



February 1, 2012

Dear Parents and Friends,

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. During this six-week period, there will be lots of talk about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time to make our faith grow stronger by increasing our awareness of how we treat others and by our love for God. We talk about those less fortunate and try to be more charitable. We pray to God for guidance in our search to be better people. We make sacrifices so that we may appreciate all that we have. All of these activities help to make the Lenten season especially meaningful.

Our 8th graders will be providing weekly Stations of the Cross on Fridays to honor the Lenten season. Stations began in the fourth century when pilgrims began to gather and walk in the footsteps of where Jesus did. They would start in the Garden of Gethsemane and end at Calvary. Along the way they would stop, remember and pray at significant points. Through the years, this pilgrimage to the Holy Lands became harder because of political strife or other hardships. Rather than abandoning the practice it was updated to meet modern demands using statues, art work or other images to remind people of Jesus' suffering. This furthered the interest of people looking into Jesus' life and sharing similarities with their own. The Stations of the Cross remind us of how human Jesus was.

As I always say in these newsletters, consider gathering together as a family for a few minutes. I am really big on families doing things together. You may wish to talk about one or two ways that each of you will make a change this Lenten season. A great way is to meet as a family and pray. When I was in grade school my father decided that we were going to read a chapter in the bible each Sunday after mass. I know that my brothers, sisters and I threw a fit...but we did it! It only took a few minutes and I still remember it to this day. After the passage was read, we would talk about its meaning. I still remember those days. I remember that I was always eager to hurry and get outside with my friends, but I also have fond memories of our family time together each week.

Blessings on you and your family this Lenten season,

Pam Huelsman
Principal



NEWS YOU CAN USE

FEBRUARY 2012

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS -

February 3 - Pep Rally! Student appreciation day! Wear favorite shirt and jeans. All other uniform break policies must be followed.

February 21 - \$1 Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras! Pay \$1 to wear purple, teal, green or gold shirt, beads and hats with uniform pants, skirt or jumper. All other uniform break policies must be followed.

LIBRARY NEWS - The Scholastic Book Fair will arrive in late February and in time for conferences on March 1. There are lots of new and exciting books for all grades. Don't forget to visit and see what is available during conferences. Students may make purchases during the school day. On March 1, which is conference day, the book fair will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

SKATING PARTY – There will be a skating party on Wednesday, February 15 at Skate World from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The admission cost is \$3 per child and skate rentals are \$1 for regular and \$2 for speed skates.

ACADEMIC TEAM – Congratulation to the 7th & 8th grade Academic Team who placed second in District Governor's Cup Competition this month! St. Gabriel's Future Problem Solving team placed first overall and will advance to the Regional tournament next month. Individual place winners include Evan Webb (3rd place in Mathematics), Michael Kamber (1st place in Science), Johnny Davis (5th place in Science & 5th place in Arts and Humanities), Julie Eddins (2nd place in Composition & 5th place in Language Arts), Candace Cox (2nd place in Language Arts & 3rd place in Composition), Natalie Thompson (1st place in Language Arts), and Evan Stacy (5th place in Social Studies). We wish all of these students the best of luck as they represent our school in the Regional!



YEARBOOKS – We are currently taking orders for yearbooks. Please return your order form(s) by Monday, February 5.

FINANCIAL AID – Financial aid packets are available in the school or parish offices for the 2012-2013 school year. They must be postmarked by March 15, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Goodlett at 239-5481 or email tgoodlett@stgabriel.net.

PULL TABS – Thank you to all those that continue saving and turning in the pull tabs for the summer cancer camp for kids. Kelsey Bailey (6-Blank) and Lindsey Bailey (4-Lauder) brought in 11-1/2 pounds and Nicholas Sortor (8-Olgin) brought in 5 pounds.

RECYCLE CELL PHONES – There is a box in the lobby to drop off old cell phones and accessories. They also take iPods and iPads. St. Gabriel will receive a percentage based on the type of phones received.

DONATIONS – Thank you to Kevin O’Shea, Kristen, MaryAnn, and Madilyn’s father, for the donation of school supplies and Kara Shacklette for the books for the library.



COMMENTS FROM THE COUNSELOR, Paulette Stinnett – Time for a snow dance! If I can be of help to you and/or your family, you can contact me by e-mail, pstinnett@bellsouth.net, or phone, #239-5535 ext. 201. Below are the topics we have been discussing in our guidance classes during the month of January:

Kindergarten: Review: peace building, manners & bullying; Listening Skills	4th Grade: Review: teamwork & honesty; Manners quiz
1st Grade: Review: teamwork & manners; Bullying	5th Grade: Honesty; Manners quiz
2nd Grade: Review: peace building, teamwork, & manners; Bullying	6th Grade: Review teamwork; Life Skills
3rd Grade: Review: peace building, teamwork, manners & honesty; Bullying	