

SCHOOL NEWS

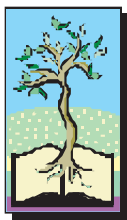
"Weave in faith and
God will find the thread."
-Author Unknown

Courage
Honesty
Accountability
Responsibility
Authenticity
Compassion
Trustworthiness
Excellence
Reverence

Character Education is a significant part of the SMPS curriculum. Among all teachers there is a focus on these six traits: Responsibility, Respect, Citizenship, Caring, Trustworthiness, and Fairness. On designated months, teachers teach lessons that focus on a particular character trait and then document their activities.

Teachers also design the school's first and second floor bulletin boards to reflect the monthly theme.

For September, the character trait is RESPONSIBILITY.



2009-2010 School Year Theme:

**"Build it
and they will come."**

Welcome Back!

SMPS welcomes more than 350 Students to the 2009-10 School Year

We wish all our new and returning students the very best this year as they begin the new school year! It promises to be a year filled with exciting new classes, activities, stewardship opportunities and challenges.

Earlier this month, many of our students visited their new homerooms and teachers during the Annual Open House event. It was wonderful way to check out their new classrooms, desk, cubbies, as well as meet their new teachers.

Later that evening, Fr. McSweeney and Fr. Dan celebrated a Covenant Signing Liturgy to signify the renewed commitment among the school, parish and school families. Each family went to the altar to turn in their signed Covenant Agreement as Fr. McSweeney and Mrs. Sis Richardson, school principal, initialed it.

After the liturgy, families were invited to the school hall for an ice cream social hosted by SMPS teachers. Despite the stormy weather conditions that evening, the social was very well attended.

We thank all our families for their attendance and renewed commitment to the school and parish. We look forward to a wonderful school year!

SMPS open house



First Grade Teacher Lisa Parr



Fr. Jeremiah McSweeney



SMPS Sixth graders

SERVICEspotlight

The following organizations will be among those who will receive donations and support from SMPS students through various service-oriented projects planned during this school year:

- ◆ Breast Cancer: Fight for a Cure
- ◆ United Way
- ◆ Easter Seals
- ◆ Autism Research
- ◆ Gabriel Project
- ◆ U.S. Troops

Classroom Highlights...

Pre-Schoolers to receive a Western-style welcome!



PK3 will be starting off the year with a "Western Welcome". The classes will be in school for one hour on Tuesday, Sept. 1 and an hour and 45 minutes on Thursday Sept. 3. (Regular M, T, Th class times begin Tuesday the 8th.) During our Western Week, we will be singing cowboy/girl songs around an indoor camp fire, getting our pictures taken behind a "WANTED ... \$1000 Reward" photo prop with the face cut out, and "havin' a rootin'-tootin', boot scootin' time" with some line dancing!

Our second week will be our "All About Me" week. Students will learn how special each one of them is in God's eyes, as well as in the eyes of others. We will observe our fingerprints through a microscope, as well as make an "All About Me" project to keep at home. Like every other day, the children will be doing their "jobs" as reporter, meteorologist, teacher's aide, patriot, janitor, prayer leader, mail carrier, train engineer, and, last but not least, (pardon the expression) the caboose!

Many new 'firsts' await our Kindergartners

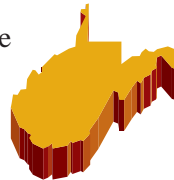
The next few weeks will be busy ones in the St. Michael's Kindergarten classrooms. We will be getting used to a new routine, classroom procedures, touring the school, spending the WHOLE day at school and most importantly making friends! We will be reading "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn to help the children be reassured that Mommy and Daddy love them and that their love will go with them wherever they go...even to school! We will paint our handprint and attach a heart to it to show our "Kissing Hand."

Also, we will be learning many new songs and singing some of our old favorites to help us learn in a fun way. We have a new Religion series this year: *God Loves Us*. We begin the year with the Gospel reading Mark 10:13-16. "Let the little children come to me." How welcoming and inviting! Let us begin our year by welcoming one another!

4th Grade to explore West Virginia's rich history, culture of Native Americans

As we begin the new school year, the fourth grade will have the opportunity to learn many new and interesting things. In social studies class, they will develop their map skills throughout the year and peek into the past to observe the culture of Native Americans who resided here long before the first European settlers arrived. We will also look at our nation's beginnings, covering the first colonies up through the establishment of our government under the Constitution.

As part of our social studies class, fourth graders will have the opportunity to learn a great deal about the state of West Virginia. One of the first things the class is required to do is to learn the pledge of allegiance to the flag of West Virginia. The Mountain State has a tremendous amount of history and culture for which we can be very proud. Whether you were born in West Virginia, currently live, or once resided here, West Virginians can truly be proud of our state. Part of that pride is found in the following pledge:



I pledge allegiance to the flag of West Virginia, which serves as a constant reminder that "Mountaineers Are Always Free," which stands as a symbol of her majestic mountains, fertile forests, rich veins of coal, and the pride of her people.

WHAT'S NEW

- ♦ Math & Reading Enrichment and Remediation Program
- ♦ Computer Lab Workstations
- ♦ French Class for 7th and 8th graders
- ♦ SMPS Student News Broadcast
- ♦ *Intro to Drama Class*
- ♦ *Movie Classics Class*
- ♦ *Public Speaking Class*
- ♦ Piano Lessons
- ♦ Band & Guitar Class
- ♦ After-School Spanish Club
- ♦ Teen Issues Discussions
- ♦ New Science Books for Grades 6-8

2009-10

St. Michael Parish School

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For registration or class shadowing information, please contact Mrs. Marilyn Richardson, school principal.

Welcoming children of all faiths.