

St. Louis School Cardinal Post

Volume 3 Issue 1

August 2011

Important Summer Dates

- August 25** – Feast of St. Louis
August 19 – Fall Fundraiser Kick Off
August 20 - PAA Jamboree
August 23 – Room Mother Tea
August 25 – All School Mass, *Feast of St. Louis*
Sept. 1 – Fall fundraiser ends
Sept. 2 – Holiday
Sept. 5 – Holiday, Labor Day
Sept. 15 – School Picture Day PK and JK/5 Home and School Meeting
Sept. 16 – School Pictures JK/3, K-8
Sept. 19 – ITBS Testing Begins
Oct. 5 – Cookie Dough Pick Up
Oct. 7 – 10 Fall Break
Oct. 14 – End of the First Nine Weeks
Oct. 20 – Home and School Meeting
Oct. 22 – First Penance Meeting
Oct. 23 – School Open House
Oct. 28 – Parent – Teacher Conferences Dismiss 11:30am
Nov. 1 – All Saint's Day, No School

*Refer to stlouismemphis.org for additional dates.

A Message from Mrs. Niedzwiedz:

Dear St. Louis Friends and Families,

School year 2011-2012 is off to a great start! All the classrooms have been painted and floors are shining! If you have not had a chance to stop by our new classrooms in the Orians Center, please make sure that you do. No longer do our students have to be cramped in the convent. Junior High Grammar, fifth through eighth grade Spanish, and Art class have been relocated in the Orians Center.

Technology is all around us! First, we have our new computerized cafeteria system in place. Parents can use their credit card or an electronic bank draft to put money on their children's accounts and monitor exactly what their children are eating. The system gives a warning when they are running out of money. No more lost lunch money! All the classrooms have had SMART Boards installed. We also added two new laptop carts for classroom use, bringing us up to four laptop carts total. We replaced all the computer lab computers with new, moving the old computers to the classrooms. iPads have been purchased for our preschool and kindergarten and educational applications will be downloaded for student use. Teachers have been provided professional development on using the SMART Boards in class, as well as, there will be ongoing professional development on using technology to differentiate instruction throughout the school year.

This year we will be piloting a new enrichment program in 5th and 6th grade called S.O.A.A.R. (Students Offered Advanced Academic Rigor). Our enrichment students will meet one day a week once the program begins. The goal is to offer students who qualify, work that is at least two grade levels higher than their current grade and tap into student interests. This program will be geared toward those students who test in the 9th stanine on their Iowa Test of Basic Skills and have their teacher's endorsement. After our learning lab staff researched all the programs that are offered in the diocese and the public sector, we are developing this new program to encompass all the best components of those that the staff observed.

It is so exciting when the students come back to school! This is the time of year that educators live for, when the students return to us. Our students are so eager to learn and our teachers are ready to take them on the journey, learning to love learning. The faculty and staff need your assistance in making sure that all new families feel included and welcomed. Please know that my door is always open so stop by and say hello.

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Teddi Niedzwiedz

St. Louis School Mission Statement

St. Louis Catholic School is committed to quality education in the spirit of Christ in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Working in partnership with parents and the community, we are dedicated to preparing our students for the future through faith formation and academic excellence utilizing progressive technology while enhancing students' emotional, physical and spiritual well-being.



St. Louis Welcomes Our New Faculty for 2011-2012

Ashley Kreitz-School Counselor



My name is Ashley Kreitz. I am very excited to be the new school counselor at St. Louis School. I attended the University of Mississippi where I majored in Elementary Education. Later, I received my Master of Science in School

Counseling from the University of Memphis. I have taught 3rd grade, 5th grade, and 7th grade, all in Shelby County Schools. The past 8 years of my professional career were spent at Collierville Middle School where I was the school counselor. I enjoy watching children grow and develop academically and socially.

I have three children; 9, 8, and 6 years old. My family and I attend OLPH Catholic Church. I am presently a first grade PRE teacher and a member of the OLPH Women's Guild. During our free time, we enjoy sports. We attend Ole Miss sporting events as well as Grizzly games as often as we can. Our children are actively involved in sports and other activities which keep us busy!

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share my love of Christ through my work here at St. Louis School. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to work with your children.

Megan Hellen-Fifth Grade



Hello! My name is Megan Hellen. This is my first year here at St. Louis. This school and church holds much tradition for my family, and I am beyond excited to be here. I will be teaching fifth grade science, math, and religion this year. I attended Holy Rosary and

Immaculate Conception through elementary school, graduated high school at Collierville High School, and received my Bachelor of Science in Education at the University of Memphis. I am looking forward to this school year and being a part of the St. Louis family.

Lisa McMurtry-Sixth Grade



Hello, my name is Lisa McMurtry. I am both excited and honored to be on staff as the 6th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies teacher at St. Louis. I graduated from Christian Brothers University with a Masters in Arts and Teaching. My undergraduate degree is in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology. After spending 19 years with the same financial institution, God graciously blessed me with the opportunity to return to school and fulfill my heartfelt desire to become a teacher. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to love and teach your children. I welcome you to stop by 6A and introduce yourself. I look forward to the future with your children and our experiences at St. Louis School.

Jason Smith-Junior High Math



My name is Jason Smith and this will be my first year as a teacher. I am a product of the Catholic Schools in Memphis and an alumnus of St. Louis (2002). I attended St. Benedict at Auburndale for high school and received my B.A. from the University of Mississippi in May 2010.

I am currently pursuing my Masters of Arts in Teaching from Christian Brothers University in middle grades Mathematics and secondary History. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, I worked as a teacher-counselor at Youth Villages. I am very excited about this upcoming school year and getting to work with the St. Louis community.

***Watch for more information on
"Spreading Our Wings"***

Devin Hartsgrove-Fifth Grade



I was born and raised in New Jersey and just recently moved to Memphis. I attended college at Farleigh Dickinson University (Madison, NJ), which is where I obtained my B.S. in Marketing. After venturing into the corporate world, I quickly realized that teaching

was my true passion. I enrolled in graduate school and received my Masters in Arts & Teaching from Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ). I have previously taught fifth grade in New Jersey and Washington DC. I have enjoyed the experience and I look forward to a great year here, at St. Louis!

Margaret Schauwecker-Physical Education



My name is Margaret Schauwecker and I will be the new PE teacher at St. Louis School. My family moved to Tennessee from Cleveland, Ohio two years ago. We have three children. My oldest daughter is in fifth grade, my son is in third grade,

and I have a three year old daughter in preschool.

I taught PE and health for Kindergarten - grade 8 in a small Catholic school for four years. I also taught high school health during my last three years in Ohio. I am very thankful for the opportunity to join the St. Louis family. It is a very warm and welcoming school that reminds me of my wonderful St. Therese at home. I am excited to meet all of the children and families and start a great new year together.



Mr. Smith helps Maggie and Katie Perry into their car at dismissal.

Shula Cangelosi-Learning Lab



My name is Shula Cangelosi, and I will be the new Learning Lab 7th and 8th grade teacher. I have taught Special Education and Gifted Education for twenty-two years. I am also certified in 7-12th English and teaching ESL. My husband teaches at Central

High School. I am very excited to be part of the St. Louis family, and I look forward to meeting the students and parents this year.

Welcome Back!!!

Welcome to all of our returning and new families. We are so excited to be back for the 2011-2012 school year. Even though school was not in session over the summer we were very busy preparing for the year.

- The interior of the school was painted.
- New lights were installed in the main hallway.
- Three new classrooms were created in the Orians Center.
- The entry way to the old gym was tiled with the students' and teachers' artwork.
- SMART Boards were installed in every classroom.
- New computers were purchased for the computer lab and additional laptop carts.

We are excited about the new horizons we are approaching. The faculty has already attended professional development seminars on how to integrate our technology into the classroom and is committed to providing the best education possible for your child.

*****Please remember to print the forms from your class homepage, sign them, and return them to your homeroom teacher. These forms include the photo release, volunteer driver form and medical form.***

***** Please remember cell phone use is not permitted in the parking lot during dismissal.***

St. Louis Cafeteria Goes High Tech

Many parents asked that we computerize the cafeteria operations and we have! The new cafeteria operations will help speed up the food service and also allow you not to have to send



money with your child on a daily basis.

Every student in K-8 has a unique id number that allows him/her to purchase food. Parents simply load money onto

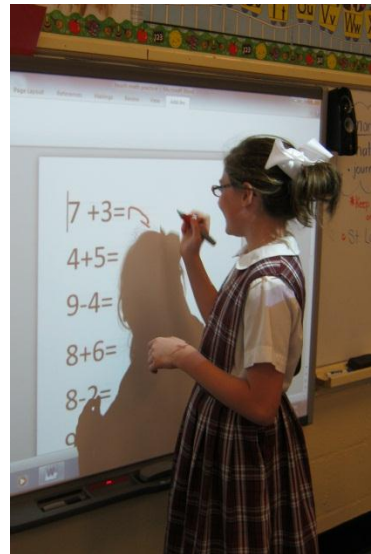
the child's account at www.payforit.net, with either a credit card number or electronic bank draft. A 5.5% fee is associated with credit card purchases. Each electronic bank draft is assigned a \$1.75 fee, no matter what the purchase amount.

The students have responded very favorably to the new system. As one student said "This is awesome!"

Please do not hesitate to contact Vickie Shaw or Mitzi Donato with any questions you may have.



*In our next issue...
Meet Father Rust*



Madelyn McCrary solves math problems on the SMART Board.

Classes Continue to Address the 21st Century Learner

Teachers and students alike are embracing the new technology in the classrooms. Last year LCD projectors were installed in each classroom. This summer SMART Boards and speakers were added to each setting, thus increasing our interactive learning. The SMART Board allows many of the lessons to "come to life" with interactive activities. Teachers are planning such activities as virtual dissections, live interviews with children's authors, and virtual field trips of places such as the pyramids in Egypt or the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

We have also updated the computer lab to now house 2011 Dell desktop machines. Each classroom has two desktop machines that also run off of Windows 7. Last year at any given time our computer lab and two laptop carts were in simultaneous use. We have added two additional laptop carts bringing the total number of laptops for student use to 120. We have also upgraded our T1 line to increase our bandwidth and help facilitate faster, smoother use of the internet. This being said, our students' exposure to online learning and research is ever increasing.

