



# St. Mary's Catholic School KNIGHTLY NEWS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

[www.stmaryslgv.org](http://www.stmaryslgv.org)

September 2007

**St. Mary's Catholic School...  
academic excellence in a  
Christian environment**

## Important Dates & Upcoming Events:

- AUG 29-31** - Book Fair
- SEPT 1** - 1st Friday Devotions
- SEPT 3** - LABOR DAY Holiday  
**NO SCHOOL**
- SEPT 4** - H&S Board Mtg. 1:30
- SEPT 5-7** - Book Fair
- SEPT 5** - School Picture Day
- SEPT 6** - BS Round-Up 6PM
- SEPT 6** - **Ethics 6PM**
- SEPT 8** - Campus Work Day
- SEPT 9** - FF Sac WS C-3
- SEPT 10-14** - STANFORD TESTING all week
- SEPT 14** - Breakfast Club 7:30
- SEPT 13** - Wunderfall Food Preparation
- SEPT 14** - Breakfast Club 7:30
- SEPT 14** - Wunderfall Food Preparation/Decorate/Set-Up
- SEPT 15** - **WUNDERFALL** Final Setup & The Big Event!
- SEPT 16** - Wunderfall Clean-up & Storage Day
- SEPT 20** - School Board Mtg.
- OCT 1** - Pet Food Drive & Fire Prevention Week

**\*\*\*SMS SPORTS EVENT DATES LISTED ON PAGE 2.**



## SMS Theme: "Ig-knighting the Fire"

Dear School Families,

Albert Schweitzer said, "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit."

It is our hope that this year allows each of us to fan the flames in one another. Our human contact with one another is a perfect sharing of God's love. The way we interact with one another shows the world whether we are answering our call as Christians, or not. The ultimate choice is ours.

Our theme this year is "Ig-Knighting the Fire". Our goal is to teach everyone involved in the school how to let the Holy Spirit burn within themselves and how to share that "fire" with others.

With only a few days under our belts, I am delighted to say that these young children have made me remember why I am here. They have sparked a new passion for learning and leading within me, for which I am so thankful.

## God Gives Us the Gift of Life So We May Choose to Love

Dear School Families,

We are so very blessed! The start of each new school year is a time of great potential and great opportunity. Potential for good times and great growth and potential for challenges. It is all still potential because we haven't actually lived it yet. It is our choice how we live each day: Filled with the love and peace of God or filled with anxiety. God will help us, but the choice is mostly ours.

I challenge all school families to Fire it Up! Spend time in the car, around the dinner table, at sporting events, and in your spare time talking with one another about how God's love and the power of the Holy Spirit make a difference in our world. It only takes a spark to get a fire going!

Peace—  
**Amy Allen**

*"Our goal is to teach everyone involved in the school how to let the Holy Spirit burn within themselves and to share the 'fire' with others."* AMY ALLEN



Please remember our goal to keep the school parking lot safer by backing your vehicle into the space, signaling the teacher when you pick up your child, and driving slow while moving in the parking lot.

## School Pictures Scheduled

Individual school pictures are scheduled on **Wed., September 5**. Order envelopes from *Christopher O. Pearce Photography* are being sent home with this billing packet on Thurs., August 30. Several packages are offered with add-on options available. Students should wear either their dress uniform or polo shirts. (*Please do not wear a school sweatshirt in the picture*)

As you settle into the routine for the school year, let us consciously choose to put love into our daily routine. Balance and stability in our lives requires character and virtue as well as knowledge. God invites us to "love one another as I have loved you." We're blessed at St. Mary's to be able to actively promote the love of God and love of neighbor with the same energy we promote academics. There  
*(continued on page 4)*



# Have You Read Your Student/Parent Handbook?

The Student and Parent Handbook is a guideline of the rules and procedures at St. Mary's Catholic School. All families sign a form that they have read and will abide by the rules. Below are some important points that often need reminding:

**TARDY BELL - rings at 8:00 a.m.**

Sign in and get a tardy slip in the front foyer or office to enter after 8:00 a.m.

**SCHOOL MASS - Tuesdays and Holy Days at 8AM:** Wear the dress uniform.

No hoodies allowed with dress uniform. Late drop-off at the church at 8 AM.

**When should my child stay home from school?**

Only if they have a contagious or communicable disease (see page 14) or if your child has a 100° fever, diarrhea, or vomiting. Students go home if they have these symptoms at school and

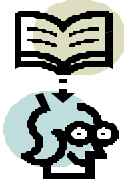
shouldn't return until they are symptom free for 24 hours.

**What are the behavior expectations of the school?**

A Christian code of conduct is taught and rules are set for your child's safety. Please reinforce the school code and rules on pages 28-31 with your child. Notice that the bully/harassment policy points out behaviors that are not tolerated.

**How is discipline enforced at SMS?**

A step-by-step process is outlined on page 32 of the handbook. If a child requires In-School Suspension, it is the responsibility of the family to pay for a substitute teacher or staff to monitor your child's isolation from their classroom and the independent lessons.



**Why is the dress code enforced?**

To provide positive focus on the moral, spiritual, and academic aspects of education, parents are asked to help their children follow the dress code rules. Hair styles should not be distracting. Jewelry and make-up should be closely monitored. Shorts may be worn on any day except Mass days (weather permitting). Shirt tails must be tucked in and belts worn in grades 1-8. Uniform socks should be worn at all times. Shoes must be one color: white, black, navy or brown with matching or white laces. Review pages 33-36.

**How is medication administered at school?**

A Medication Permit Form must be signed and turned in for each medicine before the office can administer prescriptions and over the counter medications. See page 37 for details.

## Following Proper Procedures Ensures Safety for All Students

**Just a reminder!** Drop EC-3rd grade students at the Parish Center and 4th-8th grade students at the Gym prior to 7:50 AM daily. EC-6th grade students arriving after 7:50 AM should be dropped off at the front door to wait with Mrs. Masters for their class. Students in grades 7-8 arriving after 7:50 AM should be dropped off at the Parish Center to proceed to class. Students arriving at

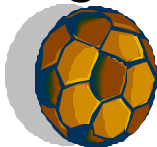
8:00 AM or later must go to the school office with their parent for a tardy slip. Late students should not be escorted to the classroom with out being signed in by parents. EC students leaving at noon can be picked up at the front doors of the Parish Center. All students will be delivered to their designated pick-up areas after school. Parents should

not enter the building and wait outside classroom doors. If the need arises for early pick-up, please see Mrs. Sailor or Mrs. Green in the front office before 3:15 PM. It is important to establish a routine and adhere to these guidelines to ensure the safety of all students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please follow proper drop off and pick up rules!

## St. Mary's Knights Begin Volleyball/Soccer Schedule

St. Mary's Mighty Knights began competition in both soccer and volleyball with a scrimmage the second week of school.



Coach Lucy Knotts is seeking parent volunteers to chaperone road trips, score keep, and work the concession stand. All volunteers must have an Acceptance Certificate for Service from Ethics Training to qualify as a school volunteer.

**VOLLEYBALL/SOCCER '07**

8-23 Full Armor Home (VBall)	4:30	
8-28 ETCATyler Away (Soccer)	4:30	4:30
8-30 LCS Home	4:30	4:30
9-06 Trinity Home	4:30	4:30
9-10 ETCS (Lgv) Home	4:30	4:30
9-13 Christian Heritage Home	4:30	4:30
<b>9-17 OPEN WEEK</b>		
9-20 Athens Christian Away	4:30	(Soc)

9-22 Full Armor Henderson Away (Vball)	4:30
9-22 Regents Nacogdoches Away	4:30 (Soc)
9-27 Full Armor Away	4:30 4:30
10-1/4 Soccer Tournament	LGV
10-1 Volleyball Tournament	LGV

Support our student athletes as they battle for victory on the court and field!



# St. Mary's School Notes From Around Campus

## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION:

As the Home & School President, I would like to welcome everyone back to school. We are going to have a very fun year! I look forward to getting to know and work with all of you. Remember that there are no dues for the Home & School Association. All families are members by registering at our school. If you need any information or have concerns please contact me (Stacey) at (903) 757-8770 or [slammers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slammers@sbcglobal.net).

**The 2007-2008 Home and School meetings will be Oct. 9, Dec. 11, Feb. 12, April 8 at 6:30 PM.**

The Home and School Board and Committee Chair meetings will be the 1st Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM. They will be held in the conference room by the office. Please feel free to come to any meeting. The Breakfast Club meetings for room moms and anyone else that would like to attend will be the 2nd Friday of every month at 7:30 in the Parish Center.

We are still in need of Room Moms for both Kindergarten classes. If you are interested, please email **Judy Raiford** at [raiford@cablelynx.com](mailto:raiford@cablelynx.com).

**Stacey Lammers**  
Home and School President

## SUPPER CLUB: What is a "Supper Club"?

Supper Club is a group of 4 or 5 couples or families that gather monthly to share a meal and social fellowship. Many people long for a chance to gather with people of similar values. The early Christians gathered in homes and lived a life of community. If you are interested in being part of such a group, contact us now as we are preparing to start groups that will meet monthly February - June. **We will kick off Supper Club with a Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, September 21 from 6-8PM at St Mary's Parish Hall.** You will meet others in your small group that evening. We will be offering groups that are adults only as well as groups that are complete families so that the children may enjoy the same fellowship as the adults. Please let us know in which group you would like to participate. **Call Sam and Melinda Dunn to sign up (903) 291-0083.** Childcare for Friday, Sept. 21 is available upon request. Please call for reservations.



**ORIGINAL ART PROGRAM:** Look for details coming soon from **Melinda Dunn** and Art Director **Mr. Jon Hanna.**

"Ig-knight the flame" at SMS!

## CAFETERIA CHANGES: Each individual child, teacher, and staff member will have their own ID number (account number) this year, rather than a family account. If lunch or snack items are scanned, the items sold are scanned to that individual's account. Two items went up in price this year: bottled water and juice are now 35 cents each.

**Beverly Wilson, Cafeteria Director**

Congratulations to the winners of the Campbell's Labels/Box Top for Education drawing: **CALEB & CHRISTIAN SAMPSON**, sons of Terry Sampson!

## **Mark Your Calendars!**



**BREAKFAST CLUB FRIDAY, September 14 @ 7:30 AM PARISH CENTER—WFH**

# Extracurricular Activities Keep Families Involved

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:** The library is hosting the "Book Fair Blizzard" on **Sept. 5 - 7**. Dictionaries, thesauruses, and AR books are just a few of the many useful and exciting books for sale. Volunteers are needed to help, especially after school.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Cafeteria/playground helpers are greatly needed at lunch time. Also After School Care & Classroom Substitutes, and Book Fair helpers are also needed. To sign up, please call the school office or **Judy Raiford** at **(903) 445-5539**.

**BOY SCOUT ROUND-UP:** The official Boy Scout Round-up for boys in grades 1-5 will be **Thurs. Sept. 6 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center with **Tim Moore**. Boy scouts are allowed to wear their scout uniform shirt with SMS school pants/shorts on Round-up Day and Pack Meeting Days.

**NEW SCHOOLBOARD MEMBERS:** Welcome to **David Scott, Cathy Merritt, and Cara Skinner** who are new to the School Board for the '07-'08 year. Your service is greatly appreciated and your knowledge welcomed. School board meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 6:30PM. Meetings are open to all interested in

the operations of the school.

**ROOM PARENTS:** Additional helpers may be needed in certain grades to help teachers with class parties, field trips, and class trip fundraisers. Please call **Judy Raiford (903) 445-5539** to volunteer. All drivers and chaperones must have Ethics Training and an Acceptance Certificate for Service to supervise or drive school children.



**AFTER SCHOOL CONTACT PAGER:** 903-232-0286 (Mrs. Griffith or Masters)



# Character Counts at SMS!

St. Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione in 1887 in the small community of Pietrelcina, Italy to a family poor in money, but rich in faith and love for God. At 15 he became a novice of the Capuchin Order of Friars Minor and he impressed his Superiors with his piety, humility, collected silence, and love of prayer. In 1910 Padre Pio was ordained a priest and his special devotion to silent prayer resulted in Masses lasting several hours. Pio offered his life as a victim for sinners and at 31 years old he began to develop the marks of stigmata. He died on September 23, 1968 at the age of 81 having worn the stigmata for over 50 years.

## **SAINT OF THE MONTH:**

**St. Padre Pio**  
(Pio of Pietrelcina)

**CHARACTER TRAIT:**  
**CARING**

**CHRISTIAN VIRTUE:**  
**JUSTICE**

**FEAST DAY: September 23**

# Final Preparations Underway for Wunderfall

Not only is Wunderfall the biggest single SMS fundraising event of the year, it is also one of the greatest parties seen in Longview each year! It is only with the help of all St. Mary's families that this project can be such a success. So call to sign up your commitment to Wunderfall 2007 with one of these chairs:



**Chairs:** Joanie Dickson **445-9229** & Mitzi Fontenot **736-9761**  
**Publicity:** John Green & Jessica Guire  
**Decorations:** Jill Sullivan  
**Silent Auction:** Christine Malen, Nancy Walker, Anya, Tucker, and Teresa Shore  
**Raffle:** Bonnie/Dennis Smith  
**Raffle Treasure:** Jeff Mach  
**Underwriters:** Chrisie Merritt

& Andra Jones  
**Food:** Mark Owen  
**Technology:** Susan Wells  
**Rentals:** Amanda Woods & Judy Raiford  
**Invitations:** Margaret Quinn  
**Reservations:** Vivian Monge & JoAnne Boudreau  
**Treasurer:** Kevin Dohanich  
**Mail-In Raffle:** Darlene Landt  
**Clean-up:** Clint/Lyn Seidel  
**Posters:** Tammy Latus  
**Casino:** Melinda/Sam Dunn  
**Steering Committee:** Jim Tucker

## SERVICE HOURS:

Wunderfall '07 is three weeks away! Five of your 20 service hours must be served with the Wunderfall event. Have you signed up for your volunteer hours? If not, please contact Joanie Dickson (903-445-9229) or Mitzi Fontenot (903-736-9761) for more information. Your commitment to help these chairpersons is what makes the whole project so successful for SMS.

**RAFFLE TICKETS:** Have you sold your raffle tickets? Each family has a contractual obligation to sell at least 60 tickets or \$300.00 in tickets as part of your tuition obligation. Any amount short of \$300.00 will be added to the bill starting in November. To find out dates and opportunities to sell your tickets, call **Bonnie Smith (903-668-2834)**.

**SILENT AUCTION:** Do have something or know someone who might donate to our Silent Auction? Call **Christine Malen** or **Anya Tucker** to make a donation.

## **DON'T FORGET!**

**All raffle tickets and money are due in the school office by Friday, September 14.**

**TICKETS & MONEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT AFTER WUNDERFALL AND THE MONEY WILL HAVE TO BE RETURNED!**

## *A Message from the Pastor Continued:*

is at least one sharp edge to helping young people grow in virtue and character...They need to see it lived out in our lives.

As we get into the swing of things with homework, sports, activities, and Wunderfall, I ask you to keep in mind the choices that we as adults are making each day.

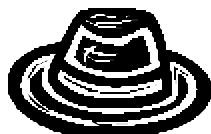


Everyone wants a more balanced life, but what do we do to actually live it? The journey to a richer life is taken by little steps: a little extra time in prayer or Adoration; a little more fasting and self denial; a bit more generosity of giving in love. Perhaps a bit more of these things for your family and your children...but definitely a bit more for you personally. These things are what will help the year to unfold as a graced time.

God gives us the gift of life so that we can each day choose to love and serve. Sometimes it will be easy, and sometimes it may well be challenging, but if we work together with God's grace it will always be possible. I pray that we might work together to actually have the great year.

Blessings,

**Fr. Gavin**



*Come celebrate at the biggest party of the season with a night of good food, fun and entertainment!*

## **"Our Children, Our Future!"**

*Dancing with*

## **RANDOM AXIS**

## **WUNDERFALL 2007**

**Sat., Sept. 15 6:00-Midnight**

**Maude Cobb Activity Center  
 INFORMAL ATTIRE**

**Dinner by Cace's & Dudley's, Silent Auction,  
 Casino Night w/Knights of Columbus & Raffle Drawing**

## **Raffle Ticket Sales Continue!**

**Only 16 days left until Wunderfall!**

**Call Bonnie & Dennis Smith at 903-668-2834  
 for dates and locations for the sales wait list.**



**\$5000.00 VISA card**

### **Dell Laptop**



**Wii Game**