



*By: Principal Roseanne L. Williby, Ed. D.*

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### Christmas Blessings to All Families

On behalf of all the parish and school staff, by whose cooperative efforts is provided a high quality **Catholic** education for your children, may I extend our best wishes and prayers for a beautiful faith-filled Christmas season. During these four weeks of Advent in our Monday morning assemblies, I have shared a special call to our students to ready their hearts for Jesus as we anticipate his coming. I reflected on the power of prayer to our Blessed Mother through the Rosary when I recounted the miraculous victory for the Christians at the Battle of Lepanto, Italy, in 1571. We also reflected on the devotion to the Holy Eucharist championed by St. John Vianney, who believed, “if you only realized how much Jesus loves you in the Blessed Sacrament, you’d die of happiness.” **Catholic schools need to be more Catholic.** Consequently, a worthy goal to begin this new year is to continue our faith journey as a Eucharist People—to become a school in love with the Eucharist. Recalling the words of a protestant to St. John Vianney, “if I believed what you Catholics claim to believe about the Blessed Sacrament, I’d crawl to receive Him,” let us come on bended knee before the manger of the infant Jesus and give him the gift of our hearts, resolving to make this new year a time we will devote ourselves to growing in love with Jesus through the reception of the Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration.

### Textbook Loan Applications: Attention Parents

Today you are receiving two documents that will make it possible for your child to access Rule 4 for the Textbook Loan Program. Participation in the Textbook Loan Program makes possible the acquisition of textbooks through the Millard Public School District, which are purchased with state tax funding. Utilizing this program is a **tremendous** cost savings to the school. Please copy **both** of these two forms, complete and return them **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>**:

1. The Application for Loan of Textbooks (Appendix A) and
2. The Authorized Parent Representative Form (Appendix D).

**Your timely completion and return of these documents will be most appreciated.**

## Calendar Reminders

December 21<sup>st</sup>-All School Mass--2<sup>nd</sup> quarter/first semester ends. Dismissal at noon for Christmas break

December 22<sup>nd</sup>-January 4 Christmas Break

January 5-Classes Resume- **No 8:15am School Mass (change)**

January 6-Report Cards—**No 8:15am School Mass (change)**

January 9-Earned Free Dress Day

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade High School Placement Exams

Metro Catholic High Schools will be hosting their eighth grade placement exams on **Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**. This is an intensely important evaluation from which many high school scholarships will be determined and awarded. It is suggested that a good preparation includes a good breakfast and a good night's rest. Please keep the intentions of our eighth graders in your daily prayers.

## Winter Weather Warning and School Closings

As a reminder, St. Stephen the Martyr **follows the Millard School District** when closing the school for any type of inclement weather. The decision to close schools will usually be made and announced by 6:00am. This announcement will be found on most local television stations, as well as, KFAB radio. If bad weather should occur during the school day, we will dismiss at the regularly scheduled dismissal time. Parents and guardians are still welcome to pick up their child at any time.

## Staff Christmas Gift Program

The entire staff wishes to thank all of the school families, who so **generously** contributed to the Christmas gift collection for Project Hope gift cards

. We are also extremely grateful to our **Home and School Association** for taking charge of all of the details associated with this effort. Your big hearts warm our hearts! Many thanks and blessings to you!

## Tentative Calendar for the 2012-13 School Year

A very tentative **FIRST DRAFT** of our calendar for the next school year is included in today's Martyr Messenger. Keep in mind, that due to this very early first release, we may need to make some changes over the next few months before our final draft is completed.

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# August 2012 - July 2013

## 1st Draft

August 12						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### August

- 9** Teachers Report
- 13** Back to School Nights
- 14** Back to School Nights

September 12						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	X	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	X	29
30						

- 16** Noon Dismissal
- 17** Noon Dismissal
- 20** 1st Full Day
- 31** 1:00pm Dismissal Martyr Marathon Day

October 12						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	X	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- ### September
- 3** NO SCHOOL Labor Day
  - 6** Curriculum Night
  - 28** Fall Conference?

November 12						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
4	X	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	X	X	X	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- ### October
- 19** NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day End of 1st Quarter

December 12						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	X	X	X	X	X	29
30						

- ### November
- 1** NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences
  - 2** NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences
  - 5** NO SCHOOL
  - 21** NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
  - 22** NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break
  - 23** NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

January 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	X	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### December

- 21** NOON DISMISSAL Christmas Break Begins End of 2nd Quarter

### January

- 4** NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day
- 7** Classes Resume
- 21** NO SCHOOL Teacher Retreat Day
- 27** Catholic School Week Begins

### February

- 1** NOON DISMISSAL Teacher Luncheon
- 12** Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm
- 13** Ash Wednesday
- 14** Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm
- 15** NO SCHOOL
- 18** NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service

### March

- 8** NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day End of 3rd Quarter
- 29** NO SCHOOL Good Friday Easter Break Begins

### April

- 8** Classes Resume

### May

- 20** NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day 8th Graduation
- 22** Last Day of School Dismissal after 8:15am Mass

February 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	X	16
17	X	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	X	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	X	30
31						

April 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
	X	X	X	X	X	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	X	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 13						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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## **REMINDERS for Campbells Labels/Labels for Education, Tyson Labels, Land O Lakes Lids and Fedoras! Please read!**

- \* Please TRIM ALL LABELS (Campbells, Tyson, Fedoras, etc.) nicely, as we have to do this before we can send them in. THANK YOU!
- \* Please remember to wash Land O Lakes lids thoroughly before sending in!
- \* A reminder that new this year is the collection of 'Fedoras' (hat symbol off Godfather Pizza box). They will give us \$.25 for each one so save these!
- \* A few items that are easy to forget about (Labels for Education) include: Post Cereal, Pop Secret and Glad! For a full list, go to [www.labelsforeducation.com/how-to-earn/participating-products](http://www.labelsforeducation.com/how-to-earn/participating-products)
- \* Earlier this year, we had said we are no longer collecting 'OUR FAMILY' labels...we are going to try and start collecting these again, at least until we get to 500 so we can cash in (minimum cash-in amount). We have recently found a stash of 150+ so we may as well try for that turn-in point! So start sending Our Family Labels in again, THANKS!
- \* Lastly, as stated previously we are no longer collecting Capri Sun pouches! After much discussion, we have found this leaves too sticky of a mess and can attract insects, and the rewards don't outweigh the issues we have with them.
- \* Thank you to Nancy Rase, Janet Driml, & Jessica Chalk, and all classroom coordinators, for all your help with this!

Thank you!!!

Contact Jenny Whitcomb with any questions, [jwhitcomb0619@yahoo.com](mailto:jwhitcomb0619@yahoo.com)

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## **Spring Soccer Registration**

Spring CYSL and Micro soccer registration will be held Saturday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-12 pm in the dining room. Any registered parishioner born after Apr 1 2008 is eligible to participate. Season runs from late March to mid-May. Forms are on-line at [www.ssmsportsclub.com](http://www.ssmsportsclub.com) and can be mailed in early to the address at the bottom of the form. Call Greg McHale at 895-0153 with questions.

# 7A Gingerbread Decorating Party



# PreKindergarten Christmas Programs!



# K-2 Music Program





## **SAVE THE DATE**

### ***St. Stephen's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pasta Dinner***

Purchase tickets in  
JANUARY  
after all 5:00 Saturday  
evening & Sunday  
9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
masses and at all  
PAL games.



*Dinner is being provided by none other than:*

***Mama's Pizza***

***Date: Saturday- January 21, 2012***

***from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm***

***Ticket prices: Age 13 and up \$7.00***

***Ages 4-12, \$5.00 and Ages 3 and under eat free***

***All meals include pasta, salad, bread & drink***

**ALL PROCEED WILL GO TOWARD SENDING OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE KIDS TO WASHINGTON D.C.**



**Dear St. Stephen's Families,**

**A very special thank you to all of the families who participated in the Christmas Gift Certificate Program. Your generosity was overwhelming. This program has become a tradition at St. Stephens and it is a wonderful way to show our teachers and staff just how much we really do appreciate all they do for our children.**

**This annual program continues to epitomize our gratitude to the staff of our school and parish. We are so richly blessed and it is so appropriately shown at Christmas.**

**Again, our thanks and may God continue to bless our St. Stephen the Martyr family.**

**Lori Bonnett, Trish Pickens and Julie Schmitt  
Teacher Appreciation Committee Chairs  
Home and School Association**



## **The Teacher Appreciation Committee Wants You!**

The Teacher Appreciation Committee has officially kicked off planning for Teacher Appreciation Week scheduled for February 27 - March 2.

We will be holding our first meeting Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the GPC Community Room C.

Please accept this as your invitation to become a part of this fun and exciting endeavor. Every year this event is a success because of the outstanding team of volunteers dedicated to this effort. Please call or email any of the chairs with your questions or just send us your email address and we will add you to the committee distribution list.

Thank you.

Lori Bonnett/896-8740/[lori.bonnett@bonnettsolutions.com](mailto:lori.bonnett@bonnettsolutions.com)

Trish Pickens/894-0079/[kpickens@tconl.com](mailto:kpickens@tconl.com)

Julie Schmitt/896-9079/[julie.schmitt@cox.net](mailto:julie.schmitt@cox.net)

Teacher Appreciation Committee Chairs



TO TURN IN BOX TOPS!!!

Box Tops for December need to be turned in:

**Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Shop and save over Christmas vacation!

Please continue to clip and send in box tops to help our teachers  
and students cash in on rewards!

## **SAVE YOUR HYVEE RECEIPTS!!!!!!!**

Continue saving your HyVee receipts until Dec 31, 2011. We have collected several so far and hope to make it to our goal of \$2,000 payback from HyVee!!

HyVee pays our school \$1.00 for every \$200.00 spent, up to \$2,000. Save receipts from groceries, gas, floral, star bucks inside HyVee, prescriptions and send to school with your child or place inside HyVee box outside school office!

Win a FREE Smart Board from HyVee by purchasing Procter & Gamble items. HyVee will give you a separate P&G receipts with code/instructions. Register your code online and our school could win a free smart board. If you don't want to enter yourself, please send to school/drop in HyVee box and we'll enter it for you! Promotion ends Dec, 31, 2011!

Questions:

Contact Cori Ward at [atjeward3@gmail.com](mailto:atjeward3@gmail.com)  
or Kami Shalhoob at [kshalhoob@gmail.com](mailto:kshalhoob@gmail.com)

# Lifetouch Yearbooks Community Image Upload Site



## Calling All Photographers

Share your candid photos—  
they could be included in the yearbook!

Submit candid school photos for consideration in the yearbook. To submit photos to the yearbook staff, go to [community.lifetouch.com](http://community.lifetouch.com) and register with the following access code:

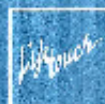
Access Code: CSHUFFS

Once registered, you will receive an email from Lifetouch with an activation link. You must click the activation link before you can log into the Lifetouch Community Image Upload site.

- Upload 5 images at a time (10 mb or smaller).
- Enter a description for each image so the yearbook staff can easily identify what is happening in the photo.
- The adviser will determine which images are used in the yearbook.

Please submit your  
photos by:

ASAP



Yearbooks



Join us!  
The Nebraska Wind Symphony  
**SWINGTONES**

## Benefit Dance

For

Music in Catholic Schools

**Friday, February 3, 2012**

7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

St. Robert Bellarmine J. T. Mainelli Parish Center  
11802 Pacific Street

Free swing dance instruction led by Dan Wondra from  
6:15 - 7:15 pm

Silent Auction and Dessert/Bake Sale

Tickets are \$15 per person

Tickets available at door or at the following locations:

MCS Office ● 3212 No. 60th Street ● 554-8493

Dietze Music at 13015 W. Center ● 20th & Cornhusker

Schmitt Music ● 7355 Dodge Street

Proceeds assist financially needy students  
with MCS band tuition.

**Don't forget your checkbook!**

Visit [www.archomaha.org/education/mcs](http://www.archomaha.org/education/mcs) for more information.

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR  
SPRING 2012 SOCCER REGISTRATION**

( please check one of the categories below-one form per child).

MICRO BORN BETWEEN 8/1/06 AND 4/1/08 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 BORN BETWEEN 8/1/05 AND 7/31/06 \_\_\_\_\_  
 UNDER 8 BORN BETWEEN 8/1/03 AND 7/31/05 \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_  
 UNDER 10 BORN BETWEEN 8/1/01 AND 7/31/03 \_\_\_\_\_  
 UNDER 12 BORN BETWEEN 8/1/99 AND 7/31/01 \_\_\_\_\_  
 UNDER 14 BORN BETWEEN 8/1/97 AND 7/31/99 \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE FORM BELOW IN FULL:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY (Month/Day) \_\_\_\_\_ PLAYER BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARENTS NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM PLAYED FOR LAST SEASON \_\_\_\_\_ NEW PLAYER \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
**WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO HONOR REQUESTS ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.**  
 ARE YOU PLAYING FOR ANOTHER SOCCER CLUB? \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEERS:**

WILLING TO COACH \_\_\_\_\_ WILLING TO ASSIST COACH \_\_\_\_\_  
 Must have completed "Safe Environment Training" to coach

**FEES:**

CYSL - \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 PER CHILD      MICRO - \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 PER CHILD

Registration Date: Saturday January 7th , 2011 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Fees increase to \$60 for CYSL and \$40 for Micro after this date

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 7th, 2012**

**Registrations submitted after January 7th do not guarantee placement on a team.**

I/ WE , THE PARENTS OF \_\_\_\_\_, A PARTICIPANT IN THE ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SOCCER PROGRAM, HEREBY GIVE MY/OUR APPROVAL OF OUR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN ANY AND ALL ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SOCCER CLUB ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS. I/WE ASSUME ALL RISKS AND HAZARDS INCIDENTAL IN SUCH PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES, AND I/WE INDEMNIFY AND AGREE TO HOLD IT'S ORGANIZERS, SPONSORS AND ALL QUALIFIED STAFF AS DEFINED BY R.R.S.25-21,196,AND ALL PERSONS TRANSPORTING MY/OUR CHILD TO AND FROM ACTIVITIES, AND ALL CLAIMS FOR NEGLIGENT ACTS AND OMISSIONS. COACHES, MANAGERS, REFERIES, THEIR ASSISTANTS OR ANYONE WHO PREPARES ANY PLAYING FIELD SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE INJURY, OR DEATH OF ANY PARTICIPANT IN THE ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SOCCER , CLUB, WHICH RESULTS FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED INDIVIDUALS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE STATED LANGUAGE AND WITHOUT THE WAIVER OF ANY DEFENSE OR IMMUNITY, UNDER THE STATUTE OR COMMON LAW FOR ANY PROTECTED PERSON, THE EXECUTION OF THIS RELEASE/WAIVER AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT, LIMITS THE SIGNER(S) OF HIS/HER CHILD'S RIGHT TO RECOVERY TO ANY APPLICABLE INSURANCE POLICY(IES) OF THE ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR SOCCER CLUB. I CERTIFY THAT I CARRY ADEQUATE ACCIDENT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE PRESENTLY IN FORCE COVERING MY CHILD AND THAT I WILL CONTINUE SUCH COVERAGE AT MY EXPENSE WHILE HE/SHE PARTICIPATES IN THE CLUBS PROGRAM.

**NO REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT.  
 NO REFUNDS. ALL PLAYERS MUST BE ST. STEPHEN PARISHIONERS.**

PARENTS SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Greg McHale  
 4954 S. 177<sup>th</sup> Cr.  
 Omaha, NE 68135**