



ST. ROBERT
SCHOOL

An education you
can have faith in.

9/6—NO SCHOOL,
Labor Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/3 8:00 am
All School Mass

9/6 NO SCHOOL
Labor Day

9/8
School Advisory Board Mtg.

9/10 8:00 am
All School Mass

9/10
Magazine Drive Kick-off

9/11 7:00 pm
Fall Social

9/14 6:30 pm
Home & School Assn. Meeting

9/17 8:00 am
All School Mass

9/24 8:00 am
All School Mass

9/24
2010 St. Robert Golf Outing

10/1 8:00 am
All School Mass

10/1 & 10/2
Rummage Sale

FAMILY MATTERS

ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

Principal's Pen

It's hard at any age to let go of the gifts of summer. To be immersed in God's creation (without a coat!), savoring the freedoms that allow for more relaxed connections with friends and family – more of whatever it is we love to do – is physically healthy and spiritually good for all of us. But so too is the ritual and rhythm and routine that draws us back; back to structure, to intellectual stretching, to personal growth – back to school.

School is one of the few responsibilities in life that allows an annual fresh start. We are granted a chance to correct course, to reflect back on what worked and what was needed; to learn from each other; to think and plan and map a route that will take us where we want to go. Just as carefully planned vacations and events are more likely to come off without a hitch, so too are the accomplishments of school. This first week is a perfect opportunity to make sure we have packed properly for the next leg of our journey. In addition to new supplies, our children need a defined sense of purpose for this work. They look to you to order their world into priorities. Let's make sure they know that school is important business, and give them not only the stuff of success, but a *routine* that allows them to fulfill their responsibilities.

Children who are successful in school are in top physical form! A high-protein breakfast and lunch, good hydration, and the right amount of restful sleep are critical. Most researchers agree on the age-related sleep needs published below. It's also important to remember that research is clear about the negative effects of media stimulation in the last couple of hours before bedtime. (Video games interfere with the sleep stage in which memory for newly-learned information is consolidated.)

Successful students come from homes immersed in literacy. In our high-tech, always-on, always-connected world, it's not as easy to carve out a read-aloud routine, but it is undeniable that the ability to think deeply is directly connected to the ability to read deeply. Power-browsing is not enough. Take the time to read rich literature

aloud to your children every day (even 8th graders!). Make sure your home is filled with books and reading material, and let them see you reading – whether on a Kindle, an iPad, or the old-fashioned way. It's never too late to start afresh!



High achieving students also come to school with good attitudes and respectful demeanors. The graces of social etiquette will build a foundation for success in any of life's endeavors. We can't do enough to model and teach and hold our children accountable to the social graces.

Finally, the most important thing to pack for the journey ahead is a sense of purpose. Our children were made to transform the world. They need to understand their work as preparation for fulfilling God's plan. A daily ritual can remind them of this and set them out each day to do their best. A family breakfast prayer or ritual blessing with Holy Water might be a way to do this. I have decided that I will bless myself –and by extension my co-workers and students – with the sign of the cross, the sign of my faith, as I walk into the school building each morning to begin my daily work. We adults, too, are on this journey and look forward to the blessings of starting afresh.

Welcome back, welcome home.

4-year-olds:	11 ½ to 12 hours
5-year-olds:	11 hours
6-year-olds:	10 ¾ - 11 hours
7-year-olds:	10 ½ to 11 hours
8-year-olds:	10 ¼ - 10 ¾ hours
9-year-olds:	10 to 10 1/3 hours
10-year-olds:	9 ¾ to 10 hours
(through puberty)	
Teens:	9 ¼ hours

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, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) or late arrival. If hot lunch is needed, please also indicate which entrée is preferred.



SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

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

Enrichment Courses Available

Registration deadlines are approaching for the enrichment courses being offered this fall. Everyone should have received a course catalog in August, which provides details on Chess Club, Lego League, Mad Science, Japanese Language and Culture, and Junior Great Books. (Reminder: Mad Science registrations should be completed online or mailed to Mad Science. All others may be submitted to the school office.)

Lunch Pre-Orders



Check your child's backpack for the next lunch pre-order form for September 13 through September 30. **All lunches must be pre-ordered using this form!** Please submit a form for each student. Forms are due back to the school office no later than Wednesday, September 8. No orders can be placed for the remainder of September after that date!

CAR PICK-UP

Please attend carefully to the forward movement of the line of cars, pulling all the way forward to allow as many cars into the lot as possible. Do not park in the line or leave your car for any reason during the pick-up process from 3:05 until 3:15 (2:05 to 2:15 on Wednesdays). Thanks for your cooperation in keeping our pick-up routine safe and efficient for all!



Volunteering at School? 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.

St. Robert Parish will be hosting a session on Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30 pm. You must register for this session through the Archdiocese website. If you can't attend this session, there are many opportunities to attend sessions at other locations in the coming month.

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

Home & School Association News

Notes from the President

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. As we start the year, we would like to encourage everyone to join in and have fun. We have a busy fall ahead of us with the following activities already in the works.



October 1 and 2 – Rummage Sale

October 3 – Portraits in the Park

So many people have been working to support our efforts as we start out the school year. Thank you so much to:

- Rhianna Vella for chairing the Ice Cream Social welcoming new families and coordinating the host families.
- The host families – your role in welcoming new families is a key to the success of our school community.
- Yvonne Luzney & Jeannette Corbett for chairing the Welcome Back Coffee - what a nice way to start off the school year.
- Lynn Frieseke for coordinating the Classroom Aides and Room Parents
- Kathy Gridley for coordinating the Health Volunteers
- Laura Pfaff for coordinating the beginning of the year uniform sales
- Sally Zale for getting the Spirit Wear sale off to a great start.

Upcoming activities:

- **September 10** – Magazine Drive Kickoff
- **September 11** – Fall Social (a great opportunity to reconnect or meet new parents)

Next H&S meeting, **September 14**, 6:30 – 9:00 in Room 207

Rummage Drop off dates:

- Thursday, September 2, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 8, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 18, 10:00 a.m. – noon
- Saturday, September 25, noon – 2:00 p.m.

Can you help?

We still have some key committee chair positions open:

- Portraits in the Park
- Catholic Schools Week
- High Interest Day
- Mother Daughter Tea

The big one: **THE EMERALD AUCTION** – our major fundraiser of the year is still in need of leadership. We have great volunteers and committee chairs in place. All we need are a few great people to step up and help out.

Give me a call at 414-906-4512, if you can help out.

Thank you,
Sara Coffou
sara@ambgrp.com



Scrip Corner



Welcome back SRS and SRP families. Now that summer vacation has come to a close, it is time to get back to reality and address all of those matters we have put off for the summer. Let's start off with the **Scrip** program, which allows you to give to St. Robert with all of your everyday shopping at no additional expense. Just trade in that cash for gift cards of equal value to those businesses you shop at, and **they will give** St. Robert a percentage of the card value. Non-profit organizations are earning as much as \$80,000 annually through this program. With your participation, we can too. Order forms can be found in next week's folders, on the bulletin boards at the at main entrances to school, on the website, and at the church entrances.

Parish News

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

If you are a parent of a student at St. Robert School and are not Catholic but seem to be drawn to the Catholic faith, you may want to inquire about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Every year, adults are welcomed into the Catholic Com-

munity through RCIA. It is open to those who are not baptized, Christians baptized in another faith tradition, and those baptized Catholic but not raised in the faith. Come join the RCIA journey of faith and become Catholic. For more information, please call Donna Shriner at 414-332-1164 ext. 3045.

Community News

Get Dr. Skrade Off the Roof!

Dr. Melinda Skrade, chief administrator of Pius XI High School, joined administrators from St. Marcus Lutheran School (Milwaukee) and Mitchell Middle School (Racine) on the roof at St. Marcus Lutheran, where they will stay—work, eat and sleep—until each school makes the Top 20 in the Kohl's Cares Facebook Challenge. Each of the schools is currently in the Top 50. Kohl's will award \$500,000 to each of the top 20 schools who receive the most votes. This demonstration is designed to encourage everyone in the Greater Milwaukee region and Wisconsin to rally together, vote for these three schools, and keep \$1.5 million of the prize money right here in Wisconsin where Kohl's began. Visit www.1mil4mke.com to cast your vote.

Living Compass for Parents Program

The Living Compass for Parents program is a group coaching program being held at Shorewood High School, in which each participant chooses his or her own goals for being a better parent. Two one hour talks, one on Anxiety and Depression in Children and Teens and another in Helping Children through a Divorce, will also be presented. Go to www.samaritanfamilywellness.org for more information. To register, visit www.shorewoodrecreation.org, phone/fax: 414-963-6913/414-961-3175, or in person (office hours: 8:00 am -12:00 pm and 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm).

Saints Peter and Paul Block Party

It's live music, and it's FREE! Paul Cebal headlines SS. Peter & Paul Block Party @ 7:30PM while Ian Gould performs Irish Music @ 3PM on Saturday September 11, 2010, in the 2400 Block of N. Murray on Milwaukee's East Side. This great family event runs from 2:00 PM - 11:00 PM and is open to the public - everyone is welcome!!

Down Syndrome Awareness Walk

The Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin is holding its 14th Annual Down Syndrome Awareness Walk on at 1:30 pm on Sunday, September 26, at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Complimentary parking and all-day admission to the zoo are included with your paid registration. For more information or to register, visit www.dsaw.org.

UWM's Fall 2010 Saturday Academy

Saturday Academy is an intense academic program for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, which runs on six consecutive Saturdays in the fall and spring semesters. Registration deadline is October 8 or when classes reach full enrollment (usually before the deadline date). For more information, call 414-229-6236, email minicourses@uwm.edu, or download the brochure at <http://trio.uwm.edu/minicourses>.