

St. Maria Goretti Notes



September 24th, 2009

Message from Mrs. Young

*For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light and the corrections of discipline are the way of life.
(Proverbs 6:23)*

It is hard to believe that we have already been in school for a month. New routines have been put in place at home, schedules have been tightened and the new school year reminds us of our obligations. And the biggest question becomes, “Why do I have to do Homework?”

Barbara Snyder in her article “Homework Doesn’t Have to Be a Battle of Wills,” probably explains it best. She says that getting to know the basics of homework, the ins and outs of the process, is critical. Think of it as a platform for a parent to be involved, in a very meaningful way, in a child’s education.

Homework helps the child do the following things:

- Provides opportunities for practice
- Readies the child for the next lesson
- Supplements and extends learning
- Provides opportunities for exploring subjects in more depth
- Helps the child become an independent worker

So the next time your child balks at doing their homework, gently guide them back to the task at hand. Patience and perseverance is the mental state that parents must adopt. Staying in a positive mode, along what might prove to be a bumpy road, is the preferred approach. (SMG’s homework policies are on page 27 of the Family Handbook)

Goodbye

SMG Families,
It is with sadness and excitement that I inform you that I will be leaving SMG on Oct. 16th. I was offered a newly created position with the Madison School District at the Administration Building. I will be the Learning Coordinator of Private and Parochial Schools in the city of Madison. With this position, I will be working with the private and parochial schools to plan and organize professional development opportunities. I am very excited for this new opportunity, but will miss my families at SMG.

Stephanie Dankert



Picture Re-Take Day

Just a reminder that picture re-take day is Monday, October 5th, in the morning. Please have your child bring their old pictures with them. Thank You.



After School Reminders

Many of you and your students stay after school to play on the playground. We want to remind both students and adults, that rules during the school day, apply after school as well. If you are unsure what the rules are, you can refer to the handbook, pages 21-22. Please keep your children out of the neighbor's yards, and ask them to not pull leaves and branches off trees and shrubs.

We want maintain good relationships with our neighbors, as well as keeping your children safe. Thank you for your help with this.



Tuition Statements

Your tuition statements were emailed to you today. If you did not receive one, please contact Maira Dulli in the school office.



Playground Reminders

Parents, if you are visiting your child during recess, please come in and get a volunteer/visitor tag. This is a safety practice, so the children know that they can approach you. Thank you.



Website Reminders

Please remember to go to the SMG School Website. On the left hand side, click Upcoming Events to find out what is coming up for the next month or so. When you click on the event, you can also go into that event and find more specific details. If there is a notation there that has a reference file, you can click on there and see the flyer to go along with the event.

Also on the website, you can click on the 2009-2010 calendar for the entire year of events.

Please call with questions.



Fifth grade will be collecting winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens and scarves until Oct. 5th. Please consider bringing any clean, gently used items to the office or the box in the parish corridor.

Thanks.

Market Day



SMG Spiritwear

The SMG Spiritwear is re-stocked. Stop on by to check out t-shirts and sweatshirts.



Yearbook 2009-2010

The SMG Yearbook is looking for your help this year to make our school yearbook a success! We rely on many parent photographers to help us catch all of the wonderful things occurring in our building and help to document them in the yearbook. Photos from pre-school all the way to eighth grade will be needed for the yearbook.

If you take some pictures that you would like to share with us, please send them to school in one of two ways. (1) You can burn them to CD and send it in "ATTN: Yearbook." Please indicate if you need to have the CD returned to you. (2) You can email digital photos to Julie Jones at julie.jones@stmariagoretti.org. Please do not use compressed or low resolution images. These will not be accepted by our yearbook publishing site.

Currently we are looking for first day of school pictures, volleyball team pictures, volleyball action pictures, and any other pictures you would care to share of school events so far this year.

Thanks much for your help!

Thanks to everyone for ordering from Market Day. Our September sale earned \$202.71. Way to Go! All money earned from Market Day supports our Technology Fund which is used to purchase computers & make program updates.

If you turn your order form into the office the deadline for placing your October order is Monday, September 28th at noon. You can also order online and the deadline for that is Thursday, October 1st at 11 p.m. CST. Please prepay online or by dropping off a check (made payable to Market Day) to the school office before the day of the sale. Pick up is Monday, October 5th from 2:00-3:00 pm. Please contact us if you are unable to pick up your order. We will make arrangements for you as long as your order is prepaid, otherwise it will be sent back to Market Day.

We are really trying to go green like the office has, so we would like everyone to consider placing your order online. You may still bring in your check to school before the sale if you are not comfortable with using your credit card online. If you have questions regarding how to order online, please feel free to give one of us a call and we can help you get started.

Thanks again for you support!



"HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED"

Once again, you helped make our Food Drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry successful. You gave the food pantry a huge variety of food and other necessities at the trailer and \$1429 in monetary donations last weekend. The food pantry is currently helping about 2000 Dane County families per month, so your generosity will help keep the shelves full for the next few weeks.

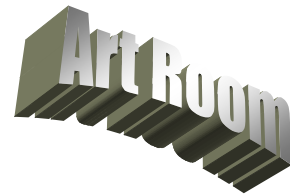
Many thanks to the volunteers that stapled bags, handed out bags after the Sept. 12/13 Masses, and that worked at the trailer accepting and sorting donations on Sept. 19/20.

If you forgot to drop your donation off at the trailer, feel free to leave it in the red SVdP carts in the church corridor. We have a few generous parishioners that empty the barrel and bring the items to the food pantry weekly. And as always, if you have any paper grocery bags that you are willing to part with, please drop them in the red carts also.



If you plan to come to school and eat lunch with your child, you need to sign up for lunch by 8:30 A.M. on the day you plan to come. You can still eat if you sign up after 8:30, or even if you forget to sign up; however, there may be some menu items that will be unavailable to you, as some meals require advance preparation. You can sign up by calling the kitchen directly at 268-2980, or by calling the school #, ext.127. You may pay cash or have it billed through your child's lunch account. Adult lunch is \$2.75.

Thank you---Pete Zenz



Ms. Quackenbush

So many great things are happening in the art room that I would like to tell you about. If you were to ask your student artist where we start every year they would tell you it begins with lines. There are lines all around us if you just take a look around. We start to learn about the basic lines in Kindergarten and continue to refine them as we go along. The first graders used different kinds of lines to create a cityscape and are now using calm lines to create a landscape. The second graders had fun using line directions to create a playground out of just lines. They are on display in the front hall right now! The third

graders used expressive lines to create a drawing of weather and are now using line variations to create a non-objective art work in the style of Kandinsky while listening to classical music. The fourth graders are using gestural lines to describe a figure quickly. The fifth graders are also using lines to create a collage out of a variety of materials while using calm or active lines. The sixth graders are creating the most interesting radial symmetrical line designs using their names. The seventh graders are working on their skewered name designs while the eighth graders are just finishing up their whirligig sculptures.

Speaking of the eighth graders, they should have already brought in many objects or personal artifacts to be added to their sculpture by now and are ready to begin their papers. It is one of my goals to get the artists to talk more about their art and I am requiring them to write a paper that tells the story behind their whirligig as if they are writing for someone who does not know them. I had asked that everything on it be personally relevant to them and that they ask themselves why they included each item in the hopes that they probe a little deeper than just the surface. On another note, they all should have their apples here next week to begin their subtractive sculpture projects. From additive to subtractive in one week! Things move fast in here.

I would like to talk a bit more about the fourth grade gestural drawings that we have done in class this last week. Well, actually we did them out in the Gathering Space so we could see the model from all sides and so we could use super big paper. That

was the fun part about this for me! For the first time my artists used 18" x 24" paper and they filled their papers with many gesture drawings of the model giving the drawing a feeling of action. I chose one of the drawings to be featured as my artist of the week because of the way the artist filled the page with large figures overlapping each other. It makes it look like the figure is moving across the page similar to stop motion animation. The drawing has energy and life and is just fun to look at! Congratulations go out to Kate Prudent in Mrs. Cola's class.

If you haven't had a chance to see the art room's new projector, feel free to stop by sometime. We have been using it before most lessons through sixth grade. What an excellent way for the student artists to see real art and learn how to talk about it. I love it!

Thanks to those that have volunteered to work with me in the classroom or help out with scanning, display or home projects. My room parent just received all the information that I gathered from Open House and will be contacting you soon about a schedule. If you would like to help out and haven't let me know yet, please e-mail me when you get the chance and we can add you to the schedule. I have projects that are ready to be scanned whenever someone is available to do it!

Thanks again for all your support during the year. We are off to a great start already!



CLEANING OUT THE HOUSE?

Don't forget about the SMG Rummage Sale coming next spring! It's a great opportunity for you to get rid of household items you no longer want/need, clothes and toys the kids have outgrown, baby items, sports equipment, furniture, pretty much anything you have sitting around the house that's just taking up space. Think about it...you get rid of things you no longer want, someone else gets something they're looking for, and SMG makes money for some great items our kids can use, enjoy and learn from! Win. Win. Win.

The SMG Home and School Association is funded both by Scrip sales and proceeds from the Annual Rummage Sale. Last year, the Rummage Sale raised more than \$6,000! That success depends on YOU!

So, if you're doing some fall housecleaning, see if you can hang on to those extra items until next March. We'll be collecting donations then. Let your friends and neighbors know too!

Don't forget to check your hot lunch balances on the teacherease system. You are responsible for checking these balances and sending a check in accordingly.