

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.*

Published November 6, 2009

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

Please email information for system-wide distribution to Maureen DeYoung at mdeyou@gtacs.org

Christ – Above All Things

From the Principal

I was recently asked how often I write “From the Principal.” I explained that I do this the first week of every month. I try to include a bit about the schools spiritual life, academic life, and extracurricular life.

Spiritual Life: I continue to be thankful for the students who are leading the music at our weekly Mass. There are now over twenty students, male and female, who have the courage to praise God in voice in front of their peers. I am also thankful for the parents who join us for Mass Thursday at 11:15, and Adoration/ Exposition all day Wednesday. It is this prayer and praise that glues our schools together and focuses us on our mission. Further, we are pleased with the presence of Father Bill who blesses our hallways and classrooms. In addition to offering optional Mass in Saint Clare’s Chapel on Tuesday at 11:45, he has office hours Tuesday and Friday morning for spiritual advising and confessions. These opportunities coupled with excellence in our religion classrooms and a Catholic perspective in all our classrooms builds on the formation started at home helping form the next generation of Christian leaders – leaders who will embrace all that is good in our world and reject what they must to seek truth.

Academic Life – Procedures for sickness and Conferences:

With the H1N1 virus still around and the seasonal flu yet to hit, it is good to know how to keep up with the activities in class. The best source and first step should be to go to www.gtacs.org click on the parents tab, and then select parent internet viewer. Once there, login with your id and password making sure that Saint Francis is the selected school. Here you will find assignments for the days missed. This is much more efficient than e-mailing the teacher. Thankfully, our numbers out ill are down dramatically and now consistent with prior years.

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 try to keep them to around 10 – 15 minutes. I always enjoy conferences and hope that all of you can attend. *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.

Extracurricular life:

The school is a buzz with play practice and playoffs for sports. One of our favorite times of the

year is when we hear the signing and see the dancing outside of the office as our students prepare for the musical. Further, many of us were at the volleyball game last night as our ladies played well and now have a chance to win districts Saturday in our gym at 10:00. The girl's cross country team will represent us in the State Finals on Saturday. Our football team battles tonight at 7:00 at Thirlby, and there will be a special halftime performance by our band as Father Bill directs them in Twist and Shout. God Bless our play, our band, and all of our teams.

Peace and All Good,

Mr. Erick Chittle

Kiwanis November Student of the Month

Congratulations to senior Josh Kurtz for being chosen Kiwanis Student of the Month and being recognized at lunch on Monday at the Holiday Inn.

Rotary Students

Congratulations to Jonathan Buday and Marc Kanitz for being recognized at next week's Rotary lunch at the Park Place Dome.

Basketball Tryout Meeting

Any 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grader (not FOOTBALL players!!!!) that is interested in TRYING OUT for boys basketball this year should get their lunch and meet in Room #124 on Monday (November 9th) during their lunch period. Coach Ginsberg will meet with all of you & explain the "start of basketball practices" which will be November 16th.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

11/9 – Picture retake day

11/12 – ½ day Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:00-4:00 & 5:00-7:30 (**No late start Thursday**)

11/13 – ½ day school

11/20 – Jean Day

11/25, 11/26, 11/27 – No School Thanksgiving break begins

12/4 – Jostens rep comes to hand out ring order packets to sophomores @ lunch.
