

Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 11, Wed: Market Day Pickup, 2-3pm, Cafeteria (enter through front doors of school)
- Jan. 12, Thurs: Education Commission, 7pm, Sacred Heart Room
- Jan. 16, Mon: No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- Jan. 26, Thurs: 8th Grade Parent Information Night at Peoria Notre Dame, 6:30pm, PND Auditorium
- Jan. 29, Sun: Catholic Schools Week Begins; Mass at 11am, School Open House from 12-2pm
- Feb. 3, Fri: Blessing of Throats; Catholic Schools Week Ends
- Feb. 7, Tues: PTO Meeting, 6pm, Learning Center
- Feb. 8, Wed: Market Day Pickup, 2-3pm, Cafeteria

SHOUT OUTS!!!

Teachers Presenting at Upcoming Conferences

St. Philomena School was informed that we will have four teachers presenting at the 2012 ICE (technology) Conference in March in St. Charles, Illinois. This is the largest technology education conference held in the state. The titles and presenters are:

Bringing Parents into the Classroom (Without them really being there!) – Meaghan Chambers, Shannon Davis, and Deanna King

Teaching Paperless: Engaging Students, Increasing Understanding -- Becca Subert

We also have a team presenting at the Illinois Council State Reading Conference, held in Springfield in March:

Advisory Groups – Growing Literate Leaders – Donna Sheehan, Sally Kincaid, Amy Murphy, Becca Subert

Students Accepted for AgLab Program

Six junior high students have been accepted for the Peoria AgLab's Sneak Peek at Science Careers program. The students will visit three different laboratories, conduct science activities and gain a behind-the-scenes look at different science careers as well as interact closely with research staff at the AgLab.

The students in the program from St. Philomena are seventh grader **Johnny Lawless** and eighth graders **Allie Dickerson, Alize DuBre-Schloz, Max Ehrhart, CeCe Ricca and Charlie Schneider.**

 Catholic Schools Week is January 29. We begin the week with our opening Mass at 11am that day followed by our annual school open house from 12-2pm. This is a great opportunity for parents, grandparents, prospective families and parishioners to see our school in full swing.

CSW is a great time to reflect on why you send your children to Catholic schools. Share with them why a Catholic education is important to your family and find out what they enjoy about being in a Catholic school.

Watch for additional information from the school and PTO on special activities and themes for our students during CSW.

Registration Time!

January is here and that means it's time to register for the 2012-13 school year! When you receive your registration packet, please be sure to read it thoroughly making special note of deadlines. It is imperative that forms are returned on time to the school office.

In addition, if you are applying for the Spalding Scholarship or plan to ask for aid from St. Philomena Parish... just a reminder that the FACTS form is *required for both*. This information is in your registration packet and can also be found at <http://www.cdop.org/pages/EdSchoolsSpalding.aspx>.

The FACTS deadline is February 15, there is not a grace period, this is an outside, independent company.

PAPER DRIVE

St. Philomena School is holding a Paper Ream Drive. Please consider donating a ream of white paper for our school's needs. Reams can be placed in the bin in the vestibule of church. Thank you for your support.

Basketball Games

1/12 boys (5,7,8) v Christ Lutheran; 5pm
1/13-14 boys 7th gr CST at St. Vincent
1/14 boys (5,6) v Blessed Sacrament; 9am
1/14 boys (6) v St. Joseph; 11am
1/17 boys (7,JV,8) v Blessed Sacrament; 5:30pm
1/18 boys (5) v St. Thomas; 5pm
1/18 boys (6,8) v Monroe; 6pm
1/20-21 boys 8th gr CST at St. Thomas
1/27-28 boys 6th gr CST at St. Philomena
2/1-4 boys 5th gr tournament at St. Edward

Mark your calendars for January 27 & 28 for the 6th grade boys basketball Catholic Schools Tournament to be held at St. Philomena. Volunteers will be needed in a variety of areas.

Volleyball Games



1/31 v Bartonville (7,8) 5:30pm
2/3 @ St. Vincent's (6,7,8) 5pm
2/7 @ Blessed Sacrament (6,7,8) 5:30pm
2/11 6th Grade Tournament @ Peoria Academy
2/14 v St. Mark's (6,7,8) 5:30pm
2/16 v St. Joseph's (6,7,8) 5:30pm

St. Philomena PTO January Meeting Notes

\$100 Club is up to 91 names. We received a thank you note from Dec's winner, Helen Smarjesse. Annette & Chuck Maibach are January's winner. // PTO paid for Scrip for teachers' Christmas gifts.

Principal's Report: Four St. Philomena teachers will be presenting at the Illinois Reading Conference: Sally Kincaid, Amy Murphy, Rebecca Subert, and Donna Sheehan. // Tiger Times student newsletter was sent by email over break. The students worked very hard on it and did a great job. It was sent to all students through school Gmail accounts. // Maureen Kelly and Greta Kelly have stepped forward to complete the yearbook for last year and lead the committee for next year. // Liz Johnson has come on as the 6th grade aid. Next year the class will have three sections. // Another request will be sent out asking for donations of reams of paper. The donations saved the school about \$800. // Received a check for \$815 from BoxTops. // Registration materials will soon be distributed. // Catholic Schools Week schedule being completed

Events/Activities: Auction: Thank you notes have been sent. Cookie Dough: 60 tubs of cookie dough left. Restaurant fundraisers: McDonald's at University and War Memorial will have a St. Philomena night Jan. 18 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Agatucci's contacted us about a fundraiser night to be scheduled for February. Working on scheduling Double A's for March. Yankee candle: Fundraiser will be Feb 20 - Mar 2. Yankee Candle provides packets and prizes and sorts the orders. Survey for parents: Will be sending out an online survey to school families in Feb.

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your family and feel renewed to finish out the school year!

Get Involved & Help Your Child Succeed!

Did you know that when parents get involved in their children's education, it pays off. Research shows that children whose parents are actively involved are more likely to:

- . Earn higher grades and test scores
- . Enroll in higher-level programs
- . Adapt well to school
- . Have better social skills
- . Graduate and go to college
- . Attend school regularly
- . Show improved behavior
- . And more!

Parent involvement is great for children, great for teachers, and great for the school. ***But I Don't Have Time!*** Just an hour or two a semester can really make a difference! There are even jobs you can do from home or in the evenings. Some events even occur on weekends.

In the upcoming weeks, there will be a survey emailed out to the parents in regards to fundraising. We are looking for your opinion on how you would like to see things change. The fundraisers are extremely important so we really want you to think about it and provide feedback.

I am really excited about our Spring Fundraiser – Yankee Candle! This is going to be a great fundraiser! If anyone wants to help me with this, just let me know. Much of the work is being done for us up front and on the back end. If you are nervous about helping out with a fundraiser, this is a good one to get your feet wet. I promise it will be easy!



If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact me anytime at 360-6023 or lisalamb67@aol.com.

In Faith,
Lisa Lamb
PTO President 2011 - 2012