

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT!

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

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Dear Parents,

Let me begin by congratulating our 7th and 8th graders for a wonderful production of "The Music Man". What a blessing our young people have here at our school.

As we look forward to a plan for our next school year, it is necessary to know our enrollment. There are still many families who have not formally registered for the upcoming year. This makes planning almost impossible. In order to make our class lists and develop staffing, we need your cooperation. This is especially critical this year, given recent class sizes. If you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, please send in your registration and fee. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school or the parish office.

A few ideas we are working on are these: a guardian angel fund to assist parents who are struggling with tuition, weekly family Mass, an October St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals, and Easter Egg Hunt. I will also be conducting Server training for the fifth and sixth grade before the end of this academic year.

As announced at the Masses this weekend, Fr. Thomas Winkel will become our new parochial vicar. Happily, Fr. Winkel also likes to be involved in the school. Both he and I will be teaching and have an active presence in the school.

I also look forward to hearing your ideas that you may have for next year. Please send me a note at sntgregs@sbcglobal.net or drop it off in the parish office. I am committed to making Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy a strong Catholic school with an excellent curriculum. We have much to be proud of and a bright future ahead of us. Working together we can make this happen.

God bless you.
Fr. Ireland

Drama Club Producer, Carter Welo...THERE WILL BE AN 18TH PRODUCTION

I want to let everyone know that we are addressing the erroneous/misleading headline last week in what otherwise was a very nice article in the Sun Messenger about this year's Drama Club production, "The Music Man." There has been an announcement made at school, we announced it at every show, and I will write an editorial response. In addition, I am contacting the reporter, who, hopefully, will make a clarification. The reason that I took on the role of producer three years ago was because I couldn't imagine St Greg's School without "our play". It plays an important role in the vitality of the school, the parish, and the community, and the impact that it has on the students is immeasurable. Very few schools can boast a participation rate of nearly 100% of the junior high student body in such a large-scale project exposing them to the arts. Anyone who has been involved in it has experienced the amazing transformation of the kids over the four rigorous months of rehearsals. It is a huge lesson in life. I have worked steadfastly to find a way to ensure that this amazing tradition will continue. This, I believe, has been achieved with the formation of the Drama Club Board of Directors. They, too, are very dedicated to the perpetuation of our Drama Club. Please be assured that I feel very strongly that the proper pieces are in place for the Drama Club to continue for years to come. Looking forward to the 18th production...Thanks.

Carter Welo

2010-2011 Drama Club Board Elections to be held on May 24!

The Drama Club Board is comprised of seven leadership positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Members-at-large who are committed to continuing the legacy of the St. Gregory the Great Parish Drama Club. The Board assists the production staff in coordinating all aspects of the play including organizing volunteers, fundraising efforts, auditions, participation paper work and any other duties necessary to ensure a successful production. There are currently three seats available on the Board for the 2010-2011 academic year. The Board usually meets twice a month.

Board members do not need to have a child in the junior high; we encourage all school families and parishioners to consider giving of their time and talents to continue the tradition of theater excellence that has been established over the past seventeen years. If you are interested in a seat on the Drama Club Board, please contact Carol Sisson at (216) 381-9317 or pcja4639@sbcglobal.net before May 19th. Elections will be held on May 24th.

“HOME OF THE JAGUARS”
MAY 10, 2010



Dear Parents,

Questions about the future arise when we find ourselves in a climate of change. With our parish merger in process, people have asked what the changes will mean for the education we provide. My response is to point to the work of our teachers and the achievement of our students. I want to share some information that indicates where we are today and the course we are on for the future.

We recently received our ITBS achievement test results for grades one to seven. Our scores are high, as we expected, and are on par with our past performance. The scores are typically shared in detail in the fall at the "Coffee with the Principal" PTC meeting, but I am planning this year to present a summary of the results in an upcoming school newsletter.

One of the strengths of our school is the frequent and thorough assessment of student progress. Grades that the students earn reflect accurately their work and achievement. Students who actively involve themselves in the learning process do achieve excellent outcomes. This results in admission and success at the most demanding high schools. This year 93% of our graduating eighth graders will go on to Catholic high schools.

Please take the opportunity to view the work produced by our students that is displayed in the school. The work gives an indication of the content and the skills being emphasized at this time of the year in each grade. Some of the writing projects that are on display will be saved in portfolios to track student growth in writing skills. The portfolios were developed by the teachers in response to the goals we set for academic excellence for our state accreditation two years ago.

Our accreditation progress report that we are submitting to the state accrediting body this week shows that we have successfully accomplished every step on our timeline over the last two years. We have completed the professional development that we planned. In our Catholic Identity target area we have used three new programs to teach and foster Catholic Social Justice principles, we have instituted the use of faith journals, and we have strengthened student participation in prayer and worship opportunities. In our Academic Learning target area, we have established the use of rubrics to assess writing, we have completed curriculum maps of the English Language Arts content and skills, and we have established a sequence of writing projects through the grades that cover all the genres in our curriculum.

We are evaluating new workbooks in phonics and vocabulary for use in some grades. New textbooks in social studies are being selected in the grades that are most in need of updated materials. While state funds for these resources are shrinking, we are choosing carefully the best available resources for our classes.

When specific questions arise about our curriculum, our teaching strategies, our student achievement, or the success of our graduates, I hope you will consider some options for bringing forward the topic you would like to discuss. One choice that parents use at times is to arrange a group meeting with me along with other parents who wish to discuss a common area of interest. If you would like to arrange such a meeting, please contact me to set a time. Another good venue for discussion is the monthly meeting of the School Advisory Board. The meetings are always open. Discussion topics for the board can be submitted online at advisoryboard@stgregoryonline.org.

Peter Wilson

NOTES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS: Applications must be received by **Monday, May 17th** to the main office or to any SAB member. Application forms can be downloaded from the school website or are available in the school office. Elections will be held between May 19th and May 26th. The SAB bylaws are available in the school office. If you have any questions contact Carmen Matz (216-932-3475) or email: cbmatz@yahoo.com

Gym clothes for fall –Orders due: Friday, May 28th

*Order forms available at www.stgregoryonline.org/academics/forms/PTCforms

* Questions? Contact Megan Kander 216/382-2531 or Molly Rochester 216/691-9811

JUNIOR HIGH SPRING DANCE ...7TH AND 8TH GRADE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS
SAVE THE DATE...MAY 28, 2010 *more details to follow

Cafeteria news: Lunch June 4th Italian dunkers, cold veggies with dip, fruit and milk

**Please send in two .44cent stamps to mail home the report cards at the end of the school year

Orientation day for 2010/2011 school year grades K-8... August 25

First day of school grades 1-8...August 26th