



From Mr. Epplen, SGCS Principal

Ask me a question about St. Gabriel Consolidated School. As we begin this new school year we witness the second year of our 8th grade Algebra program. The first year of our K-8 Spanish program, the new playground and the installation of nine new Smart Boards to go along with the four installed this past December.

Ask me a question about St. Gabriel Consolidated School. We have maintained our total enrollment year after year

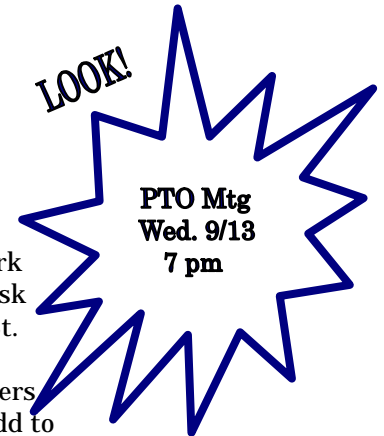
and have welcomed forty-five new families to our school.

Ask me a question about St. Gabriel Consolidated School. With one exception, our teaching staff remained the same as last year adding another year of stability to an already stable staff.

Ask me a question about St. Gabriel Consolidated School. 39 of our 43 graduates from the class of 2006 attend Catholic High Schools.

Why do I share this good news with you?

When people in your neighborhood or at work or at sporting events ask you a question about St. Gabriel Consolidated School, you have answers to share that should add to your already vast knowledge about the successes of our students and school. Please continue to be the positive voice of our school by emphasizing the many positive things that happen here every day.



- *SGCS students are divided into Angels and Saints. Each group attends mass on alternate Thursday mornings at 8:20. You are invited! See SGCS Web site for schedule.*
- *Library books are due Fridays. Please help your child remember.*

PTO President Welcomes Another Terrific Year!

I am so excited about the wonderful things that will be happening this year. Thanks to many dedicated volunteers, we are on our way to having a great 2006-2007! We are all very blessed to be part of the Saint Gabriel Consolidated School Family. Our children are taught by teachers committed to their personal, intellectual, and spiritual growth; our school is led by a capable and committed staff; and the parents of Saint Gabriel Consolidated

School are the most involved and caring group of people I know. Why? **Because they're our kids.** This seems to be at the heart of what motivates each and every one of us to accomplish great things at SGCS. I can't think of a more valuable theme to keep in mind as we work together this year.

Because they're our kids, the PTO is dedicated to supporting the school, its staff, teachers, students, and parents through effective enrichment

programming and financial support. We want to help create an environment that builds support, commitment, enthusiasm, and community. Our programs and activities will be designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all. We will be effective communicators and partners with everyone connected to PTO and will work hard to provide significant financial resources to our school and teachers.

(cont'd on back page)

- *Join PTO! Membership cost \$10. You get voting rights & a school directory.*
- *Volunteers, please don't forget, if you can't make your shift, kindly get a substitute.*
- *Thank you for choosing SGCS!*



M&M Sale Is SGCS's Sweetest Fundraiser!

One of our school's two major fundraisers* is underway: the M&M sale! The sale started August 31 and ends on Friday, Sept 15. Our goal is to raise \$12,000. Committee co-chair Amy Zimmerman says there are new incentives this year. "Any student who sells one box (36 bags) of M&Ms will receive an SGCS Spirit Foam Finger. Students in grades K-5 who sell a

minimum of four boxes will be awarded a pizza lunch at school. And students in grades 6-8 who sell a minimum of four boxes will be awarded a limo lunch, and they'll be picked up from school in a limo and taken out to lunch." Amy says cash prizes will be awarded for the top three sellers in the school: \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third

place. In addition, all students will be awarded the ever-popular OUT OF UNIFORM day for their hard work with the sale! Amy also said to mark Friday, September 15, on your calendar. All money must be turned in by that date to be eligible for the incentive prizes. Please contact Amy, or co-chairs Debbie Tunnacliffe or Laura Ernstes if you have questions.



Our building originally consisted of just the middle section, dedicated in 1927. Learn more at www.stgabeschool.org

Cougars Night Out: A Primer

Helpful, handy and here before your very eyes, this primer explains some of our Cougars Night Out lexicon to new families, old families, and those arm-twisted friends you are encouraging to come. Remember, CNO is Saturday, November 4!
Adults: Only.
All American: This year's theme. Hint: expect a lot of red, white and blue.

Auction, Silent: A wonderful variety of fantastic items on display. Written bid sheets in front of each item record your bid; top bid wins! (Christmas is coming...!)
Bar: Yes.
Basket Raffle: Browse dozens of baskets, artfully and cleverly comprised of goodies in a theme. Buy tickets, drop your tickets in the little holder by the basket(s)

you want, and see if your name is pulled!
Big Six: A fun, big wheel you spin to win money.
Card games: A good reason to bring cash.
Cash: Bring some. Lots of fun things to buy and games to play!
Christmas shopping: Do it here!
Cost: \$45/couple; \$25 single. \$55/\$35 at the door.
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There are fewer than 60 days until Cougars Night Out!

Birthday Books Are Back!

As Doctor Seuss writes: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
To Maureen Bucher, this means that when our children read, the whole world is open to them. Perhaps that is why she volunteers her time at SGCS heading up the Adopt-A-Book program.

"The SGCS PTO has put in place a wonderful program that provides an opportunity for each child to Adopt-A-Book during their birthday month, or half-birthday month for children with summer birthdays" said Maureen. "It's very easy for you, and fun for the kids!" Adopt-A-Book works like this: Your child will bring home a Birthday Book card. You

fill out the card, and send the card and a book donation, back to school. Once we receive your card, your child will be called to choose from the Birthday Book Cart a brand-new book that will be donated to our very own SGCS library. The child's name is written in the book and he or she gets to read it first! Please support this wonderful program!

Scouting Is Strong at SGCS

Consider joining the scouting community at St. Gabriel Consolidated School! "Scouting has been strong at our school," said Coreen Brown, Cub Scout committee chair. "It is a fun learning experience that I hope new families will consider." And do not miss the Boy Scouts' yummy popcorn sale, which begins this month. Coreen also said that Cub Scout Pack 260

welcomes two new assistant Cubmasters this year, Ron Ravancho and Guy Bullock. Boys in grades 1-5 interested in joining Cub Scouts at SGCS should contact Coreen, or any of our Leaders listed on the School Website, for more information.

Girl Scouts has seven active Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troops at SGCS. They are busy planning a year of field

trips, badge work, service projects, crafts and fun. They will be forming a Daisy troop with kindergarten girls in the next few weeks. The annual cookie sale takes place in early January so start thinking about your favorite kind! If you need any information about Girl Scouting please contact Kathy Uetrecht at 671-1096 or Uetrechtat@aol.com

Information, Please!

PTO president Ann Everly is on a mission to make sure you as a parent have all the support you need in settling your child into school this year. "I hope PTO can make everyone feel welcome, informed and glad they chose to send their children to SGCS," said Ann. To help welcome parents and answer questions, Ann and the PTO will be manning the PTO

Answer Station each Friday outside of the cafeteria during morning drop-off. "If anyone wants to stop by, say hello, ask a question or air a complaint, one of us will be here," said Ann. Another source of information is our school Web site. "We try very hard to offer complete and accurate information," said Laura Hendy, Webmaster for www.stgabeschool.org

"We appreciate your feedback, also. It lets us know what works and what doesn't." PTO secretary Pat Klaus will send you e-mail reminders about important PTO dates, info, lunch and volunteer schedules. "Sign up on our Web site, or send an e-mail to reminders@stgabeschool.org," she said. "We also take your questions via e-mail at that address."

"I hope PTO can make everyone feel welcome, informed and glad they chose SGCS.

-PTO President Ann Everly

Help Us Keep Financially Fit!

The PTO budget is in fantastic shape thanks to a recently completed, yearlong organization plan. "We moved all of PTO's various financial information into one safe, easy-to-use software program to better keep track of finances," said Coreen Brown, PTO treasurer and "fiscal fitness" guru. "We had many different forms of financial

information, but now we can easily access any financial information quickly and accurately." Coreen asks that you help keep PTO's finances in shape by submitting expenses within 30 days and using the convenient Check Request Form to request reimbursement from PTO. The forms are on the Web site, and also by the PTO bulletin board on the table beside

the Flag Door. Simply fill out the form, attach any receipts you have and send it back in to school to Coreen's attention. "I will see to it that your check is issued as soon as possible," said Coreen. "It is my goal to get the approvals, post the expense and cut the check in less than two weeks, if possible."

*Need Forms?
Check Request, Booster
and other forms, are
available on our
SGCS Web site:
www.stgabeschool.org*

PTO Encourages You To SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!



"The more you shop, the more you earn!"

Did you know you can earn money for SGCS every time you shop at Meijer? "The more you shop, the more you earn," said Scrip chairperson Melinda Yonchak, who explained how it works: "Carry your Meijer Guest Card on your key ring or in your wallet. Pay for your purchases any way you choose—cash, check or charge. Your designated organization—hopefully SGCS PTO-- receives credit for almost all of your Meijer purchases!" Melinda said groceries, toys, home fashions, jewelry—more than 150,000 products—count toward rewards. Signing up is free. Just visit the Meijer Web site www.meijer.com/rewards and designate SGCS as the organization that is

to receive your rewards. Our school code is **664900**. If you already have a Meijer Guest Card, simply go to the Meijer Web site and click on "Update my account," then "Take me to my community rewards." Add SGCS to your rewards list, and start earning money for our school! If you need more info, e-mail reminders@stgabeppto.org. While we are on the subject of shopping, Melinda Yonchak reminds us that Scrip is in full swing again this year. A significant fundraiser for PTO, Scrip is "substitute money", and looks and functions just like gift cards and certificates. Our program allows SGCS families and friends to purchase scrip

for everyday expenses like food, clothing, and entertainment; while earning a percentage of each dollar of scrip purchased back in revenue. "The reason scrip is effective is simple," Melinda explained. "Families generate revenue for our school through purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts; even gasoline can be purchased with scrip. An organization of 150 families easily spends between one and two million dollars per year on food, clothing and other essentials, and we stand to earn money from these purchases if they are made through Scrip." Please contact Melinda for more info.

Market Day: Delicious Food To Our Door!



*Market Day
is on the Web!*
www.marketday.com

Have you heard about Market Day? Even if you have, please read on...it is better than ever! If you're not familiar with Market Day, it's a fantastic program that delivers delicious, restaurant-quality food that you select and pre-order directly to our school. Plus, SGCS benefits from each sale. It is a significant fundraiser for us! There are two easy ways to order, the traditional way and on the Internet. The traditional way to order

is through school. To order this way, choose your selections from the catalog we sent home in the Thursday envelope, send in your order form and money and you're set. If you can't find your catalog, go online to www.marketday.com to see what's offered. You may also order, and pay, online. To order electronically, simply go to the Market Day Web site, www.marketday.com, and follow the simple instructions. They make it very easy, even

arranging the products in online "aisles" for you to browse. Your order will be sent to the school on Wednesday, as usual, with all of the traditional orders. Just please be sure to pick up your order no later than 5:00 p.m., because we have no cold storage. Even if you do not plan to order, take a moment to visit the Market Day Web site. They have a terrific recipe file to spark meal and menu ideas. Please e-mail reminders@stgabeppto.org for more info!

Trash Talk at SGCS

Your trash may be treasure to PTO! SGCS is once again raising money participating in the Tyson Project A+ program. Tyson pays us 24-cents for every Tyson Project A+ label we send in. "The next time you peel open a bag of Tyson Chicken Nuggets, cut out the A+ logo and send it in to school!" said Nancy Schmitt, our Tyson Project A+ chairperson. "That logo

is as good as cash for us!" Please call Nancy at 777-0562 for more info. And trashbound General Mills box tops? Teri Dean says save 'em from the trash and convert them to cash! "We participate in BoxTops for Education," said Teri. "Collect the 'BoxTops' symbols on General Mills products, put them in a separate envelope or baggie, and send them in to the school office via

your Thursday envelope. I send them in, and we get cash in return." Teri added that Kroger, Meijer, and other retailers often hand out Bonus Boxtops at the register, so please ask! One school earned \$21,000 last year! Teri said General Mills also rewards our school in two other ways as part of the BoxTops program: if you do any

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For more information about the Tyson Project A+ project, visit www.tyson.com

Get To Know PTO President Ann Everly

I have lived in Cincinnati my entire life, and didn't stray far when I left for college, attending Northern Kentucky University and graduating magna cum laude with Marketing and Economics degrees. I am Director of Information Systems for Convergys' Customer Intelligence Services division. I earned my Master's degree in May and we had a big party! My husband, Scott, and I

have two children at SGCS (Morgan-4H and Nicholas-2M) and life is busy. Our most recent family activity has been playing golf. Both kids are naturals, so they will soon be giving me lessons! So far, I have enjoyed driving the cart the best, but maybe when I get the hang of putting that will change. I am a strong multi-tasker, but am horrible at giving directions. If you are lost and I am the

only person around, you are better off finding your own way back! My favorite places to volunteer at SGCS are in the classroom or in the computer room. Today, my favorite color is blue, but I seem to change it a lot. My favorite thing about the school is how personable everyone is ... I have never walked through the halls at SGCS without a teacher, staff member, or student saying hello to me!

Get To Know PTO Vice-president Maria Laib

I have three children at SGCS: Josie is in seventh grade, Jenna is in fifth, and Ryan is in second. We have been a part of the school since Josie started Kindergarten here. My favorite way to help at school has been in the cafeteria. I also really enjoy helping to set up the Scholastic Book Fair, because I love books and it gives me a chance to

scope out the good books ahead of time! I manage the Special Service division of Hamilton County Juvenile Court's probation department. I have worked for the Court for 16 years. I am an avid stamper, and I also enjoy reading and hiking (anything nature, really). Something I am good at is listening, and something I am horrible at is doing anything

AHEAD OF TIME. I am the consummate procrastinator. My favorite color is green, especially lime green for some odd reason, and my favorite thing about SGCS is the small, close-knit community of people that make it up. I am excited to serve as part of the PTO Board, and I look forward to working with many of you along the way.

Next Pawprints...

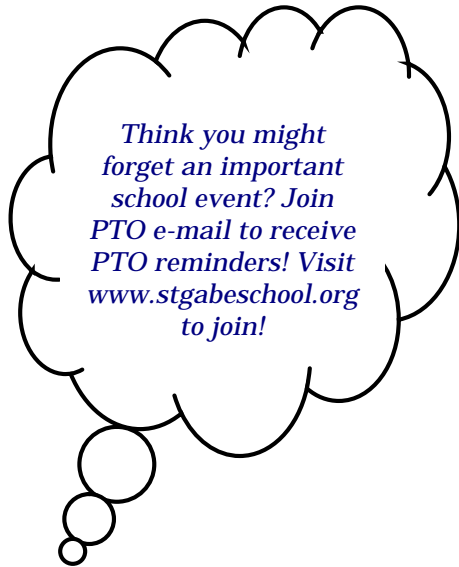
...Get To Know PTO treasurer Coreen Brown and why we are lucky to have her as treasurer!

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Consolidated School
PTO**

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E-Mail:
reminders@stgabeppto.org



Cut and save in your purse!



Think you might forget an important school event? Join PTO e-mail to receive PTO reminders! Visit www.stgabeschool.org to join!



**Don't forget!
Turn in your
money
by Sept. 15!**

Trash talk, cont'd

shopping on line, consider going through the BoxTops For Education Web site, www.boxtops4education.com, next time you shop. A percentage of your purchase is returned to the school you select in your profile. Also, Box

Tops offers a credit card that returns a percentage to the school. If you have questions about BoxTops for Education, please call Teri Dean at 777-7936 or email reminders@stgabeppto.org. And while it doesn't come under the heading of trash, it is worth talking about

QSP /Reader's Digest Magazine program. Order magazines online and QSP/Reader's Digest gives 40 percent back to SGCS! Visit www.qsp.com to see all the titles and to place your magazine order. Our school ID is 425005668.

President, cont'd

Because they're our kids the PTO asks you to get involved by sharing your gifts, talents, resources, and leadership abilities. We are a volunteer-driven organization. It takes all of us working together to make our school so special and provide a community that is so connected. We are eager to meet new

volunteers, hear new ideas, and help families find an enjoyable way to get involved. Participating in your child's education is always time well spent. I am anxious to see what great things the year brings! I look forward to working with all of you throughout the coming months, and

hope to say 'hi' to an abundance of both new and familiar faces at PTO meetings, school activities and events, and throughout the halls of SGCS. Come join the fun and help create some magic – do it **because they're our kids**.

-Ann Everly

CNO, cont'd

Cost: \$45/couple; \$25 single

Credit Cards: Are accepted.

Date: November 4, 7 p.m. to 10 pm.

Dress: Your choice: casual and comfortable or dressy.

Food: Free, as part of your admission. Delicious!

Fourth: As in, "This is our fourth annual CNO."

Help: Always needed. Contact Nancy Young at Nancy@cincyhomes or 755-5440.

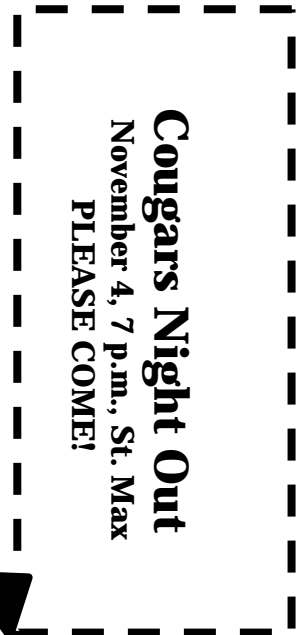
St. Max: Parish in Liberty Township where CNO takes place.

Split the Pot: Yes!

Tuition Raffle: Buy a ticket, win free tuition for a year. Buy more tickets and increase your odds of winning!

Volunteers: Your hosts, fellow SGCS parents, who bring you CNO.

Your children: Whom all proceeds benefit.



Cougars Night Out
November 4, 7 p.m., St. Max
PLEASE COME!



Cut out & save as a reminder!