

SCHOOL NEWS

"What we are is God's gift to us.
What we become
is our gift to God."
-Eleanor Powell

Upcoming Events

~ 2010 ~

January 4
School Resumes

January 8
Geography Bee
(Grades 5-8, 1:30 pm)

January 15
*End of 2nd Quarter/
Early Dismissal*

January 18
Martin Luther King Day
No School

January 24
*Early Childhood Program
Open House*
*Discover more about the SMPS
Preschool, TK and Kindergarten
Programs and how to register your
child for the 2010-11 school year*

January 24-29
Catholic Schools Week

February 5
Mardi Gras Celebration
7-11 pm @ Generations Pub

February 10
Parent Association Meeting

**May God bless
you and your family this
Advent Season.**



A Time to Think of Others

At SMPS, Advent Season means service to others

Among the festive holiday activities this Advent Season, St. Michael students looked to others' needs and participated in several community service projects that made the holiday season a little brighter for someone else.



Kindergartner Nathan Dieffenbaugher opens a gift at the annual Baby Shower for Jesus event to benefit the Gabriel Project. Classmate Sara Gruber and Teacher Roseann Haynes look on.

Kindergarten held their annual Baby Shower for Jesus party to benefit the Gabriel Project in Wheeling. Kindergartners donated such baby gifts as clothing, diapers, teething, blankets, and a new stroller. Just like an actual baby shower, each child picked a gift to unwrap while classmates expressed their "ooh's and aah's." The children also enjoyed shower games, an "It's a Boy cake" and blue juice served in baby bottles. Organized annually by Teacher Roseann Haynes, the shower helps teach the kids that even though they are young, they can still help someone in need.

"St. Michael's is like an Archangel for us and we are so appreciative of what they do."
- Teddie Grogan,
Gabriel Project Director

In addition to the baby shower, SMPS also collected \$560 in dimes to donate to the organization as part of its Respect Life activities in October. Teddie Grogan, Gabriel Project executive director, says her organization supports about 2,900

women every year. "Believe me, what St. Michael's does for the Gabriel Project every year is so wonderful," Grogan said. "St. Michael's is like an Archangel for us and we are so appreciative of what they do."

St. Jude's Children's Hospital... Fifth graders raised money for St. Jude's Research Center during a "Math-a-thon" this month. Students asked their friends and family members to sponsor them by giving a donation based on the amount of math pages they completed in a *Math Fun Book*. This year, they also had a friendly competition to see which homeroom could raise the most money -- Mrs. Hilk's class won and will be celebrating with a pizza party. The total amount raised by 5th grade was \$1,632! Since 1994, SMPS has raised more than \$36,184 for St. Jude's. Thanks to everyone who contributed!!

Dress Down Day Contributions... Students raised \$300 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by sponsoring Leland Altmeyer and Crissie Hohman in a benefit run. Also, students contributed \$320 to help buy calling cards for U.S. soldiers. **Thank you for making this Advent Season so special and helping us fulfill our mission to promote stewardship among our students.**

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Grant award received from Community Foundation for Ohio Valley



Community Foundation Executive Director Susie Nelson, far left, presents a grant award check for \$1,200 to St. Michael Parish School Principal Marilyn Richardson, far right, and Mustang Media Adviser Ann Railing (second from left). Also pictured are Media News team members Peter Hartzell, Allison Walton-Mokros, and Kevin Hasenauer. The funds will be used to purchase new equipment and software for the Mustang Media student news broadcast.

Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley Executive Director Susie Nelson recently presented St. Michael Parish School with a check representing a grant award for new equipment costs associated with the school's Mustang Media student news broadcast. The \$1,200 award will be used to purchase such new equipment as a new video camera and tripod, new video editing software, and new backdrops for the anchor news desk. The Mustang Media news team is comprised of 25 students (grades 7-8). Under the supervision of Teacher Ann Railing, the news team creates a 15-minute weekly news show that is broadcasted to all students via their classroom SMART Boards.

SCRIP Program sales at all-time high for holidays

Thank you to the parish and school families as well as relatives and neighbors who have supported the school Scrip Program since it was re-launched in September. We're happy to report that November Scrip sales were more than \$20,000, while mid-December sales top \$13,120 with 574 cards purchased in just the first two weeks of the month.

Kroger activity also remains strong. With both the summer and fall quarterly report results received, St. Michael's saw a total of \$8,292.04 in Kroger activity among registered customers.

In early February, school families will receive their first activity report indicating their earned rebate totals. For more information on the SMPS Scrip Program, please contact the development office at (304) 242-3966.

*Congratulations
Erika Baldauff
SCRIP November Incentive
Contest Winner!!*

GAME NIGHT



The SMPS Student Council members sponsored a fun Game Night on Dec. 4 for the school's 3rd and 4th graders. Pictured (from l to r) are third graders Ireland and Kenadee Wayt, Abbie Vernon, and Emily Higgs.

spelling BEE



WINNER!

Cathleen Banks

We congratulate Cathleen Banks (on right) for her successful finish in this year's Spelling Bee. By successfully spelling the word "ventriloquist" in the 10th round, Cathleen earned the top honor. Seventh grader Kimber Boord (on left) also finished strong as the runner-up.

Cathleen will go on to represent SMPS at the Diocesan Spelling Bee competition scheduled for March 2010.

Good Luck Cathleen!!

DON'T MISS IT!!

Mardi Gras Celebration Friday, Feb. 5th 7-11 pm at Generations

All proceeds will be directed to the creation of a new playground area between the Angelus Center and school.

St. Michael Parish School
1221 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
304.242.3966
www.stmikesparish.org

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

Welcoming children of all faiths.