

# Siena Circular



February 12, 2008

*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*  
*Philippians 4:8*

Dear Parents,

To sum up our reflections on the first three of the "Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools" from *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools* by Archbishop J. Michael Miller: Catholic Schools are *communities of faith*, guided by and modeled after *the example of Christ* for to achieve the goal of perfect union with God. This week we reflect on the fourth mark: "Imbued with a catholic worldview throughout its curriculum"; translated into ordinary language, this means simply: The Catholic faith isn't just taught in Religion; it touches every aspect of the student's experiences at school!

Recently, when asked to reflect on what they like about Saint Catherine of Siena School, one of the eighth grade students wrote: "Saint Catherine's is an environment where students grow in God's love, achieve academic greatness, and enrich their abilities to work towards a brighter future. Here, learning about religion isn't just a school subject; it's a way to learn how to treat others as images of God." Another eighth grade student stated: "The family environment enables the students and teachers to grow closer together...and complete the ultimate goal of growing closer to God."

The curriculum of a school is so, so much more than the lesson goals and objectives listed in textbooks or the lesson plan books of teachers. Much learning occurs through the un-recorded lessons delivered when teachers and students interact with each other. The statements of the eighth grade students are a wonderful testimony to the "unspoken of yet ever present" curriculum which takes place everyday at SCS:

The educational philosophy that guides Catholic schools...seeks to ensure that they are places where "faith, culture, and life are brought into harmony." Central to the Catholic school is its mission of holiness, of saint-making. Mindful of redemption in Christ, the Catholic school aims to form in its pupils those particular virtues that will enable them to live a new life in Christ and help them to play their part in serving society and the Church.

Thank you for all you do at home to promote our Catholic way of life: faithful Mass attendance, reception of the sacraments, family prayer time, encouragement for the practice of the virtues. Truly, our students are blessed with all the tools necessary for sainthood – let us continue to pray daily for these precious "saints-in-the-making."

With prayers,

## Prayer Corner

Please pray for:

- The Taylor Family
- The McNally Family
- The Raake Family
- The sick, especially those among our families and friends
- For requests submitted to the Spiritual Committee's prayer chain

## Calendar at a Glance

### Wednesday, February 13

- School Mass (4B)

### Thursday, February 14

- Noon dismissal – park and pick
- Parent-teacher conferences begin @ 1:00 p.m.
- 3 quarter mid-term
- End of re-enrollment for 2008-2009 school year

### Friday, February 15

- No school – Archdiocesan teacher in-service

### Monday, February 18

- School is in session – NOT a holiday

### Wednesday, February 21

- School Mass (6B)

### Friday, February 23

- 3 quarter mid-term reports to be distributed
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## THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Thank you to:

- All who responded to our survey for sending Tuesday Folder items via email. We had an approximate 60% response rate, which is fairly impressive! Families who did not return a form indicating their wish to receive Tuesday Folder items via email will continue to receive the regular Tuesday Folders.
- All our volunteers who helped with our Wingo Bingo this past Saturday – we enjoyed some delicious wings, exciting games, and fun community time.

## ROBOTICS TEAM

Congratulations to our Robotics Team! This group of students qualified for and participated in the States final competitions last Saturday, placing 19<sup>th</sup> overall out of forty-nine schools! Way to go, Blazers!

## AUTHOR VISIT AT OUR SCHOOL

Well known author and illustrator, Tammy Bronson will be visiting our school to share with us her love of reading and writing. We will have three sessions in the morning with Mrs. Bronson, and her husband Shane Bronson. Mrs. Bronson will speak to the children about her books, inspiring them to write their own stories. Later, after the sessions she will have a ‘book signing’ in the media center, when children who have pre-ordered her books, will have a chance to speak with her and pick up their autographed copies. Thank you to the parent volunteers who have helped in coordinating Mrs. Bronson’s visit. And thank you to our HSA for sponsoring this event!

## SPORTS: BASKETBALL TEAMS & ATHLETIC BANQUET

Congratulations to our basketball teams who completed their season much improved in skills as well as winning records! Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls advanced all the way to quarter finals this past weekend! All team members should return their uniforms to Mr. Shirley by this Thursday, February 14. We look forward to our February 28<sup>th</sup> Athletic Banquet, during which we will honor our coaches and our fantastic athletes! Please access forms for the banquet on-line.

## RE-ENROLLMENT

February 14 marks the deadline for re-enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year. Re-enrollment forms are available on-line as well as at the school office upon request. Students who do not re-enroll by February 14 will be considered un-enrolled for the next school year and will need to re-apply and be charged with new application and registration fees. Families who are not able to make this deadline but who wish to re-enroll their children should contact Sister Mary Jacinta by February 14.

## FACTS TUITION PLANS

FACTS Tuition Agreements for 2008-2009 will be set up automatically for families currently using FACTS tuition service for tuition deductions. In April when tuition rates for 2008-2009 are announced, we will send letters to each family with the new contract rate and tuition deductions for the 2008-2009 FACTS tuition account. If you have questions, please contact Anna Coppock at 770-419-8601 ext. 1418.

## FACTS TUITION ASSISTANCE

All tuition assistance applications for the 2008-2009 school year must be completed by **February 28**. All applications for tuition assistance must be mailed directly to FACTS Grant & Aid or completed online. Hard copies of the applications are available at the front office; for on-line applications, go to [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com). A \$20 fee is due to FACTS Grant & Aid for processing your application. For questions, please contact Sister Mary Jacinta or Anna Coppock.

## PLAYGROUND HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help on the playground on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you are able to help, please call Arantxa Mejia at 770-794-0794. Thank you!

## MEIDA CENTER HELP NEEDED

The Media Center needs help in the afternoons, from 2:45-3:15, for shelving books and straightening shelves on Wednesday and Thursday. Please contact Mrs. John if you are able to help. Thank you!

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*Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic School unites with family and community to provide an excellent academic and religious education, developing the whole child while encouraging individual talents and abilities in a Christ-centered environment.*

*In imitation of Saint Catherine, faithful daughter of the Church, we provide a formation grounded in truth through which we engage the culture, setting the world ablaze with the love of Christ.*