

The Principal's Monthly Newsletter

January 2010

Saint Dominic School is a Christ – centered learning community that fosters Catholic faith and Christian values in our students while striving for academic excellence. We prepare our students to become responsible leaders and role models within the Church, family and community.

SAINT DOMINIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE - Please invite anyone who may be interested in having their children attend Saint Dominic School (PreK to Grade 5) to our open house: **Sunday, January 31, 2010 after the 11:30 Mass.**

Beginning with the upcoming school year, we will be offering the following options for our Early Learning Center:

For the 3 year old students, the program will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-12 or the traditional Tuesday and Thursday option from 9-12. Early drop-off at 7:00 a.m. is available for an additional fee.

For the 4 year old students, the program will run Monday through Friday from 9-12 or 9-3 (parent choice). The traditional Monday, Wednesday, Friday option (full-day or half-day) is also available. Early drop-off at 7:00 a.m. and aftercare until 5:30 p.m. is available for an additional cost.

REENROLLMENT FOR the 2010 – 2011 school year will take place for current families starting Monday January 11th. The Reenrollment forms will be sent home with the youngest child. A \$300.00 tuition deposit will be required per family and is non refundable. This fee will be applied to your tuition account for the 2010-2011 school year. Any sibling from our current families enrolling for next year must pay a \$75.00 application fee per student and must complete a separate application form. Applications for current families only are available in the office. All Kindergarten applicants will be screened for readiness sometime in February. In order to secure space for your child/ren please return the forms and the non-refundable tuition deposit and application fee (if applicable) by Friday, January 22nd. Starting January 31st enrollment will be opened to the parish and the community.

IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE RETURNING to Saint Dominic's in the fall, please notify the school office ASAP. It will be helpful to know if extra spaces are available for new students.

CHANGE IN STAFFING – Mrs. Lori Schommer, Paraprofessional in the Early Learning Center will be leaving her position here next Friday, January 15th. Mrs Lisa Figueiredo will take on the extra hours in the morning until the end of the school year. We thank Mrs. Schommer for her service to Saint Dominic School and her dedication to our students for the past 3 years.

DRA-2 – Beginning next week, your child's teacher will administer the DRA-2 (Developmental Reading Assessment) to their students in order to assess and monitor the student's growth in critical reading skills and plan their reading instruction accordingly. Should your child's teacher have any specific concerns about your child's performance on the assessment you will be contacted.

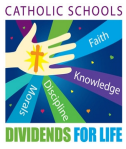
DOLL SUNDAY JANUARY 10, 2010; 10:00 A.M. MASS - Dolls, bears and stuffed animals are our dearest and most treasured friends and we honor them by special recognition before the entire congregation. We realize that the recent holidays may have brought new dolls and other new friends into our homes. Please accept our invitation to bring these new (and old) family members to our annual Doll Sunday to receive a blessing.

REPORT CARDS - The second marking term ends on Friday, Jan. 15th. Report cards will be issued on Jan. 22nd, please return the signed white report card envelope to your child's teacher by January 29th, thank you.

TUITION PAYMENTS - Your child's January report card will not be sent home if your tuition account is not current. Please contact the school office should you be having difficulty making your tuition payment so we can work out a mutually agreeable payment schedule. It is your responsibility to contact the school should you be having difficulty. Please do not wait until the last minute to do so.

HALF DAY OF SCHOOL – School will dismiss at 12:00 on Tuesday, January 12th for a teacher professional development activity with the faculty from Saint Thomas School. Chorus **WILL NOT** be held on this day.

NO SCHOOL – There will be no school on Monday, Jan. 18 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION MONTH: As we celebrate Catholic Education Month during January, our students will be participating in the following activities: Career Day at Saint Thomas School, a Carnival, Project Linus (making blankets for children in need), Young Audiences Program, Read – a – thon, Grade 5 Wax Museum and Sunday Mass followed by an open house for prospective families. Please plan on attending the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, January 31st to show your support of our school.

SAINT DOMINIC SCHOOL AUCTION - The Saint Dominic School Auction will be held at the Aqua Turf Club on Friday, February 26, 2010 starting at 6:30 p.m. Please support this fun event.

END OF THE DAY CAR RIDERS - in a continuing effort to make dismissal run smoothly and safely we ask parents and/or grandparents **NOT** to park beyond the orange cones we have placed in the parking lot. Please do not park in the rear row of the parking lot. The bus drivers are having difficulty making the turn by the rectory. We appreciate your continued effort to help with dismissal.

NOTES REQUIRED FOR A CHANGE IN PICK-UP PLANS - If a student's usual pick-up procedure changes for any reason, a note to the teacher is required. This applies to ALL students – Kindergarten through grade 5. Please do not call the school office **after 2:15** to change transportation arrangements. It is very difficult to contact teachers while they are getting ready for the end of the day and may be transporting students between buildings. Of course, in an emergency situation, a phone call from the parent will be permitted.

OUTERWEAR FOR THE COLD - Please be sure your child is dressed for the cold weather. Recess is held daily (weather permitting) – winter coats, hats and mittens should be worn each day to school.

SCHOOL WEBSITE - WWW.SAINTEDOMINICSCHOOLCT.ORG Our new website is intended to serve as a focal point for the school community and offers many benefits to everyone; parents, teachers, and the school administration. You are encouraged to explore the website on your own. Please note: upcoming **News & Events** are highlighted on the home page, new notices are uploaded throughout the week so check back frequently, the **staff directory page** and the **school calendar** can be found on the top menu on the homepage and the **Parents-HSA Page** includes contact information for the HSA Board and finally **the Links Page** includes many helpful websites. Our new website will also include weather related alerts on its home banner page. The Principal's Monthly Newsletter (**password protected**) is posted online and can be downloaded and printed. An email was sent earlier this week with the password. Didn't receive the e-mail? Here it is online!

Thanks to Scott Litchfield and his technology committee for all their hard work in developing our new website. It is a great way to showcase our school.

STUDENT COUNCIL – Through the efforts of the Student Council students at Saint Dominic School collected 163 pairs of socks, 130 pairs of gloves, 2 scarves and 56 hats that will be given to Southington Community Services. Thank you to all for your donation!

BOWLING LEAGUE – we are in need of a parent or two to start the bowling league this year. If you are interested, please call the school at 860-628-4678, thank you.

BOOK DRIVE THANK YOU - Thank you to all who generously donated to the fall book drive. We received hundreds of books that will be gracing our library shelves for years to come! Each and every book donated will make its way into the hands of a child. The few titles that we didn't need for our library were donated to the Southington Public Library or GotBooks.com. It's amazing what a group of parents can accomplish in a short period of time. Once the library is fully automated and the newly purchased books are integrated, we may re-visit the need to continue with a more focused drive in the future. For now, we thank you all so very much for your commitment to our children's education!

Happy New Year!
Melissa Rembish & Sherri Panarella

FROM THE ART TEACHER - please save Friday June 4th from 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. in the Geraghty Hall to view your child's work at our annual Art Show. Donations of baby wipes are needed. I enjoy working with your children.

SCRIP PROGRAM - The Bulldog Bucks announces "**Extend Your Hand, Extend Your Hearts**". We will be selling hearts for \$10 each after all Masses starting January 16 and running until Feb 14. All monies will be donated to Social Services in Southington. We are in need of 4th and 5th grade student volunteers to sell hearts after Masses. Please email Tricia if your child can sell: tbelfonti@gmail.com

January's Promotion - for every gift card order of \$100 or more, you will receive a mini-sharpie. This is a great way to track the remaining balance on your cards!

Plan ahead for **Valentine's Day**. ShopWithScrip.com has 1-800-Flowers and See's Candies for the sweetheart in your life.

You can use **VISA** or **American Express** gift cards anywhere these cards are accepted. American Express is accepted at **Costco** and comes in increments of \$100 and \$200. Order yours today!



A+ BONUS BUCKS - Welcome to the easiest and most rewarding "fund-raising" program available to Saint Dominic School. We are pleased to be able to offer parents and other supporters the opportunity to assist our school in fulfilling its educational needs through our A+ BONUS BUCKS Program. Thank you for your support of our efforts to assist schools with their educational needs. We look forward to a rewarding year of **A+ BONUS BUCKS!** **Register your Stop&Shop Card! Enroll on-line at www.stopandshop.com/aplus by October 31st and our school will receive credit for ALL of your October purchases! Enroll on-line at stopandshop.com/aplus**

BOXTOPS AND LABELS FOR EDUCATION - Thank you to all that participated in the "Fall Popcorn and a Movie" Box Tops and Labels for Education contest. I am happy to announce that Mrs. Kean's Pre-K class won the contest for the highest average collection per student and they will be presented with the Champion Collector's trophy to display in their classroom and they will also receive a "popcorn and a movie" party. David Houle was our Champion Collector and he will receive two free movie tickets to Showcase Cinemas in Southington. Thank you to Showcase Cinemas for the generous donation to our program.

Thank you to all the families that submitted extra labels to help us earn 2500 bonus points from Campbell's. So far this year, the Box Tops program has earned \$1,206.50 and we have banked 13,473 Labels for Education points!! Keep up the good work! Gwen Bade

WINTER BINGO - The "Box Top/Label" contest for January and February is Winter BINGO. The objective of this contest is for each student to submit as many box tops and labels as possible.

The "Champion Collectors" trophy along with a BINGO party and a dress down day will be awarded to the class that has the highest participation per student. The total number of box tops and labels submitted by each class will be divided by the number of students in that class to determine the average per student. The class with the highest participation per student will win.

As an additional incentive to increase participation in the program, a dress-down day will be awarded to each class that has 100% participation, regardless of the number of box tops/labels submitted.

Neatly trim the box tops and labels and place all box tops in one plastic bag and all Labels for Education in another plastic bag. Then place the plastic bags in the brown box top envelope that was sent home earlier this year. The contest begins immediately and ends on Thursday, February 11th. Please return all submissions in the brown box top envelope the week of February 11th. Do not turn them in early I will only collect them on the 11th, thank you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, 860-621-2347. Thank you for your help and good luck!

EMPTIES FOR CASH Attention All Parents! Our school has launched a fund-raising project with the help of an inkjet recycling company **Empties4Cash**. Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. Our school will receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge turned in. This will directly benefit our school and the students, not to mention it is great for the environment. You can help! Any inkjet cartridge with a print head can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Brother, Dell, Canon, or Apple printer? Bring in your empty OEM inkjet cartridges (placed in the original box that you would have thrown away to keep it safe from spills and damages, or a Ziploc bag) to the school. Please see attached flyer, thank you.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH - Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as “Student of the Month” for November. The following students were recognized for their “Music Ability”, Maile Bourget, Sam Peruta, Madelyn Hooks, Olivia Bates, Magalin Carroll, Molly Hooks, Jillian Pernerewski, Victoria Bairos and Rachael Krawiecki.



SAINT DOMINIC SCHOOL HSA NIGHT @ TD Homer’s in Southington - You are invited! Please bring your friends & family to help support the Saint Dominic School HAS on **Tuesday, February 9th (5pm-10pm) at TD Homer’s Southington**, 461 Queen Street and 10% of your check will be donated to **Saint Dominic School HSA!** The H.S.A. kindly requests that you do not use gift cards purchased through the Scrip program, as TD Homers generously donates 15% of those cards, thank you. A flyer will be sent out with more information. For more information about the event please contact Bethann Hooks (860) 276-9935 bhmsh@aol.com

WHEN A DELAYED OPENING OCCURS, ALL STUDENTS NEED TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOMS. THE STAFF WILL LET THE STUDENTS OFF THE BUSES AND WE ASK PARENTS TO WALK THEIR CHILDREN DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOMS, THANK YOU.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS OR DELAYS - Saint Dominic School follows the decision of the Southington Public School system when weather causes the cancellation of school, the delay in opening or an early closing. Tune in to local radio/television stations for any announcement during inclement weather. *In the event of a delay in the opening of school Pre-K morning session will be : 9:30 – 11:30; Pre-K afternoon session will be: 12:30-3:00.* Note: this is a change from previous years. Please make an alternate transportation plan for your child in the event of an early dismissal due to weather conditions. Make sure your child knows where he/she will be going and that you are aware. The children become very upset when the routine is disrupted and they are unsure of where they should go. **PLEASE NOTE:** We do not make individual phone calls to inform parents of early school closings. Please check the media for this information and have prior arrangements in place for your children so that they do not worry about their dismissal plans. **Early dismissal time is 12:30p.m.** If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, all afternoon and evening school activities including After Care will be cancelled. If school is cancelled, all extra curricular activities will also be cancelled. We will send out an email to all families alerting you to an early closing. You can sign up for local weather alerts by going to the websites of our 3 major TV stations, channels 3, 8 & 30. Our new website will also include weather related alerts on its home banner page.

SOUTHINGTON YOUTH SERVICES – The Parent Information Series Presents: “Parenting Teens & Tweens” on Thursday, January 21st, 2010. Learn how to communicate effectively with teens and tweens with tips and advice. The “tween” years fall between the ages of eight and twelve and can often be challenging for you and your child. This workshop will help you navigate the trying years between childhood and adolescence. From addressing self-esteem to peer pressure, this workshop attempts to help you understand and cope with your child’s social and emotional needs. All programs are only available to Southington residents, and are held from 7-8:30pm at the offices of Southington Youth Services, 93 Main Street. Admission is free. Space is limited! **Please call 276-6281 to register or for more information.**

SOUTHINGTON SOCCER CLUB 2010 SPRING SESSION: Registration – January 16, 2010

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Recreation Park Field House

Developmental Program -

(Players 6, 7 & 8 years old) – The fee will be \$90.00 per player.

Boys and girls born between 8/1/2001 and 7/31/04 are eligible to register for the spring season.

<u>Age Groups:</u>	<u>Born between:</u>
U-6	8/1/03 – 7/31/04
U-7	8/1/02 – 7/31/03
U-8	8/1/01 – 7/31/02

The developmental program is directed by our professional Coaching Director Carlos Silva. Carlos is a former professional soccer player and currently holds an “A” Level Coaching License from Brazil and an “A” US Youth National Coaching License. The emphasis of the program is skill development and teamwork while having fun.

Travel Program -

(Players 9 – 19 years old) –

Age Groups:

U9	8/1/00-7/31/01	U13	8/1/96-7/31/97	U17	8/1/92-7/31/93
U10	8/1/99-7/31/00	U14	8/1/95-7/31/96	U18	8/1/91-7/31/92
U11	8/1/98-7/31/99	U15	8/1/94-7/31/95	U19	8/1/90-7/31/91
U12	8/1/97-7/31/98	U16	8/1/93-7/31/94		

The fees are: Age Group:

U9 & U10
U11 - U19

Fees:

\$115.00/player
\$175.00 for 1st child, \$125.00 for 2nd (or more) child

Uniforms are \$70.00, (includes – shirt, shorts and socks)

All players will need to have a registration form, (located on website or at time of sign up) **U11-U19** players need to be in attendance for photos. New players will need to bring a copy of their birth certificate (which will not be returned). (Tryouts may be necessary depending on number of players per age group) For more detailed information please visit www.southingtonsoccer.org ***"The belief in the potential of all children."***

Safe Sledding

Know your child’s sledding abilities and help them remember to:

- Sit face forward (never head first or standing)
- Go downhill one at a time, only one person per sled
- Roll off a sled that won’t stop
- Never ride a sled being pulled by a moving vehicle
- Avoid inflatable inner tubes or sled substitutes such as trays or cardboard boxes - they are hard to steer and stop
- Choose a hill with a manageable slope and a long path
- Avoid slopes that end in a street, parking lot, pond or other hazards
- Sled only in daylight when visibility is good

www.ctsafekids.org

A heartfelt thank you to all who brightened the holiday season for our faculty & staff with their good wishes, delicious treats cards and gifts. We appreciate your kindness and wish everyone a Healthy, Happy and Holy New Year!

