



# PTO *Pawprints*

*December 2008*

## **FROM THE DESK OF MR. EPPLEN**

Where has the school year gone? For the last few weeks we have been preparing information about registration for the 2009-10 school year, planning Catholic Schools Week and thinking about ways to enhance our Open House on January 28.

All eighth grade students took admission and placement tests on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and are anxious to receive the results sometime in December.

We continue to know that our greatest recruitment tool is parents who have children attending St. Gabriel Consolidated School. You are encouraged to seize those opportunities to talk to people in the work place, neighborhoods and social events about our programs and the benefit of a strong Catholic Education.

Your work in this area is greatly appreciated. Our enrollment stays strong thanks to your energy and encouragement of others. Thank you.



## **COUGAR RAFFLE UPDATE – WOW!!!**

The inaugural Cougar Raffle is the PTO's main fundraiser this year and profits will help maintain SGCS a quality learning place. We are pleased with the amount of tickets that have been sold. Tickets can be sold until February 21<sup>st</sup> when we will draw the winners at the R&R Adult Social to be held at St. Max. It may be hard for some families to sell a \$50 ticket. Please do your best and feel free to get creative by splitting the cost with family members, friends, or co-workers. Give a Cougar Raffle ticket for a Christmas gift for that hard to please person instead of buying lottery tickets! Each family which sells a ticket will be placed into a drawing for a Flat Screen TV!! The class that averages the most tickets sold will earn a "Mad Scientist" party! Thanks for your continued support for PTO and SGCS!

## **LETTER FROM PTO PRESIDENT**

I do not know about all of you, but this year is moving excessively fast for me. We just pitched the last of the Halloween candy and now we are getting the stockings ready to hang!

During this magical time of year, we find ourselves rushing around looking for the perfect gift. In looking back at the past few months, and into the upcoming months, I feel that we here at SGCS have been truly blessed.

We have a wonderful dedicated staff here to teach our children. Not only do they "teach" our children, they help enrich their lives. The true meaning of Christmas is present in our school, Christ is our foundation! Here is to you and your families having a wonderful and safe Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas!  
Kris Koch

### **Dates to Remember**

- January 14 - PTO Meeting
- January 18 – Catholic School Fair at St Max
- January 26-30 - Catholic Schools Week
- January 28 – Open House

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- February 13 and 16 – No School
- February 21 – R&R Adult Social/Cougar Raffle Drawing

### Thomas Alva Edison Visits!!

A school enrichment assembly held on Monday, November 17 featured special guest Thomas Alva Edison! Students learned about Mr. Edison's many inventions and how, through hard work and perseverance, they too, could be inventors someday. The assembly was possible through the coordination of the PTO and Mobile Productions of Michigan.

Future enrichment assembly topics:  
January--The Wonders of Light!  
March-- Ben Franklin



Mr. Edison shows Zachary C. how to think creatively, a skill he used all the time as an inventor.

### Quotes from our recent school guest Thomas Edison - which one inspires you?

- *"A 'genius' is often merely a talented person who has done all of his or her homework."*
- *"If we all did the things we are really capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves...."*
- *"Results? Why, I have gotten lots of results! If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed. I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is often a step forward...."*
- *"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."*



### **Birthday Books**

As of November 30th, we have 77 new library books in our very own SGCS library for every student to enjoy! This is thanks to your birthday book donations! Just more proof that both our students and parents at truly value and love reading!

Here's how it works: Every student will bring home a Birthday Book donation card during the month of their birthday or during the half-month of their birthday for summer birthdays. Fill out the form, send in a donation, and your child will pick out a book for the SGCS library. Your child's name is printed on the inside of the book to acknowledge the donation, and they get to read it first! Walt Disney once said *"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."* Our SGCS Birthday Book program helps our children reap tremendous treasure! Thanks to all who have already donated books this year and to those who will during the rest of the year!

### **SCRIP FOR LAST MINUTE GIFTS**

Thank you to all of you who have participated in the scrip program in 2008.

Still need gift certificates? Limited amounts of cash & carry scrip are available. Contact Melinda Y at 887-6117, or [mbyonchak@fuse.net](mailto:mbyonchak@fuse.net), for the latest inventory.

The scrip program will resume sales on January 9, 2009.

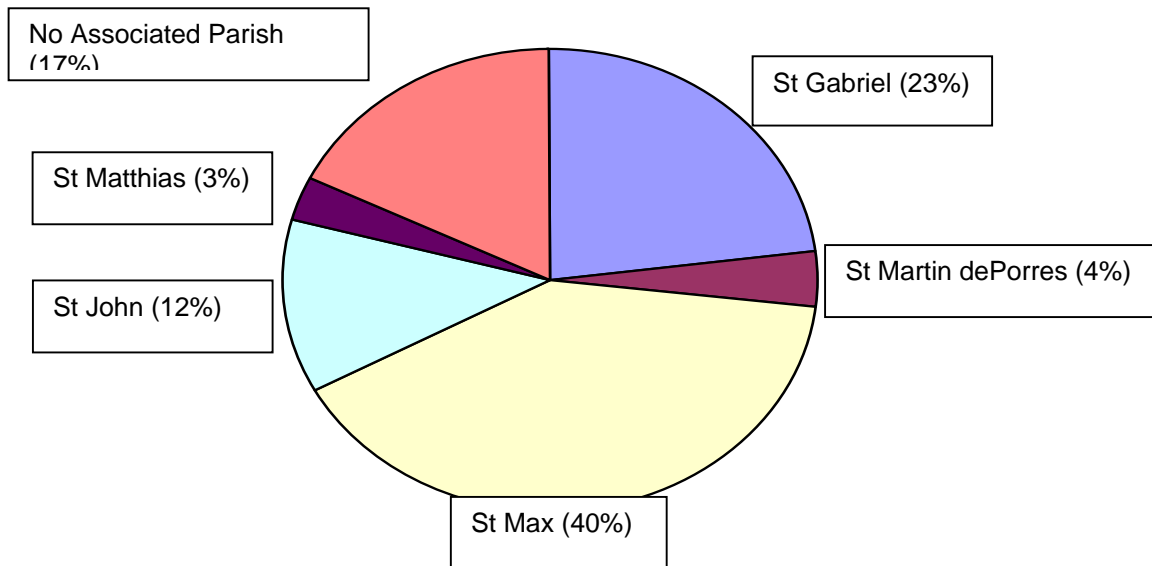


## GIRL SCOUTS

- 8th grade Girl Scouts are completing the requirements for their Marian Award which they hope to receive in February. The girls have been doing research on Mary's life and her importance as the first disciple. The troops visited the Basilica/St. Mary's Cathedral in Covington Kentucky and will be in a weekend retreat at Camp Stonybrook for Marian medal candidates in December. The troop also went Christmas caroling at Alterra nursing home in Springdale and are fundraising for a trip to New York City in the coming summer.
- 7th grade Cadettes are wrapping gifts at Borders as a fundraiser and planning a trip to learn about geocaching (using GPS devices to hunt for previously hidden and tracked "treasures") in the spring.
- 4th grade Juniors are writing to pen pals in Uganda and also making surprise gifts for their families for Christmas. They also earned the Safe at Home patch offered by the Red Cross.
- 2nd grade Brownies learned about nature getting ready for winter on a Halloween Hike at Caldwell Nature Center and visited the Drake Planetarium to learn about constellations visible in the winter sky. Brownies learned about voting by earning the Citizens Near and Far Try-it at election time. They also earned a Dancercize Try-it with salsa lessons and plan to visit the Cincinnati Ballet after the holidays.

Our student population is diverse with students from 5 different parishes as well as students not associated with a parish. Diversity is a blessing and we are proud of our SGCS family!

### SGCS Family Composition - 08/09 School Year



Parish	Address	Pastor	Number Students at SGCS
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish	5720 Hamilton-Mason Road Liberty Twp., OH	Fr. Terry Smith	158
St Gabriel Parish	48 West Sharon Road, Cincinnati, OH	Fr David Fay	91
No Associated Parish			70
St. John Church	9080 Cincinnati-Dayton Road West Chester, OH	Fr. Mark Burger	49
St. Martin dePorres Church	9927 Wayne Avenue Cincinnati, OH	Fr. Tom DiFolco	15
St. Matthias Church	1050 W. Kemper Road Cincinnati, OH	Fr. David Fay	12
<b>Total SGCS Enrollment</b>			<b>395</b>

[SGCS Website](#) - Bookmark our school site in your favorites as it is a great resource for what's going on at SGCS. Here's the address: <http://www.stgabeschool.org>.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION (and reimbursement!)**

Check Request forms (for expenditures covered by PTO) are available by the Flag Door and on the SGCS Website. Complete the form, send to Mary Richardson via Reif Richardson (1C) or place in PTO mailbox by school office.

Turnaround time will be kept as short as possible yet it could be anywhere from 1 – 4 weeks, depending on circumstances. Here are steps:

1. Check request form must be completed in its entirety and approved by Mr. Epplen or committee chair (if there is no approval signature it will be returned for one).
2. Check request for is turned into PTO/sent to Mary Richardson, PTO Treasurer.
3. Once a week, Treasurer reviews everything received in the past week, write checks, makes deposits, send emails, mails checks, etc.
4. PTO Treasurer signs checks and sends to PTO President for additional signature.
5. Upon return of signed checks, Treasurer double-checks and marks for distribution to school in envelope with the recipient's name.



Direct PTO financial questions to Mary Richardson at [drichardson2@cinci.rr.com](mailto:drichardson2@cinci.rr.com)

**PTO Board**

President  
Kris Koch

Vice-President  
Katrina Hoelscher

Secretary  
Lori Merz

Treasurer  
Mary Richardson

+++++  
Do you have an interest in serving your school community as a member of the PTO Board or as a Committee Chair?! Please let a current Board member or Mr Epplen know now or when requests for nominations come in the Spring.

**Cougar Raffle!**

This is an important fundraiser and our goal is to sell 500 tickets at \$50 each ticket. Someone will win \$4,000 (if we sell all 500 tickets)!!! Please contact Chairperson Charlie K. ([charlie-krusinski@cinci.rr.com](mailto:charlie-krusinski@cinci.rr.com)) with all questions and/or if you wish to help out with this very important fundraiser. More details to come.



**Adult R&R Night: Feb 21, 2009! Get those babysitters scheduled!**

Meet friends old and new at St. Max from 7pm-11pm. We'll share spaghetti, dance to Dave the DJ, play games, and have fun! The Cougar Raffle Drawing will be held this evening. A few volunteers are still needed to make this night a success, contact Kris K.!