



## Holy Cross School Newsletter October 7 to October 19

Dear Parents,

What a pleasure it was to meet your parents and family friends at Grandparents/Special Friends Day. The kids were so excited to spend time with their much loved grandparents and relatives, and the day went extremely well. How blessed we are to have our parents, extended family and family friends to enrich our lives! Thanks for sharing your family with us!

Speaking of blessings, it's wonderful to get this beautiful October weather – even if it's most likely short lived. With Autumn officially here and winter right around the corner the children are reminded to come to school each day dressed/ready for the changing weather conditions. We'll be going outside everyday, and sweatshirts and coats will soon be a necessity. Enjoy the beautiful weather now, but start getting the warmer stuff ready.

**With our Pray and Walkathon tomorrow it looks less likely that we will meet our fundraising goal of \$10,000.** I know it's late, but if anyone has any last minute ideas of how we could get a few large pledges to help out, please let us know. **Our total is well below what we expected, having collected \$4,248.87 as of this writing.** If you have not done any pledging as of yet, please do so now. If nothing else, **one hundred percent participation** in working to help the school speaks well of our intentions, as well as our understanding of how a community truly works. Let's give it one last try!!

See you tomorrow at the Pray and Walkathon!

Ms. Scipioni

**PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1 – 6  
PRAY AND WALKATHON INFORMATION  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 9:00 a.m.**

**WHERE: Meet and assemble in front of the Holy Cross School (outside) at 8:45 for a 9:00 a.m. start to our day.** After a short welcome, explanation and blessing upon all those in attendance we will begin our 5 mile walk.

Our route takes us on County Road 8 past Pearl Lake Lodge, left on Cty. 141 and right on the Pearl Lake public access road. We will continue on the road (East Shore Drive) around Pearl Lake and return to school on Cty. Rd. 8. At various times throughout the walk all will be called to gather and pray for the requests displayed on the prayer flags. All gather at these “prayer stations” and specific prayer flags/prayer intentions are read aloud for all to hear. A communal prayer is prayed, and the walk continues.

**WHAT ELSE:** The walk will conclude with a light lunch at Holy Cross School (sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and prepared by Andy and Celine Kunkel). This is a family walk, so all children must be accompanied by an adult. If younger children need assistance, families are encouraged to bring a wagon or a stroller to assist. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather (mittens? shorts? ... it’s Minnesota!). A few drivers/cars will be available to assist anyone who might need a ride. Stops will also be available on the walk for water, bathroom, etc.

**\*\*\*\*Parents please remember....no bikes or pets on the walk. Thanks!\*\*\*\***

**Sun. Oct. 9**

**PEARL LAKE LODGE’S “RIDE AND RIB FEST”**

Parent volunteers are needed from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to work this event. Tom Ruether (Rudy), the owner of Pearl Lake Lodge, sponsors this event by buying and cooking all the food. All we have to do is to work the event by selling food and cleaning up. ALL the proceeds (typically around \$3,000) go to Holy Cross School in exchange for our services. If you haven’t signed up to help yet, call Jayne Lochen at 398-2675 to offer your assistance.

**Tues. Oct. 11**

Kimball H.S. Wrestling team gives a short presentation to the kids promoting the sport of wrestling, and an upcoming “wrestling camp” for kids. Watch the Friday folder for info on this.

**Wed. Oct. 12**

The Sisters of St. Benedict have a vocation presentation for the kids today.

**Second Grade Parents and Students** – Sacrament of Reconciliation Meeting – 7:00 p.m. at Holy Cross School. Fr. Mark Ostendorf will meet with parents and kids in the second of a two-part information session on Reconciliation/Confession. All second grade parents and kids are expected to attend.

**Fri. Oct. 14**

**FIELD TRIP**

**We have a (K-6) field trip** scheduled for today to St. John’s University. We are going to see “Boys on Broadway” at 11:00 a.m., bring our lunch and stay for a picnic, then attend scheduled events to see various sights at St. John’s. Parents who have completed all background check information and diocesan safe environment standards are welcome to join us. Please contact Ms. Scipioni to indicate if you are interested in coming. Also, all students must have a completed field trip permission form signed by a parent on file in the office to be able to participate. **Field Trip permission forms & lunch requests are included in your 10/7/11 office envelope. The Pre-K class will be staying at school and will be having hot dogs for lunch!**

**2:00 – Fire Safety** presentation by the Rockville Fire Department (all school/at school)

**Mon. Oct. 17**

**School Picture Day!** LifeTouch School Photographers will be taking school pictures today, beginning at 8:15. All children will have their pictures taken, regardless if you purchase a picture package or not. Individual pictures will be taken to be included in the school yearbook. Grade level pictures and an All School picture will also be taken. Parents are reminded that the picture envelope with your package choice and payment need to be returned to the school on/by today.

- **Lunch Menu Change:** Today's lunch will be Pancakes and sausage, fruit, vegetable, bread and milk. Please note the change.

**School Book Fair** – The school book fair will be open this afternoon for children and families to review and purchase books. A flier was sent home in the 10/7 Friday Folder to promote and explain the book fair.

**Tues. Oct. 18**

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

A 15 minute conference is scheduled for each child in grades 1-6 today in the afterschool and early evening hours. Please remember that in fairness to all parents it is important to try to keep within the scheduled conference time. If a question or concern arises that cannot be adequately addressed within the 15 minute conference, please make an appointment to meet with the teacher at another time. Your scheduled conference appointment will be sent home in the 10/7 office envelope.

**BOOK FAIR** – Our Scholastic Book Fair will be open for a one day opportunity to purchase a book for yourself or a gift for the library. The book fair will be open until 7:30 this evening, and is located in the gym.

**Wed. Oct. 19**

The school "office envelope" will be sent home today with a newsletter.

Family Faith Formation class for the Tri-parish cluster. Tonight's subject is Scriptural Prayer, and will be held at 6:30 in Luxemburg. There has been a great turn out for these faith building options. Why not give it a try??

**Thurs. Oct. 20 and Fri. Oct. 21**

**NO SCHOOL!** Enjoy the long weekend with your family!

**PRAY AND WALKATHON REMINDERS**

**All children and families are strongly encouraged to participate in the Pray and Walkathon by soliciting pledges to meet the school goal of \$10,000. Please collect all pledges and return the money to the school as soon as possible. For the kids to be eligible for the incentive prizes, all money must be returned on/by Thurs/, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.**

The details for Saturday are explained on the front page of this newsletter. Families are reminded that this activity is a wonderful way to build community within our school and parish, and are requested to attend this event if at all possible. We realize that families and kids may have prior commitments for this day, but ask that some member of each family join us in community and prayer for this event.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR KIDS**

In October we will begin our safe environment training for children as part of our diocesan mandated curriculum. This instruction involves the lures that strangers and other adults might use to entice children into dangerous and abusive situations. If you want more information about this instruction, or do not want your child to participate, you need to contact Ms. Scipioni immediately. It is strongly encouraged that all children participate in this important curriculum that is committed to safety for children.

### **FIRE SAFETY WEEK OCTOBER 10-14**

Fire safety week is a great time to review your personal safety plans should there be a fire in your home. Take the time to devise and practice escape routes from the children's bedrooms, and don't forget to emphasize the all important "meeting spot" for your family to gather outside your home should an evacuation be necessary. This is also a good time to change the batteries on your smoke detector, check your fire extinguisher, and have all safety equipment in good working order.

### **SAFETY DRILLS – AN UPDATE**

Fire Drills – Like all schools, we are mandated to do a certain number of fire drills per year to practice the quick and safe evacuation of the school building in case of a fire. The children are getting the evacuation drill down pat, with our current evacuation time of 35 seconds! Wow!

Lockdown Drills – Following the conclusion of our fire drills we will begin practicing school lockdown drills (5 required). In the event a lockdown is needed, our school does have an emergency management plan that will be followed. Our first priority in a lockdown is to keep our children safe by insuring that all access doors to the building are locked and secure. An announcement will be made; classroom doors, windows and shades will be closed/locked. The class will stay together in the "safe area" in their classroom, which is away from doors and windows. If an actual lockdown was called, a note will be sent home with the children at the end of the school day explaining what took place in regard to the lockdown (i.e. why it was called, how we responded, etc.)

Now for the difficult part. It is very important in an actual lockdown situation that the telephone lines remain open to handle any needed emergency calls. Parents are discouraged from calling the building during a lockdown. Also when the doors are locked and everyone is safe inside the building, security cannot be breached by opening the door for each individual who wants to gain access. When the police or Stearns County Sherriff arrive to assist, we will follow their direction at that time and allow you access in the building as soon as we are able. Know, parents, that every member of the Holy Cross School faculty and staff will do in a lockdown what they do each and every day at school: make sure your child feels safe, secure, loved and well cared for in their school environment.

If you have questions about any of our safety procedures or drills you are welcome to call Ms. Scipioni at the school office.

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – HOLY CROSS FISH FRY!**

All school parents need to plan on volunteering for a shift or two at the Annual Holy Cross Fish Fry scheduled this year on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> (No school on that day or the day before). All school parents should have received a "duty roster" with an assigned task / time for you to work. If you did not receive this information, or if you would like to sign up for an additional shift, please contact Michele Haus 259-4287. School families are asked to donate items as prizes for the Cherry Tree, Kids Games, and Cake Walk

### **PARENT SURVEYS NEEDED – ACCREDITATION**

If you haven't yet done so, please return the parent survey that was included in the 9/30 office folder. We have 18 results in thus far, and need a higher percentage of return when we document our results. More surveys (one per family) are available if needed. Thanks!

### **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

**A big thank you to Jim Winter for sharing of his time and talent in cleaning up the playground. The weeds are all gone, and the sandbox looks great! Thanks, Mr. Winter!**

### **TODAY'S (10/7/11) OFFICE FOLDER CONTAINS:**

- Parent / Teacher Conference Schedule (grs. 1-6 only)
- Field Trip permission slip & bag lunch request
- School Book Fair information
- Breakfast order forms
- Kimball Community Education Classes
- Ride & Rib Fest work schedule
- Calendar Raffle Information