

THE KNIGHT TIMES

NOVEMBER 5TH

2008 - 2009 EDITION

Thursday and Friday are 11:30 Dismissal days with Conferences in the afternoon
Friday is Mission Day

November 10th - November 21st

Monday November 10 th	Tuesday November 11 th	Wednesday November 12 th	Thursday November 13 th	Friday November 14 th
	BOB Club meets after school HSA Meeting @ 7pm. in the Library	Safe Environment Training Session from 6:30-9pm in the gym. If you want to volunteer at STM this class is a requirement.	Students in grades 3-5 go to the Symphony in Raleigh	3A Mass Time, Talent and Treasure after Mass
November 17 th	November 18 th	November 19 th	November 20 th	November 21 st
Full Student Council Meeting at 11:30	BOB Club and Jr. Great Books Club meet after school			Mass

➤ FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents/Guardians,

SPECIAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK Parent Conferences

Today 11/5 1:45 dismissal
Thursday 11/6 11:30 dismissal
Friday 11/7 11:30 dismissal

SCHOOL CLOSINGS OR SCHOOL DELAYS

This is the time of year when we have sudden drops in temperature and moisture is present. We seem to get black ice and or snow! I call the radio station, 1360AM, and they will announce St. Thomas More, Chapel Hill delays or closings(there is a St. Thomas More High School in Wake County).

I also call TV stations, Channel 11 and 5, utilize our "Alert Now" system and start the classroom emergency phone chains.

If we call a 1 hour delay...school starts at 9am.

If we call a 2 hour delay...school starts at 10am.

If we have to close school early we will use the same protocol as above.

Our church will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in conjunction with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th, culminating with an evening Mass with the Bishop. Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate with us.

Blessings,
Sister Catherine

➤ **ATTENTION CURRENT STM SCHOOL FAMILIES**

- ❖ If you have **additional** students (siblings) to be enrolled in the 2009-2010 school year, it will be necessary to complete a full enrollment application for each **new** student.
- ❖ The applications are available in the lower school office.
- ❖ Please pick one up at your earliest convenience.
- ❖ Re-enrollment forms for current students will be sent home during January 2009.

➤ **YEARBOOK NEWS**

- ❖ Extra! Extra! The 2009 edition of the STM yearbook, *The Shield*, will be in full color.
- ❖ You won't want to miss out, so order your copy! Both book and ad sales for *The Shield* officially began on Wednesday, October 1, and orders will be accepted through the end of this week.
- ❖ Please complete and return your order form(s) and payment (checks made payable to: STM) by **November 7, 2008** to ensure that your family receives its yearbook(s).
- ❖ Book orders received after that date are subject to a \$5 late order fee and ad orders received after that date will be accepted on a space-available basis. If you have any questions, contact yearbook adviser, Mrs. Dekle (ndekle@st-thomasmore.org).

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, and then download those chosen for inclusion in our yearbook. The community photo site has been activated (and will be through March 31, 2009) and can be accessed at <http://images.jostens.com>. The user id is 1177653 and the password is shield09. **Note: We're anxious to begin creating our yearbook pages, so don't delay—upload those photos today!** We look forward to seeing and using your photos soon!

➤ **NEWS FROM MRS. BENAVIDES**

- ❖ Fifth Grade Parents--
- ❖ Starting on Monday, November 10th, we will begin the meetings of our fifth grade Boys' Science Experiments Club.
- ❖ Space is limited and parental permission is required.
- ❖ We will meet Mondays from 2:30 until 3:45pm. in the Science Lab. The boys are already coming up with some fantastic ideas!

- ❖ The Girls' Science Cooking Club for fifth grade girls is still meeting on Thursdays from 2:30 until 3:45pm. in the Science Lab. We have measured everything in liters and grams and have some amazing plans!

➤ **STM SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS STEVE ANGRISANO**

- ❖ We are excited to host **Steve Angrisano** (www.steveangrisano.com) as a part of our youth Speaker Series on **Sunday, November 9th** at our very own parish of St. Thomas More!
- ❖ All of JYM and TYM will be attending in lieu of regular classes.

- ❖ While everyone is welcome to attend the concert free of charge, we ask every participant to consider an offering of \$5 per individual or \$10 per family to help defray the cost of the concert.
- ❖ Your donation will also help us continue to bring in great speakers in the near future.
- ❖ Any help you can offer to support our Speaker Series is greatly appreciated. Youth Groups are welcome! See flyer attached.
- ❖ If you have any questions, contact Georgie Clemens at georgieclemens@st-thomasmore.org

➤ CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SHOPPE

- ❖ Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 9:00am. - 3:00pm.
- ❖ Please call Cathy Elmore at 493-4157 or celmore@nc.rr.com or Joanne Vance at 490-8493 or jvance@nc.rr.com with your questions
- ❖ **We need volunteers for set-up on Friday, December 5th and tear-down after the end of the craft show.**
- ❖ Love to bake? We need volunteers to bake and donate delicious baked goods for our bake goods table. Call Cathy or Joanne (or e-mail) if you'd like to help us out!

➤ UPPER SCHOOL DANCE UPDATE

- ❖ Seventh grade parent volunteers are needed.
- ❖ Friday, December 19th, 7-9:30pm. STM Holiday Dance in the gym.
- ❖ Help is needed to decorate/set-up, chaperone, and clean-up after the dance.
- ❖ If you'd like to help out please email Beth Deacon at bdeacon@hughes.net or call (919)612-2818.
- ❖ Admission of \$5.00 per upper school child includes refreshments.
- ❖ The DJ will be "Art of Motion."

➤ NOTES FROM KIM DOUGHTY YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

(I can't do any better on this topic than this article I found online at <http://www.kiplinger.com/columns/drt/archive/2008/dt081001.html>)

TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The current economic situation can provide a teaching moment. But it's important to keep your discussion reassuring -- and age-appropriate.

By Janet Bodnar
October 1, 2008
Kiplinger.com

Last week I called my son, the college sophomore, and asked if the financial crisis was topic A in his economics class. "Not really," said Peter. "We have a test coming up so we're covering the material in class."

Aargh! With all due respect to the diligence of Peter's teacher, it seems to me that he's passing up a prime teachable moment -- certainly for high-school and college students -- to discuss how we got into the current predicament and how we might get out of it.

For younger children, things are a bit trickier. I've received a number of calls from reporters asking whether parents should discuss the financial crisis with their kids -- and, if so, what they should tell them. The answer to the first question is a qualified yes. As to the second, it all depends on the child's age. What younger children crave most is reassurance. Here are six ways parents can provide it:

1. Remember that little pitchers really do have big ears. Even if you don't discuss the situation with kids directly, they can sense that something is up, especially if you're worried about your own finances or that

you might lose your job. If you ignore the situation, kids may imagine it's worse than it really is.

2. Children live in a black-and-white world and take you literally. Don't resort to dark humor about going broke or ending up in the poorhouse. They may not know what a poorhouse is, but they'll figure it can't be good -- and next thing you know you'll be camped out in a box in the street.

3. Turn off the TV and tune out the talking heads. It's one thing to be well informed, but exposing your kids (and yourself) to a steady stream of hyped-up headlines and downbeat news is bad for your psyche.

4. A little honesty goes a long way. Kids don't want or need to know all the details of your balance sheet. They just want to know that, hard times or no, they will have a roof over their heads and food on the table -- and that things will get better.

5. Have a plan. If you've lost your job, for example, or anticipate that you might, tell the kids how you'll go about looking for a new one.

Meanwhile, let them know that you'll be able to collect unemployment benefits, or that your spouse will go back to work or bump up his or her hours to tide you over.

6. Encourage the kids to pitch in. Let them know up front that their holiday wish lists will have to be shorter this year. They'll be happy to do their bit for the family.

And look on the bright side: This may be your chance to think creatively about cutting back on holiday overload -- something that might be desirable even without a fiscal crisis.

THE KNIGHT TIMES is the in-house newsletter of
St. Thomas More School
920 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

The next publication will be posted on the school website on Wednesday,
November 19th. Direct comments or questions to Judy Foster at: jfoster@st-thomasmore.org