

January 27, 2010

Dear STM Families,

Every year at this time, St. Thomas More Cathedral School celebrates Catholic Schools Week. The following is from the Fact Sheet published by the NCEA:

“Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. During this week, many dioceses and schools encourage parents to take full advantage of the benefits of local Catholic schools by enrolling their children in those schools. CSW also is an occasion for schools to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to the local Catholic schools.

This year, the theme is *“Catholic Schools – Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals.”* Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social values in their students. Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life — it is education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S. The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country.”

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of Catholic Schools Week here at The Cathedral of St. Thomas More on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at our 9:30 Mass. Our celebrant will be Bishop Loverde.

The PTO will host an Open House and you are invited to join the Bishop and our PTO for coffee and treats after Mass. Please bring a friend so they too can come to know the benefits of a Catholic School Education. As in the past, students attending this event in school uniform will be given a dress down coupon!

On a different note, I would like to thank all of you for your generous contributions to help the people of Haiti. Last week at our Friday School Mass, our wonderful students donated \$850.00! I know that those donations will be very beneficial to those who are suffering from the effects of the devastating earthquake.

Have a great week and God bless,
Eleanor McCormack

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2010 SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 31, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF YOUR FAITH!

*9:30 Mass celebrated by Bishop Loverde,
followed by Open House from 11:00-1:00*

Students who come to Mass and attend the Open House in uniform will receive a pass for a special dress down day on Monday!

Monday, February 1, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF EACH OTHER!

Students dress down if they have a pass!

Book Fair all week

Spelling Bee Grades 5-8

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF HIS MANY GIFTS TO US!

God's gifts are as many as there are colors in the rainbow!

STM will be a rainbow of color as you wear your choice of any color accessory!

Book Fair

Talent Show 1: 00

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF OUR STAFF!

Wear your uniform proudly!

Book Fair

Open House 9-11:00

Staff Appreciation 1:30

Thursday, February 4, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF THIS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL!

Hats ON to your Blue Ribbon School!

Wear a hat all day!

Book Fair

Friday, February 5, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF OUR COUNTRY!

Wear a patriotic accessory!

Invite your parents to join us at the all school Mass at 10:00

1:00 Enjoy the Marine Quartet performance!

Saturday, February 6, 2010

THANK GOD FOR THE DIVIDEND OF YOUR FAMILY!

Attend the 50's FAMILY SOCK HOP

6:30-8:30

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HUGE OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION – SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our Open House and Reception celebrating Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m. We're telling everyone about STM's nationally-recognized

Blue Ribbon academic program (students' reading and math scores are in the top ten percent, nationally). Prospective parents can meet current families and alumni, enjoy scrumptious refreshments, and talk with teachers about the curriculum. Classrooms will be open for children of all ages to explore. Registration for new families is currently in progress. The reception immediately follows the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral. The last weekday open house of the year for prospective parents is on Wednesday, February 3, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

EARN EASY VOLUNTEER HOURS

Need a few more volunteer hours? Send in baked goods for the Sunday, January 31, Open House and Reception. Send baked items into the office on Friday the 29th or bring them with you on Sunday! You can also help serve or clean up AND enjoy a great cup of coffee on us! This is a fun and quick way to earn a few more hours. Please contact Renuka Carlitti (rpcarlitti@msn.com or 703/407-4682) to sign up. Thank you!

OPEN HOUSE – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010

STM will also host an Open House on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 from 9 AM to 11 AM. Please consider asking a neighbor to attend and they too may come to enjoy the *dividends of a Catholic Education-- Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals.*

THE SOCK HOP IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Dig out that poodle skirt and roll up your blue jeans – the Sock Hop is coming up soon! Mark your calendars for February 6, 2010, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in the gym. Volunteers are needed and this would be a wonderful opportunity to add to your volunteer hours. Be sure to check out the attached flyer!

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING AND MRS O'ROURKE NEEDS SOME HELP!

Please consider volunteering with Mrs. O'Rourke for next week's book fair. We will be working on Saturday, January 30, and Sunday, January 31, at our Open House as well as during the school week. It is a lot of fun and you get to help your child pick the books! Please call the school at 703 528-6781 or email Mrs. O'Rourke right away to sign up at any time that works for you!

BAND NEWS

Due to a family emergency, Mr. Ward has had to cancel the Band Concert scheduled for Thursday, January 28, evening and he has rescheduled it for February 11, 2010.

TUITION ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

If you will be requesting tuition assistance, you must complete the application forms or visit the online application site at www.factstuitionaid.com. The tuition assistance process is open to all families and funds will be awarded based on need. Families applying for tuition assistance for high school students as well as elementary school students will need to complete their applications by the high school deadline of January 25, 2010. All other families will need to complete their application by February 5, 2010. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions.

Tara Ashworth
Bookkeeper
(703) 528-6781 x23

A NOTE FROM OUR NURSE

Hearing and Vision Screenings

Thank you for all the parents who took time to help with our screenings. You will be notified by letter via backpack of the results by Monday. If your child has been referred to a specialist, I need to record the outcome of that doctor's visit on their medical record. Please forward a copy of those results to me.

Cold temperatures and Recess

We will send the children out on most days to exercise for recess. Please remember to send in hats and gloves as well as dress them in a warm coat. On rainy days, if the pavement dries enough and the sun appears, they will go out for recess, so please plan accordingly.

Wellness Corner

Mrs. Bauer has ordered a "Be Well" resource book for parents to assist you in teaching your children healthy habits. There are Spanish versions available also. Please look for these books to come home on Thursday this week, one per family. Use them to help your family stay fit!

Nurse's Webpage

This is listed under "about STM" and all forms are grouped here for your convenience. Please use these forms, not a handwritten note, when dropping off medication for your child to have at school.

Nurse's Hours: Mon-Wed and Friday 7:30-3:30. On Thursdays, Mrs. Bauer staffs the clinic.

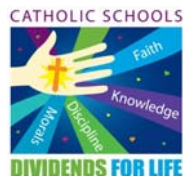
Donna Lorge, RN, BSN
STMC school nurse
(703)528-6781 ext. 28
nurse@stmschool.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

- January 28 – Report Cards
- January 31 – Opening Mass for Catholic Schools' Week – 9:30 am
- January 31 - Open House and Reception – after Mass
- January 31 – Book Fair begins
- January 31 – February 6 – Catholic Schools' Week
- February 3 – Open House – 9:00 am – 11 am
- February 6 – Sock Hop
- February 10 – 11:30 Dismissal
- February 11 – Band Concert – Date Change
- February 24 – 11:30 Dismissal
- March 23 – Design For Excellence (DFE) Opening Program
- April 1-11 – Easter Break

ATTACHMENTS

- Sock Hop Flyer
- Catholic Schools Week Schedule
- H1N1 Update for Schools in Arlington County



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FINAL H1N1 UPDATE TO PARENTS

WEEK OF January 25, 2010

This final H1N1 update is being sent to all parents of school children in Arlington from the Arlington County Public Health Division (ACPHD), School Health Bureau.

Last Friday, Jan. 22, was the last day that ACPHD held H1N1 vaccine clinics in Arlington County schools (including all APS, parochial and private schools). Jan. 22 was the 31st day that we went into schools and held clinics to vaccinate students. In total, approximately 16,800 vaccine doses were given to children in school; 390 to staff in schools.

The H1N1 school vaccination campaign was a great success due in part to the strong relationship and collaboration developed between the Arlington County Public Health Division and the Catholic Schools in this area. This collaboration is something we can now count on in our community.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

The success of this effort would not have been possible without the support of many individuals. Thank you to all of you who participated in any way:

- To the parents who prepared their children for vaccination
- To the parent volunteers who, with great humor and empathy, moved children through the process from start to finish.
- To the teachers and assistants who worked around the disruption that the vaccination clinics brought to their school day. All elementary schools were visited four times!
- To the principals and assistant principals, nurses, and other school staff who organized the clinics at their schools.
- And to the school leadership who collaborated, coordinated, communicated, and worked hard to make all this possible.

WE NEEDED LOTS OF ADDITIONAL HELP

Many hours were spent planning, coordinating, reviewing consent forms, and following up with parents. A temporary “call center” was set up in the ACPHD and 308 hours were spent processing about 13,500 consent forms and answering questions about H1N1 vaccinations.

Thank you to the Public Health Division nurses and staff who worked in teams every day to make sure all went well for the vaccinating teams. Thank you to School Health for taking the lead on clinic coordination efforts. Thank you also to the School Health aides who worked extra hard in their school clinics while the nurses were vaccinating.

The Arlington Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was crucial to the school vaccination effort. Thank you to the 37 MRC volunteers who provided direct assistance to the three vaccinating teams. Four volunteers worked more than 100 hours. Thank you to the 15 Red Cross volunteers who provided privacy screens and moved them every day for the entire duration of the vaccination campaign.

IT’S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN TO GET VACCINATED

Flu season is not over and vaccine against the H1N1 flu is plentiful in our community. Use this opportunity to get yourself and your children vaccinated. Some doctors’ offices and other locations have the vaccine. If you are looking for other options for vaccination locations, a convenient online flu shot locator is available online at www.google.com/flushot.

In addition, ACPHD is holding daily public flu clinics at the two health department locations – 800 South Walter Reed Drive and 3033 Wilson Blvd. These provide another opportunity for those children who were not able to be vaccinated in their school sites to be vaccinated now with the first or second H1N1 dose. Please check www.arlingtonva.us/flu for the clinic schedule and more information.

NOTE: The H1N1 shot and H1N1 nasal spray are available at both locations.

800 South Walter Reed Drive, 1st Floor		3033 Wilson Blvd, 2nd Floor	
Monday	10:30 AM – 6:30 PM – I	Monday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Tuesday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Tuesday	8:30 AM – Noon
Wednesday	10:30 AM – 6:30 PM	Wednesday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Thursday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Thursday	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Friday	No clinic on 1/29 at this location	Friday	8:30 AM – Noon

ACPHD WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR H1N1 ILLNESS IN SCHOOLS & THE COMMUNITY

Arlington Public Schools continues to monitor school absences daily. There have been no unusual increases in the number of absences. But don’t forget to:

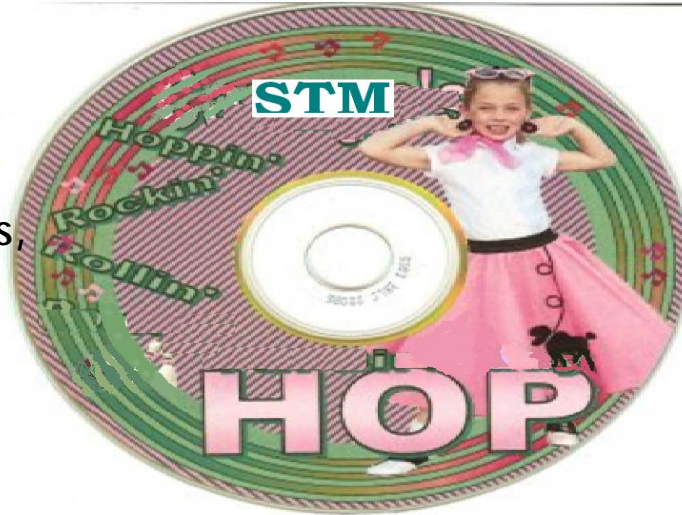
- Wash hands frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Stay home when sick
- Return to work or school when you or your child is fever free for 24 hours without taking any fever-reducing medication.
- Get seasonal flu vaccine and H1N1 vaccine as they are available

Additional information is available online at www.apsva.us/H1N1.

SOCK HOP!

Saturday, February 6
6:30-8:30

Raffle items:
Gift cards,
Claire's Accessories,
iTunes Cards.



Raffle Tickets:

\$1 each
12 for \$10
25 for \$20

This is a family event.
Parents- please don't just drop off your kids and leave! Stay and join the fun!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

- Set up & Cleanup
- Prize & ticket sales
- Donation of healthy snacks: veggie chips, tortilla chips, cookies, mixed fruit, brownies, potato chips, crackers,
- Donations earn hours!

Contact information:

Sock Hop Coordinator: Carmen Calvimontes at 703- 521-5814 or

karol225@yahoo.com or

Jackie Woody at 240-253-2644 or Qwood357@aol.com.

Admission \$2/person or
\$5/family

Have fun with your friends! Dance, eat, play, and have a ball!