technology accessible to everyone has been one of my biggest goals at St. Ann's, so it's wonderful seeing the goal come to fruition.

~ Mrs. Roisum

## Saxon Math Program



By now, you and your child are probably very familiar with our new math curriculum, Saxon Math. From a teacher perspective, it was a good choice! Last year, at the end of the year I asked some of my 7<sup>th</sup> grade students about a concept that we had learned first semester. While they remembered "hearing about it", I would dare say that if I had asked them to do a problem with those skills, few would have remembered how to do it. With Saxon Math, this would not happen. Each set of 30 problems contains not only what was learned that day, but also most all the concepts that were taught prior to that day, so that the students are constantly reviewing. In a sense, it is like having a cumulative assessment of sorts within each assignment.

The students may be moaning and groaning a bit about having 40 problems a night, but know that when they use their time wisely in class and in resource room (for the older children), they should have no more math homework than they have had in the past! Their skills are improving daily and you have probably already noticed that it takes them less time to complete their assignments now than it took them at the beginning of the year!

You will also notice that there are more assessments (tests). Every 5 lessons, the students are tested. I told them last week that this is to their benefit, because there isn't nearly as much new material on each test. They agreed! They also like that on test days they have no homework! ☺

Grades 4-8 also have the added benefit this year of being grouped according to ability. In the Spring of last year, we gave them all an exam that was provided by Saxon when you begin the program. It was very helpful in placing students where they needed to be, so in Course 1, 2 and 3, we have students from 3 different grades. This has benefitted all of us, because we can go at a pace that challenges the students who have a natural talent for math, while allowing those who struggle sometimes to be where they are comfortable. If right now your student is still saying, "it is easy", that does not mean they are not appropriately placed. We really keep a good eye on that. The first 30 lessons are review and after that, the material will become more challenging. We are almost to that point, so I tell the students to enjoy the "easiness" while you can! Our main goal is for them to have a solid foundation!

We look forward to seeing the results of this new curriculum! All signs so far are pointing toward the development of math students who are confident, skilled and consistent! Hopefully they will be the best math students in Stoughton! ☺

~ Mrs. Kleitsch

# Musings from the Family Corner

## Modeling good prayer habits for our children

by Tonya Talbert

During the staff in-service this past summer, all St. Ann religion teachers were required to attend an all-day class on prayer. The class, sponsored by the Diocese of Madison, was incredible. I know I speak for everyone when I say we left feeling refreshed and ready to creatively reach our students and involve them in community prayer.

There are three kinds of Catholic prayer: vocal, meditative, and contemplative. Together, we pray the responses at church, we pray before meals, we pray at night with our children. Meditation may not come as easily, but it helps us to internalize the scripture and/or reflections we read. By thinking about Jesus and his works on Earth more often, we grow closer to God. Contemplative prayer is considered the simplest expression of prayer and always takes place in our hearts. According to St. Theresa of Avila, “contemplative prayer...is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us.”

Many children today suffer from anxiety. Teaching them to pray, to lift their worries up to the Lord, can be very freeing for them, as it is for us. It gives them a break from feeling they have to be perfect or in control – and allows them to develop trust in God and His plan for them. So how do we, as parents and educators, teach our children to pray?

One article I read on the subject said, “Prayer is caught more than it is taught.” This means that we, as adults, are obligated to model good prayer habits to the children in our lives. Some adults may feel embarrassed or shy about praying out loud with others. But at St. Ann's, we teach kids that although prayers are personal, lifting our voices together is powerful business. Answering Father during Mass, raising our voices in song, and participating in daily prayer services in the classroom are all vital to our life together as Christians. Unfortunately, when these prayer habits are not reinforced outside of school, it is far more difficult to make them lasting life choices.

When my family began praying together at meal times, we started by going around the table and thanking God for something good that happened during the day. Even the youngest children can participate in a simple prayer of gratitude. At some point over the years, we also added in petitions after asking for our food to be blessed. Teaching gratitude for what we have been given is important, but teaching children to pray for others (intercessions) is equally important. From personal and classroom experience, I have found that kids love to pray for other people. I believe it makes them feel needed and less helpless; their prayers do make a difference. In prayer, children are “tiny but mighty!”

Now I know that some children do not like to sit quietly during meditative or contemplative prayer. This can be frustrating when parents are trying to stress the importance of building a relationship with God. But teaching lifelong prayer habits is as important as teaching kids to look both ways when crossing the street. As our children grow and mature in their beliefs, they will find comfort in the prayer rituals established early in our homes – and they will pass those beliefs on to their own children, our grandchildren!

When Josie was very young, I was told to always picture the sort of adult I wanted her to be and with every interaction to build the adult relationship I wanted us to have in the future. With all three of my children (and with yours), I make a conscious effort to do this. I try to teach them lessons to hold onto – lessons in faith, hope, love, and humor that I believe will make them not only responsible citizens, but also happy, healthy, and family-oriented adults.