

the Principal's Newsletter

St. Bridget School Newsletter

April 18, 2011



St. Bridget
Our Patron Saint

Lent

Lent is our chance as Catholic parents to pass on the rich traditions of penance and piety we learned as children to our own children. For example: Meatless Fridays. "Fridays in Lent meant Tuna Casserole," said Kara. "We all hated it, which Mom said was the point. She said to offer our suffering to Jesus. For my own family, Fridays in Lent mean spaghetti. I want to make a point but I just can't serve Tuna Casserole." Family Prayer. Rick remembered, "Lent always seemed to fall during basketball season. I remember racing home from practice and my family would be waiting for me to pray the rosary. Sometimes it was the only time we gathered as a family all day." Fasting. "My father was really strict," Lisa said. "On Ash Wednesday he would ask what we gave up and write it on a piece of paper he taped to the fridge. Every night we reported on our fast. It was brutal, but I learned the discipline of fasting from him." Extra Devotions. "Every Friday during Lent our parish prayed the Stations of the Cross together," said Kevin. "It was a beautiful service. One of the parish women would sing and my favorite music teacher played the violin. We did it for years. That is my favorite memory from Lent growing up."

From the desk of the DRE



Good News

We are very proud to announce that St. Bridget's students have done it again!

Mrs. Spencer, our 5th grade teacher, has coached her class for participation in the Tri Kappa Spelling Bee for many years. She takes the top 2 students and an understudy student to the competition each year. The competition is with all 5th grade students in the School City of Hobart's boundaries.

In this year's competition there were 7 rounds of 10 words each that are 5th through 8th grade level words. The last 3 rounds had the same 4 students competing.

Hannah Benoit placed 2nd and Marissa McCollum placed 3rd, taking two of the top three finishes awarded in the contest. According to Mrs. Spencer, she has not had a winner in the last 7 years!!

Congratulations to Hannah and Marissa who were recognized earlier by the entire student body and staff in the circle of honor before morning prayers!

Congratulations
Mr. Pearson

Teens Learn a Lot from Their Parents

What You Say - and What You Do - Matters to Your Kids

Parents -- what you say and what you do matters in the lives of your children, and it's important to think about how [your own drinking may impact](#) your child's attitudes about [drug](#) and [alcohol](#) use.

Sobering Fact: One in five parents (21 percent) acknowledges that they sometimes drink too much alcohol in front of their child or teen. Parents are the number one influence in the lives of their kids. Your "model behavior" and how you handle alcohol may directly affect the choices your teens make for themselves.



A Lenten Reflection

- Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments—think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred—return good for evil.
- Give up negativism—be positive.
- Give up anger—be more patient.
- Give up pettiness—become mature.
- Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
- Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
- Give up sin—turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up—hang in there!



Medication Disposal Box is Now Open!

We have installed a Medication Disposal Box at the Hobart Police Station in the police department's lobby, 705 E. 4th Street. The box can be used for any unwanted, expired prescription or over the counter drugs. The box will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The box is monitored daily and will be emptied weekly. Disposal of sharp items such as—needles, syringes, or lancets is not permitted in the box. We strongly encourage everyone to go through their medicine cabinets and discard all unused prescriptions. Flushing unused medications is no longer recommended as they can damage our water and environment, and the box provides a safe and convenient way to dispose of those medications properly.

Unused prescriptions in our homes account for more than half of prescription abuse and misuse. Current nationwide statistics show that more teens each year are getting "high" by using and abusing medication. Let's work together in preventing prescription drug abuse, keep those drugs "locked up" and remove unwanted medications from our homes.



ISTEP Exams

April 26th - 29th

Make sure your child

- ★gets plenty of sleep
- ★eats a nutritious breakfast
- ★is not tardy
- ★is not scheduled for any appointments outside school.

Calendar for the remainder of the year

4/20	Wednesday	Group pictures
4/22		Good Friday OFF
4/25		Easter Monday OFF
4/26-29	Tue-Fri	ISTEPS
4/28	Thursday	8 th grade Cap & Gown measurements 8:30
4/29	Friday	End of 4 th mid-quarter
5/1	Sunday	Style Show
5/2-6		Staff Appreciation Week
5/3-4	Tue-Wed	4 th grade Camp Tecumseh
5/5	Thursday	Cinco de Mayodo we want to do something for fun school wide...ideas?
5/6	Friday	JH Dance 7:00 – 10:00
5/9	Monday	CYO Band performance at Andean
5/15-20		Scholastic Book Fair <u>2 for 1</u>
5/18	Wednesday	CYO Band tryouts for 3 rd graders
5/20	Friday	Hooper's Reduce-Reuse-Recycle winners determined
5/20	Friday	Spring Musical and Grandparent's Day
5/26	Thursday	Sports Banquet
5/30	Monday	Memorial Day OFF
6/3	Friday	Field Day

Yearbook Pictures

Wednesday, April 20th

Make sure our child

- ★wears a school uniform to school.... all day
- ★special jerseys, and/or uniforms can be worn for the picture only





Samantha Ortiz	PK-3
Vanessa Del Real	Kdg
Juliette Ortiz	Kdg
Trevor Knight	1st
Jacob Marcayda	1st
Joshua West	1st
Dorothy Heuring	2nd
Marissa Delgado	3rd
Alyssa Del Real	3rd
Evelyn Heuring	3rd
Anthony Pizana	3rd
Levin Hickman	4th
Paige Knight	4th
Kayla Marcayda	4th
Alexander Serrano	4th
Jenna Uhles	4th
Jamee West	4th
Hannah Benoit	5th
Hannah Davis	5th
Kimani Krienke	5th
Marissa McCollum	5th
Rebecca Meyer	5th
Samantha Meyer	5th
Mary Onofrey	5th
Madison Hickman	6th
Anne Mari West	6th
Noah Davis	7th
Cameron Replin	7th
Dylan Barker	8th
Jonothan Krienke	8th
Joshua Uhles	8th



Warning about Flip-flops

Spring is here, and so is a warning about the favorite warm-weather footwear of the young and young-at-heart: Flip-flops can cause "serious injuries to feet, ankles, knees, hips and even our back," warns Discovery Channel medical expert Dr. John Whyte. "Over time these injuries can lead to serious bone, tendon, and joint damage," he writes, noting that research has found that people tend to grip the footwear with their toes, sending too much stress up their legs as they walk.

So if you must wear them, look for ones with arch support made of good materials (ie, not cheap foam), Whyte advises in the [Huffington Post](#). "A good general rule is to try to bend the sole along its length. It should bend only slightly, and if it can almost touch the heel to the toe, you're definitely looking at the wrong material." Once you have your well-made pair (and you may need to spend as much as you would on a pair of sneakers, notes Whyte), wear them in moderation: Don other shoes "during all-day events, athletic activities, and especially during yard work."



Paper Drive Winners

Students who turned in more than 12 bags of paper were eligible for the drawing for a free ice cream treat from the Principal. The winners are posted above.
Mr. Pearson



POWER PAWS FOR KIDS



We started this program for students in St. Bridget School to improve reading fluency. Activities are goal directed and focus on improving reading skills, peer relations, expressing emotion, increasing social skills and communication, increasing attention skills and cooperation, and gaining self-worth and confidence.. Four students go to the library every half hour in three grades and read to the same dog and partner every week until the end of the school year from 9:30-11:00 a.m. This will continue on every Wednesday until the end of the school year. All dogs are evaluated by the director of Power Paws for good manners, great social skills with other pets, kids, and adults.

Prejudicial & Discriminatory Practices at the Hands of the IDOE

Many of the Catholic School Principals are being asked by their parents and teachers why Catholic schools did not rank Four Star Awards.

Do you realize that public and non-public schools have two different scales for determining the award--**completely independent from each another.**

Schools with performance rates that fell within the top 25th percentile of each school group, public and private, were eligible to receive the Four Star designation. As reported by the IDOE, the benchmarks for public schools were considerably lower than for non-public schools. While public schools were able to achieve Four Star status with total ISTEP percent passing rates in the 70s, non-public schools were required to achieve passing rates in the 90s – a significant difference. The “publics” had to meet a cut score on passing both ELA and Math combined at around the 70+ percentile. The non-publics had to meet a cut score in the 90's!!!! All schools had to score in the top 25th percent of the state for their category based on two different qualifications for cut scores.

Unfortunately, most parents are not fully or truly informed about the difference in how the ranking is determined.

You may ask WHY? If it were fair and every school, public and non-public, was evaluated equally, which would be fair, then the non-publics, **especially the Catholic Schools**, would have dominated the Four Star rankings.

I did send a letter along with the Principal from St. John Evangelist, to news media contacts openly challenging reporters to investigate this story thoroughly instead of swallowing IDOE press releases. As a result of those contacts we were able to get coverage in the Times and in the NW Indiana Catholic addressing these issues.

It remains to be seen if the IDOE will change these rules next year or if they will continue with this BLATANT discrimination. St. Bridget should be a Four Star school, BUT not according to the IDOE.



May 1, 2011



DID YOU KNOW ???....

**FOR EVERY RAFFLE TICKET YOU SELL,
100%**

GOES DIRECTLY TO YOUR FAMILY FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENT

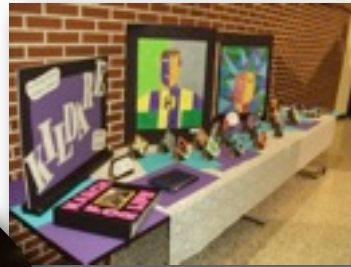
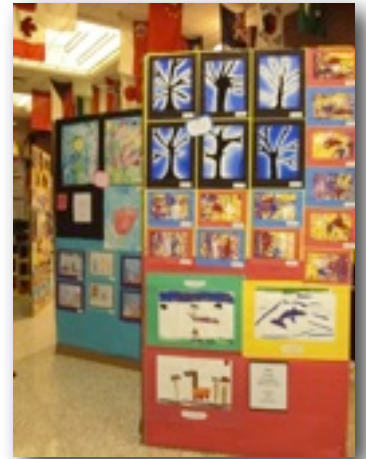
**FOR EVERY AD THAT YOU OBTAIN FROM A BUSINESS,
100%**

GOES TOWARD YOUR FAMILY FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENT

**FOR EVERY \$10 FAMILY NAME
PLACED IN THE STYLE SHOW PROGRAM BOOK
100%**

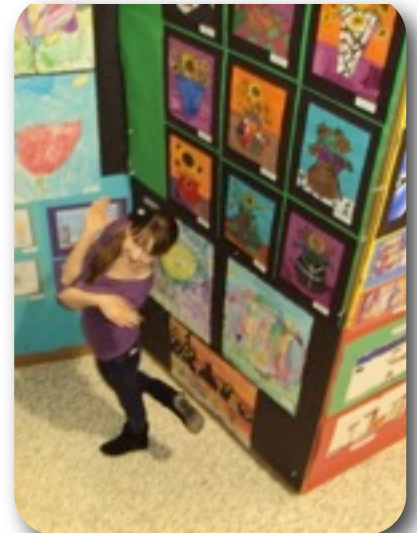
GOES DIRECTLY TO YOUR FAMILY FUNDRAISING REQUIREMENT

If you have ANY questions PLEASE contact Denise Silich OR Renee Antczak at 942-6441



If you weren't at Merrillville HS Saturday, March 5th, at the FAME Show, you missed a talented presentation by our very own KILDARE and many excellent art pieces presented by our *budding* artists. Some of that talented artwork by our students is seen here. Congratulations to all!

Mr. Doug Pearson
Principal





City of Hobart & St. Bridget's School Annual Recycling Artwork Contest!!

Submit: your original drawing to the classroom teachers on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of recycled paper. Drawing must include chasing arrows symbol.

Theme: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Due Date: April 21st to the teachers.

Prizes: Your School will receive 2 recycled hand chairs, 1 of which will go to the winning student's classroom.

Grand Prize: Grand prize winner will receive a Laptop Computer, \$100 Toys R' Us shopping Spree & their artwork to be displayed on a T-Shirt, which will be provided to all students.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

NEED A RECYCLING BIN CALL...942-6121



Finn Passing Academy

A non-contact football camp catered to 5th-9th graders who want to develop their passing and receiving skills.

Dates: July 18-20

Time: 9:00 am to Noon each day

For: Campers entering 5th through 9th grades in the upcoming school year

Location: Andrean High School in Merrillville

Cost: \$99 per camper/\$120 after July 1st

Deadline for registration is July 18th

REGISTER

