

THE KNIGHT TIMES

FEBRUARY 4TH

2008-2009 EDITION

February 9th - February 20th

Monday February 9 th	Tuesday February 10 th	Wednesday February 11 th	Thursday February 12 th	Friday February 13 th
Full Student Council meets @ 11:30 5 th Grade Science Club meets from 2:45-3:45pm.	BOB Club meets after school		5 th Grade Science Club meets from 2:45-4:00pm.	6B Mass Father-Daughter Dance from 7-9pm.
February 16 th	February 17 th	February 18 th	February 19 th	February 20 th
NO SCHOOL- Presidents' Day observed	BOB Club and Jr. Great Books group meet after school		FREE DRESS DOWN DAY (purchased at last year's Auction) 5 th Grade Science Club meets from 2:45-4:00pm.	3B Mass Diocese Shamrock Basketball Tournament begins in Charlotte

➤ FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The faculty and I want to thank you for your participation in our Catholic Schools Week Service Projects. We were delightfully surprised by the number of contributions each day. Those who received your contributions were overwhelmed by your generosity. It truly is more blessed to give than to receive.

Speaking of contributions, have you noticed the clothing that is accumulating in the LOST and FOUND in the lower school lobby? If your child is missing an article of clothing please check out the area to the right of the main door as you enter the school.

At last year's auction we had a bid on a FREE DRESS DOWN DAY. That was purchased by the Mauney family. In honor of Mary Kate's birthday, we will have a FREE Dress Down Day on Thursday, February 19th. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Mary Kate, in 2A!

God Bless,
Sister Catherine

➤ NOTES FROM KIM DOUGHTY YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

It's 3:00pm. Do you know what your child's facebook status is?

I'll begin by saying that I do have a facebook account, and I use it with reasonable frequency. So this is not a rant against facebook, or any other social networking site. I'm not going to discuss the age limit (13), except to say that we have a bunch of middle-schoolers who were born in 1990. I'm not even writing to lecture on the dangers of online predators and bullying, though those dangers are real and should be considered.

But let's think about facebook from another angle: Let's say that Cardinal Gibbons has one space left in their class of 2013, and several remaining and equally qualified applicants. A quick search of facebook and the admissions committee finds applicant accounts with entries like:

- Sry myipods is being a hoepod
- ___ is hating catholic school and it's inhabitants
- ___ is really wierded out that my 6 yr old cousin is hitting on my sis!!!!!!
- ___'s favorite quote is "every akward silent moment a gay baby is born."

(The above quotes come directly from the active sites of current STM students.)

Which student would you choose to accept?

Facebook does have a privacy system in place, and the good news is that many of your children use this protection. The bad news is that in a 15-minute search, I easily found seven STM middle-schoolers with "open" accounts. In these cases every photo, sentence, and piece of personal information can be seen by anyone who wants to access the site and click on your child's name. This includes friends, enemies, colleges, prospective employers, predators, and nosy school social workers.

In addition, say I have an "open" facebook page, and I post a picture of my best friend, Sister Catherine. And say she's being silly and has decided to kiss Santa Claus. Sister has carefully protected her page, but when Father John finds my page, he will also find that illicit photo. There goes her chance to be principal at Cardinal Gibbons.

I don't have all the answers, and I wouldn't suggest that the answers that work for one family will be perfect for all. With this article I hope to raise some of the issues, and create some conversations. I'm available at 270-6739, if anyone wants to talk through some of the issues in person. In addition, I hope you will:

- Check the privacy settings on your children's accounts
- Talk to other people about these issues - your spouse, other parents
- Talk about these issues with your children.

Below are some links to help start those conversations.

<http://www.facebook.com/safety/>

http://www.nytimes.com/external/readwriteweb/2009/01/30/30readwriteweb-how_to_friend_mom_dad_and_the.html

http://www.projo.com/lifebeat/content/lb_Parents_on_Facebook_12-28-08_URC7OIV_v9.186e21f.html

The **KNIGHT TIMES** is a newsletter of
St. Thomas More School
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The next publication will be posted on the school website on Wednesday,
February 18, 2009. Direct comments or questions to Judy Foster at: jfoster@st-thomasmore.org