



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

## St. Joseph School 2010

Dear Families

An amazing thing happened on the way to the basketball tournament championship on Sunday. For those of you who don't already know, both of our fifth grade teams finished the regular season play undefeated. During the tournament, they maintained their status and ended up playing each other for the championship at Lansing Catholic High School on Sunday afternoon. The game was impressive for both teams. As a spectator, I was touched by the great sportsmanship demonstrated by the boys. Even though both teams were playing to win, they took time to cheer and encourage each other during the game no matter whose team was at the free throw line. With six seconds to go and the score at 27-29, the leading team fouled the other team. It would take two perfect shots from the free throw line to tie the game. As luck, (or skill) would have it, both baskets went in, tying the game. The clock ran out, the boys jumped up and down, the crowd cheered, and the officials went to the score table to set up overtime play. This is when the coaches stepped in to stop the game, declaring both teams winners. I'm not sure it could have been scripted any better than that. All of the boys walked out of the gym as champions! Even more importantly, they left knowing that they were classmates and friends first and that though healthy competition is exciting, it is not as important as the relationships they have formed with each other. Kudos to these coaches for their leadership, vision, and inspiring foresight. What a great memory and lesson for the boys and our entire community! I am so proud to be principal of this wonderful school.

*Please put the following dates on your calendar:*

Thursday, March 4 - **Club's Choice Food Pick Up - 5:00-6:30**

Friday, March 5 - Stations of the Cross - 3:15

End of Trimester

Monday, March 8 - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS** - Records Day

Thursday, March 11 - Club's Choice money due

Friday, March 12 - Stations of the Cross - 3:15

Monday, March 15 - Parent School Council meeting (rescheduled) 6:30 PM

Friday, March 19 - **KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP - No school for kindergarten students.**

Stations of the Cross - 3:15

Friday, March 26 - Stations of the Cross - 3:15

Monday & Tuesday, March 29 & 30 - MANS Accreditation Site visit

Wednesday, March 31 - Blue jean/cupcake Day

Thursday, April 1 - Spring Break begins at the end of the day

Monday, April 12 - School resumes

***Weekly Mass is at 9:05 on Fridays.***

**THE MANS ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT** scheduled for last month was 'snowed out' much to our dismay. It has been a real challenge trying to reschedule the date around so many calendars. The new dates are March 29 & 30. As stated before, this culminates a year long study by the school staff of our curriculum, programs, staff, and facility. This portion of the accreditation

procedure which includes the site visit takes place every seven years, but this is an on-going process with annual reports filed to document growth. It is a very intense process, and will serve to help us to set goals and continue to improve our educational programs.

**EAGLE VILLAGE NEWS** - Many of you have probably already heard that Eagle Village is no longer able to offer their school programs because of budget cuts. We are very saddened by this news as the long standing relationship with them has made such a positive impact on our students for the past 20+ years. Because we believe the experience is so valuable to our students, we would like to explore other venues for our school. To this end, I would like to put together a small group of parents of current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to look into this. The best candidates for this committee would be parents who have gone to Eagle Village as a chaperone with older siblings. These parents would be best equipped to do a comparison of the programming. I already have a few leads for sites that could be explored. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact the office ASAP.

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!** If you, or someone you know, would like to donate a few hours of your time to the school, we are very much in need of some assistance in the library. Some of the duties would include shelving books, assisting with cataloging books, and copying and organizing materials. Please call the school office if you can share some time with us.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR** is currently taking place. If you have friends with children of any age, kindergarten-6, please help us all by sharing information about our school. Parents are our best ambassadors! In this economically challenging time, we need to keep our enrollment consistent in order to maintain affordable tuition rates. While we recognize that many families make sacrifices to pay for school, we firmly believe that it is money well spent. Surely the dividends from this investment are greater than the returns we get from money spent on movies, cell phones, fast food, or various other things that eat up our money. In many instances, it's all about choices. We believe that the choice you have made to send your children to St. Joe will have a positive impact on them and on your entire family. Maybe someday, they will even thank you. ☺ Along with this letter, we are including a flyer advertising our school. If you are in a position to do so, please help us spread the word by posting this at your place of work.

**AS WE LIVE OUT THE REMAINDER OF LENT**, it might be a good time to renew our promises by increasing our prayer life and making sacrifices. Giving up something for Lent might mean refraining from eating sweets or watching TV. But it could also mean giving up complaining, or speaking unkind words about others, or spreading gossip. It might be a time to really have a change of heart by reaching out with compassion, by adding money to that mission box, or by being less judgmental in our dealings with others. Maybe it is simply complimenting someone in place of putting them down, or trying to imagine 'walking in another's shoes' rather than being critical. Perhaps we could become harbingers of good news instead of bearers of doom. We encourage you to continue to use prayer, almsgiving, and fasting with your families as we journey toward Easter.

Enjoy the days as they get longer and the sunshine when it comes. The promise of spring is upon us!

Sincerely,

Tomi Ann Schultheiss, Principal