



St. Gabriel Consolidated School

# PTO Pawprints

Issue 3 2005/2006  
December  
St. Gabriel Consolidated School



## The Village of Glendale Proclaims "Joe Epplen Day"

November 17, 2005, was designated Principal Joe Epplen Day in the Village of Glendale. Mr. Epplen is in his 6<sup>th</sup> year as principal of St. Gabriel Consolidated School. Glendale's Vice-Mayor Joe Hubbard surprised Mr. Epplen with the presentation of the proclamation during a visit to our school. St. Gabriel students had prepared cards and decorated the school with their artwork as a special surprise for Mr. Epplen. They also enjoyed donut holes—symbolizing they like Mr. Epplen a 'whole' lot!

Mr. Epplen is one of only a handful of principals whose school is actually located within a National Historic Landmark! There are fewer than 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the U.S. (so designated for possessing exceptional value or quality in illustrating the heritage of the United States), and Glendale is one of only two in Ohio in which people actually live. Glendale was incorporated in 1855 as the first railroad community in the U.S. It was built for railroad commuters who worked in Cincinnati and preferred to live out in the country.

Glendale is also the first community to be built with curving, meandering streets. Heretofore, every community in the U.S. was laid out in a grid system. One of the first things built in Glendale was the original St. Gabriel School, built in 1867, 11 years after the parish was founded. It is the oldest school in Glendale, and one of the oldest buildings in the village. Since any inappropriate alteration of existing structures jeopardizes Glendale's National Historic Landmark designation, the school has had the extra duty to upkeep and respect the building within strict parameters, which it has done admirably.

Congratulations for your much deserved honor, Mr. Epplen!

## Cougars' Night Out Mardi Gras Style — January 28, 2006 at St. Max Parish Center



*Mark your calendars for the 3rd annual Cougars' Night Out (CNO)! This year's CNO will have a Mardi Gras theme with a special tribute to the people of the Gulf area. CNO is St. Gabriel's most important fundraiser and a wonderful night of food, fellowship and fun for our parents and their adult guests! The event, running from 7 pm to midnight, includes food and drink, basket raffle, tuition raffle, poker, black jack, games of chance and a silent auction. Our baskets and silent auctions items include tickets to sporting events, gift certificates to your favorite restaurants, sports memorabilia, jewelry, vacations, services and more. Your invitations will be in an upcoming Thursday envelope with a cost of \$45 per couple and \$25 per single presale or \$55 per couple and \$30 per person at the door. We are still accepting donations for the silent auction. Please call Nancy Young (755-5440) or Michelle Danhoff (755-2408) for more information. If you are interested in volunteering for CNO in areas such as food, beverages, games, decorations or general operations, please contact Karin Zuber at 779-2945 or Cheryl Sargero at 942-2745. This is a FUN night—don't miss it!*

## **A note from Mr. Epplen ...**

We will soon be heavily into recruiting for next year's classes. We typically tie in our recruitment efforts with Catholic Schools Week.

When we review the past six or seven years, our enrollment has been in the low 400's; enrollment between 410 and 420 student enrollment numbers is very workable in terms of our facilities. We are very appreciative of your positive conversations with neighbors, relatives and friends about the valuable lessons taught at St. Gabriel Consolidated School. We trust you will continue to foster those conversations as we approach our registrations for the coming year.

Please be on the lookout for opportunities to promote our school in your neighborhood, parish and workplace. St. Gabriel Consolidated School is a Quality Learning Place thanks to your efforts, dedication and desire to always be forward-thinking in your desire for excellence of instruction for your children.

We appreciate your support in the many projects we undertake to promote our identity as Catholics as we continue to instill in children the notion to love and serve the Lord.

God Bless You during this blessed season and always.



## **State-Of-The-PTO Address**



If you are feeling the holiday crush, know that being frantically busy during this season happens to the PTO too! The PTO has completed a wildly successful M&M Sale, and now it's Cougars' Night Out (CNO) and Catholic Schools' Week (CSW)! CNO will once again kick off CSW and Aimee Davis is working hard to create another magical week of CSW activities. Watch your Thursday envelope for information and opportunities for both CNO and CSW. Both events need volunteers and there are many ways to assist!

As we have said, the goal of this year's Board is to create a consistent, accurate and easy-to-use budget system for the SGCS PTO. Since September, we have examined the PTO's historical financial numbers going back to 2001, re-audited this year's budget and have migrated all financial data onto a new system called Quick Books. The SGCS PTO will now use one financial tracking system--a system that will make it simple to compare budgets and actual figures monthly and annually. Because Quick Books offers a higher level of precision than previous systems, we are gathering additional data, such as typical expenses and revenue, from all PTO chairpersons. Although this data may seem hard to collect, it will provide a level of detail the PTO currently doesn't have and make future budgets much easier and more accurate than ever before. It also helps successive committee chairpersons better understand their financial positions. The Board is working to ensure our system going forward provides a consistent and accurate picture of where our hard-earned PTO dollars go, and that is what matters!

Please thank Coreen and Wendell Brown for stepping up to lead these important changes. The Browns have spent an incredible amount of time working on the new computer system. There is no sufficient way I can think of to adequately thank them for converting our data from all the various platforms to Quick Books. They will also be serving as our advisors while we prepare our proposed budgets and continue going forward. As if that's not impressive enough, Coreen and Wendell recently launched a similar process for the SGCS Cub Scouts. We will be forever grateful for their assistance, and more importantly, their willingness to step into the "hornets' nest" in our time of need!

Wishing you a happy, healthy, safe holiday season. Peace and Joy to you all!

-- *Melinda Yonchak, PTO President*

## **SCRIP DEADLINE!!!**

**December 9 is the last day to order Scrip before the Christmas holidays. Orders will come home in the Thursday envelope on December 15. Don't miss out on these awesome gift certificates to use or give as gifts!**

New retailers are added to the Scrip program on a weekly basis. Check out the Scrip website at: [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com). Click on "What's New" for the changes and additions. A complete list of retailers is also available there. If you don't have a Scrip form, you can find one on our school website at [www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org) or at school next to the PTO bulletin board. Sales of Kroger gift cards this year have been great! We are almost earning \$200 monthly thanks to your support. Thank you! --Ann Albers



Now that the holiday season is upon us, it is a great time to be thankful for the wonderful gift of our Catholic School –St. Gabriel Consolidated School. Catholic Schools provide so much growth and opportunity for our children both academically and spiritually. The theme this year is “Character, Compassion, Values”- which is what our children experience every day at SGCS! January 31-February 4, 2006 is Catholic Schools Week, when we formally recognize and give thanks for the priceless gift of a Catholic education for our children. There are many ways to volunteer your time and or talent to this wonderful week of events.

Our committee is hard at work and information on our week’s activities will be coming home via the Thursday envelope. Mark your calendars NOW for two very special events taking place during CSW: our annual Open House for current and prospective students and their families on Wednesday, February 1 from 7 to 8:30 pm, and our all school mass on Thursday, February 2 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish at approximately 9:30 am.

We still have volunteer jobs large and small. Please contact Aimee Davis, Catholic Schools Chairperson at 779-3328 or [aiman-doug@cinci.rr.com](mailto:aiman-doug@cinci.rr.com) if you are interested in helping in ANY way!

**BARTENDERS NEEDED! We need two professional bartenders to work from 7 to 11 pm at Cougars’ Night Out. This is a paid job. We need professionals who have worked at a bar, restaurant or catering company. PLEASE contact Melinda Yonchak at 887-6117 if you can help or need more details.**

## Adopt-A-Book Program Update

Q: How many Books have been adopted by SGCS Students, Teachers, and Staff this year?

A: 85. Just think, our children have 85 additional books in our SGCS library! Thanks to everyone who has participated in this program and to those who plan to participate. As our library grows, our children have more books from which to choose. It only takes that one book, or one favorite author, to spark that love of reading in our child. This love of reading will continue to provide enjoyment and knowledge for a lifetime. Please continue, or consider, supporting this wonderful program sponsored by our very own SGCS PTO. - Maureen Bucher

## What are our Scouts up to?

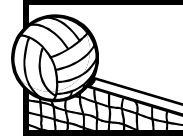


- *Daisy Scout Troop #945 is off to a great start with 11 kindergartners. We are learning the Girl Scout laws and getting to know one another. We have started earning petals and are working on songs for caroling at Cottingham Nursing Home. At the end of the year we will have a beautiful flower to show for our efforts. - Sally Kolks*
- *1st grade troop 1831 - The girls took a tour of Donato's Pizza and got to make their own pizza. Lots of smiley faces with pepperoni eyes were to be had by all! - Lana Schneider, Teri Dean, Angela Bill*
- *2nd grade Brownie Troop 8881 had a busy Fall. They marched in the Olde West Chester Christmas Walk Parade, are attending the Nutcracker ballet and will sing Christmas carols at Chesterwood Village. - Kim Ceccoli, Eileen Hoffman*
- *4th grade troop 6840 - Wendy White helped us earn our "Jeweler" badge by showing us how to make some beautiful Christmas jewelry. Thanks to Wendy, who runs a home-based jewelry business, for donating her time and materials to help the girls - many of us moms are hoping to find some of those treats under the Christmas tree! -Maria Laib, Teri Dean, Laura Ernestes, Teresa Kraimer*

**Merry Christmas from PTO!**



## **Boosters are Busy!**



**Basketball and volleyball practices are now underway can you believe it's already time to think ahead to registration for spring sports!? Registration for Girls Softball and Boys Basketball runs January 2 to January 16. Forms are available on the SGCS web page under: Activities/Boosters. The next Booster meeting is January 30, 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Hall. Mark your calendars and get involved with your CYO sports organization!**

## **BOXTOPS For Education**

*Don't forget to save those Boxtops from General Mills products and send them in to school! You might find it of interest to know that we are among the top 10% of schools in the nation in terms of number of Box-Tops collected, and we are not a very big school!*

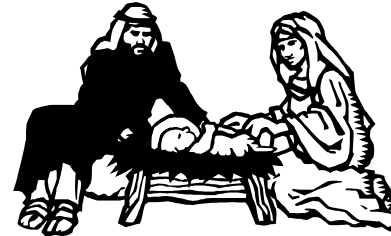
*If you do any online shopping, we invite you to visit your favorite online merchant FROM the Boxtops website at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). BoxTops will donate between 3 and 12% of your purchase price back to St. Gabriel Consolidated School. We also want to thank the BoxTops VISA Card users whose purchases donated over \$100 to SGCS since August.*

*THANKS for your support!*

***NOT JUST BOXTOPS** - We recently put a collection box at St. Max and St. Gabriel parishes for BoxTops, Tyson and Campbell labels, and used printer cartridges. An article in the bulletins has started to pull in donations. We would like to put a similar collection box at each of our other parishes - if this is something you would be willing to coordinate at your parish please contact Teri Dean at [TTrimDean@aol.com](mailto:TTrimDean@aol.com).*

*— Teri Dean*

**MARK IT: NEXT PTO MEETING IS JANUARY 11 AT 7 PM IN ST. MARY'S HALL. THERE WILL BE NO GUEST SPEAKERS; WE WILL FOCUS ON THE BUDGET, CNO AND CSW. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE AND GET INVOLVED!**



## **Community Relations**

*Have you seen ALL the newspaper coverage about the wonderful things happening in our little corner of Glendale? Thanks to everyone who has been so helpful with sending story ideas, taking photos, writing stories and more. Thanks especially to Mrs. Huth, Mrs. Kresky and Miss Archibald for taking time to complete the survey which resulted in them being featured in "Who's Teaching Our Kids?" in the Pulse Journal. This gives us GREAT exposure to prospective West Chester/Liberty Township families! Mrs. Bea has also completed the form and should be appearing soon. Keep your SGCS stories coming!*

*- Laura Hendy and Nancy Young*

## **St. Gabriel 2005/2006 PTO Board**

- **President:** Melinda Yonchak  
phone: 887-6117/e-mail: myonchak@fuse.net
- **Vice President:** Ann Everly  
phone: 759-5451/e-mail: aeverly@cinci.rr.com
- **Secretary:** Patty Klaus  
phone: 772-8789/e-mail: pat.klaus@aecmagnetics.com
- **Treasurer:** Larry White  
phone: 851-4885/e-mail wenlar1@fuse.net

**Remaining 2005/2006 PTO Meeting Dates: January 11, May 10**  
**Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in St. Mary's Hall**