

Spring 2011



The St. Patrick School Post

AND NOW A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of St. Patrick Catholic School,

And then it was spring! This is the phrase that popped into my mind when I began to compose this letter for the second issue of our newsletter. It has been a year of fast paced activity for all who are part of St. Patrick's.

As promised, we embarked upon a planning process to ensure continuity and success for our K- 5 program. By early December, Alliance for Catholic Education, (ACE), provided a thorough analysis of the "State of the School" Representatives from ACE, which is an outgrowth of the University of Notre Dame's Task Force on Catholic Education, provided assessments of Organization and Governance, Academics, Marketing and Recruitment and Finances. This was the most thorough process I have experienced in my "many" years of involvement in Catholic Education.

One of our biggest challenges, of course, is to keep pace with budgeted income from our many sources of support. At the end of the third quarter of our fiscal year, we had obtained 72% of our goal, for

which we are grateful! Thank you for being part of that success.

Our **Annual Fund** did very well because of some generous individual gifts. We are trusting that all of our stakeholders who receive this newsletter will use the envelope enclosed to boost that success even higher with a donation to our Spring Fundraiser, the **Non-Event Dinner**.

If you ever want to visit St. Patrick School, you are always welcome. Seeing the students involved in the environment that your support provides will, in itself, be a rewarding experience. Interacting with them will be proof that your interest and support is making a difference each and every day. If you cannot visit in person, be sure to access our website at www.st-patrick.org.

God bless you and know that you are remembered in the prayers of our students, faculty and staff. We ask you to remember us in your prayers.

Gratefully,

Sr. Marilyn Jean Runkel, OP
President, Board of Directors



"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

Lady Bird Johnson, former U.S. First Lady

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Spring is here and we are entering the final quarter of the 2010—2011 school year. It has been another successful year for St. Patrick as we entered our second century of offering a quality education for students on the East side of Springfield. With that in mind, I am happy to report that our Board of Education is committed to keeping St. Patrick open to serve your students next year and in the future!!

We are currently making plans for the 2011—2012 school year. This planning requires that we have information on how many students we will be enrolling for next year. Therefore, we need to if your child will be returning to St. Patrick next school year. If you have not returned your registration form, we need for you to please do so as soon as possible. If you are aware of other parents who have elementary aged students and are interested in St. Patrick, please refer them to us. Registration forms are available to be picked up in the office or you may call (217) 523-7670 for further information.

We are also looking at plans for a Summer program at St. Patrick but have not begun to finalize what that would look like. If you would be interested in having your child attend a program at St. Patrick, please contact us and let us know what type of program you would like your student to attend. Are you looking for academics, camp like activities, or a combination of the two. We are looking at these as possibilities. Please call the office and let us know if you are interested. This will help us to determine if we will offer a summer program.

We at St. Patrick School would like to thank you for your continuing support and cooperation. Your efforts will enable us to remain in the community to serve your children in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Gary Sullivan

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL WISH LIST

Shelf for teacher materials
Classroom timer
Couch for 3rd grade reading corner
Stickers
Art stamps/ink pads
Bean bag chairs for reading corners



DVDs rated "G" or "PG"
Set of paints and brushes
Large dry erase board
Book Shelves
White Uniform Shirts (all sizes)
Blue Uniform Pants and Skirts (all sizes)

Gary Sullivan, Principal

Michelle Marley, Development Director

Denise Fisher, Administrative Assistant

CAN YOU SHUFFLE?

On Saturday, April 16th, St. Patrick will be hosting our first ever "Shamrock Shuffle 5K" at Springfield's newest park, Southwind, beginning at 10 AM come rain or shine.



We welcome participants of all ages and abilities. We will offer separate heats for: Shamrock Movers and Shakers (serious runners), Student Shamrocks, and Shamrock Shufflers (all others). Trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place runners of the first two heats. One lucky raffle winner will enjoy a 3-month membership to Fit Club while outfitted with a duffle bag with accessories.

Have you heard our race slogan? "Jogging for Jesus...because you can't run away from God!" This slogan will be included on the arm of our t-shirts, along with a Shamrock graphic hand-designed by race coordinator, Catie Sheehan, on the front and our sponsors on the back. Shirts are being printed at cost by STP supporter, Roy Phares, owner of P & M

Silk Screen. A big thank you to: Grand Champion Sponsors: LRS and Neuhoff Media; Gold Sponsors: Heartland Credit Union and Fit Club; Silver Sponsors: Bank of Springfield and Dunphy Wellness Center (who will be leading a

pre-race stretch and offering post-race mini-massages/adjustments); and Bronze Sponsors: Ace Hardware, Representative Raymond Poe, and Sheehan and Sheehan Lawyers. Brian Reardon, president of the Springfield Road Runners, has volunteered to help chart and time the course.

Registration forms can be found on our website at "st.patrick.org" and our Facebook page. Registration is \$30 in advance and will enable participants to receive their race t-shirts the day of the event. Race day registration is also welcomed, but t-shirts will need to be picked up at the school the following week to ensure proper sizing. "Goody bags" will also

be given to all registrants and will include, among other things, one week passes to Fit Club- one of our Gold Sponsors.

Can you outrun Bishop Thomas John Paprocki? If so, you will receive a special prize the day of the race. Beat him if you can, but we don't think many will. The Bishop is also known at the "Holy Goalie" for his skilled hockey playing and has qualified and ran in the Boston Marathon. We are grateful to the Bishop for agreeing to be our honorary guest in support of St. Patrick.



A portion of our proceeds will be donated back to Southwind Park as we feel it is important that we at St. Patrick give back to the community the same way the community gives to us.

Our 4th/5th grade students will also be taking donations of gently worn running shoes to give to St. Martin DePorres.

So put on your running shoes and come out for a morning of fitness, fun and philanthropy!

Barbara Moore, Kindergarten

Chassity Cawthon, 2nd / 3rd Grade

Tracy Nelson, Humanities

Rosemarie Bates, 1st / 2nd Grade

Suzanne Tockey, 4th / 5th Grade

Rich Harkins, Science / P. E. Instruction

MARDI GRAS TRIVIA NIGHT

On Friday, March 4th, St. Patrick held its second annual trivia night at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The night began with appetizer/social hour at 6 PM. During this time, attendees could purchase raffle tickets for the "Barro O'Booze" (mini-wheelbarrow full of spirits donated by local businesses/owners: Tom Guccione, Café Brio, Saputo's, Celtic Mist,

and Marley's), marvel at and buy "Mardi Gras Masks with Stories" made by St.



Patrick students, listen to jazz music played by Virgil Rhodes and company, and prepare their minds for the challenging questions that were to follow.

Russ Friedewald again served as moderator for the evening delivering the questions he had personally written. Did you know that Russ has never used the same question twice despite the numerous trivia events he has moderated? A crowd of nearly 300 enjoyed 10 rounds of challenging questions in the beautifully decorated Crowne Ballroom. At the end, teams were awarded prizes of \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and

\$50 for third place. Generously, winners awarded a portion of their proceeds back to St. Patrick.



At the end of a wonderful night of food, fun, music and friends, St. Patrick raised \$3,200 from the event. Gratitude goes out to the Crowne Plaza and its fine staff, Russ Friedewald, Bob Rutter of Premiere Audio for the use of his audio equipment, St. Patrick PTO members for working the evening of the event, and all trivia players who came to help make the night a success!

CALLING ALL ALUMNI . . .

Are you a former St. Patrick student? Do you know former students? Boy Scout Troop 2, under the direction of Eagle Scout candidate, Brian Hardy, is helping to compile and organize an alumni database to enable us to reconnect former students with their alma mater. Brian, nephew of St. Patrick Board Member, Julie Benoit, is doing this as his "Leadership Service Project" in order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

If you are an alumni of St. Patrick and/or have family members or friends that were students, please e-mail the following contact information to marley2557@gmail.com or enter

your information on our website by going to www.st-patrick.org/alumni-form.html:

- 1) Name
- 2) Address
- 3) Phone number
- 4) E-mail address
- 5) Years attended St. Patrick (i.e. 1961-65)

After we have completed the database, we will be hosting an Alumni Celebration to invite former students to revisit their school, share memories, photos, food, drink and fun! Additionally, for those who are interested in helping their 100+

year old school continue to serve the community, plans are being made to form an Alumni Foundation that could help to fund special projects beneficial to the future of St. Patrick.

A big thank you to Brian and Boy Scout Troop 2 for their assistance in completing this project!





STAFF SPOTLIGHT : *Rosemarie Bates*

In the fall of 1973, a young graduate started her teaching career at St. Patrick Catholic School. This young teacher's name was Rosemarie Bates. As she entered her 3rd grade classroom that fall, little did she know that this was the beginning of what would turn out to be her life's work.

The 2010-2011 school year marks Miss Bates 38th year of teaching at St. Patrick. Throughout her career, she has taught grades 1st – 5th and this year is teaching a split class of 1st/2nd graders. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Psychology obtained from schools that were located right here in Springfield- Springfield College in Illinois and Sangamon State University. When asked if she's spent her entire career at St. Patrick, Miss Bates responded,

"Yes, I thought about teaching psychology at the high school level, but then decided "no" I'm too happy with the little ones!"



In 1996, Bates was awarded Wal-Mart's "Teacher of the Year Award". Of this honor, she remarks, "It was a moment where I wanted to cry". She also received the "Golden Apple Award" in 2002. Another of her many memories is of a time when she was discharged from the hospital. She returned to school only to find that the then

principal wanted her to go out of town the following week for training. The children in her classroom overheard the principal and said, "No, we want you to stay "home" with us." That's what St. Patrick represents to Miss Bates- a home and a family. She says it's always been that way.

With tears in her eyes, Bates tells the story of a 7-year-old girl who kept getting in trouble for running up the steps as she entered the city bus after school. The upset young student told Miss Bates that "God had made a mistake when he made her". In her consoling way, Miss Bates offered a hug and told her she was no mistake, but rather one of God's many gifts.

This article is being written in tribute to one of God's many gifts to St. Patrick Catholic School: Miss Rosemarie Bates. Thanks for being you and for being with us!

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL WANTS TO BE HEARD

Every Wednesday morning, at 9:00 a.m. sharp, the St. Patrick School secretary turns on the intercom and announces to the students that it is time to leave for services at St. Katharine Drexel church. However, what is heard in the classroom is something akin to a midnight drive-thru order at Burger King. It is because of the increasingly garbled nature of these announcements, that the students decided that it was probably time to purchase a new intercom system.

"It is important that our students feel vested in their surroundings," school secretary Mrs. Fisher said. "It is also imperative that all children learn that one should leave their environment a better place than they found it. It is a great lesson in citizenship."

In order to raise funds, St. Pat's students have been collecting the yellow Pepsi-Cola



Product caps (which can be redeemed for a nickel a piece by participating schools) and selling Yankee Candles. To date the children have raised more than \$1500 towards the new equipment and show few signs of slowing down.

"We are gonna just keep raising money until we can get a better intercom," says 5th grader, Christopher Fearson. "It'll just make our school better!"

Good luck students!



You are cordially invited to
St. Patrick Catholic School
Non-Event Charity Dinner



We will not be serving:

- Spring Salad Mix with Goat Cheese & Dried Cherries
Topped with Red Wine Vinaigrette
- Pan-Seared Tuna with Ginger-Shiitake Cream Sauce
- Strawberry Baked Alaska

Harry Connick, Jr. will not be performing after the dinner hour.

- Baby Sitter for adorably precocious children = \$50.00
 - Tickets for a Charity Dinner = \$75.00
- Hair, Clothing, and Jewelry for a night on the town = \$300.00
- Having the evening to yourself while still supporting the educational and spiritual development of St. Patrick Catholic School students = Priceless



- \$50 _____ I will **not** attend.
- \$100 _____ My companion and I will **not** attend.
- \$250 _____ I will **not** reserve a table.
- \$500 _____ I will **not** keep everyone I know away!
- _____ Other



RSVP by April 29, 2011

All donations are tax deductible.

EXPRESSION, INSPIRATION & EDUCATION

The humanities, as defined by the Ohio Humanities Council, are the stories, the ideas, and the words that help us make sense of our lives and our world. The humanities introduce us to people we never met, places we have never visited, and ideas that may have never crossed our minds.

In February of this year, St. Patrick School began to slowly implement a new school-wide Humanities program. This program will NOT take the place of the current Art, Music and Physical Education classes but rather infuse them with added information and cultural

opportunities. Our modified Humanities program will afford each student at least two hours per week to experience lessons in a wide variety of areas including Art History, Musicology, Archeology, Yoga, Speech and Etiquette. It is our hope that by exposing our already intelligent students to new artistic and intellectual opportunities, they may broaden their educational and life goals.

The students began a four week Yoga session on March 29th, each equipped with their very own Yoga Mat. "I love Yoga," exclaims 5th Grader, Ashia Bacon. "It is really calming and

helps with my stress!"

Each component of the program will run anywhere from four to eight weeks and be tailored for the various grade and comprehension levels.

4th and 5th grade teacher, Suzanne Tockey says, "We are so excited to be able to expose our students to these various opportunities. They really love trying new things. And isn't that truly what education is really about?"



IT TAKES A VILLAGE . . .

Without the assistance of our donors, St. Patrick would no longer exist. Whether it be donations of time, service, products or financial resources, we value our donor community and would like to share a few stories about those who give to us as follows:

Marty O'Brien- O'Brien Glass-St. Patrick has been plagued with broken windows on the south side of our building on multiple occasions. Without fail, every time windows are broken, O'Brien Glass comes to the rescue for repairs/replacement free of charge. Marty also contributes personally.

Dick Levi- Levi, Ray & Shoup-LRS hosted our "Second Chance For A Second Century" fundraiser and gave a considerable contribution from their Foundation. They have also donated used computer equipment that they no longer need. In addition, LRS is a Grand Champion Sponsor of our upcoming Shamrock Shuffle.



Neuhoff Media and WICS News Channel 20- In December, Sam Madonia and Jeff Hoffman broadcast live from St. Patrick and raised \$12,000 in one morning! Danielle Outlaw, Sales Manager



at Neuhoff and STP Development Committee member, arranged for Neuhoff to be a Grand Champion Sponsor of our upcoming Shamrock Shuffle and help with promotion. Catie Sheehan, former Channel 20 employee and Development Committee member, and Jessica McGee, hostess of Channel 20's Sunrise and Midday Programs have helped time and time again with promotion of our fundraisers.



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St. Patrick's is a Catholic school committed to academic excellence in a structured, nurturing environment where family involvement is essential to developing productive citizens and leaders.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, *cont'*

Mary Clay- Clay's Popeye's Barbeque- Ms. Clay prayed for a way to help St. Patrick and her prayer was answered! She called to ask for donor support cards that patrons of her restaurant could sign after giving at least \$1 to St. Patrick. She said as an east side business, she wanted to do something to show her support for the only neighborhood school still serving this region. The first \$100 in cash has been picked up and she's working on the next!

Roy Phares- P&M Silk Screen-Roy generously made and donated "Second Chance" t-shirts for staff

members to wear at our fundraiser. Since then he has, at cost, made shirts for our students to wear in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and is currently making t-shirts for participants of the Shamrock Shuffle. Better register so you can get your t-shirt made especially for you by Roy!

Terry & Kate Rossi- Te-Ro Company- Optimally operating heating and cooling systems are necessary for the comfort of our staff and students. Te-Ro Company maintains both systems for

us, free of charge, and has for many years. Terry is always ready and willing to help when we have a problem!

There are just a few of the many villagers that comprise the St. Patrick Community. Without the acts of kindness that these donors and others consistently give, our village might not still be in existence. Thanks to everyone that supports St. Patrick, not only through financial donations, but through service, products, volunteerism and prayer!

