



Established 1897

# SCHOOL NEWS

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."  
- John Bunyan

## Events Calendar

Sunday, Jan. 23

**SMPS Early Childhood Program Open House!**

(10 a.m., School Hall)



Friday, Jan. 28

**SMPS 2011-12 Intent to Return Form Due with Technology Fee Payment**



Jan. 30-Feb. 5

**Catholic Schools Week**



Feb. 4

**Bucketfiller Dress Down Day**



Feb. 7-8

**Science Fair**



Friday, Feb. 18

**Noon Dismissal**



Monday, Feb. 21

**No School**

(Presidents' Day)



Friday, Feb. 25

**Mardi Gras Celebration**

(7-11 pm, Generations Restaurant)



Thursday, March 3

**Regional Science Fair & Social Studies Fair Awards Ceremony**

(1 pm, Wheeling Central HS)

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS)

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

## Erin O'Leary selected as SMPS 2011 Aquinas Medal Award Winner

If there's a student service-oriented project taking place at St. Michael's, you can usually count on 8th grader Erin O'Leary (daughter of Craig and Emma O'Leary) being involved. Recognizing not only her excellent academic performance this year but also her strong commitment to stewardship and service, the SMPS faculty selected Erin as this year's St. Thomas Aquinas Medal Award winner.

The Aquinas Medal Award is presented to one student from the highest grade in each of the schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to "make visible those young people in our schools who live the spirit of the school's mission and the philosophy of Catholic school education."

Erin, who first enrolled at SMPS nine years ago as a Kindergartner, is a dedicated student with hopes to one day become a scientist. She is involved in many activities including Student Council, the Mustang Media student news team, the



*Erin O'Leary is the 2011 Aquinas Medal Award winner for St. Michael Parish School.*

Lady Mustangs Basketball Team, and Girl Scouts. Erin plans to attend Wheeling Central Catholic High School next fall.

"We are very proud of Erin," Principal Sis Richardson said. "She truly exemplifies a commitment to stewardship, faith, community, church and academics that we know will take her far in life."

Erin, accompanied by her parents and siblings Vincent (10th grade) and Daniel (5th grade), will be recognized at the annual



*Above, as a member of Student Council, Erin volunteered to help with this year's Halloween Party for our TK-2nd graders. Council members ran individual activity stations, played games and read to the children. At right, Erin (back row, center) participated in November's All Saints' Mass with first graders.*



Catholic Schools Dinner on Sunday, March 27 in Morgantown where she will be presented with her Medal by Mrs. Richardson. She will also have her picture taken with Bishop Michael J. Bransfield.

Congratulations, Erin!

## STUDENT NEWS

### Student Drama Club Begins 2011 Season

Stifel Fine Arts Center's Tim Thompson starts second year as moderator for 'St. Michael Players' Drama Club

The SMPS Drama Club got underway this month under the guidance of Tim Thompson of the Stifel Fine Arts Center and Towngate Theater. More than 50 students (grades 4-8) registered to participate in the program. Thompson says the students will learn the basics about theater production including improvisation and acting, writing, direction and set design. Their season will conclude in late spring with a theatrical performance for



*During an improvisational exercise using a swimming pool noodle, Addyson Thomas, a 4th grade student, receives some acting tips from Drama Club moderator Tim Thompson as she chooses to portray the noodle as a slice of watermelon.*



SMPS students, teachers and parents.

The Drama Club was created in 2009 to enhance the theatrical knowledge and experience of students, as well as to nurture self-confidence and self-esteem. The club has also served as a gateway for interested students to get involved in local summer theater programs.

We thank Tim Thompson for his dedication and commitment to work with our students!

*Seventh grader Lucy Hartzell chooses to use her prop as a dance partner during her improv exercise.*

### Jambalaya Cook-Off to Showcase Culinary Talents

The SMPS Mardi Gras Planning Committee seeks local cooking enthusiasts who are willing to put their best Jambalaya recipe to the test! For the first time, this year's Mardi Gras celebration will include a Jambalaya Cook-Off beginning at 7 pm. The Cook-off King (or Queen) will be announced at 8 pm, following a tally of votes from Mardi Gras attendees. All Cook-Off contestants will receive two free entries to Mardi Gras which will be held on Friday, Feb. 25 from 7-11 pm. To enter, please contact Stacie Palmer at (304) 242-1707 or pharmdees@comcast.net by Feb. 16, 2011.

### K of C to Host Student Free Throw Contest Jan. 28

The Knights of Columbus, local council #504, will sponsor its annual Free Throw Contest on Friday, Jan. 28 at 7 pm at St. Michael's Angelus Center. The contest is open to all boys and girls ages 10-14. There is no cost to enter. All contestants are asked to bring a copy of their birth certificate for age verification. For more information, please contact Ray Blust at (304) 242-7182.

## SMPS GEOGRAPHY BEE



Congratulations to all 16 students (grades 5-8) who qualified to compete in the SMPS Geography Bee earlier this month. In the competition, each student answered a question from seven different categories including U.S. Geography, U.S. Mint's 50 Quarters Program, U.S. Cities, Continents, and Cultural Geography. Answering all seven questions correctly was 8th grader Kevin Stryker.

Kevin, son of Kevin and Carol Stryker, now moves on to the regional competition next month. Best of luck, Kevin!

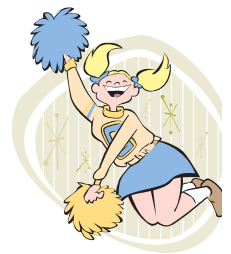
7th/8th Grade  
Cheering

Competition

Jan. 29 at 9 a.m.

St. Vincent de

Paul School



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

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

*Welcoming children of all faiths.*