



**MISSION STATEMENT:** Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.

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Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.

Please email information for the SF newsletter to Kathy Hunt at [khunt@gtacs.org](mailto:khunt@gtacs.org)

Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at [cnelson@gtacs.org](mailto:cnelson@gtacs.org)

## *Christ – Above All Things*

### **From the Principal**

#### **Conferences:**

Conferences will be next Thursday from 12:00 – 4:00 and 5:00 -7:30. They are open conferences meaning that the teachers will be in their classrooms ready to speak with parents. The teachers vary the length of conferences, but if there is a line, they will limit them to 10 minutes. I always enjoy conferences and hope that all of you can attend.

**There is something irreplaceable about face to face conversation that allows the school to home partnership to strengthen.** Parents can pick up report cards in the office during conference time. Thanks to you, your good children, and our outstanding staff, we have had a tremendously strong start to the school year.

#### **Go Glads:**

There are two sports teams still in the playoffs: football and girls cross country. Tonight should be a terrific game at Thirlby as our boys take on undefeated Mancelona. The game is at 7:00 p.m. The girls' cross country team represents us in the State Finals on Saturday, and they have a good chance at finishing in the top 15. God Bless both teams! Peace and All Good, Mr. Erick Chittle

### **From the Counselor**

Happy Friday SF families,

I am always amazed how God works in my life and through my children. This summer, my 4 year old, Anna Cate, decided she wanted to learn to ride her "big girl bike" without training wheels. So still wearing her PJ's she picked up her helmet and said, "Let's ride." Now of course the sun had just come up and I had not had my morning coffee yet, so I attempted to delay the experience as long as I could. After breakfast, she came at me again, "can I ride now?" Since there were dishes to be done, diapers to be changed and more coffee to drink, I delayed the process again.

FINALLY, the time came when I was ready to tackle the bike riding experience on the slight hill behind our house. The alley is not frequently used in the early a.m. and so with helmets on our heads and a prayer on my lips, I started pushing Anna Cate down the hill, hoping she would learn the ever difficult task of bicycle balancing. After two

successful times down the hill, she looked at me and said, “Mom can’t you just get out of the way and let me ride?” So I did...and she did...ride her big girl bike.

This makes me think of our relationship with God...sometimes we need to “get out of the way” so that God can take control. How many times do we unplug, slow down and choose to be still? When was the last time you truly sat in silence? Remember it is not in the loud thunder or in the power of an earthquake that we will hear the Lord, but HE will speak to you in a “still small voice (1Kings 19:12). Just like Anna Cate said... “GET OUT OF THE WAY,” be still and let God take you on the PERFECT ride!

### **FABULOUS FAFSA SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY!**

On Saturday, February 11, NMC will once again host the all-day FAFSA Workshop in our Beckett Building on our main campus. We will provide workshops about financial aid and assistance with completing the FAFSA. Please ask your seniors and their parents to "Save the Date". We'll provide more information on the specifics later. We will be contacting you once we have promotional materials to coordinate how we can get information to each of your seniors.

For the past two weeks, I have been in the classes talking to our kiddos about planning for the future. We discussed the importance of the GPA and how each marking period is 40% of the overall final grade. But if this marking period was not as good as you planned, keep working hard...the semester does not end until January! ☺

SENIORS...I hope you are putting your final touches on your college applications! If you need help, please come see me and we can walk through this process together. Many of you are starting to hear the good news, “*You have been accepted...*” What a great letter!!!! Don’t forget to share with me your good news, I like to celebrate too. As the year progresses there are going to be many that are deferred, and some will be denied acceptance. This can be a difficult time for many and I ask that you remember not all news is good news. This is a personal time for everyone, please be cognizant of the feeling of everyone at this time and remember to PRAY for God’s guidance as you take these next big steps. HE knows the path you should take; spend some time in prayer with your Heavenly Father.

If you would like to take the ACT in December you can still register on line by the end of today and pay no late fee. The late registration deadline ends on November 18<sup>th</sup>. You can register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). They will request the CEEB/High School Code which is 233-580 and to take the test at SF you will input the Test Center Code which is 214-990.



Take a look at the updated scholarship list. I will continue to update as I receive new local and national scholarships. Please pay close attention to the deadlines! If you need

a recommendation from me or a transcript sent, I need ample time to do this successfully.

Please know I continue to pray for you! I pray for your perseverance in times that are difficult, I pray for hope when you feel lost, I pray for HIS guidance as you take these next big steps, and I pray your heart will be filled with compassion as those around you are hurting.

Beth Maday

### **Electronics to Recycle**

The Junior Student Council is collecting old cell phones, jewelry, cameras, ipods, game consoles, GPS devices or other electronic to earn money for Prom. Please drop off donations to Mr. Robb's room #120 in the high school.

### **Downhill Ski Meeting**

There will be a meeting for any student interested in Downhill Ski Team @ lunch on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your lunch to the gym stage.

### **Cross-Country Skiing**

The first practice for any and all students interested in being part of the St. Francis Nordic Ski will take place on Wednesday, November 9.

This ancient sport is not for just anyone. Nordic skiing is for those hardy souls who enjoy a brisk winter workout in Mother Nature's playground. It is for those who enjoy the challenge of advancing from struggling neophyte to accomplished skier in a single season. It is for those who strive to become endurance athletes, combining strength and speed with exceptional stamina. Indeed, it is for those so hardy that they enjoy skiing up hills as much as they do skiing down them. It is for those who enjoy the camaraderie of similarly inspired team mates.

Join us for fun in the snow. The first practice will be Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Stop in the office to Mrs. Hunt your phone and email address. Coach Mark Esper will contact you in advance of next week's workout.

### **Calling All Parent Photographers (or anyone who happens to have snapshots of SF students)!!!**

The yearbook staff would love your help with collecting photos that you have taken of any of our SF students so far and those you will take in the future. We have a new site online that allows you to share your photos with us for the possibility of use in our 2011-2012 yearbook. Please visit <http://www.hjeshare.com/eShare/Index.jsp?code=3022253> to drop any and all photos you would like to share with us. Please be aware that we may use these photos, so be sure to sign in with your name so that we can give you credit in the yearbook. Unfortunately, we do have a limit to how many photos we can include on the pages in the yearbook, so there is a possibility that your photos may not be used. However, we would truly appreciate the opportunity to take a look at and possibly use some of your photos for our yearbook.

Thank you for your help!!

**REMINDER:** Senior photos are due on or before November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have not, please contact your photographer to make sure they plan to submit the photo you would like used. You must also turn in a hard copy of the photo for the composite. Thank you!

**Parent Meeting for Guys and Dolls**

There is a mandatory parent meeting for all parents who have students in “Guys and Dolls” on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Kohler Auditorium. Expectations, rehearsal schedules, eligibility, costumes, committees, etc. will be discussed; therefore, parent attendance is vital. Questions, contact Director, Jenn Miles at [jjmiles525@yahoo.com](mailto:jjmiles525@yahoo.com). (Note: this parent meeting includes any parent who has a student in the cast or crew).

**Upcoming:**

11/7 (Monday) NO SCHOOL – Regional Staff Development Day  
11/10 (Thursday) ½ day Parent Teacher Conferences Hours 1,2,3 & 4.  
11/11(Friday) ½ day Conference by appointment only. Hours 5, 6, & 7.  
11/18 (Friday) Late Start Jean Day to benefit Boots for Kids  
11/23 (Wednesday) ½ day begin Thanksgiving Vacation