

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

The Mustang Connection

Alumni and Friends Newsletter

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
2270 East Stadium Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 821-2200
<http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school>

Spring 2010

In This Issue:

Page 1:

Mint Juleps & Derby Pie

Page 2:

The Pastor's Perspective
From the Principal's Pen

Page 3:

Teacher Features
Say Cheese
Candy Apple Red

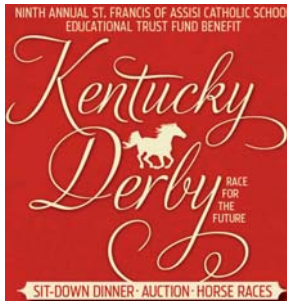
Page 4:

Home of Hope
Upcoming Events

Philosophy and Mission Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a family-oriented mission of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community where each student is valued, respected and nurtured as a unique creation of God. We challenge our students spiritually, academically and physically to learn, care and lead as they work to discover the plan that God intends for them. As followers of Christ, we strive always to instill in our students the words of St. Francis of Assisi... "Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary, use words."

Mint Juleps & Derby Pie



The 9th Annual St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Educational Trust Fund Benefit is just around the corner! It will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2010, at the Four Points Sheraton in Ann Arbor and is themed "Kentucky Derby - Race for the Future." The event will be an exciting evening of horse racing, silent and live auctions and a wonderful time to gather for mint juleps, dinner, Derby Pie, and dancing with friends and acquaintances from the St. Francis School and Parish community.

The One-of-a-Kind Treasures auctions will include many special items including get-away time at a condominium in Orlando at Orange Lake, an adorable puppy, an Icon of Jerusalem, a tea party for six served in your home, dinner at the rectory prepared by St. Francis School faculty, "Principal for the Day," and lots, lots more! In addition, many equines, purchased and named by enthusiastic guests, are lined up for the virtual horse races. "**Sorrento,**" "**Heavenly Kingdom,**" and "**Big Time**" are just a few.



Mr. Andrew Decker
2009 "Principal for the Day" Winner

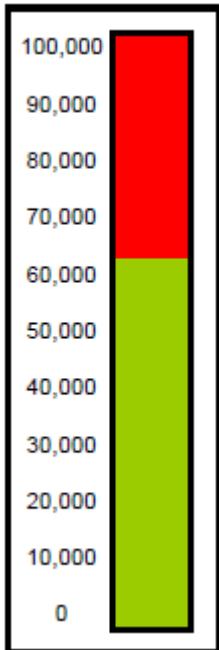
Benefit proceeds will go to the St. Francis of Assisi Educational Trust Fund. Our dream continues to be a ten million dollar corpus in order to assure the existence ad infinitum of our wonderful St. Francis School. The years 2008 and 2009 presented a hiccup to our aspirations but we are back on TRACK, RACING to our goal. As of February 28, 2010, our Trust Fund balance totaled \$1,086,221.

We are so fortunate to have Michael and Laura DeBacker return as this year's event chairs leading the team who has pulled together an elegant celebration. To make a reservation or purchase a horse in one of the races, or for more information, contact Colleen Pierce in the Development Office at (734) 821-2208 or go online at www.stfrancisa2.com/etf/.

The Pastor's Perspective



Our Faithful Journey



Our 2009-2010 Annual School Appeal, “*Our Faithful Journey*,” is nearing its completion. This year’s proceeds will go towards essentials including classroom textbooks and materials, school building improvements, need-based tuition assistance and pay for teachers. These are fundamental to operations.

As you can see from the goal thermometer on the left, the Appeal has raised about 60% of its \$100,000 goal to date. If you missed an earlier request to help the Appeal, I now invite you to invest in Catholic education at St. Francis School by making a donation with the enclosed envelope, or online at www.stfrancis2.com/appeal.

As you may know, development fund raising covers about 10% of our school’s operating costs and enables St. Francis to maintain the lowest tuition among area Catholic schools. Your continued support is very important. Please help us if you can.

Whether you’re a past St. Francis School parent, a grandparent, an alum, or someone who cares deeply about Catholic education, you have a special bond with our community. I pray you will honor that bond through your support of our School Appeal with a gift that is uplifting to you.

Most Sincerely,

Fr. Jim McDougall
Pastor

From the Principal's Pen



Celebrate Service



Dear Friends of St. Francis of Assisi School,

This year’s national Catholic Schools Week theme, “Celebrate Service,” brings to light one of the many strengths of St. Francis of Assisi School. The decision was made two years ago to devote the entire school year to one agency in order for the students to fully embrace and learn about the needs and services of each program.

Last year, we devoted the year to a global project, Home of Hope, which is an orphanage for girls in southern India. Each class raised money to build a playground for the girls at Home of Hope. A total of \$8,000 was earned! This project had such a positive impact on our community that the grandparents of one of our school families are going to visit Home of Hope this spring. See the pictures on the back cover.

This year we have been focusing on local needs through Catholic Social Services (CSS) here in Ann Arbor.

- For Advent we focused our projects on serving our veterans at the Veteran’s Hospital in Ann Arbor.
- After Christmas our 6th grade raised \$1,400 in a “Spare Change Drive” for Haitian earthquake victims.
- In February our 2nd graders collected baby food and other small items for the CSS Food Pantry.
- During Lent we held a school-wide food drive to fill food pantry shelves at CSS and Food Gatherers.

As we often sing together at our school Masses, “Go Make a Difference,” we at St. Francis of Assisi School strive to put these words into action every day. Our school Masses are held every Friday at 8:15 a.m. Please join us sometime and I think you will leave feeling refreshed and filled with joy from celebrating with our wonderful students. God Bless You!

In Christ’s Peace,

Ms. Sara Collins
Principal

Teacher Features

On the last day of the 2009-2010 school year, our community will bid farewell to two incredible teachers. Together, they have served our students and witnessed God's love to them for 39 years. Mrs. Carlyn Boivin and Mrs. Vicki Hatch will retire on June 9, 2010.



Mrs. Boivin

During her unyielding 24 years of service to St. Francis School, Mrs. Boivin has shown her dedication to her students in countless ways. From her absolute love of poetry, which she passionately passes on to all of her 1st-grade students, to the gentle guidance she shares with many children on their first "full day" of school, Mrs. Boivin has been a remarkable teacher, leader, and steward to all 1st graders that pass through her classroom.

Termed a "Miracle Worker" by Principal Ms. Collins, Mrs. Boivin exudes her dedication every morning as she greets her eager 1st graders outside and leads them into her world of reading, writing, and, of course, poetry. When speaking with her about her up-coming retirement, Mrs. Boivin's optimistic attitude prevails in one of her favorite quotes, "Don't cry because it's ended, smile because it happened."

- Dr. Seuss

Now, Mrs. Boivin moves on to focus on two of her other "loves" ... spending time with her grandchildren and creating beautiful dollhouses. Even though she'll be away from our building, you can stay in touch with her through email at cmaboivin@yahoo.com. Mrs. Boivin welcomes notes from you!



Mrs. Hatch

For 15 years, Mrs. Hatch has dedicated herself to guiding and teaching St. Francis Middle-School students. When asked about her, her students and colleagues quickly note her warmth and outstanding commitment. As Ms. Collins said, "Mrs. Hatch is one of the great educators of St. Francis; she has always been willing to help a child in need." Mrs. Hatch set high academic standards for her 7th and 8th-grade students; yet, they were always accompanied by her wonderful smile.

Mrs. Hatch will be dearly missed by the students and staff at St. Francis School. Now, she'll have time to enjoy her cottage by the lake.

Congratulations, good luck and farewell Mrs. Boivin and Mrs. Hatch. We believe God has a special place in heaven for both of you!

Say Cheese



Claudia Maguire



Maria Maguire

Each year the St. Francis School Car Raffle includes many exciting prizes for top ticket selling families. In 2009, Fr. John Linden volunteered to prepare lunch - grilled cheese sandwiches specifically - in the classrooms of a winning family. The Maguire family selected that prize. So, recently, Fr. John slipped on his personalized apron to prepare grilled cheese sandwiches for all of the students in classrooms 5B and 7A.



Master Chef Fr. John

As the Maguire girls wrote, "Having a grilled cheese lunch with Fr. John was a GREAT experience that we'll never forget. We were amazed that he could provide us with physical nourishment as well as spiritual nourishment. Even better than the food were Fr. John's jokes and riddles. Although we knew most of them, it was so fun hearing them from a priest. Fr. John kept our class well entertained, as always. And, his sandwiches were **almost** as good as his homilies."

Win a Ford Taurus

The **Gene Butman Ford** car raffle kicked-off on March 8 with a fun assembly in the St. Francis School gym. It included an "Olympic" curling match between a teacher and student team. The student team accumulated the highest score, so each young athlete won a gold medal in honor of their achievement!

Now, every school family is striving to sell their 15 books of raffle tickets to help us achieve our \$70,000 goal. This year, the grand prize for the car raffle is a two-year lease of a 2010 Candy Apple Red Ford Taurus, or \$6,000. **Ken Butman** of Gene Butman Ford has generously donated the grand prize again. God bless him for his unwavering faith in, and support of, our school!

For more information on the car raffle, call Colleen Pierce in the St. Francis School Development Office at 734/821-2208.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
2270 East Stadium Boulevard
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 821-2200
<http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school>

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 723
Ann Arbor, MI

Address Service Requested

St. Francis students help create a Home of Hope



The future site of the playground for the Home of Hope Orphanage in India.



The finished playground includes a running track, basketball court and open play spaces.

Upcoming Events!

April 24	ETF Benefit
April 25	Confirmation
May 1 & 2	First Eucharist
May 20	Fourth-Grade Play Evening Performance
May 25	Musical Theater Evening Performance
May 26	Spring Band Concert

June 4	Ice Cream Social & Car Raffle
June 7	Eighth-Grade Graduation
June 9	Last Day of School
September 8	First Day of School
September*	Scholarship Fund Golf Outing

**(Date to be Determined.)*