

# ASSUMPTION SCHOOL NEWS

FEBRUARY EDITION



## Parent Teacher Conference Requests

The end of the second trimester is approaching which means it is time for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences will be held on Tuesday, February 21 from 2:00 - 6:00 pm and Thursday, February 23 from 12:00 - 4:00 pm and 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

If you have a request on time or date, please contact your child's teacher by noon on February 8 so that we can try to accommodate your schedule.

## Catholic Tuition Organization Application Deadline

Applications for CTO financial assistance have arrived. Once again applications can be made in hardcopy or online. To request a hardcopy, please contact Mr. Hartman.

Beginning February 6 for an online application, go to [www.ctodsmdiocese.org](http://www.ctodsmdiocese.org) under the tuition assistance link and use the school code: 450 and password: cto450.

*Family Size	**Maximum Income	*Family Size	**Maximum Income
Two	\$45,390	Five	\$81,030
Three	\$57,270	Six	\$92,910
Four	\$69,150	***Seven	\$104,790

\*Family size includes parent(s)/guardian(s) plus total number of dependents claimed on 2011 tax return.

\*\* Families are eligible for **CTO assistance** if their taxable income is at or below the above listed income levels.

\*\*\* For each additional dependent add \$11,880.

For more information about the program or with questions, contact Mr. Hartman.

***All applications are confidential!***

**Deadline for application: April 1**

## School Mass Times for the Month

Please join us in this prayerful time.

Thursday, February 2

Monday, February 6

Thursday, February 16

Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday)

Thursday, March 1



School Masses begin at 8:30 a.m.

## Inside this issue:

Specials Corner	2
SMART Board from Hy-Vee	2
Professional Development	3
Target Grant for Field Trip	3
Iowa Assessment Update	3

## Specials Corner:

**Technology:** The older students are working on their life maps. This is a lead into a project we will be doing on planning their future. I am happy to announce that all of the younger students can now log on and find different places and activities on the computer all by themselves. This is a huge accomplishment! I am so proud of them.



**Library:** New reading calendars will be coming home along with the daily activity calendar. What a great way to spend time with your child and teach them to love reading!



**Guidance:** In February students will be wrapping up their guidance lessons with me. Seventh and eighth graders will be discussing media and peer pressure and how those things influence our decisions. Fifth and sixth graders will be discussing conflict resolution skills. First, second, third, and fourth graders will be doing their unit on bullying prevention. Kindergarteners will wrap up their friendship unit and do a few lessons on bullying prevention, as well.

I will be going on maternity leave sometime in early March until late April. Amanda Cox, from Employee & Family Resources (EFR), will be coming in to teach lessons to the classes while I am gone. Amanda will focus her lessons in all grades on making safe and healthy choices. She has been working for EFR visiting classrooms at many different schools for over 5 years. For more information about EFR visit their website at [www.efr.org](http://www.efr.org). If you have any questions for me, please feel free to ask!

**Gym:** The students have been working hard getting ready to showcase their dancing and tinkling skills. With the weather so nice it's a great time to get outside and play, play, play. Next month we will be doing aerobics and a little Zumba dancing.



**Music:** The month starts with the students just finishing leading the music for the Catholic School Week kick-off mass. A very nice job was done by all the students that day. Music is a great way to praise God and minister to all the members of our church family. We are fortunate in that we have many children willing to serve as song leaders throughout the year. Every week during school mass we have small groups who lead us in music. This is a life long skill that we hope many will carry on throughout their adult lives.

Pre-school and pre-kindergarten continue to enjoy many different aspects of music. We sing many songs; adding actions, instruments, and movement. Exploration of our voices both as a group and individuals is done during each class period. Marching, skipping, galloping to different beats is used to help with coordination and listening skills.



Kindergarten students will be working on reading and writing rhythm patterns. Simple notation help us learn the basics for further reading skills. Craft sticks help us write rhythms in an easy and fun way.

Third and fourth grade students are working on reading music notation. Several phases are being implemented; beginning note reading for those with no experience, review and refresh for those needing to hone up on their skills from last year, and then those that are able to go on to bass clef and learn a completely new set of notes.

Congratulations to the ten middle school band students who participated in the All Diocesan Band Festival in January. The afternoon was spent rehearsing and culminated with a concert that evening. Students attending were: Margaret Creighton, Adam Darr, Sydney Lyddon, Annemarie Darr, Lilly Creighton, Ian Merry, Anna Moellenbeck, Zac Robinson, Tristen Lyddon, and Joseph Watznauer. This is a reminder to look ahead and put this date on your spring calendar. **Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** will be the date of the spring program at Assumption.

**Where Faith and Knowledge Meet**

## Assumption School Wins SMART Board from Hy-Vee

Assumption School is a winner in the 2011 Hy-Vee SMART Points Contest! The most SMART points were donated toward our school's total making us a winner. As a result, the prize package consists of one (1) SMART Board™ 680 series interactive whiteboard with SMART Notebook collaborative learning software. We will also be receiving an iPad to utilize in our classrooms.

We will be having a short all school assembly @ 8:30 am on Wednesday, February 8th with people from the Johnston Hy-Vee to present the award to our school! Thank you to all who designated their points to our school!

## Professional Development Information

by Denise Mulcahy, Diocesan Director of Teaching and Learning

### HAPPY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

In my job as the Director of Teaching and Learning for the Diocese of Des Moines, I spend a lot of my time in our Catholic schools. Every time I leave one of our schools I think about how lucky I am to be able to do this job and as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week I want to take a minute to reflect on just what we are celebrating.

A Catholic school education is a commitment in many ways. It is a financial commitment parents make. As parents are already paying taxes for their local public school it takes courage and faith to decide to set aside the financial resources to pay tuition for the Catholic education.

Catholic education is a commitment in time. Our schools cannot run without the immense amounts of time and energy our parents give. We have parents who volunteer in the lunchroom, at recess, and running copies. Parents run our booster clubs, plan our fundraisers, and head up our auctions and galas. Our parents sew costumes, bake cookies, paint walls, and serve on our boards and committees. All of these things take time and energy and it seems our parents have an endless supply to give us because it comes from a desire to support their children.

Catholic education is about commitment and support. Each time I am in our schools I see teachers and administrators who are doing the best they can do to offer the students more than an education, but a lesson in life and faith. Our students are given positive support to grow in their abilities. They are challenged to think outside of themselves to the greater good and are taught to make decisions that based in their faith. We work with our students when they make mistakes to help them choose the right path so they can become the people God intends them to be.

A Catholic education is a gift and as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week we celebrate this gift. We celebrate the teachers and administrators in our schools and who are focused on the students they serve. We celebrate the parents who sacrifice and support so their children receive an education that will serve their whole person now and as adults. We celebrate our students who strive to learn and grow. Most importantly we celebrate our faith which gives us purpose, hope, and peace. Happy Catholic Schools Week!

### Assumption School Receives Target Grant

This spring, the elementary students will be able to take a field trip to the Des Moines Play House funded by Target.

Target Corporation gives through signature programs that are designed to inspire learning in children and families outside the classroom through the distribution of grants.



### Iowa Assessments Update

Iowa Testing Programs has provided some updated information regarding the timing of receiving the feedback from the Iowa Assessments that we administered in November. Unfortunately it is not good news - we will have to wait at least two more weeks to receive our information.

As soon as I receive the information, I will share with you and necessary groups so that we can begin to utilize the information to help your children. Thank you for your patience!