

THE KNIGHT TIMES

SEPTEMBER 17TH

2008 - 2009 EDITION

September 22nd - October 3rd

Monday Sept 22 nd	Tuesday Sept 23 rd	Wednesday Sept 24 th	Thursday Sept 25 th	Friday Sept 26 th
Cross (X) Country after school	Battle of the Books (BOB) Club meets from 2:50-3:30pm (6 th -8 th graders) School Board Meeting @ 7pm	1 st Quarter Progress Reports go home X Country after school	Cultural Enrichment for students in grades 5-8 @ 1:30pm	5A MASS X Country after school Stewardship Fair this weekend
Sept 29 th	Sept 30 th	Oct 1 st	Oct 2 nd	Oct 3 rd
X Country after school	BOB Club after school	X Country after school		Tour @ 9am 4A Mass and Mission Day X Country meets after school
IOWA TESTING IN THE AM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-8				

➤ FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

September is a special month with the Birthday of Mary and the Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows just this week. We have been praying for all mothers because of these special days that the Church has given us to pray with Mary.

I have been visiting many classrooms and I just want to let you know what a great job the teachers and students are doing so far this year. I am learning how to spell with my fingers with the help of the WILSON SPELLING PROGRAM. The new Social Studies texts look like college books and are just as heavy. The Social Studies books now in the third grade are now younger than the children and not the other way around.

We now have a working set of 30 portable lap tops for the lower school. We can take these lap tops to any classroom or science lab and they can be used in conjunction with the curriculum that is being studied. We also have 25 new computers in the lab in the upper school; thanks to the IBM matching grant.

This Friday the faculty will be joining all the teachers in the Diocese at The Franciscan School for a Professional Development Day.

The title of this year's gathering is, "DIFFERENT WHERE IT COUNTS!" and we will be learning how to differentiate instruction on many levels.

(Sister's letter continues)

➤ **SAFETY UPDATES:**

- ❖ **NO CELL PHONES WHILE YOU ARE DRIVING, PLEASE**
- ❖ The upper school door is locked from 8:15 to 2:45. Office personnel cannot see who is entering the building when they are working on the copy machines. Individuals coming to the upper school can press an intercom to alert them of their presence.
- ❖ The doors in the lower school, all 6 of them, are locked except for the front door and we can see people coming in from the office.
- ❖ Safety is everybody's responsibility. If you see someone in the building without a Visitor name tag or a photo ID; approach them to ask if you can redirect them.
- ❖ ALL VOLUNTEERS must submit a completed Background Check (BC) and attend a Child Safety session here or at another Catholic parish in this Diocese in order to help in school or drive for field trips. We are doing our best to keep your child safe.
- ❖ The next Child Safety session is here in the gym this Saturday, September 20th from 9:30-noon. The last session offered this year will take place here on November 12th from 6:30-9:00pm. (Attention! Parents wanting to go on any of the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade overnight trips must complete a BC and attend a training session).

I WANT TO THANK THE 98.5% OF YOU WHO ARE FOLLOWING ALL THE DRIVING DIRECTIONS!
YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN WILL BE GREAT.

Blessings,
Sister Catherine

➤ **SUMMER PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS AROUND ST. THOMAS MORE CAMPUS.**

As you returned from your summer break perhaps you noticed some of the projects and improvements we have been working on diligently since June. Following, is a list of most of them, with acknowledgement to those who gave from their Time, their Talent and their Treasure to make these projects a reality:

Church Projects:

- ✓ Major renovation work on the Youth House Chimney (In house: Les Mazur and Krys Bielen)
- ✓ Painting roof in Narthex (Don Prost)
- ✓ Altar lights on back wall (Drew Melvin and Les Mazur)
- ✓ Dual flush valves in restrooms (in house: Les Mazur and Krys Bielen)

School Projects

- ✓ Lower school bathroom renovations in KA, KB and the Kitchen (In house: Les Mazur and Krys Bielen)
- ✓ PreK playground area improvements (in house)
- ✓ Lower School HVAC Replacement (Contractor).
- ✓ Upper School Spanish Classroom Cabinet (Jennifer deLima)
- ✓ Lower School cork strip replacement (in house: Les Mazur and Krys Bielen)
- ✓ Replacing picnic table in lower school playground area (in house)

In Progress

- ✓ Awning for deck behind Gym (Laura Stewart) funded by the HSA.
- ✓ Mary Chapel Lighting project (in house: Les Mazur and Krys Bielen)

➤ **KA PROJECT: "WHEN I WAS HUNGRY, YOU GAVE ME TO EAT..."**

- ❖ The KA class will be supporting the TableNC project which is dedicated to sending home backpacks filled with food for children who go hungry on the weekends.
- ❖ Table needs more backpacks!
- ❖ We could use your help.
- ❖ Search your closets, attic, under the bed for "gently" used backpacks.
- ❖ Ask friends and neighbors to donate too.

- ❖ Please send in any backpacks you can with your children.
- ❖ A donation box will be in the lower school lobby in the mornings.

Table, INC is a non-profit coalition of college students and community volunteers committed to feeding hungry children in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area (www.tablenc.org)
Any questions contact Colleen Lee at 493-4585

➤ HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL UPDATE

- ❖ The Halloween Carnival will be here in just over a month!
- ❖ Mark your calendars now and join in the family fun on Friday, October 24th from 6:00 - 9:00pm right here at STM!
- ❖ Information on tickets and more are soon to come...start working on your costume now!
- ❖ The planning is underway, but we could surely use more hands to stir this brew, so contact Jennifer Bartnik at jbartnik@nc.rr.com or Cyndy Risku at 408-3238 for more information on how to join in the fun!

➤ CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SHOPPE

- ❖ We are sending out a call for artists/crafters for STM's annual "Christmas Holiday Shoppe."
- ❖ If you, or someone you know, are a crafter, why not rent a table at our popular craft show.
- ❖ Table rental fees are \$35 for a hallway location and \$45 for a gym location.
- ❖ Deadline to apply is October 15th.
- ❖ Please call Cathy Elmore at 493-4157 or celmore@nc.rr.com or Joanne Vance at 490-8493 or jwvance@nc.rr.com with any questions and/or to request an application.
- ❖ "Christmas Holiday Shoppe" will be on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 9:00am. - 3:00pm.
- ❖ We need volunteers! We especially 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 at "Christmas Holiday Shoppe". Call Cathy or Joanne (or e-mail) if you'd like to help us out!

Please continue reading on, to the next page. You will find a letter that was sent to STM updating contributions to the ARENAL Mission and how they are being utilized. Thank you, parents, students, and faculty for your contributions to this mission outreach.

The next publication of THE KNIGHT TIMES will be posted on the school website on Wednesday, October 1st. Direct comments or questions to jfoster@st-thomasmore.org



September 2, 2008

Sister Catherine, S.S.J., Principal
St. Thomas More School
920 Carmichael Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Sister,

Thank you for the recent large donation of \$16,700 (Sixteen thousand, seven hundred dollars)* to Rob's mission down in Nicaragua, thanks to the hard work and generosity of STM students and teachers. While Rob was home for a short visit earlier this Summer, I was able to get a progress report from him on the remarkable growth within that community of *campesinos* in Arenal since I last visited there. I want to share some of that report with you, since STM school's generosity makes you part of his and the community's remarkable success. His recent letter fills in some blanks as well.

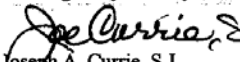
"During the last couple of years," he told me, "we've begun a process that will continue for some time, i.e., focusing on the role of youngsters and women in the community – their formation, opening spaces for their leadership, awareness of their rights, consciousness of alternatives, and the opportunity to pursue those alternatives locally and even nationally when possible. If there would be some way to put something of what we're trying to do in more traditional terms, it might be to describe it as a different type of popular education, geared for the long run.

"The commitments of the Solidarity Group in the community continue to focus on health, education, gender, food production, and culture, as implemented in (1) an alternative reading program for little ones; (2) 25 youngsters currently studying at the university level; (3) 25 graduates, all with paying jobs, half of whom work in their free moments in the various works of the Solidarity Group; (4) a popular pharmacy offering generic medicines and a popular medical laboratory as well; (5) a community transport program; (6) a small loans program for groups of women; (7) a women's group that prepares bread and pastries for sale in the community; (8) a youth group that focuses on our cultural roots, especially in the area of traditional Nicaraguan dance; and (9) university students committed to organic farming and forestation programs in the community. All this, together with a commitment to keep alive our historic memory, celebrating events dealing with our culture and history, as well as participating in a network of similar community groups throughout Central America and the Caribbean."

That's a pretty impressive account, don't you think? It made me appreciate why Rob was anxious to get back home to be with his Solidarity Group in the Arenal cooperative. Right now, they're enjoying good rains (as long as the hurricanes stay away) and hope for a good crop of beans this time, to offset the ever-rising cost of food that is not home-grown.

Thanks again for STM's generous support of Rob's work over the years. Arenal's success would just not be possible without it. Rob will again acknowledge your gift, once it is wired down to the Arenal account in Managua along with other donations.

Blessings on you and your work,


Joseph A. Currie, S.J.
Director of Campus Ministry

* No goods or services were exchanged in this transaction.