



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"The greatest mistake one can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one."  
- Elbert Hubbard

## Events Calendar

**Friday, Jan. 14**  
**Noon Dismissal**  
(Bucketfiller Friday)



**Monday, Jan. 17**  
**No School**  
(Martin Luther King Day)



**Saturday, Jan. 22**  
**Skills and Services Soiree**  
(5:30 to 8:30 pm, School Hall)



**Sunday, Jan. 23**  
**SMPS Early Childhood Program Open House!**  
(Immediately following 9 am Mass)



**Jan. 30-Feb. 5**  
**Catholic Schools Week**



**Feb. 7-8**  
**Science Fair**



**Friday, Feb. 18**  
**Noon Dismissal**



**Monday, Feb. 21**  
**No School**  
(Presidents' Day)



**Friday, Feb. 25**  
**Mardi Gras Celebration**  
(6-11 pm, Generations Restaurant)

## Everything You Need to Know About SMPS...

Bookmark our school website:  
[stmikesparishschool.org](http://stmikesparishschool.org)

Become a Fan of our Facebook Page:  
[facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS](http://facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

Get all Mustang Athletic Information:  
[leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs](http://leaguelineup.com/stmikesmustangs)

## SMPS Parent Assn hosting new event

Jan. 22 "Skills and Services Soiree" fundraiser to showcase donated talents of parishioners, local community members

There's a fun, new event coming your way later this month that will appeal to all -- young and old alike. It's the *Skills and Services Soiree*, sponsored by the school's Parent Association and spearheaded by president Kathleen Dieffenbaugher.

The Soiree, which includes a live and silent auction with a light dinner buffet, will be held in the early evening hours (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm) of Saturday, Jan. 22 -- right after Mass -- to accommodate weekend schedules. Perhaps you've dreamed of giving your son or grandson a one-on-one session with one of the nation's best young athletes, then why not bid on baseball pitching lessons from former WJU standout Noah Mull who led the Cardinals to their best record in school history with a WVIAC-best 2.09 earned run average? Or maybe your family's weekly dinner menu has become ho-hum and you're searching to spice it up a bit...then consider bidding on personal cooking lessons from local culinary expert Chris Kefauver. Do you need a handyman to help finish that to-do list? Bid on handyman services donated by Larry Brothers. Whatever the need, the Skills and Services Soiree's 25 service auction items may be a fun way to find your answer!



"Our new event is the perfect complement to our parish's focus on using our time and talent to support the community," Dieffenbaugher said. "It's a great opportunity to spend an evening out with friends while supporting our school at the same time." She added that anyone interested in donating a service or skill to the auction should contact her by Jan. 15 at [kathleend880@aol.com](mailto:kathleend880@aol.com).

The evening will begin with a light dinner buffet of soups, sandwiches, fruit and desserts. Guests will then have the opportunity to review the silent auction items as well as review the live auction program booklet. Silent auction bids will be accepted all evening with the final winners announced at 8:15 pm. The live auction will start at 6:30 pm.

The Soiree is free to all who attend. However, donations will be accepted at the door. Auction proceeds will go to the SMPS Tuition Assistance Program.

### A Sneak Peek

Here's a sampling of our Skills and Services Soiree Auction Items...

Baseball Pitching Lessons from National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association's *All-Athletic Region Pitcher of the Year Award Winner* Noah Mull



Three Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration Packages (six areas of carpet cleaning and two sofas; and two packages offering two rooms of carpet cleaning and one hallway)



Soccer Lessons from WPHS Soccer Coach Mario Julian



Personal Training Sessions from Wellness Center's Julie Blust



Will Preparation from Gail Kahle, Esq.

## SERVICEspotlight

### Kindergartners hold baby shower, donate gifts to Wheeling's Gabriel Project

Before the holiday break, our kindergartners held a very special event...a baby shower for Baby Jesus -- complete with gifts, games and cake. The shower gifts -- baby clothes, diapers, bottles, and blankets - were donated to the Gabriel Project in Wheeling to help needy mothers.

One-by-one, each child chose a gift to open in front of the class, while classmates played a Baby Bingo game hoping the unwrapped present would be an item on their game sheet. After all the presents were opened and shower games were played, children enjoyed a beautifully made Baby Jesus cake, compliments of parent volunteer Jen Carter, and juice served in baby bottles.

"The Baby Shower for Jesus is an annual event for Kindergarten and the children are always excited to see what items they will give to the Gabriel Project," said Teacher Roseanne Haynes. "It's our way of celebrating the birth of Jesus in a special way that helps others who need it most."



*Last month SMPS kindergartners celebrated the birth of Baby Jesus with their very own baby shower. Each child brought in a wrapped baby gift that was later donated to Wheeling's Gabriel Project. Above, Clemence Fichet shows her classmates the gift of baby clothes she unwrapped.*

## SMPS SPELLING BEE



Congratulations to all 16 students (grades 5-8) who qualified to compete in the SMPS Spelling Bee competition. We are proud of all you! The winner was seventh grader Aric Varlas (above right) and 7th grader Sean McFarland (left) was named runner-up. Aric will move on to the regional competition to be held in March at Wheeling Jesuit University. Good luck, Aric!

## STUDENT NEWS

### Fourth Grade 'Walks the Red Carpet'

Students showcase their Powerpoint video projects as part of Movie Premier Day held Dec. 16

Fourth graders were treated like movie stars last month as part of their special Movie Premier Day. Decked out in their finest garb, students -- along with their teachers -- strolled the red carpet on their way to an exclusive film festival featuring their very own Powerpoint video projects. As part of their computer lab class, each student developed his/her own story, wrote a script, chose graphics, and created animations and a voiceover for his/her short film over a five-week period. Then, amidst the applause of their fellow classmates, each student's individual short film was unveiled on the classroom SMARTBoard screen. The fun-filled event concluded with a popcorn treat for all our talented young directors.

Special thanks to our fourth grade teachers Corinne Cecil and Warren Lenz for nurturing their students' creativity and technology skills.



*Mrs. Cecil and Mr. Lenz lead their students down the Red Carpet as part of their Movie Premier Day held Dec. 16.*



### Join Us in Cheering on our Cheerleaders!

*5th/6th Grade Cheering Showcase*

Jan. 22 at 9 a.m.

St. Vincent's School



*7th/8th Grade Competition*

Jan. 29 at 9 a.m.

St. Vincent's School

St. Michael Parish School  
1221 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
304.242.3966  
[www.stmikesparishschool.org](http://www.stmikesparishschool.org)



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

*Welcoming children of all faiths.*