



# SAINT MATTHEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

DECEMBER 10, 2009

www.st-matts.com

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 14

*"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming....He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Luke*

**READINGS FOR SUNDAY...**Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18.

### SCHOOL SCHEDULE...

**Mon., Dec. 21st -Fri., Jan.1st.** ~ No School for Christmas Holiday, which includes the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st.

**Mon. Jan. 4th** ~ Classes resume

**Mon. & Tues., Jan. 18-19** ~ No School.

**Thurs., Jan. 21st** ~ NUTS Day. Sports Jersey Day. Bring \$1 to be donated to A Child's Place.

**WEEKLY MASS...**The Mass next week is on Wed., Dec. 16th at 8:15 is being prepared by 3B. All are welcome!

### MACS SIBLING APPLICATION PROCESS BEGINS...

It is that time again - time for current MACS families to complete applications for any new siblings for the 2010-2011 school year. The deadline for the Sibling application process is December 18<sup>th</sup>. Please call the Admission's Office at 704.370.3273 to request the appropriate documents for the sibling process.

### SMSN CLASSROOM ART PROJECTS...

Do you have any old furniture that you are no longer using or need to make some space in your house - would you like to donate it for the Classroom Art Projects for St. Matthews Saturday Night? It is time to start working on the art projects, and we need any type of home/furniture items such as book-cases, chairs, benches, old windows, paint stands, mirrors, stools, tables, lamps, bowls, vases, frames/canvases/corkboards, etc. If you would like to donate any items for this fundraiser, please contact Jen Giambalvo at [jgiambalvo75@gmail.com](mailto:jgiambalvo75@gmail.com).

**LOST & FOUND...**is overflowing! There is not even room to hang items. Please claim your lost items in the cafeteria. As always, make sure your child's name is on all clothing so that it can be returned or claimed.

**MAD SCIENCE...**Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your child or grandchild? Mad Science afterschool program is the perfect gift! Afterschool programs start in January, but register now and save \$10. Call Christine Charlonis if you have questions 704-904-1954.

### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN...

All volunteers at the school are required to complete the following 4 volunteer forms/workshop:

1. **Protecting God's Children** (workshop)
  2. **Volunteer Profile** (form)
  3. **Sexual Misconduct Policy**, (form)
  4. **Notification and Release** (background check form).
- If you have not already done so, please complete the above forms (on the school website) and return them to the office ASAP. **All of these must be completed and on file in the school office.** To register for a class, complete the registration process at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). When you have attended the class, please bring a copy of your certificate for us to keep on file. Check the above website for dates of scheduled workshops.

**GRANDPARENT GARDEN...**Honor your grandparents or grandchildren with an engraved brick paver in the St. Matthew Grandparent Garden. Bricks for the Grandparent garden are \$50 and can be engraved with 3 lines of text with up to 20 characters per line. The engraved bricks make a great gift for Christmas, anniversaries, sacraments, and graduation. Forms are available on the church and school website, as well as in the Narthex and at the church office. For questions, call Cheryl Stiegler at (704) 814-0225. Deadline for purchase is Dec. 31st.

### CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS...

Congratulations to Lindsey in 1D who won the November Campbell's Soup Label drawing for a St. Matthew SCRIP gift card. If you want a chance to win, put Campbell's product UPC codes in the bin outside the lunchroom with your name and class. You might win a SCRIP gift card and the PE teachers accumulate points for free PE equipment. Since 2B had the most students turn in labels in the first half of the school year they won a free NUTS day!!! There will be another free NUTS day awarded for the second half of the year so please keep turning in those labels! Congratulations to both of our winners!! If you have any questions, please contact Christine Montione at [montione@mindspring.com](mailto:montione@mindspring.com) or Karen Sheldon at [klshdon@bellsouth.net](mailto:klshdon@bellsouth.net).

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS...**in case of inclement weather. Information will be announced through the MACS office over local radio and television stations. Please listen to your radio and watch television for these announcements regarding **MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**. (A phone blast will also be attempted.) **If school should have a delayed start time (either 1 or 2 hour delay)** there will be no hot lunch. Please pack a lunch. **Before school care will begin on a 1 or 2 hour delay also** (example: if school is on a 2 hour delay, before school care will begin at 9:00am.) If school should close early, there will be no after school care.

\*\*\* PLEASE REMEMBER \*\*\*



**We do not follow the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools schedule. Always look for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools for any closings and delays. If this is not listed, we are open and on time.**





December 10, 2009

Dear Parents,

Our hallways are teeming with the joy and excitement of the holiday season. The children are anxiously awaiting their last day of school before the break next Friday. Everyone is busy preparing for Christmas. I'm sure that you are, too. The entire staff wishes to thank you for your very kind support during this hectic time of year. You have been helping in so many ways, planning and supervising Christmas parties, chaperoning on field trips, baking for the teachers, volunteering to help with crafts in the classroom, and the list goes on. Our St. Matthew parents are absolutely incredible.

I want to thank you in advance for your generosity to the families of Irwin Avenue Elementary School. Next Thursday, we plan on delivering over 800 gifts and about 50 bikes to these families in need. This service project is a wonderful learning experience for our children. They hear of others in need and want so much to help them. They see their parents, teachers, and school community reaching out in kindness and love. It is always so rewarding to observe the big smiles on our students' faces as they carry in their gifts, wrap them in the classroom, and then see them loaded onto the buses. Your generous donations to the Irwin families are greatly appreciated.

Each October, our third through fifth grade students take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). Last week, those students came home with the results of this test. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students also brought home the results of their Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). The testing is done in October to help teachers understand the students' strengths and growth areas as well as evaluate our instructional programs and make adjustments where needed. The ITBS is designed to measure student performance in reading, math, and language skills. It is norm-referenced, which means that students' scores are compared to scores of a national sample of test-takers. ITBS scores are reported in percentile ranks, and the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is the national average.

On this letter, you will find a chart that shows our school results on the ITBS in the general areas of reading, math, and language. Composite scores are obtained by averaging the scores from the component tests. The number for "*Student Norms*" means that an average student at St. Matthew did as well or better than the given percentage of other students, in the same grade, nationally who took the ITBS in the 2000 "*Norming Group*". It answers our question "How is our typical fifth (or third, or fourth) grade student doing in reading, math, or language compared to the typical fifth grader nationally?"

The same is true when comparing St. Matthew class averages to the national class average or "*School Norms*." This means that St. Matthew classes did as well or better than the given percentage of other classes in other schools, at the same grade level, nationally, which took the ITBS in the 2000 "*Norming Group*". It answers our question, "How is our fifth (or third, or fourth) grade class as a whole doing in reading, math, or language compared to other fifth grade classes across the nation?"

When I look at our scores, I am not only hoping to see high individual achievement in a particular year, but I also want to see progress from year-to-year with a class. This growth is particularly evident with our math computation scores. Math computation is an area where we have put a concerted effort in improving at St. Matthew. I have provided a chart showing the growth in math computation scores of our current fifth grade class.

The fifth grade is the only grade level that takes both the CogAT, which measures ability, and the ITBS, which measures achievement. The testing service provides feedback for me on how well the students do on the ITBS as compared to their ability levels measured on the CogAT. As a class, in all areas, the students scored higher on the ITBS than would be predicted from their ability as measured on the CogAT. This is a tremendous achievement.

In all areas, St. Matthew students scored well above the national average on the ITBS. I am very proud of the progress of our students as reflected in these scores. Teachers at every grade level are helping students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to do well on the ITBS. All of our staff, parents, and students deserve to be commended for their efforts. This is another example of how our students benefit from the strong partnership between teachers and parents.

ITBS 2009 (in percentile ranks)								
	Reading		Math		Language		Composite	
	Student Norms	School Norms	Student Norms	School Norms	Student Norms	School Norms	Student Norms	School Norms
<b>Grade 3</b>	84	97	82	94	88	99	88	99
<b>Grade 4</b>	87	99	81	93	89	99	88	99
<b>Grade 5</b>	87	99	81	93	87	99	87	99

(\* the national average is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile)

ITBS – Math Computation (in percentile ranks)						
	Oct. 2007		Oct. 2008		Oct. 2009	
	Student Norms	School Norms	Student Norms	School Norms	Student Norms	School Norms
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2010</b>	59	63	64	73	70	83

(\* the national average is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile)

I hope that among the parties and festivities our students will learn that the best gift is Jesus. We celebrate not only His birth but the way He taught us to live. It is especially evident during this season, that you, parents, demonstrate that love to your children and our staff on a daily basis. We can see it in your smiles, your acts of charity, and in the ways you make all of us feel that our ministry is important. May God bless you with time for relaxing, fun, and good conversation within your families during Christmas vacation. And may the New Year be happy and holy for all of us.

Yours in Christ,

Kevin O'Herron

# Discovery Days January 19, 2010

MACS Discovery Days offers a variety of activities for **Kindergarten through fifth graders** during the school year for most days when school is not in session. Registration is limited to the first 60 students. This registration form and your tuition must be dropped off at the MACS Education Office or received by mail by the indicated date below. DO NOT turn in registrations to your school office or to the after school program. Registrations received at the MACS Office after the indicated registration deadline will automatically be placed on a waiting list and will be accepted ONLY IF staff : child ratios allow. Late registrations will be notified promptly by phone for space availability. Because supplies, activities, and staffing are dependent upon registration numbers, we do not accept drop-ins. Your child will receive a Discovery Day T-shirt on his/her first Discovery Day. Additional T-shirts may be purchased for \$10. Please pack a bagged lunch, (2) snacks and drinks for your child. Please dress your child in comfortable play clothes and sneakers (no sandals, flip flops, etc.). Discovery Day registration forms will be found in the Thursday packets and on-line at [www.charlottediocese.org/programs](http://www.charlottediocese.org/programs). Registration will take place one month prior to each month's Discovery Days.

**Where: St. Patrick School (Cafeteria): Discovery Place/ Science Reach** – Discovery Place travels to us today and with them they will bring their huge, portable, inflatable planetarium. Students will be divided in to age appropriate groups to learn about astronomy, the sun, moon, stars, planets, light pollution and so much more. Classes will begin at 10:00 am.

**Hours:** 7:30am - 6:00pm

**Cost:** \$40 per day per child (sorry, no half day rates)

**Registration Fee: One time calendar school year fee per child** of \$40 (includes Discovery Days T-shirt)

**Questions?:** Contact Suzanne Beasley, Director of Non-School Day Enrichment Programs, at **704-370-3397** or e-mail [MACScamp@aol.com](mailto:MACScamp@aol.com)

## **PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY.**

**Incomplete forms will not be processed and will cause a delay in registration!**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_ Home# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Work# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_ Home# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Work# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_ Home# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Doctor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insurance Name and Policy # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies, Medications, Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_  
 I agree that the staff may authorize a physician to provide emergency care in the event that I cannot be contacted immediately. Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I agree that I and my child(ren) will abide by the policies and procedures found in the MACS ASEP Parent Handbook and Summer Camp Policy/Procedure Guidelines. I understand that I will be charged and pay the late fee described in these manuals at the time of late pick up.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Registration and Tuition Fees</u></p> <p>Registration Fee (per child)    \$40 _____          Tuition (per child, per day)    \$40 _____           Total _____  <u>Sorry , no refunds</u></p>	<p>Please <b>mail</b> full tuition and registration payable to:          MACS DISCOVERY DAYS          Suzanne Beasley          1123 South Church Street          Charlotte, NC 28203  <b><u>Tuition must be RECEIVED by:</u></b>  <b><u>January 8, 2010</u></b></p>
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## *5th Grade Panther Raffle!!!*

**Purpose:** To empower the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to be active participants in the raising of funds toward their end of the year class trip to Charleston.

**When:** Selling Raffle Tickets at:

❖ During Afternoon Carpool on:  
November 24<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Don't miss your chance to win a basket filled with Panther memorabilia and 4 tickets to the **January 3, 2010 home game against the New Orleans Saints at 1:00 pm** at Bank of America Stadium.

Thank you for supporting the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class project!!

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***Use Printable Raffle Tickets below or Tickets will be sold during afternoon carpool. Please make checks out to SMSN. Thanks!!***



<p align="center"><b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Panther Basket Raffle</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Child's Class _____</p> <p>Phone Number _____</p>	<p align="center"><b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Panther Basket Raffle</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Child's Class _____</p> <p>Phone Number _____</p>
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