



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

### STM HSA Online

The St. Thomas More Home and School Association sponsors a website and email list system to enhance communication at STM. Our website is updated throughout the year, and contains information about HSA committees and events, pointers to the Online Lunch Ordering System and the STM Groups email list system:

<http://www.stmhsa.org/>

The STM Groups email list system provides groups at STM with a way to easily and consistently access and manage their email lists. Over 50 different email lists are currently used by classes, volunteer committees, and enrichment organizations. A General Announcements list is provided for topics of interest to the entire school community.

You are encouraged to join and participate in our online community. As the new school year starts, please remember to take a moment to update your STM HSA email list subscriptions by clicking on the STM Groups icon on the HSA website, or visiting the site directly here:

<http://www.stm-groups.org/>

After logging on with your email address and password, click "Manage Subscriptions". Enter your name, and then check/uncheck your desired email lists. Remember to subscribe to both your children's class lists and the lists for any committees that you have volunteered for (or *want* to volunteer for.) Everyone should also be subscribed to the HSA General Announcements list which includes all STM HSA users. When finished, click the "Submit" box and you are done.

If you are a new user, first click on the "Register" link and follow the registration steps before logging on.

Once subscribed to an email list, you can then send email to all list members using simply the list email address. For example, to reach all the subscribers of the playground email list, just send email to [playground@stm-groups.org](mailto:playground@stm-groups.org). For reference, all posts to the email lists are archived and can be viewed at any time from the website.

Please adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy, outlined here when sending email to any email list:

<http://www.stm-groups.org/spam.html>

If you have problems, please direct your questions to [admin@stm-groups.org](mailto:admin@stm-groups.org)  
Have a great school year! Patrick Pudlo STM / HSA Communications Committee Chair



### September

- 6** Dress Down Day with 1:45 Dismissal
- 8** Mass
- 11** School lunches begin; Study Hall begins (see entry)
- 12** BOB meets after school; H S A meets at 7:00 p.m.
- 15** Mass
- 16** Father Rob from Arenal visits
- 17** Father Rob from Arenal visits
- 19** BOB meets after school
- 22** NO MASS- Priests' Retreat
- 26** School Board meets at 7:00 p.m.
- 27** Picture Day (in uniform); 1st Quarter Progress Reports
- 28** 11:30 Dismissal
- 29** NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service



# The Knight Times

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Vol. 5 No. 1, September 6, 2006

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,

The school community is still saddened by the death of Austin Cope, Class of 2005, this past weekend. Let us continue to keep Mr. and Mrs. Cope and their family in our prayers. It was truly a blessing to see the church filled with so many friends and family to help them in this most difficult time.

The Fruits of the Spirit are all ours to give to each other. Longsuffering can be practiced in the car line as you might be tempted to cut into the line ahead of someone else. Kindness is offered to you by the eighth grade students, who come early, to open car doors and offer you words of, "Have a good day." Unfortunately an adult told one student to be quiet because they were on the phone. Gentleness practiced by each of us will spill over into gentleness to each other.

The school year has started on a positive note in the classrooms. Students appear eager to learn and look happy to be with each other- especially at recess. We are however, in need of substitutes. Please contact the office personnel to obtain an application.

Take time to read all the information in this the first issue of our KNIGHT TIMES.

Sincerely,  
Sister Catherine, SSJ  
Principal

### THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT



**Arenal Update**

Many thanks to STM School's effort in contributing to Arenal Mission. We made a total contribution of \$11,236 during the school year of 2005-2006. Because of your generous donation, Fr. Rob Currie of Arenal has been able to help the people and schools in many ways. Your solidarity has given Arenal people great hope to a brighter future. Gracias!

We offer special thanks to Mrs. Killian's seventh grade class, 2005-2006, for donating proceeds from Asian Market to the Arenal Mission.

We are in need of volunteers, most specifically, a person to coordinate the sale of Equal Exchange Coffee, which, along with ice cream sales and mission days, is a significant fundraiser. This is a job that can be done entirely from home, and is ideal for a parent working outside the home, or for a parent with young children. Interested? To find out more, contact Jeannie Kao at [jmlkao@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlkao@yahoo.com).

Fr. Rob Currie, of Arenal, will visit our STM Community and celebrate masses on Saturday, September 16, at 5:15 pm and on Sunday, September 17, at the 9:15 and 11:15 am masses. Please make a note on your calendar and come to join us on this wonderful event.

**Come Join the Fun**

The Social and Teacher Recognition Committee will have its one and only meeting on Thursday, September 21, at 8am in the Youth House. We hope to see you there. Mindy Gill and Chris Katz, Co-Chairs

**Parking on grass shoulders**

We need your cooperation and attention in keeping our grass shoulders alive and healthy. Please turn off the ignition while parked in these areas. The heat generated by running/idling engines will burn the grass beyond recovery. There are already some brown/dead spots and we need to prevent further damage. Thanks for your interest and support. Carlos Lima, Parish Administrator,

**Summer 2006 Projects and Improvements around STM Campus.**

As you return to school you will come across projects and improvements we have been working on since last May. Following is a list of most of them, with acknowledgement to those who gave from their Time, Talent, and Treasure to make these projects a reality...

- Improve universal access to Gym stage (Jay Kimple, Marci Morgenlander, Terry Bradley, Dennis Lougee). Partially funded by the Home and School Association (HSA)
- Electrical repairs to KA and KB classrooms (In house, Les Mazur and Krysz Bielen)
- Classroom storage renovations (Brent Voelkel) Funded by the Home and School Association (HSA)
- Hot water heater for lower school restrooms (in house, Les Mazur). Partially funded by the Home and School Association (HSA)
- Fence for lower school parking lot/playground (Nancy Fine). Funded by the Home and School Association (HSA)
- Convent repairs and renovations (Keith Larkin, Damian Ariza, Les Mazur, Krysz Bielen, Pat Neagle, Brent Voelkel, John Mackowiac)

More to come in the September 20 publication.

**Target Visa "Take Charge of Education" Program**

Earn money for St. Thomas More School. It's easy! Link your Target Visa to the "Take Charge of Education" program by calling 1-800-316-6142 (our school code is 17852) or go on-line to [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe). Under "How We Help," click on "Take Charge of Education." Click on "Enroll Now" or "Find/Designate a School." Enter our school code (17852).

Last year, Target donated \$945 to STM through this program. We currently have 74 Target Visas linked to our school. We can do better! No additional purchases are required. You earn money for STM through your regular Target Visa purchases. LINK YOUR CARD TODAY! Questions? Call Joanne Vance at 490-8493.

**Announcing At-Home Volunteer Hours**

Looking for a fun easy way to earn your volunteer hours from the comfort of your own home? Look no further! We need volunteers to trim and count box tops for our "Box Tops for Education" program. Trim box tops while your baby naps; count box tops during the commercial breaks of your favorite TV show. You decide! Call Joanne Vance at 490-8493 (e-mail [jvwance@nc.rr.com](mailto:jvwance@nc.rr.com)) or Cathy Elmore at 493-4157 (e-mail [celmore@nc.rr.com](mailto:celmore@nc.rr.com)) to sign up.

**Pick up time and Caring and Sharing Center hours**

The hours of the Caring Sharing Center have been changed this year. The center will operate serving customers until 2:30 p.m. and a volunteer will stay to collect donations until 3 p.m. This should allow for clearing of C&S traffic before 2:45 p.m. To make it easier for cars to clear that area we ask that the pick up line stop by the turn at the Youth House until 2:40 p.m. so the driveway around the parking lot is not blocked. A sign will be posted shortly. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Innisbrook Gift Wrap Fundraiser****STM keeps 50% of every dollar spent!**

This fundraiser is an easy way to raise money for our Home and School Association (HSA). Packets for this year's products, Innisbrook Wraps, were distributed with the Open House materials. Additional packets are available in the school office. **All orders must be returned to your child's classroom by September 12.** Purchases may also be made on-line at [www.innisbrook.com](http://www.innisbrook.com) with the STM school code, 101003. The class with the highest number of participating students will be rewarded with an Ice Cream Party!

**Eucharistic Ministers for School Masses**

If you are interested in being a Eucharistic minister for school masses, please contact me by Monday, September 11, with the following information: Name, your student's name, student's class, your phone number, and your email address. Also please indicate if you have already been trained or if you would require training. You may email me at [kweeks@stthomasmore.org](mailto:kweeks@stthomasmore.org) or call the upper school (929-2241) and leave a message. Thanks for your help in this important ministry, Kathleen Weeks

**Study Hall News**

Beginning Monday, September 11, we will be having after-school study hall in the Library every **Monday through Thursday** (except on rainy days) for students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Mrs. Portwood will meet with those students from **2:45 until 3:10 pm**. If you would like your child to participate, please download a permission slip from the STM website and send it in to Mrs. Portwood as soon as possible. Parents who are participating should plan to arrive at school no earlier than 3:05 so that our pick-up does not interfere with traffic flow.

**Study Skills Class**

The Hill Center will be offering Middle School Study Skills this winter. This class will focus on organization, time management, listening, following directions, proof reading, note taking, studying, test strategies, and critical reading skills. Interested parents should contact the Hill Center.

**Art News**

Art is off to a great start this school year in all of my 19 classes. I want it to be a very relaxing and calming experience for your child, where there is an atmosphere of "There are no mistakes in art."

Thanks to all those who have signed up to help me in art. I could not do this job without your help. I know that many have signed up to help with art in the specific classes and I thank you!! I am also looking for help in these other areas:

- (1) A volunteer who could devote a Monday morning or afternoon each week and one who could devote a Thursday afternoon each week to assist me in art prep and other art related jobs in the art room. (I have a parent for Tuesday and Wednesday).
  - (2) A volunteer who could be in charge of the recycling in the art room.
  - (3) A garden helper. A person who could assist me, Mr. Steve (science) and Mrs. Bukowski (5<sup>th</sup>) with the maintenance of our garden space by the art trailer.
  - (4) A couple of parents who could collect old tennis balls and put them on the legs of my 28 chairs. (This really helps with noise and also helps preserve the floor).
  - (5) Someone to periodically pick up art towels to wash.
  - (6) Volunteers to hang exhibits
  - (7) Any parents who would be interested in subbing in Art.
- Please email me if you would love to do any of these jobs. [bives@st-thomasmore.org](mailto:bives@st-thomasmore.org)

All grade parents, please email me so that I have your email address. I hope to keep in touch with classes with your help.

Original Works Magnet Project starts the week of September 11, in all classes. Parents, please remind your students to be coming up with their fantastic ideas. Magnets should arrive by November 1, and final products the first week in December!!

5-8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in an acrylic painting class after school, please email me. There has been a request. If I could get at least four students, I would offer it on either a Monday or Tuesday afternoon. Thanks, Barbara Ives