



# The Saints Go Marching On!

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

- JANUARY 30—  
FEBRUARY 4  
Catholic School's  
Week
- FEBRUARY 2  
St. Croix County  
Catholic Schools  
Mass at St. Pat-  
rick's in Hudson  
10:00 a.m.
- FEBRUARY 3  
Pajama Day  
Science Presenta-  
tions 1:00 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 4  
Packer Day  
Talent Show  
12:30
- FEBRUARY 9  
Early Dismissal  
12:35 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 11  
Mardi Gras 5:30
- FEBRUARY 17  
Teacher Directed  
Conferences  
Early Dismissal  
12:35 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 18  
NO SCHOOL

**PRINCIPAL'S NEWS**

Dear Parents:

Scrip Program – The last two Home/School/and Church Assn. meetings have presented information on the Scrip Program for the next school year. At the last meeting which included a Power Point Presentation, there were approx 28 families who attended with three of these families presenting. I'm concerned that the purpose of the program may not be fully understood by the majority of our families and misunderstandings may be looming. To assist you in understanding the purpose of this program, I will facilitate three Q and A sessions to be held in the next few weeks. I'm hoping that those whom haven't attended any meetings so far will take advantages of these opportunities. It has been a learning curve for me and I can appreciate the questions that may be out there. If these times are inconvenient, please contact Mrs. Charbonneau, Mrs. Schleicher, Mrs. Tenner, or me and we will be happy to address any questions you may have. In the meantime, Mrs. Mitchell recently emailed the Power Point Presentation to you so please review it and that resource should help as well. I'm attempting to ease all of us into this new program with a full understanding of its purposes. Communication is the key to helping with this transition.

Child Care will be provided at these sessions which will be held in the Multi Purpose Classroom.

Monday, February 28, 2011 6:30 p.m  
 Tuesday, March 1 8:15 a.m.  
 Tuesday, March 1, 2011 6:30 p.m.

Catholic School's Week Letter – The Bishops in the State of WI wrote a joint letter encouraging support of Catholic Schools throughout the state and nation. It was a gift of support from them to us. The letter was enclosed in the bulletins at St. Patrick and ICC Churches this past weekend. A copy is attached here as well. The Bishops are the leaders who set the tone for Catholic education across the state so their encouragement is truly a blessing.

National Children's Theatre – For the last several years, New Richmond Utilities, has gifted us with a play from the National Children's Theatre housed in St. Paul. The yearly play encouraged the children to be good citizens by conserving energy. The presentation was seen by Pre K – Second Graders on Monday and it was enthusiastically received as usual.

Goal Committee – On Wed., February 9<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Riley, Mrs. Jarchow, and I will attend the next Goal In-service offered by the Diocese of Superior. We are traveling to Tony, WI for a day long presentation on Action Plan Updates, Student Profiles, Team Collaboration, and Curriculum Analysis. We will return and share what we learned with the rest of the faculty to enable these strategies to be incorporated into our academic plan for the rest of the school year. St. Mary's GOAL Program continues through the assistance of each classroom teacher, Mrs. Halonen and Mr. Measner who assist children with their individual learning styles.

It is a pleasure to serve your children who give me lots of positive energy.

**MARDI GRAS  
February 11th**



## Brothers and Sisters:

Catholic education is central to our faith. It is how we convey what we know and value to others. Through our Catholic schools we provide a daily living witness of our faith, imparting values and skills that promote the dignity of all.

A Catholic school is not a building, but an experience dedicated to the formation of the whole person in mind, body, and spirit. Our Catholic schools cultivate strong communities, joining parishioners, families, staff, and neighbors behind the indispensable task of teaching children to draw from their God-given gifts and share those treasures with others. Catholic schools act as a resource for parents, allowing them to better meet the demands placed upon them as the primary educators of their children. By focusing on faith, high academic standards, and personal accountability, our Catholic schools ensure that students depart school ready to meet the challenges of life and the world.

As Catholics, we all share in the responsibility of sustaining Catholic schools. The strength of our Catholic identity, our parishes, our religious education programs, and our community are closely aligned with our Catholic schools. The future strength of our Church is tied to the success of our schools, and our entire community suffers when these schools close. We urge the entire Catholic community to commit its time, talent, and treasure to support them.

Our schools are essential to the Church's mission to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). Today, Wisconsin's 325 Catholic schools educate nearly 60,000 students, but this is only part of the story. Many thousands more in Wisconsin are themselves a product of Catholic schools, and they have enriched our state with their contributions as parents, citizens, and community leaders. Their lives affirm that Catholic schools nurture spiritual strength as well as intellect, impart values as well as knowledge, and foster a human excellence that bears fruit through service to others.

Catholic schools strive to serve everyone. Every person, by virtue of being made in God's image, has "an inalienable right to an education" (*Gravissimum educationis*). This is especially true for those in inner city neighborhoods and rural areas where access to quality education is more limited. Nationwide, 43 percent of all Catholic schools are located in inner city and urban areas. Serving these communities poses unique challenges, but Wisconsin's Catholic schools remain committed to providing those of limited means access to the same high quality educational opportunities enjoyed by others.

However to maintain this commitment, Catholic schools must meet serious challenges. Economic conditions have forced the closure and consolidation of Catholic schools in all of our state's five dioceses. The cost of educating students in Catholic schools continues to rise (since 2000 the cost of educating a student has risen around 60 percent). Tuition in a Catholic elementary school covers, on average, only 62.2 percent of the actual costs of educating a pupil, but Catholic schools see an increasing number of families unable to afford a Catholic school experience. Requests for tuition assistance continue to rise.

As the leaders of our five dioceses, we bishops of Wisconsin recommit ourselves to Catholic schools. We are dedicated to ensuring that Catholic schools remain available, accessible, and affordable to all. To our pastors, principals, and all those who serve in our Catholic schools, we offer our continuing gratitude and remain dedicated to making certain they are equipped with the tools necessary to guarantee an exceptional educational experience.

We also thank all our state's Catholics for all they have done to sustain our schools and urge their continued commitment. We invite those parishes or individuals who do not currently have ties to a Catholic school, to become engaged in the support of a nearby Catholic school community. We encourage parents and students to enroll in Catholic schools and experience the unique integration of spiritual and academic development they provide. Additionally, we urge continued recognition of the value our schools provide to the community by advancing policies that support their success, such as school choice initiatives and education scholarship tax credits.

Teaching is an act of faith. Ultimately we hope and trust that after we are gone, the seeds of faith we sow will bear fruit in the lives of those we teach. We urge all who read this letter to renew their personal commitment to the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ by supporting our Catholic schools.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Bishops of Wisconsin**

### **Wisconsin Hunter Education Class New Richmond Area**

This class is required for anyone born after January 1, 1973 Should be 12 years of age before December 31, 2011. **Pre-registration is required** . Students will be taken on the order of registration. Only taking 60 students.

**Dates:** Starts- Monday February 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 , 7:00 p.m.

Classes will be held Monday and Thursday nights from 7-9 p.m. Ends March 28<sup>th</sup>. (no class on Feb. 10,14,17 and March 7 & 10) One Saturday class on March 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00-Noon at the Willow River Rod and Gun Club.

*\*Must have Wisconsin DNR Customer ID# before start of class. Call 1-888-936-7463*

**Location:** New Richmond National Guard Armory, 1245 Wall Street.

**Cost:** \$10.00

**Contact:** Ron Roettger 715-248-3883

Students in need of special accommodations are asked to call at least two weeks prior to the first class.

## Bits & Pieces Doris Mitchell

The Parent/Teacher conferences scheduled for Thursday, February 17th are teacher directed. If your child's teacher would like to conference with you, a sign up sheet will be sent home in next week's family folder. If you do not receive a sign up sheet but would like to meet with the teacher, please contact me and I will schedule you in.



**MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION!**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**

**EARLY DISMISSAL**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH & 17TH**  
**12:35 P.M.**



**TEACHER DIRECTED**  
**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH**

**NO SCHOOL**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH &**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST**

