

St. Thomas Regional School

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We Walk By Faith

www.saintthomasregional.com

March 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

We began Lent on Ash Wednesday with a physical sign, the cross of ashes on our foreheads. During Lent the Church asks us to pray, fast, and give gifts to the poor. In keeping with this Lenten spirit the service project for Lent will be "50 Lanterns". Fifty Lanterns International is a Minnesota-based non-profit organization that partners with established humanitarian groups to provide disadvantaged communities with renewable energy sources such as solar-power lights, lanterns and water pumps. Fifty Lanterns specializes in changing lives in the developing world through sustainable technology by raising money for unique development projects in Africa and Central Asia. Projects benefit widows and families in Afghanistan, earthquake victims in Northern Pakistan and Kashmir, and AIDS orphans and widows in Rwanda. The cost of each lantern is \$25.00. Each class will be collecting money throughout Lent to contribute to the Fifty Lantern Project. The class that is able to buy the most lanterns will receive a dress down day and a pizza party. We thank the children, parents, family, and friends for your generous support. Keep up the good work!! We will also continue our food collection throughout this Easter season for those St. Thomas parishioners who are less fortunate. Donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the front hall. As usual your generosity knows no bounds and I thank you in advance for your support.

The children have been busy in the classroom as well this Lenten season. The children in kindergarten are learning about Antarctica and whales, seals, and penguins. Grade 1 has been doing creative writing. Their latest project was "I Caught a Leprechaun. What does he have in his pot?" Grade 2 is working on their rainforest projects and the children in grade 3 are have opened the door to multiplication. I ask that you work with your children in learning their tables. I found a little reward worked well with my children. Once they knew, and knew well, all of their tables we took a little trip to the store for a treat. Grade 4 has just finished their animal fantasy dioramas and grade 5 is rebuilding the setting for Maniac Magee to discuss prejudice and racism. The children in grade 6 celebrated their para-Liturgy of the Stations of the Cross last Friday in the Church. The middle school has just completed their portfolios to get ready for the end of the trimester. We are so proud of our students and all of their efforts to do their best.

Unfortunately, due to schedule conflicts the talent show scheduled for Friday, March 20th has been cancelled. Please mark your calendars. The PTO is looking for volunteers to help with the golf tournament. Please contact Lynne Romano, PTO president, for further information.

As some of you may know St. Thomas Regional School is a participant in Target's Take Charge of Education Program. Target will donate a percentage of purchases to eligible schools. In order to sign up for the program visit Target.com.coe or stop by the customer service desk in your local Target store.

Tuition invoices and envelopes for the 2009-2010 school year were sent home on March 3rd. The deadline for contract and commitment fees has passed. If you have not turned in your contract and commitment fee for the 2009-2010 school year please send it in as soon as possible to assure your child's placement.

I pray that we continue to renew, each day, the plans we made when Lent began and continue to turn to God in a special way during these days before Easter. On behalf of the faculty and staff we wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

Peace and Prayers,

Mrs. Mary DiMuccio

Looking Ahead!

- *Report Cards Go Home- March 16th*
- *St. Patrick's Day- Wear Green- March 17th*
- *ST. Joseph's Day- Wear Red- March 19th*
- *No School Monday, March 23rd Professional Day*
- *Penance Service Grades 3-8- March 26th*
- *Reading Week March 30th – April 4th*
- *Easter Vacation April 10th – April 19th*