

# SCHOOL NEWS

"Reputation is for time;  
character is for eternity."  
~J. B. Gough

## Upcoming Events

~ 2010 ~

**January 31-February 5**  
Catholic Schools Week

**February 2**  
D.A.R.E. Program Begins  
for 5th Graders

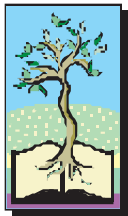
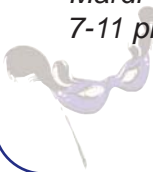
**February 3**  
NET Retreat for 6-8th Graders

**February 4**  
WJU Men's and Women's  
Basketball Games  
Free admittance for  
Catholic School Students  
(Game times: 5:30 and 7:30 pm)

**February 4-5**  
Science Fair (6th & 8th Grades)

**February 5**  
Early Dismissal  
Teacher Appreciation Day

**February 5**  
Mardi Gras Celebration  
7-11 pm at Generations



2009-2010 School Year Theme:

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

## Catholic Schools Week chalk full of fun activities

It's that time of year when all students of Catholic Schools join together, with their teachers, in celebration of what makes their Catholic educational experience so special. It's our opportunity to promote our faith-based educational programs and outreach initiatives that help form the foundation of our students' academic, social, spiritual and character development.

This year's theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Dividends for Life" to reflect how a Catholic education builds a strong foundation that will benefit a child for years to come.

"Catholic Schools Week is our time to shine and to show the world around us what great things happen at St. Michael's," said Principal Sis Richardson. "Each and every day, our kids learn the importance of prayer and faith in their lives and the importance of being good stewards."

SMPS thanks the teachers on the Catholic Schools Week Committee for all their hard work in planning the school events: Miss Sarah Felton, Mrs. Corinne Cecil, Mrs. Shannon Bowman, and Mrs. Paula Foster.

### Interesting statistics\*\* about our nation's Catholic Schools...

- ◆ Total no. of U.S. Catholic Schools: 7,248
- ◆ In early 1960s, there were 13,000 Catholic schools in U.S. and more than 5.2 million students enrolled. Today, there are 2,192,531 students enrolled (Elementary/Middle: 1,568,016; Secondary: 624,515)
- ◆ Non-Catholic Enrollment: 325,835 (14.9%) - up from 11.2% in 1980
- ◆ In 2008-09: 31 new Catholic Schools opened and 162 Schools consolidated or closed
- ◆ 2,114 Schools have a waiting list for admission
- ◆ Average Student/Teacher Ratio: 14:1
- ◆ No. of Full-Time Professional Staff: 157,615 (96.0% Laity; 4.0% Religious/Clergy)
- ◆ Highest % of Catholic Schools are in Mideast Region of U.S. (24.7%); 2nd highest is Great Lakes region (23.8%)
- ◆ 42.7% of all Catholic Schools are located in urban and inner city areas
- ◆ Average per pupil tuition in Elementary Schools: \$3,159 (approximately 53.8% of actual costs per pupil - \$5,870)

\*\*Source: *U.S. Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools 2008-09 Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment & Staffing*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



## DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

### SMPS Catholic Schools Week Events

Penny Drop (Mon-Fri)  
Canned Food Drive (Mon-Thur)

**Sunday**  
Family Night at HLWC (7-9 pm)

**Monday**  
Blue & Gold Dress Down Day  
Beach Volleyball Game  
(Teachers vs. 8th graders,  
1:30 pm Angelus Ctr.)

**Tuesday**  
Student Appreciation Day  
Crazy Clothes Day  
8th Grade Basketball Game  
(girls vs boys) -- 1:30 pm  
Angelus Ctr  
Classroom Movie (grades TK-4)

**Wednesday**  
CSW Mass (8:30 am)  
Ice Cream Sundae Treats  
NET Retreat (grades 6-8)

**Thursday**  
Family Feud Game  
(1:30 pm Angelus Ctr.)

**Friday**  
Teachers Appreciation Day  
Game Day (grades TK-3)  
Movie at the Angelus Center  
(grades 4-8)  
Early Dismissal  
Teacher Luncheon  
(12:15 pm, Angelus Center)

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### SCHOOL WINNER!

#### Spangler wins SMPS Geography Bee



Sixth grader Collin Spangler

Amidst cheers from his fellow classmates who sat in the audience, sixth grader Collin Spangler was pronounced the winner of this year's school Geography Bee by Principal Sis Richardson last week. Collin did an outstanding job successfully answering the most questions posed by moderator Sean Decker during seven rounds of competition that tested students' knowledge of cities, rivers, countries, monuments, climates and cultures in both the U.S. and abroad. As winner, Collin received a Subway gift card and earned the opportunity to represent St. Michael's in the state competition.

We congratulate all 16 students who earned a spot in this year's Geography Bee: (5th Grade) Jake Hamm, Jessica Ghobrial, Luke Fahey and Ashley Wildern; (6th Grade) Collin Spangler, Ryan Dunlap, Thomas Mosman, and Teresa Pockl; (7th Grade) Derek Zelkowski, Brady Bower, Phillip Payne, and Billy Teufel; and (8th Grade) Nick Schubert, Tiffany Wildern, Karl Mueller and Tanner Gantzer. *Note: Kevin Keane qualified for the Bee but did not participate due to school absence.*

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

### Younger students introduced to foreign languages through new Spanish Club

Sixth grade teacher Michelle Thompson is sharing her love of Spanish with the school's younger students through a new Spanish Club. Each quarter, Miss Thompson targets certain grade levels, giving students the opportunity to sign-up for the after-school club to begin their exploration of foreign languages.

During the first quarter, 12 students from 2nd and 3rd grades joined, while in the second quarter there were five 4th and 5th graders involved. "We meet weekly after school and I teach students some basic Spanish that will help them get started when they reach junior high," Thompson said. "They learn Spanish greetings and expressions of courtesy, colors,



The SMPS 2nd & 3rd Grade Spanish Club: Peyton Knight, Maria Goudy, Luke Rapp, Lillian Bischof, Lydia Bischof, Jacob Rine, Isaac Smith, Lakin Snider, Jett Thomas, Abby Doerr, Ashley Linder, and Gabe Haworth.



the alphabet, days of the week and months, family relationships, and classroom objects."

The SMPS 4th & 5th Grade Spanish Club: Jack Stryker, Nathan Blair, Timmy Wensel, Michael Niggemyer, and Jessica Ghobrial.

## pirates CARAVAN



The Pirate Caravan visits SMPS



The Parrot has some fun with SMPS students



Pitcher Evan Meek, Pitcher Kevin Hart and Outfielder Andrew McCutchen of the Pittsburgh Pirates

# JAN. 27th

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.*