

2011 2012



**ST. STEPHEN MARTYR
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
Shaping Spirits and Minds



FAMILY FOCUS December 7, 2011

St. Stephen
Martyr School
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Dear Families,

It is time for the "Merry Christmases" to begin. The School board celebrated our great report from the SACS accreditation team. Our Kindergarten and 1st graders are practicing for their Christmas program. Mr. Wheeler has the Children's Handbell Choir playing all over town. They played for the 'everyday' Church goes last week after the 8:00 am Mass. They are playing at Audubon Elementary School and Von Maur this Friday and they are playing for all the students during lunch time next week. I will be attending an Advent Retreat with other Principals so please keep me in your prayers. I know I need them. Our PTO Santa Shop will be open Thursday, December 8th. That is always a great time. Our last day of school will be Friday, December 16th at 1:00 pm.

What I love is how people contact me to share the spirit with others during this time of year. There is a person and a young lady who brought me cash to do as I see fit to help others. They were helped once and are now paying it forward. Another family wanted to help someone else in need. The calls keep coming. This is one of the most giving communities I have ever been involved with. That always keeps me grounded about the true meaning of Christmas.

Mrs. Margaret Bowen



December PeaceBuilder's Theme
Giving to Others: Acts of Service

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
~William James

Weekly Calendar

Wed, 12/7

Parent Lunches
PreK3 (10:50 am)
PreK4 (11:15 am)



RR Dress Down (\$2,\$5)

Thurs, 12/8

Santa Shop
Handbell Choir to
Kosair Children's Hospital



Fri, 12/9

**Handbell Choir to
Audubon & Oxmoor**



Sat, 12/10

Catholic High School
Placement Test

Cookies & Milk with Santa
11-2 pm, SSAC



Thurs, 12/15

Christmas Program
Grades K & 1
1:45 pm, Marteen Room

Fri, 12/16

1 pm dismissal



PTO Scrip GC Program

Last Chance!!

Monday, December 12th is the last day to place orders through the Scrip program!! Call Laura Kelty with questions at 449-1013.

Don't forget...

The SSM Santa Shop is tomorrow, 12/8. Your children will have an opportunity to shop for parents, friends, and even themselves. Items generally range from as little as a quarter up to approximately \$20. What they can spend is up to you. We will have Santa's helpers to help the little ones shop.



Mark your calendars for Cookies and Milk with Santa

Saturday, 12/10
SSAC
11:00 am—2:00 pm



Please send all Family Focus news items to Wendy Gerhard at wgerhard@ssmartyr.org by Tuesday at noon!!





KUDOS KORNER



Last week the new afternoon crossing guard came to school to introduce herself. She had many compliments about our students. She mentioned how courteous the kids were to her. She especially complimented the patrol guards – how nice they were to her and to the students. This sure makes us feel good when we hear these nice things about our students!!

Thank you to the Student Council for hosting Christmas Carolers on Tuesday! Their spirited rendition of Christmas classics resounded through the hallway with joy!



SSM ONLINE

www.ssmartyr.org



*Daily School Bulletin, Family Focus
Parish information & forms
Athletic information & forms
Market Day order forms
Lunch Menu, School Handbook
PTO/SAC Board Information*

Please check the website every day! If you are having trouble viewing or finding online items, please call Wendy at 635-7141.

TOY BOWL SPIRIT WEAR

The deadline for ordering Toy Bowl Championship spirit wear is Friday, December 9. T-shirts are \$10 and hoodies are \$24 for YL to AXL. Add \$2 to each for XXL and 3XL. Please send orders with your name and child's name to nordo31@gmail.com or text/call Jenny Nord Martin at 807-8689.

Payment will be collected when shirts/hoodies are received.

Attention 8th Grade Parents

The form for graduation robes is due by Friday, December 9th. Please return this form with payment if you are ordering a robe for your child, and marked appropriately if you do not need a graduation robe!



Also today eighth graders will have a letter regarding the Eighth Grade Trip to Washington, D.C. This letter has information about the fundraisers already held and another coming in January. Students for whom we have received pledges for the Walk-A-Thon will have an envelope with the names and addresses of their Walk-A-Thon donors so that they can start sending thank you notes. As we receive more donations, we will notify the students for the purpose of thank you notes.



Pull Tab Collection

The Student Council is sponsoring a pull tab collection in January this year. Please bring your pull tabs between January 10th and 20th. There will be a box in the Marteen Room where students can leave their tabs.



“What Parents Should Know about Reading Development” Workshop

Langsford Center
2520 Bardstown Rd.
473-7000 x114

December 8
4:30-5:30 pm
FREE!



TRYOUTS FOR THE 4TH-5TH GRADE QUICK RECALL TEAM WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH FROM 2:20-2:50 IN THE ART ROOM. YOU HAVE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PRACTICE AND GAMES ON MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL. ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE QUICK RECALL TEAM, PLEASE SIGN UP WITH MRS. BROOKS ONE DAY THIS WEEK. SEE YOU ON MONDAY.
MRS. CAROLYN JOHNSON-BROOKS

Joey's Story

This is what generosity looks like!!!



Pictured above: Joey Sullivan and Michael Hardy, both SSM 8th graders. To the right: Joey helps load the boxes headed for the Target House.

Several months ago, Joey Sullivan, an SSM student battling medulloblastoma brain cancer, started a project to complete his confirmation requirements. The project caught the eye of WAVE3 news anchor, Dawne Gee, and following a story that aired recently, the community showed up in so many ways to make his project an overwhelming success!!

Because of Joey's efforts, a "truck full" of hope and love has left the Bluegrass state headed for the Target House in Memphis, TN. The Target House is a 'home away from home' where families can stay while receiving treatment at St. Jude's Hospital.

Congratulations to Joey and his friends and family for filling a truck with items needed at the Target House in Memphis.



If you haven't already made your plans for New Year's Eve, consider celebrating at an event that will benefit Joey Sullivan as he continues his battle with brain cancer.

2011 New Year's Eve Bash, Saturday, 12/31 from 7 pm to 1 am
Restaurant at the Goss Avenue Antique Mall, 946 Goss Avenue

*Music *Dancing *Raffles *Door Prizes

For ticket information call Julia or Jesse Hardy (634-3580), Tom Ruxer (494-2510), or Kenny Sullivan (523-3935)



Important note for girls grades 3-8!!!

All volleyball uniforms must be turned in to Karen Cawthon NO LATER THAN Wednesday, 12/14. Please make sure your name is included.

Thank you!

