



The Saints Go Marching On!

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- FEBRUARY 10
Mardi Gras
- FEBRUARY 16
EARLY DISMISSAL 12:35 P.M.
Teacher Directed Conferences
- FEBRUARY 17
NO SCHOOL
- FEBRUARY 18
Recycling
- FEBRUARY 20
NO SCHOOL
- FEBRUARY 22
Ash Wednesday
- FEBRUARY 29
EARLY DISMISSAL 12:35 P.M.
- MARCH 1
Information meeting regarding 2012-2013 School Year

MARDI GRAS
Friday,
February 10th



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents:

Health Insurance – The rising costs of Health Care benefits is affecting our school’s mission. The higher the increases the more stress upon the budget. Our school is part of a larger picture. All schools within the Diocese belong to the same plan which is a mandatory policy. The Diocese is responsible for choosing a Health Plan for all schools and parishes. The plan presently in place isn’t financially feasible for our budget and truly hasn’t been for the last two years. Our school simply can’t afford it anymore. To deal with this issue, Bishop Christensen is meeting with pastors and principals on February 23rd in Superior. Bishop Christensen is aware of the budget constraint being placed upon our school and all others and is very willing to discuss alternatives with us. Fr. Jim, Mrs. Jo Germain, and I consulted with JA Counter in New Richmond and have presented three options to the Bishop’s office as have other school leaders. He will review the various options and offer feedback to us at the meeting. Our budget for the 2012/13 school year isn’t able to sustain our present health care costs. As you are aware, this isn’t unique to our school. Health care costs are affecting every avenue of life and changes are being implemented. Those of you who work for corporations, small businesses, or are self-employed have already been affected. Well, it is our turn to make some changes. The Finance Council, Ministry of Education, and the Budget Committee are being proactive. All members are aware of the budget issue and support Fr. Jim’s, Mrs. Germain, and my efforts. The school and church leaders are trying to fix it rather than hope it will go away. The issue isn’t going away for any of us. We will continue to find alternatives and work towards positive outcomes. I’ll keep you posted and update you as time moves along.

4 Y Charter Open House – Saturday was our Open House for the 4Y Charter. We were visited by approximately 17 families. We’ll know perspective enrollment numbers by the first week in March. The difference between this present school year and next school year is that a new center has opened and another added space which means 5 sessions have been added to the mix. This means that there are approximately over 300 placements with an estimate of 240 four year old children to fill the spots. We are presently full at 51 children for this school year but are anticipating an enrollment of possibly 35 students for 2012/13. This decrease in students will also affect our budget and we are projecting possible changes. I’ll keep you posted and update you as time moves along.

March 1, 2012 Information Meeting – I have scheduled a meeting at 6:00 P.M. for parents to discuss both of the above changes on our budget for next school year. Both of these potential changes will affect our school’s mission and it will have to be redefined for the 2012/13 school year. A review of the budget along with perspective changes of the school’s mission will be the main agenda items. This meeting will give you an opportunity to better understand the forecast for the future of our school.

Home/School/Church Assn. Meeting – We are still looking for a Vice President of our family organization. Please let me know if you are interested.

TEACHER DIRECTED CONFERENCES

The upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences are teacher directed. You received a sign up form if your child's teacher felt a conference was beneficial. If you did not receive a form and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please call the school office to schedule a time.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This month the students will be Starting Jump Rope for Heart. It is always a fun unit we do in Physical Education class and it's a great way to stay active for a good cause. All the money raised goes to the American Heart Association where it will help fight heart disease. The middle school puts on some very creative jump rope routines to show off to the school. Also, we just finished our roller skating unit which is always a blast for the kids.



Catholic School's Week Activities

FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN! FUN!



Bits & Pieces
Doris Mitchell

We received a check from Land O Lakes for \$123.45 for caps.



MARDI GRAS
Friday, February 10

EARLY DISMISSAL
Thursday, February 16



NO SCHOOL
Friday, February 17 and Monday, February 20

EARLY DISMISSAL
Wednesday, February 29