



ST. ROBERT
SCHOOL

An education you
can have faith in.

SCHOOL HOURS

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.:
7:50 am—3:05 pm

Wednesdays:
7:50 am—2:05 pm

Half-Time Students:
7:50 am—11:30 am

11/12—NO SCHOOL,
Conferences

11/13—NO SCHOOL,
Conferences

11/25—11:15 AM DISMISSAL,
Thanksgiving Break

11/26-11/27—NO SCHOOL,
Thanksgiving Break

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/18 6:30 pm
Home & School Assn. Meeting

11/19 9:15 am
Frosty the Snowman, K4 & K5

11/19 6:30 pm
Band & Strings Concert

11/20 8:00 am
All School Mass, 3-Halley

11/20 7:30 pm
Emerald Auction Kick-Off
Party at Gallagher's House

11/21 9:00 am
First Reconciliation

11/21 6:30 pm
Trivia Night

11/25 8:00 am
All School Mass, 8th Grade,
SAM Collection: canned
chicken, rice & rice mixes,
canned stew

11/25 11:15 am
DISMISSAL

FAMILY MATTERS

ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 11, 2009

Principal's Pen



For even our youngest students, the four formal reporting periods of the academic year are critical checkpoints of achievement and progress. Following are some explanations to assist in your interpretation of this important information and to guide your child in setting achievement goals.

Achievement Grades (P/S/N or A/B/C) are the traditional form of grading. They represent an *average* of all the summative evaluations in the course. Think of this grade as a blended “soup” of all the tests and projects on all the topics covered in the quarter. Although achievement grades are the most readily understood and maintain the highest stakes in terms of high school and college access and placement, I would submit that they are actually the least valuable in terms of understanding your child’s actual level of knowledge or skill. To paraphrase a colleague, how comfortable would you feel flying with a “C” level pilot? What if that “C” represented the average of an “A” in take-offs and an “F” in landings? Wouldn’t you rather know exactly how the pilot (or your child) performed on every benchmark?

Proficiency Grades are the benchmark evaluations. These are *points on a continuum* of knowledge or skill, relative to the expectations, or “standards,” of the course. The Archdiocesan report card design includes only a few key subject area benchmarks at this time. For example, “*writes for various purposes*” actually includes a subset of numerous specific writing skills that are different for each quarter of each grade level. There is a movement at the Archdiocesan level (and in the field at large) to eventually phase out achievement grades in favor of a more comprehensive documentation of standards proficiencies. We have decided to take the leap to this type of more detailed reporting for our new Investigations math approach. This separate proficiency report (attached to your kindergarten through fifth grader’s report card) documents your child’s performance on every individual math benchmark that was taught in the first quarter. Because the report gives you a more complete picture of what your child knows in relation to the course expectations, an achievement grade has not been included for this course. By the end of the year, you (and your

child’s next math teacher) will have a complete picture of your child’s specific grade level math competencies. We will continue to assign achievement grades in middle school math until such time as the entire Archdiocese moves in another direction.

Narrative Comments serve two distinct purposes. The comments on the second page of the report card, in the text box labeled “School Year Comments,” are part of the student’s permanent school record. These document notable achievement, unique challenges, and/or curricular modifications and accommodations. Beginning in first grade, our grading software also allows teachers to write memos pertinent to each course. The course comments are informal remarks or suggestions that are only retained for one quarter, and, with the exception of the fourth quarter comments, do not become part of the permanent school record. In the middle school, where students have multiple course teachers the “School Year Comments” have not proved an efficient or adequate way to document narrative information for the permanent record. To address this weakness, we will be experimenting with layout changes that will allow us to retain the course comments beginning next quarter.

Conferences are a critical tool not only for parent-teacher communication, but for facilitating student ownership of progress. As such, it is important for students to be part of these meetings. Beginning in second grade, it is our expectation that students will participate in at least a portion of their own conference. The unfortunate reality of completing over 300 conferences in the time allotted demands brief, efficient meetings and rigid adherence to the schedule. We value parent communication and are always here to serve you. Please be assured that we will be happy to set follow-up appointments as needed.

Remember, too, that we are anxious for our own report card! If you have not already completed your school effectiveness survey, you are invited to take a few minutes to complete it online in our beautiful new media center or drop the paper copy in the box outside the office while you are here this week.

For a more complete listing of upcoming events, see the on-line calendar (control + click to follow the link):

http://www.strobert.org/school/Current_Parents_0092/Calendar0114.html

Notes from the Office

REPORTING ABSENCES, LATE ARRIVALS

Please **call the school office attendance line each day** your student will be absent or late. Provide student's name and



teacher or room number, your name, and reason for the absence (**be specific as to symptoms if ill**—e.g., fever over 100 degrees, cough, body aches, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) or late arrival. If hot lunch is needed, please also indicate which entrée is preferred (hot lunch orders must be placed by 10:00 am).



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

School office hours are **7:30 am-3:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday hours are 7:30 am-2:30 pm.** If it's after hours, please check out the school website at www.strobert.org for lots of helpful information.

Annual Fund Update



In less than a month since we asked for your support, 17% of our school families are already participating in the 2009-10 Annual Fund! Thanks to the following for making their gift this week:

Clark & Kathy Gridley
David & Lila Hillman

Victor & Claudia Torres

David Vahl & Susan Becker
Thad Nation & Melissa Wein

Parent Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete our 2009-2010 parent survey of school effectiveness. In an effort to increase parent participation in this year's survey, you will find a hard copy (orange paper) and a return envelope in your home folder. You may complete the survey on paper and return it to the school office OR use the electronic link below. This link is also posted on the upcoming events section of the school home page on our website. Note that you are to complete a separate survey for each grade level – kindergarten, grades 1-5, and middle school – in which you have children currently enrolled. The results will be reviewed by the faculty and by the members of the School Advisory Board. Your feedback will help shape our ongoing school improvement initiatives and our long range planning. Surveys should be completed by November 20th. Thank You!

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WEIDMRTGsXze5ng7CAsi8g_3d_3d

BUILDING THE KINGDOM

Several St. Robert School parents have taken their first steps toward full communion with us in the Catholic faith. Two of them are bringing their children with them into the process. The RCIA journey requires a Catholic sponsor for adults and a companion for children. We would like to invite you and/or your child to serve in one of these important roles and walk this journey with a friend. We are particularly looking for **women** and a 4th, 6th, and 7th grade child. Responsibilities of the child companions are minimal. Please contact Donna Shriner for more information or to volunteer: 332-1164, x3045, or dshriner@strobert.org

PLAN AHEAD!

Archdiocesan Safe Environment mandates require that a background check and Safe Environment Education are completed before we may assign adults to child-contact volunteer assignments. This year, the mandate has been extended to all child-contact assignments, including one-time-only volunteer service such as chaperoning.

If you would like to accompany your child's class on a field trip anytime in the future and have not already completed the volunteer certification process, register now for a Safe Environment session at www.archmil.org under *Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal/Safeguarding All of God's Family/Events*. Scroll just below the bottom of the homepage screen to find the orange *Safeguarding* icon.

Thank you for helping us to maintain an impeccably safe environment for our students.

Home & School Association News

Used Uniform Sale During Conferences

Don't forget about the Used Uniform Sale on Thursday, November 12, from 4:30-7:00 pm and Friday, November 13, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm...Get some great deals and help the Home and School Association!! Also if you have any used uniforms that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the school office or call Laura O'Loughlin at 961-3237. We are in desperate need of smaller sized jumpers and the new skirts.



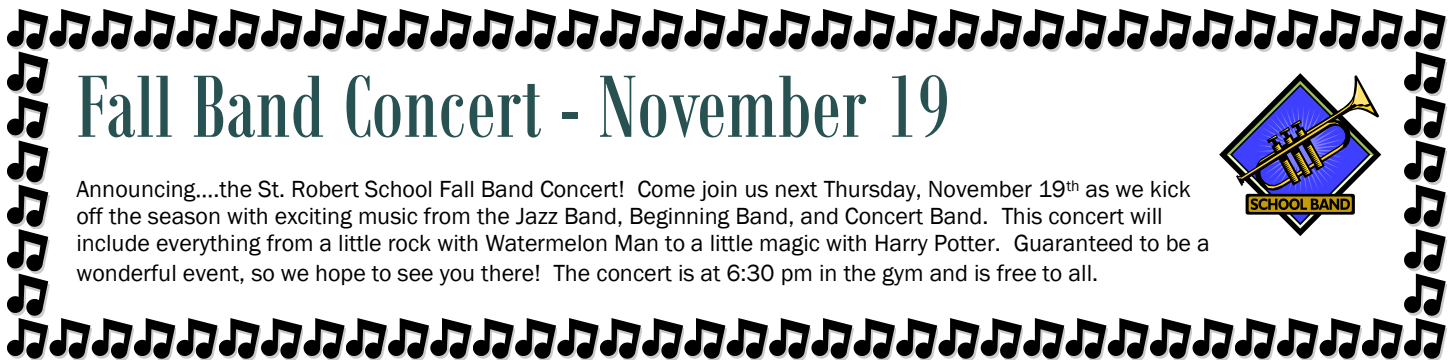
Christmas Dramatic Reading

Students in grades 1-5 are invited to take part in our first Dramatic Reading of the year—a fun, low-key introduction to public speaking. As this reading will be in the midst of our most joyous season, students are invited to share their favorite Christmas reading with us. Students should choose a one to three minute reading of a poem, a favorite children's book, an excerpt from a book or a play, or even something they've written. Previous readings have included A Charlie Brown Christmas, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas,

Upcoming H&S Events:

Nov. 21st – Trivia Night
Dec. 5th - Dramatic Reading
Dec. 12th – Breakfast with Santa

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and many, many more. Look for flyers in the homefolder soon for more details. The reading will take place at **Boswell Books, 2559 N. Downer Avenue**, Saturday, December 5th, from 10:30 am until about noon. If you have any questions, call Jennie Fox at 414-852-6204 or email at jenniefox@me.com.



Fall Band Concert - November 19

Announcing....the St. Robert School Fall Band Concert! Come join us next Thursday, November 19th as we kick off the season with exciting music from the Jazz Band, Beginning Band, and Concert Band. This concert will include everything from a little rock with Watermelon Man to a little magic with Harry Potter. Guaranteed to be a wonderful event, so we hope to see you there! The concert is at 6:30 pm in the gym and is free to all.



Scrip Corner

It's Turkey Time. Time for all of the *Turkey's* who have not yet placed a Scrip order to do so. Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. Need to get those fall decorations? We've got the cards for you to do the job. How about Winkie's, Walgreens or Wal-Mart, Michaels or JoAnn's to get the ball (*Butterball*) rolling. Don't

forget about Bayside Garden Center. Sendik's and Whole Foods are waiting for the real **'Turkey'** order, along with all of the other fixings. Remember, St. Robert is **Thankful** for any and all support.



Alumni News

Elli Sellinger (SRS '06) has been named to the 2009 USA Swimming Scholastic All America team. She is a senior at Shorewood High School. Congratulations, Elli!

Student Leadership Council Officers & Homeroom Representatives:

President	Tim Jurgens
Vice-President	Madeleine Nation
Treasurer	Delaney O'Neill
Secretary	Ellie Schueller

6th grade:
 Room 204- Dominic Ziebert and Taira Cottingham
 Room 205-- Cessa Flanagan and Wyatt O'Loughlin

7th grade
 Room 200--Ashley Eimers and Mary Mansker
 Room 203--Abby Mansker and Kevin Brauer

8th grade:
 Room 201- Emmett Conlon

Archbishop's Vatican II Award for Distinguished Service

On Tuesday, November 10, fourteen individuals received the Archbishop's Vatican II Award for Distinguished Service for outstanding contributions to the Church and society. The awards were established in 1991 to honor men, women, and young adults who exemplify the Catholic Church's vision set forth in the Second Vatican Council. The recipient for **Service in Society** is St. Robert parent **Fessahaye Mebrahtu**. Fessahaye has been involved with African immigrant and refugee communities, in the areas of pastoral outreach and social services, for the past 25 years. He has worked to ensure African immigrants have access to resources, employment and education when they arrive in the United States. The Pan-African Community Association formed out of his parish's Pan-African Committee, and Fessahaye currently serves as the association's executive director. When he first began his work with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, he was a youth minister. Today, he serves as the Christian formation director at his parish. Fessahaye is also a national consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops serving on the Pastoral Care for Migrants, Refugees and Travelers Committee and is a member of the Commission for Black Catholic Ministry. Fessahaye presently belongs to All Saints Parish, Milwaukee, and St. Martin de Porres Parish, Milwaukee. His son Natan is a first grader at St. Robert School.

Parish News

The EDGE . . .

A program designed to create a positive experience of the Catholic Church for all 7th and 8th graders at

St. Robert and Holy Family Parishes along with their friends. We will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:45 with snacks. The session is from 7-8pm starting on Nov. 12th at Holy Family in McCormick Hall (church basement). Please see



Gail for forms or call at 332-8156 ext. 230 or 332-2599 ext. 3032.

Do You Have a Welcoming Personality?

Greeters (ushers) welcome people to Mass, assist with the collection and the presentation of the gifts, and send folks off with a smile and a bulletin. If you can see yourself helping your community as an usher/greeter, please contact Claire Anderson (canderson@strobert.org) or Ray Boehm at the 4:30 pm Mass.

Ladies of Charity Coat Drive

The Ladies of Charity, a women's organization affiliated with St. Vincent de Paul, runs a clothing bank for children in Milwaukee. Gently used children's coats of all sizes will be collected at the church entrances the weekend of November 14/15.



Community News

Applications for DSHA Class of 2014 Due November 13th

DSHA applications can be delivered to the high school until 6 p.m. on Friday, November 13th or postmarked by that date. Applications are available at www.dsha.info under Admissions or by calling 414-466-3707.

DSHA's Girls Night In Is Friday on November 13!

Girls in 7th and 8th grades are invited to DSHA's *Girls Night In* on Friday, November 13th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Girls Night In

is an opportunity to meet other young women, have fun, and talk with current DSHA students. The November event is Tacos & Trivia! Enjoy a taco bar dinner beginning at 6 p.m. and then participate in a trivia game with questions on movies, music, celebrities, geography, and more! Test your knowledge and win prizes. Sign up by yourself or get a team together. DSHA is located at 4257 N. 100th Street. Register by calling 414-466-3707 or sending an email to penny@dsha.k12.wi.us. Hope to see you at *Girls Night In!*

First Quarter Honor Roll

Sixth Grade

Sara Abu-Zahra

Sidney Capati

Rebecca Cleveland

Isabel Cook

Taira Cottingham

Meghan Curtis

Megan Eimers

Haley Flanagan

Celia Gallagher

Lydia Haasl

Julia Hanson

Teresa Linn

Adam Mitchell

Patricia Oden

Wyatt O'Loughlin

Christopher Povinelli

Matthew Schwartz

Genevieve Vahl

Victoria Vitucci

Gabriella Voit

Megan Wittkowske

Dominic Ziebert

Seventh Grade

Ashley Eimers

Ian Featherstone

Aidan Flanagan

Sarah Harwell

Brenna Keane

Stephen Linn

Mary Mansker

Charles Monnat

Samuel Monnat

Madeleine Nation

Delaney O'Neill

Emily Ryan

Eleanor Schueller

Eighth Grade

Eric Aasen

Patrick Byrne

Emmett Conlon

Bryan Frieseke

Brigid Gallagher

Daniel Jarosz

Allison Mitchell

Julia Pantak

Foley Van Lieshout

Corwin Weeks