

Ascension School Family Newsletter

Vol. 10, Issue 21

Feb. 12, 2010

"For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy."

Ecclesiastes 2:26

www.ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/ Ph: 254-5411

No School on Mon., Feb. 15
~ Presidents Day ~



Lent – Be Faithful to the Gospel

Ash Wednesday is next week marking the start of Lent. Our parish theme this year is *Be Faithful to the Gospel*. One Lenten practice popular with Ascensionites has been the little black books which serve as guides to 5 minute daily reflections. Students in Gr. 6 - 8 are getting the black books for use at school for the first time this year. Students in Gr. K-6 are getting little purple activity books for Lent. These are being sent home separate from the family envelope.

Lenten Rice Bowls

All families are encouraged to use the Rice Bowl Program this year to join in solidarity with those in need around the world. The Catholic Relief Services is the largest, most effective and most trusted Catholic relief agency in the world. CRS is very active in relief work right now in Haiti. They put out the Operation Rice Bowl materials each Lent to encourage families to support relief work around the world. A Lenten Rice Bowl is enclosed along with a calendar of daily prayers. Please consider doing this as a family activity. Money collected in the rice bowls should be brought to school or church during Holy Week.

Students will help guide some of our daily reflections during Lent with an emphasis on the Catholic Social Teaching principles. It is a tradition at Ascension that snacks are sacrificed on a school wide basis on Ash Wednesday and Fridays throughout Lent. Students are encouraged to offer up money that would otherwise be spent on snacks to the Rice Bowl collection. Students may elect to fast from snacks on any other days through Lent as well and contribute to the Rice Bowl at home or to a Rice Bowl that will be located at the Ascension Café snack table.

Ascension School Open House

Ascension PTO hosts an Open House and Learning Fair beginning in the Parish Activity Center on **Tues, Feb. 23, 7 pm** with this year's theme being literacy. We'll be having a "*Literacy Luau*" – reading activities throughout the school and displays of art, music & science projects. Power of the Pen and LEGO League teams will have displays, and much, much more.

Science Fair Judging

The 7th graders will be having a science fair on Thurs, Feb. 18. **Judges are still needed for this event** – any adults who are interested, enthusiastic about education and love talking to the students. If your job, educational background or hobbies have afforded you a modest depth of knowledge you can be a judge. Judges will talk with the students about their experiment and the scientific method. Guidelines will be given at the judges briefing at 8:30 in the judges meeting room in the Witzman Center. Judging should be completed by 11:00. The time it takes to complete the judging depends on how many judges we have for the day. If you are interested please call the school at 254-5411.

Save It! Program

The Save It! Program will be conducted at Ascension School the week of March 15-19. Ascension School has invited a professional presenter from Elizabeth's New Life Center to address the 7th and 8th grade classes regarding the topic of abstinence from drugs, alcohol, and sexual behavior as an unmarried teen. All parents of 7 & 8th grade students are asked to attend the Parent Preview Night on Feb. 23 at 8:00 in Rm 204, Gr. 8 classroom, (the same night as the Learning Fair). A consent form for students to participate in the program is enclosed.

BINGO Volunteers

We thank the following volunteers for Feb. 11 - **Craig Ramby, Tom Carusone**. The volunteers for Feb. 18 are – **Dawn Mosher, Craig Ramby**. Karen Walker is our school coordinator for BINGO volunteers. Please call her at 293-3976 to make arrangements for the one night of volunteering for BINGO that all parents of school families have been encouraged and challenged to pledge.



Scholarships to Catholic High School Offered by Parish and PTO

Ascension Parish announces that applications are available for the Fr. Witzman and PTO Scholarships. The Fr. Witzman is available to any student from Ascension Parish planning to attend a Gr. 9-12 Catholic High School next school year. Three scholarships will be awarded for \$600 apiece. If families have older students already in high school they are eligible for the Witzman Scholarship. Additional copies of the application are available from the school website under the *Forms* page.

Healthy Snacks – School Policy

A reminder that not only during Lent should we be conscious of eating healthy but throughout the school year. Here is an excerpt from our school handbook.

"Classroom Snacks & Treats

The school encourages the use of non-food rewards for student behavior. Most classrooms have either a morning or afternoon snack time. The school further encourages teachers and parents to provide healthy snacks, and to minimize sugary treats for classroom celebrations.

All treats of any type should be cleared first with the teacher. All food treats are to be individually wrapped and pre-packaged. The teacher may want to send the treat home with the children. The school staff strongly recommends that the treats be something the children can use such as pencils, erasers etc, instead of food."

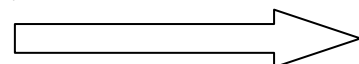
Please avoid sending donuts or cupcakes to school for group treats. The policy has listed alternatives and the School Lunch program has options for parents to surprise their children and classmates with healthy snacks.

School Cafeteria Offers Birthday Treat Options

The school lunch program may be contacted about providing birthday treats at a reasonable cost, which will be delivered to the child's homeroom or at lunch. One week's advanced notice is required. Please call before 10:30am or after 12:30pm. Healthy options are listed below with pricing:

- Cheese individual wrapped & 2 pkgs. crackers \$.60/serving
- Fresh fruit variety - oranges, apples, grapes \$.50/serving
- Veggie Tray - serves 20-22 students - \$16.00
- Fruit Tray - serves 25 students - \$25.00 (Seasonal)
- Super Donuts (fortified, enriched) - \$.40 per serving
- Soft Pretzels - 1 oz. - \$.30 each
- Apple Cinnamon Bread - \$.50 each

(Over please...)



Power of the Pen

The Power of the Pen program is comprised of seventh- and eighth-grade students who enjoy writing creative stories and sharing them with their friends. After an arduous process, the following members were chosen to represent Ascension School's "Knight Writers" on Saturday, Feb. 13th, at Mad River Middle School in the District Power of the Pen competition: Gr.8: **Sarah Barbaro, Nick Clarkson, Jake Cridge, Morgan Nash, Jacob Ollier & Anna Schlegel**, alternates are **Mattie Carter and Margaret Sarfino**. Gr. 7: **Paul Bete, Julia Farrell, Patrick Hemmert, Claudia McAllister, Anthony Pellegrino, and Stephanie Ryan**; alternates are **Tori Blevins, Patrick Shiner and Hannah Walsh**.



We wish the students calm, creative minds, and confident, calm pens so that they may write to their full potential.

Reminder to POP team members: Please remember to bring a signed permission to publish form! And wear your team shirts.

Registration for 2010-11 Continues...

Thank you to the parents who have returned registration and tuition commitment forms. After Mon. Feb. 15 registration opens up to parish members. If families are not up to date on tuition payments please go ahead and turn in your registration paperwork, however, know that your registration is not completed until tuition is up to date.

Please be careful to read all the materials regarding tuition. Directions for setting up a FACTS agreement online will be sent home in the weeks ahead.

Other tips and reminders about registration:

- *Don't forget to attach the \$60 registration fee to your school registration forms.*
- *Remember to check all the tuition acceptance statement that applies to your family.*
- *Remember to select a payment plan.*
- *We encourage families to request a Tuition Assistance Application if they anticipate need. Any families requesting a form or who may have received tuition assistance this year will be sent a form or it may be accessed online through the school web site.*

Copies of the Registration & Tuition Form will be sent home in the upcoming weeks.

Food Pantry Collection Next Weekend

Many families continue to visit the Food Pantry for assistance during these cold winter months. Please help us support your neighbors in need by contributing nonperishable food items to our monthly Food Pantry collection next weekend, Feb, 20/21. Special needs this month include canned pork & beans, cereal, baking mixes, boxed "helpers," pudding and Jell-O. If you miss this month's collection, there are always marked boxes for the Food Pantry in the Brides' Room, located just off the Narthex. Thank you!

Green-Oak Preschool Open House

Green-Oak Preschool is having an Open House on Sat. Mar 6 from 1-3 PM. "The Voyageur Puppets" will perform. All are invited to come tour the facility and join in the festivities for free. After the puppet show, we begin registration for 3, 4, 5 year olds for fall classes. We have been a preschool for over 50 years. We offer a large fenced-in playground, music classes, computers, excellent curriculum appropriate for the age group along with field trips and special guests throughout the year. Green-Oak is located at the Greenmont-Oak Park Community Church, 1921 Woodman Dr. For more information: call Ruth at 252-7840 and check out our website at www.greenoakpreschool.com.

Prayers for Parents...

This past week in our morning prayers we have kept the following parents in our prayer intentions:

**Mark Lawson, Karen Lawson
Stefanie Little
Mike & Julie Malesko
Julie Papp, Nickolai Manning
Doug & Michelle Massie
Susan McAllister, Fred Peterson**

**Robert & Melissa Liput
Tim & Sheri Magoto
Mike & Lori Manfreda
Andrew & Melissa Manning
Kenneth & Kelly Maxwell
Jeremy & Lisa McDaniel**

Catholic Telegraph

If any parish families are interested in being added to the Catholic Telegraph subscription list at no charge (who are not already receiving the Telegraph), please send your name in to the school office and we will pass your name on.



TechFest

TechFest 2010

TechFest is a family oriented career exploration festival focused on Mathematics, Science, Engineering & Technology, on Sat, Feb 13, 10 am – 6 pm, and Sun, 11 am – 5 pm at the David Ponitz Center (Bldg 12) on the Sinclair Community College campus in Dayton.

TechFest has free programs, free parking, free participation for Youth K-12, their families and teachers (the focus is on Gr. 4-9). TechFest is a two day event with the purpose of encouraging youth to study math and science through more than 60 hands-on, interactive student activities. A flyer is enclosed. For additional information, map to the event and parking, daily schedules, lists & times of teacher workshops, student attractions, etc. please refer to the website:

<http://www.ascd Dayton.org/TechFest/>

Charitable Mileage

We thank the many Parents who have performed regular volunteer service to Ascension School. As families are preparing taxes this time of year they may want to consider taking a charitable mileage deduction. The federal mileage rate for charity work is 14 cents per mile. For a volunteer who travels 5 miles each way to volunteer at school twice a week during the school year the math is: 20 miles per week x .14 x 36 weeks in a year = \$100.80 that may become a charity deduction on your taxes.

Calendar Update

Feb. 12	F	Mass, 9am Common Sense Parenting (4), WC 121, 6:30-8:30pm
14	S	Welcome Coffee & Donuts after Masses
15	M	No School, President's Day
16	TU	Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm St. Remy Class/Cohort Day PTO Skating Party, Skateworld 6-8pm
17	W	Ash Wednesday Mass, Church, 9:00 IAT Mtg., Rm106, 3-4pm Staff Mtg., Principal, POB4, 3:30-5pm
18	TH	Gr. 7 Science Fair, WC 118, 8:30am-2:15pm
19	F	Common Sense Parenting (5), WC 121, 6:30-8:30pm

Enclosures

Save It! Parent Consent
Lenten Rice Bowl & Calendar (inside)
EKRC Baseball Flyer

Return Date

Mon. March 1
None
See details

Quotation

"Let nothing dim the light that shines from within."

Maya Angelou

Checked your student's progress lately on Option C?

<http://www.optionc.com/>

The Ascension School code is 8349