

**ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 9 - 17, 2018**

Dear Parents,

**We begin our forty day Lenten journey by being signed with the markings of our Christian heritage on Ash Wednesday (February 14th).** Although this is not a holy day of obligation, we will attend Mass to begin our Lenten practices. With the ashes we will receive, we are reminded to turn away from sin ... to leave the past in ashes ... and to once again give our lives and hearts to God. The St. Andrew Catholic School community will take the theme "Lent: A Season of Change, A Time to Grow" to support our focus of growing in Gods love. We will use the symbol of a garden to help develop this theme, and will gather at our Monday Meetings each week to focus on following Christ more deeply as a school community. I'll detail our Lenten plan more thoroughly in the note section of this newsletter.

**Happy (almost) Valentines Day!** As we prepare to celebrate and remember those we love in a special way, be reminded of how much we love and appreciate your kids and YOU! Since Valentines Day has at its roots St. Valentine (a Roman priest who was executed for the faith in 269), use this day to emphasize the importance of genuine love – the kind of love that reflects the teachings of Jesus. As we live in love, we live in God. What a blessing to live and share that love in our Catholic School.

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – A BIG THANK YOU!**

We extend our gratitude to all who made Catholic Schools Week such a great success. Whether you volunteered at the Barn Dance, the sliding and skating event or extra outside recess – signed up on line or just came to help – we benefitted from your service, and wouldn't be able to have had such a memorable week without your help. In addition, your generosity in supporting our collection for Heifer International was inspirational – you and your children continue to amaze and impress me with your devotion to others who are in need. We collected **249 lbs of cash (the paper money was weighted), and \$1,697.67 in a THREE DAY COLLECTION! Wow!** We are in the process now of ordering the animals (pigs and a few other ideas from the kids) for those in need in our global family. May God bless you for your generosity!

Special thanks to **Anne Marie Buck, Melanie Curtis, Jen Belde and Tanya Reemts** for the great time with Family Dance party which was very well attended and a blast! Mrs. Reemts can really dance and has taught the kids well! So much fun! Hungry teachers and staff are appreciative to **Anna Grotte** and **all of the parents** who contributed to daily lunches catered for the school and parish staff. Also our thanks to **Julie Steuder and Laure Hipsag** in the kitchen for preparing caramel rolls for kids and parents, serving about 220 students, parents and staff. And last but not least to **Mrs. Olinger and all of the families** that participated in

the Capstone Mass on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Olinger is kind of the “unsung” (no pun intended) hero at our school – who consistently gets the most beautiful music out of our beautiful kids. She is a marvel!

I hope I haven’t missed mentioning anyone. If I did, know that you are appreciated, and that the service of everyone made such a difference. The kids had a great time during CSW! It always does my heart good to see our kids play and have fun – they are so full of joy and gratitude! Thanks again to all parents who volunteered their help – we couldn’t have done it without you.

Lots more in the note section – especially about Valentines Day and treats. Please check it over carefully. Thanks parents!

*May this season of Lent truly be a time of growth and change for all of us!*  
Ms. Scipioni

### **FEBRUARY 9 - 17, 2018**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 –

**6:30 – 8:00 p.m. - Reconciliation Retreat - Second Grade** parents and students that are registered for today’s session should meet at the Church at 6:30 p.m. This retreat (or Saturday’s session) is mandatory for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, set for early March.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 –

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m. - Reconciliation Retreat - Second Grade** parents and students that are registered for today’s session should meet at the Church at 9:00 a.m. This retreat (or Friday’s session) is mandatory for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, set for early March.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 –

**11:30 – PRESCHOOL / PREK NEW PARENT INFORMATION MEETING IN THE PRESCHOOL ROOM** – *Our licensed preschool program is a safe, nurturing environment that prepares three, four and five year olds to enjoy and love learning as they begin their school career. The PreKindergarten program (age 4-5) has social and academic expectations that most of us associate with Kindergarten, having play interspersed among curricular expectations. Our Preschool (age 3-4) gets children introduced to the basics of friendship, social interaction, play and basic academics. Both programs instruct and instill in our youngest learners the wonder of God, the beauty of Creation, and the great love that Jesus has for all of us! Please encourage and invite anyone you know to check out our program!*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12 –

**The fifth grade students and their teachers begin their three day environmental camp experience at Long Lake Conservation Camp.** This environmental experience helps to meet the high academic standards as defined by the State of Minnesota for Science in Environmental Education, and lifelong outdoor skills. Our gratitude is extended to Mrs. Laabs for giving of themselves and their time in offering this wonderful experience for our students. Our fifth graders, chaperones and teachers will receive a blessing from the student body at Monday Meeting before they leave today. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe and successful trip.

- **CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL RAFFLE tickets** – please return all tickets that are sold thus far. Ask for more tickets to sell! Buy or sell the 10 tickets you were assigned. \$5 per ticket – 100% of the ticket sale goes to St. Andrew Catholic School. Make checks payable to St. Andrew Catholic School. Return sold tickets to the school every Monday. **Request more tickets as needed.** See note section for more info.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13– **VALENTINES DAY!!! (Yes, not a typo)**

- Grade 5 has their second day of environmental camp at Long Lake today.
- Grade 4 has instrument lessons and band today.
- ***Because February 14<sup>th</sup> falls on Ash Wednesday, we are celebrating VALENTINES DAY TODAY! – I believe that each classroom will communicate with parents the names of students in the classroom so that a Valentine can be prepared for all. Please don't let a holiday that has love and giving as its focus be a time for a child to feel excluded by being omitted from receiving a valentine. Thanks parents for your help with this.***

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – **ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT BEGINS**

**10:00 – Ash Wednesday Mass. Although Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, many Catholics choose to begin Lent by attending Mass and receiving ashes as an outward sign of our faith.** Students in Grade 1 will assist with this Mass. Prekindergarten students will attend this Mass, and there will be a collection. Kids are encouraged to bring a donation in their church envelope for this Mass.

- Other Ash Wednesday Masses at 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew
- Our fifth grade students return from environmental camp today. They will be returning between 1:30-2:30, and students may/should be picked up at school with all their gear.
- **PREKINDERGARTEN PARENT LUNCH!** All preK parents are invited to enjoy lunch with your PreK child. Check Mrs. Rajkowski's note for further information. We are excited you will join us!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 –

- Our fifth grade students should be home by now, and they (and their teacher) get a day to recuperate before returning to school. The kids should be working on their assignment from LLCC (journal), and the teacher should catch up on her sleep! No fifth grade band/instruments today
- **4:30-6:30 - All new families interested in enrolling in PRESCHOOL OR PREKINDERGARTEN at St. Andrew Catholic School are invited to attend an Open House in the Preschool room at the school. This is an opportunity for parents and children to see the preschool room, talk to the teacher, and get a feel for what our excellent early childhood program has to offer kids/families.** For more information, parents are encouraged to attend the parent only mtg. on 2/11/18.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 –

- Fifth grade students may wear a shirt/sweatshirt from LLCC today.
- **1:45 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Join us as we “Step Up Close to Jesus” and pray the traditional Lenten prayer of the Church, the Stations of the Cross. Grades 1-5 will be in attendance, and lead us in this special prayer. All are welcome to join us at St. Andrew Church.**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 -

- **Lenten Soup and Sacrificial Meal** – Every Saturday in Lent following the 5:00 p.m. Mass all parishioners and families are invited to share in a sacrificial meal. Soup and Sacrifice is an opportunity to have a meal of soup and bread – a small, sacrificial meal, and donating the amount you would have spent to make our purchase dinner for you/the family.

**VALENTINE TREATS AT SCHOOL**

Any of you who are familiar with the school policies realize that some of the children at our school have life threatening food allergies, and that we do not knowingly allow peanut butter, peanuts, or tree nuts in any form at our school.

***Many of the Valentine cards you purchase have treats attached. With so many treats being passed to individual students, the children will NOT be able to open or consume their Valentine treats at school or Tackle Box. With so many treats coming in on this day we are unable to check all of them. Because of that we ask that kids take their treats home so parents can decide what/when the children enjoy this snack.***

Please look at product labels when choosing food for snacks or lunch at school. Cookies and doughnuts made at local bakeries/gas stations are a concern as well, as they are made in a plant that processes peanuts/tree nuts, and may cross contaminate the product. **ALL ITEMS WE SERVE AT SCHOOL (brownies, cookies) ARE MADE AT SCHOOL AND ARE SAFE FOR ALL CHILDREN TO CONSUME. ALL**

**ITEMS WE BUY FOR SCHOOL (doughnuts, ice cream, snacks) ARE CERTIFIED PEANUT FREE AND NOT MADE IN A PLANT THAT PROCESSES PEANUTS so all children may consume.**

**SCHOOL YEARBOOK – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! (This link is correct!)**

We need your help to document this school year by submitting photos to include in the yearbook. Please email any photos that you or your child think would be a good addition to the yearbook. We are particularly looking for photos from our special events such as Grandparents Day, Veterans Day, Halloween, Christmas Concert, Pet Blessing, Catholic Schools Week, (last year's Field Day) etc. You can email your photos to a special website set just for our yearbook:

[standrewcsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:standrewcsyearbook@gmail.com)

**SKATE TIME REMINDER – IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BEGIN!**

You've signed the permission form, now it's almost time for Skate Time to begin! Our Rollerskating PE unit begins on February 20 – March 8th. Mrs. Reemts still needs helpers to size and tie skates for the children in the primary grades. Many of you have volunteered already and returned the information she sent out. If you want to volunteer to assist with your son/daughter's PE class, check out signup genius.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fafad23aafe3-standrew1>

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 / SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**Coffee sales and hospitality after all Masses this weekend.** Hospitality includes coffee/juice with cookies and doughnuts held in the church's gathering area. These are donated cookies, etc., so could contain nuts. Families are needed to help!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fafad23aafe3-standrew1>

**RAFFLE TICKET – IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**We have about 2 weeks left in this sale, and have sold roughly half of our tickets. We are leaving \$5,000 of free money on the table by not selling the few tickets we have all been assigned.** Parents, we need the money from this fundraiser. I ask that you sell your tickets and ask for more this week, so that we can realize the full potential of this sale.

We were able to sell about 100 tickets after the weekend Masses last weekend, so our parishioners are interested in helping the school with this raffle. ***We will lose money on this sale if your tickets go unsold, and get returned unsold. Therefore, if you plan on selling your tickets – or buying them yourself – please do so now, and return your tickets and money as soon as you are able. If you don't plan on buying or selling your tickets, please return them so that we can sell them.*** Our target amount we will receive from this sale is \$10,000 – that is the profit we will make if all 2,000 tickets are sold. The sale ends on Sunday, February 25th. All tickets must be returned on/by that date.