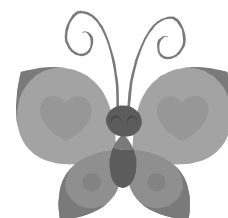
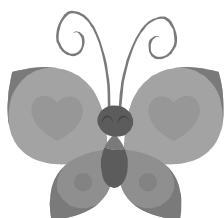


Saint Ferdinand Catholic School

NEWSLETTER

*“Growth requires Change in
Body, Mind, Spirit, and Heart.”*



Volume 5, Issue 7

March 2010

Inside this issue:

McTeacher Night	2
Report Cards	2
Music Festival	2
Speech Meet	2
Mission Project	3
Candy Sale	4
Spring Pictures	4
Monthly Calendar	5
Prayer Intentions	6
Virtue of the Month	6

From the Principal's Desk

As the month of March begins, we find ourselves celebrating the holy season of Lent and continuing our focus on Growth through a Change in Spirit.

Lent is the time of year that the Church sets aside as an opportunity for an individual reflection. We are encouraged to use these days for our own personal mini retreat. By giving more time to our personal prayer and acts of sacrifice, we are presented with opportunities to strengthen our relationship with Christ.

Lent can be a very challenging season for children. Oftentimes the focus is on giving something up until Easter. The children can find the days to Easter to be long and the waiting might make it feel like the days are dragging by. Encouraging the children to be steadfast in their Lenten journey is something that parents and teachers need to keep as a priority. One of the best ways

that we can teach this steadfastness is to model it.

The children need to witness us keeping our prayer life as a priority. They also need to witness us being patient as we await the sacred celebration of Easter.

Easter is a season of tremendous joy; however, we only know the joy of a bountiful Easter if we experience a prayer-filled Lent that calls us to sacrifice. It is in taking time to pray, doing personal sacrifice, and offering alms to those in need that we truly enter into the experience of Lent. Each of these Lenten commitments (prayer, sacrifice, and alms giving) are a means of forcing ourselves to do without something so that we can focus on giving something to another.

Through prayer, we give of time to focus on ourselves and we spend this time focusing on God. Sacrifice calls us to do without some “creature

comfort” so that our spirits can better focus on the needs of those around us. Alms giving is our opportunity to do without something that we want in order to share our bounty with those who have so much less than we do. These three pillars of the Church’s Lenten journey are central to our preparations for Easter. If we want to have an Easter celebration that is filled with the joy of the Resurrection, we must spend our Lenten journey embracing our own Passion. We must be willing to suffer as Jesus did so that we can arise on Easter with a renewed sense of the love that surrounds us as a beloved child of Our Lord.

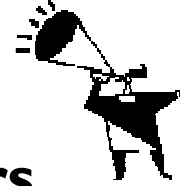
*Miss Gearon,
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Important



Announcements and Reminders

The following highlights some vital information regarding a variety of topics.



Tuesday, March 2, 2010 will be McTeacher's Night at the McDonald's located at 1090 Shackelford. All families are invited to gather at this restaurant for a fun night out. Some of the faculty will be on hand to greet everyone and celebrate our school community. This event will run from 4:00 until 8:00 and our school will receive a portion of the profits during these hours.

Students are encouraged to check-in with Miss Gearon as the Team with the most students in attendance will receive an ice cream treat on Thursday, March 5th.

REPORT CARDS

Third Quarter report cards will be sent home on Thursday, March 18, 2010. Parents are asked to review these documents with their children and return one copy to the homeroom teacher. The copy returned should be signed by a parent/guardian and submitted by Friday, March 26, 2010.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

The fifth and sixth graders will represent us at the Archdiocesan Elementary School Music Festival on Wednesday, March 24, 2010. We wish the children well and we thank them for all of their hard work preparing for this event.

Speech Meet

The next Speech Meet will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010. We wish the good luck to the students from our school who will represent us at this event.

LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

Sponsored by 5H

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to help support families around the world through the Rice Bowl collection. This year we would like to watch the rice bowl fill as we bring in money. Bring in your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or dollars.

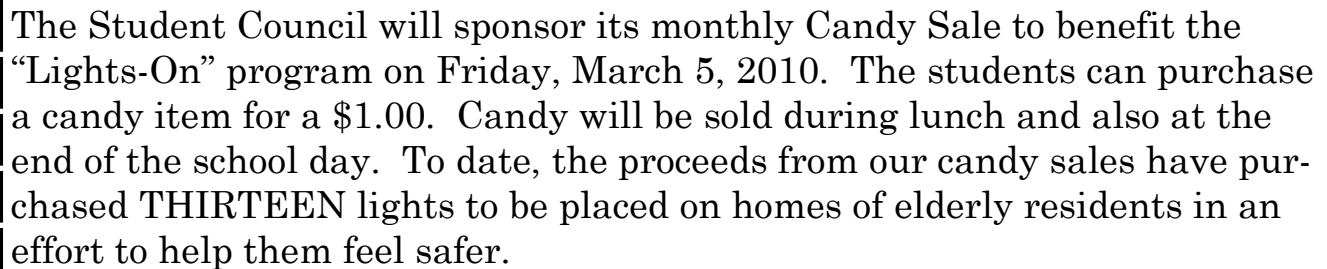
Everyone has the opportunity to fill a rice bowl in their classroom. As you save money in your rice bowl at home, empty it each week and bring your donation to school. We encourage children to bring any amount of money to their classroom. When they place the money in the jar, they scoop rice into the bowl. Each week the rice will be brought up at Mass on Friday as our offering to the poor. The rice will then be placed in the large bowl outside the main office where the students can see the amount increasing as money is brought in.

The children should give from their heart. Please consider giving up something such as candy or soda and place the money you would have spent in the classroom rice bowl or your own rice bowl. Also, please consider doing something special to earn money that you can place in the rice bowls.





Candy Sale for Lights On



The Student Council will sponsor its monthly Candy Sale to benefit the “Lights-On” program on Friday, March 5, 2010. The students can purchase a candy item for a \$1.00. Candy will be sold during lunch and also at the end of the school day. To date, the proceeds from our candy sales have purchased THIRTEEN lights to be placed on homes of elderly residents in an effort to help them feel safer.



Spring Pictures

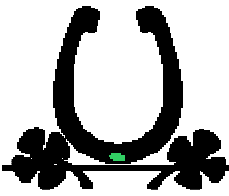
SPRING PICTURES ARE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL STUDENTS SHOULD FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES IN THE FAMILY HANDBOOK REGARDING APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:

◆ **Clothes that MAY be worn:**

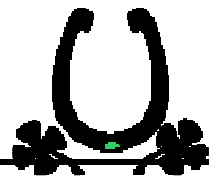
- ◆ long pants, such as khakis, jeans, nice sweatpants, or $\frac{3}{4}$ length pants (such as capris)
- ◆ sport t-shirts, casual shirts or sweatshirts with pictures, logos, or sayings that are appropriate for school – shirts must have sleeves
- ◆ hats (with the permission of the classroom teacher)
- ◆ shoes should be of the type that follow the uniform guidelines as stated above.

◆ **Clothes/items that MAY NOT be worn:**

- ◆ shorts other than uniform shorts (Bermuda shorts not acceptable)
- ◆ short skirts, skorts or culottes
- ◆ shirts/tops that do not cover the upper torso completely, such as muscle shirts, tank tops, midriff and halter tops
- ◆ shoes that do not meet the uniform guidelines may not be worn
- ◆ gang-related clothing or imitation gang clothing
- ◆ tattoos are not allowed



March 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Family Life taught in grades 4-8 all week	2 8th Grade field trip Study Buddies meet after school McTEACHER Night Papa John's Pizza Night	3 Student Council meets after school Camp Meeting for 6th graders and their parents at 6:00 p.m. in the Faculty Room	4	5 3rd Grade field trip Stations of the Cross at 2:10 p.m.	6
7	8 Family Life taught in grades 4-8 all week Critical Thinking meets after school	9 Study Buddies meet after school	10 End of 3rd Quarter School Board	11	12 Stations of the Cross at 2:10 p.m.	13
14	15	16 2nd Grade field trip Study Buddies meet after school	17 St. Patrick's Day—students may dress out in holiday attire	18 Team Activity Report Cards sent home	19 No School Faculty Meeting and Professional Development for Teachers	20 Speech Meet
21	22	23 Study Buddies meet after school	24 Spring Pictures 5th & 6th Grades attend Music Festival Home and School Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Home and School Meeting	25 Confirmation Class for 8th Grade	26 Stations of the Cross	27
28 Palm Sunday	29 Critical Thinking meets after school	30 Bookmobile Study Buddies meet after school	31 12:00 Dismissal	1 Holy Thursday No School	2 Good Friday No School	

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Complete and send to Miss Gearon. The school community will offer our prayers for your intentions.

Name (optional): _____

Please ask the school community to join in prayer for the following intentions:

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

CHARITY—I love my neighbor because I love God.

CHARITY is a beautiful virtue and the season of Lent is a wonderful time to help the children develop a sincere commitment to being charitable people. In the past couple of weeks, the children have extended CHARITY to the Sidney Family living in Haiti who were so significantly impacted by the recent earthquakes. They are currently extending CHARITY to children across the globe who will be helped through our contributions to Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl collection. These are wonderful ways in which to help the children understand the virtue of CHARITY; however, our efforts cannot end here. There is an old saying "CHARITY begins at home". This saying is meant to help people realize that we are called to be charitable to everyone we meet. This includes our classmates, our siblings, our parents, our neighbors, etc. CHARITY does not always have to focus on giving money. Sometimes the most charitable gift we can offer another is something intangible; something that does not have monetary value but is priceless in the heart of the person who receives the gift. This is difficult for children to grasp and they need concrete examples. For example, a student can offer charity in the form of understanding towards a classmate who needs us not to tease him/her on the playground. This same classmate may simply need us to offer the CHARITY of a smile or the absence of cruel words in order to help him/her have a much better day at school. It is so important to help the children understand that CHARITY extends well beyond financial gifts. CHARITY is by definition an act of love and there is no better time than Lent to help the children develop a sincere sense of what it means to love as Christ loves.