



The Knight Times

Our Mission is to educate each child in a God centered environment.

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The St. Thomas More Catholic School Parent, Teacher, and Student Newsletter

Chapel Hill, NC



Established in 1954

Accredited through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I write this, the last entry of 2006, I am also aware that we have only ten more school days before we break for Christmas.

The entire school is gathering in the gym at 8:00 a.m., during Advent, to prepare for the coming of Christ anew in our hearts. The students, with their prayer partners, are reading the Gospel stories that help lead us to the Birth of Jesus. The children leave the gym in silence (just like the song, *Silent Night*) as I play Christmas hymns on my old fashioned boom box!

My prayers go with all of you as you travel to be with family and friends during our Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you all when school resumes on January 3, 2007.

May Christ be born again and again in our hearts and help us bring Peace to all those we meet.

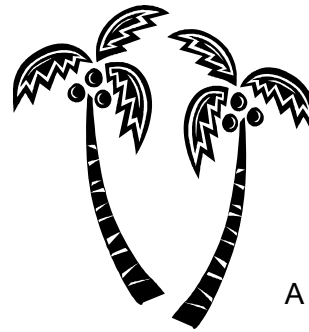
Sincerely,
Sister Catherine, SSJ
Principal



2007-2008 Enrollment

Siblings of current students need to have a complete application turned in to the office in order for that child to be admitted into school. Application forms may be downloaded from the web site or obtained from the lower school office.

Deadline for the applications is February 9, 2007.



A Polynesian Paradise

Auction Class Gift

Dear STM Families,

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the auction class gift projects. To date, we have collected \$1,250 from 131 families to fund 19 class projects. If you have forgotten and would like to make a donation, there is still time. **Please send your \$5 per child via kidmail to Margy Schmidt, c/o Sophie Schmidt 3A.** We will be working on these projects in December and into January, with a projected completion date of January 31, 2007. If you would like to assist with your child's class project, please let me know. Many hands lighten the load and besides, it is a lot of fun to help. For questions call 933-1915 or email margy@nc.rr.com.



St. Nicholas Dance

Upper Schoolers: STM holiday dance is this Friday in the STM gym, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. The gym will be sparkling with fun...so wear your holiday sparkles if you like! Admission is \$4.00 at the door or \$10.00 for a Dance Pass which provides admission to all dances for the remainder of the year. If you already purchased a Dance Pass, remember to bring it. In the spirit of the holiday season, please also bring an unwrapped child's toy to place under our Christmas tree at the dance. The items collected will be donated to HomeStart, an Orange County program which provides shelter for women and children who are in need of an alternative living situation. Thank you.



Yearbook News

It's Not Too Late!

Although orders for *The Shield* were due in mid-November, it's not too late to order your yearbook. Order forms can be downloaded from the website(<http://school.st-thomasmore.org/yearbook>). Please note: Late yearbook orders are subject to a \$5 surcharge per book, and book orders will be accepted through Friday, December 15. Sorry, we have filled all thirty (30) pages earmarked for ads, so no ad space remains.

We Need Your Photos!

Again this year, *The Shield* has its very own "community photo site." If you take digital photos of your student and his/her class or other STM students and events, these can be uploaded directly to the site. From there, the editorial staff can view the photos, then download those chosen for inclusion in the yearbook. The community photo site has been activated and can be accessed at <https://portal.jostens.com/login.asp>; the user id is 1101439 and the password is shield07. The site will remain active through March 31, 2007. We look forward to seeing your photos there!



LINK YOUR VIC CARD TO #1821 AND SPREAD THE WORD TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

STM Parenting Program
John Aluise, Director

Blessings of Parenting
From The Blessing of a Skinned Knee, Wendy Mogel
Penguin Books, London, England 2001

This book provides a blueprint of Jewish customs and traditions for raising children. According to Jewish belief the *purpose of having children is to raise them to be self-reliant, compassionate, ethical adults to ensure that there will be people here to honor God after we are gone.*

The rules regarding child-rearing are not primarily for making children feel good, but about making children into good people.

Blessing of Acceptance - Learn and accept your child's temperament. Expect and celebrate the differences in your child's behavior, compared to yours and your other children. Don't expect perfection; accept "good enough" when your child puts his or her best effort. Don't pressure yourself to be an extraordinary parent. See your child's teacher as an ally.

Blessing of Having Someone to Look Up To - Honor the older generation, including grandparents and uncles and aunts. Establish authority of parents. Be clear about the rules. Teach children to respect your privacy. Hold your place at the family table. Step-parents deserve respect too. Speak respectfully about others.

Blessing of a Skinned Knee - God doesn't want you to overprotect your child. Withdraw some of your control if you want your child to grow. Keep worrying to a minimum - "20 minutes." Separate legitimate concerns from neurotic overprotection. Raise your child to leave you. Five keys to a strong character: 1. Know when to insist on independence; 2. Get children in the habit of solving their own problems; 3. Give children a chance to exercise free will; 4. Let them experience the world, warts and all; 5. Teach your child not to panic over pain.

Blessing of Longing - Teach your child an attitude of gratitude and to appreciate the blessings they have. Demonstrate thankfulness for blessings at each meal. Parents must model prudent and unselfish behaviors. Focus on spiritual blessings. Demonstrate giving to others as a way of saying, "Thank you God for all you have given me." Make conservation and care for the community and the people in it, an important aspect of family life.

Blessing of Work - Use "learn by doing," as a model for growth. Children should be a vital part of the household duties. Grant authority with responsibility. Devise a system of rewards, privileges, and consequences and follow through!

Blessing of Food - Bring moderation, celebration and sanctification to your table. God wants us to enjoy food and to make the meal a place for fellowship and harmony. Before you set the table, set a good example when it comes to eating habits - sit down and take your time, use the blessing to help create a peaceful environment for eating. Avoid snacks, and eating on the run. Try to eat together as often as possible during the week but make at least one weekend meal something special.

Blessing of Self-Control - Remember that the "normal" child will do things that are bad. Recognize your child's worst behavior is a function of his or hers greatest strength. The proper rebuke expresses displeasure without humiliating. When punishment is necessary, restrict privileges. One Jewish proverb for effective parenting is one-third love, one-third law, and one-third sitting on your hands. Developing good character traits is a life long process, especially patience, tenacity, foresight, courage, self-control, and acceptance. Do you model these so your children can, "see what you say!"

Blessing of Time - Teach your child the value of the present moment. Remember the Sabbath is a day of rest! God did not say only keep "one hour" holy on the Sabbath! Avoid the cultural pressures to do too much, too fast! Time-savers: find time to connect, let your children dawdle, don't do things you hate, make sure your children have a chance to get bored, find time to reflect and plan. Guard childhood; let a seven year old be seven. Marriage first, then children.

Blessing of Faith and Tradition - The best way to introduce your child to God is to point out what God does. Children need to visualize God; they need stories, heroes and ethical guidelines. Religion should be seen as service to others, shared joy and grief, singing, praying, studying the Bible, and as the vehicle to spiritual wisdom.



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December

- 3** Essential 50 for this week
- 4** Advent Prayers begin in the gym; Math Counts after school
- 5** BOB after school
- 6** Dress Down Day; 1:45 Dism; Girls on the Run; 7th Grade Middle East Night begins @ 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Mass - Feast of the Immaculate Conception; Dance for 6-8th graders @ 7:00 p.m.
- 9** Yearbook work session from 9:00-12:00
- 10** Essential 48 through December 19
- 11** Math Counts after school
- 12** BOB after school; Jr. Great Books after school; H S A meets @ 7:00 p.m.
- 13** 2nd Quarter Progress Reports; 7th Grade Field Trip
- 15** Prayer Service; First Grade Program for Parents @ 1:30 p.m.
- 18** Dec 18 - Dec 19 6th and 8th grade EXAMS a.m. First Graders perform in a.m.
- 19** Class Parties in the afternoon
- 20** NO SCHOOL -Christmas Break begins today

Classes resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2007.