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Newsletter—September 4, 2020

We Teach Truth - Build Character - Inspire Service

Welcome Back to our “In Session” students and E-learners!

Wow! What a crazy way to start a school year! I am so proud of how hard our teachers and staff have worked to make everything go so smoothly! Another huge shout out to our parents and students who are supporting us and following all of these new changes.

It's taken a lot of planning, but we're here and boy are we excited for that. Everyone has been so gracious in helping out and being patient. Our true rock stars are our teachers who are learning to (for the first time ever) blend in class instruction with on-line learning. It has taken great effort for them to do this and when you get a chance please join me in thanking them. They came into this year with a “Can Do Attitude” and that has been our secret sauce to making this year AWESOME! Thank you to the best ever school office composed of Cheryl (Mrs. Reese), Angie (Mrs. Robensein) and Mrs. Schmidt. It takes a village to keep a school going, and we have the best one around!

Our Fall Fundraiser- Step It Up has begun! Don't forget this is one of the major ways our school raises money for some incredible programs such as Fine Arts Day/Field Day, Accelerated Reader Program, Fine Arts Programming, (helping offset the costs associated with our Art/Music/Band/ Spanish Programs). Did I mention that this also allows our teachers to continue their education through conferences and workshops, as well as, additional college coursework? Remember, if everyone helps we can reach our goal! This fundraiser only lasts a little over one week. Thank you for your support!

As we begin a new year, I ask God to keep our families healthy and safe and allow our children to develop their faith so that they may possess the courage and confidence to grow their gifts and share those with others.

Blessings,

Maureen Bentley
Principal

**STEP IT™
UP!**

Work hard. Play harder!



Temperature checks when students arrive. Remember the 3 W's— Watch your distance, Wash your hands and Wear your mask!



Just a quick THANK YOU for helping your student use their awesomeness to help others! Since our STEP IT UP! fundraiser ends soon, please log back into your Personal Donation Page and be sure your child has reached the goal you helped them set. Every dollar raised makes a difference in the lives of our students! All online donations are automatically added to any CASH and CHECKS collected, as long as you turn in the money and your Pledge Sheet on the turn in day! Our upcoming DAY OF AWESOMENESS will celebrate our students' efforts with an amazing party! Friendship! Fitness! Fun! Stay tuned for more info!



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This weekend we will begin again the Donut Sundays after the Sunday morning Masses. Again this year, for each Donut Sunday, we will invite the students from a particular grade to be present for the 9:00 AM Mass. Some students will help with parts of the Mass, and even with the serving of the refreshments afterwards. Students from our school and CCD program are welcome. We encourage our families to attend, as it also gives our parents an opportunity to socialize together.

8th grade will start this Sunday!

On the first Friday of the month, our first through eighth grade classes attend Adoration. Eucharistic Adoration is when we spend time alone with Jesus in the form of the host. Some have one-on-one conversations with Jesus, other pray traditional prayers such as a rosary, others read their bible or holy books, and some may choose to write in a journal about their walk with Christ.

Classes sign up on the first Friday of every month that we are in attendance. We invite parents and grandparents to attend with their children on first Fridays, whether by joining their child's class or by signing them out of class for around fifteen minutes to spend side-by-side time at Adoration. Always double-check the time with your child/your child's teacher, as schedules sometimes change.) Please prayerfully consider if this is something you are called to do, even if only once during the year.



After 23 years of clipping, Box Tops is changing to fit today's families. To participate in the new digital program simply, download and use the Box Tops App! The new and improved app uses technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

Peoria Notre Dame Golf Classic

Get your foursome together and sign up for the 24th Peoria Notre Dame Golf Classic.

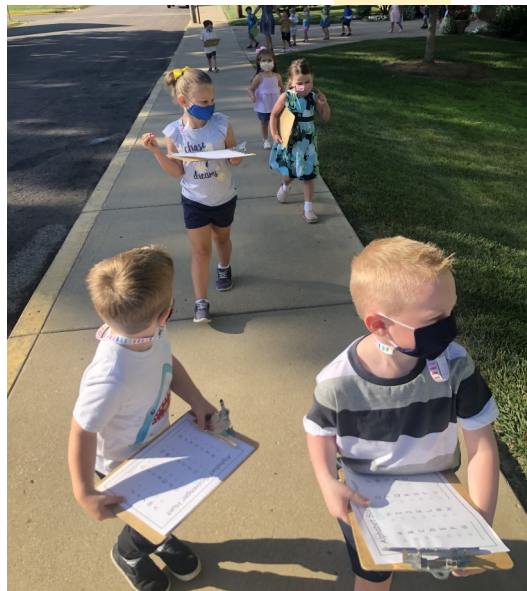
THURSDAY, September 10, Weaver Ridge Golf Club.

The outing includes a round of golf with cart, great prizes, a box lunch, dinner and awards. This is a fun way to support Catholic secondary education.

Questions? Contact Tara Shane at 691-8741 or t.shane@pndhs.org.

Registration for golf participation, hole sponsors, and major sponsors is available at

www.PeoriaNotreDame.com/golf.



Preschool fun & alphabet letter hunt!



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From Our Pastor



We celebrate Labor Day this Monday. As a reminder, we will have only one Mass on Labor Day at 9 AM, in the main Church. Please join us!

Join us also for the Men's Club Golf Outing, on Friday, September 25. Details are in the bulletin.

Moving into the fall, we begin some of our other regular programs. *That Man Is You* is available for the men of the Parish. The men meet on Thursday mornings, beginning this week. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

We will also begin RCIA next week on Wednesday, September 16. RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is for those persons who are interested in joining the Catholic Church. However, all are welcome to attend, including non-Catholics who are interested in learning more, or Catholics who want to participate to refresh their knowledge of the Faith. Classes will meet on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the School Library. Please call the Parish Office, or simply attend the first class to register.

In the past, we have had a fall and spring adult education series for all parishioners. I'm interested in continuing that tradition, though it would be helpful to know what kinds of topics people would be interested in hearing about. If you have suggestions for topics for any individual presentations, please let me know. Individual presentations will be scheduled later in the fall.

-Msgr. Gray

It's Not Too Late to Mitigate Your 2020 Illinois State Income Tax Liability

Last Year St. Thomas had 25 students receive Empower Illinois awards. We hope to exceed this number for the current school year but we need your help through additional donations! So far this year we have only received donations to make awards to 19 students.

Please consider making a donation to the Invest in Kids Scholarship Program. You will benefit from the state tax credit and the students will benefit from the tuition assistance.

Through the Invest in Kids Act, Illinois children from low-income households have access to a new scholarship program that can provide up to 100 percent of their tuition and fees to attend a Catholic school.

These scholarships are funded by donations made by individuals and corporations to Empower Illinois, the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that represents the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Peoria.

HOW DOES IT WORK? An Example:

A Taxpayer Donates \$1,000

Individual donor designates the Catholic Diocese of Peoria Schools or a specific school as the beneficiary.

The \$1,000 gift becomes a student scholarship

The donation becomes \$1,000 in targeted scholarship funds.

The taxpayer claims a \$750 credit on their 2020 Illinois state income tax bill

The taxpayer receives a credit on their state income tax bill equal to 75 percent of their gift.

A student receives an excellent Catholic education!
Children receive an outstanding Catholic education that their families previously thought was unattainable.

Step-by-step donation instructions are available at:

<https://empowerillinois.org/donate/>



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2020 St. Thomas Golf Scramble

In support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Assistance Fund
Hosted by: St. Thomas Men's Club

Friday, September 25th, 2020 • Mt. Hawley Country Club

All golf outing proceeds will be used in the support of the St. Thomas Sponsor a Student Tuition Assistance program. The net proceeds from this year's outing will fund \$500 scholarships for students of St. Thomas who demonstrate a financial need. It is the goal of the Men's Club to fund 15 scholarships for the 2020-21 school year. Your support of the golf outing is greatly appreciated.

GOLF REGISTRATION \$95per person

Golfer sponsorship includes: Door prize ticket, green fees, cart, and dinner.

Registration Deadline Friday, September 11th • Late registration after September 11th, \$100 Per Person

DINNER ONLY \$25 Per Person / Dinner starts at 5:30pm.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HOT SPOT SPONSORS

- Golf Beverage Sponsors: \$200 / Logo on Sign at beverage stations
- Dinner Sponsors - \$200 / Logo on table tents at dinner

TEE SPONSORS \$125 / 35 Sponsors

Placement of company logo sign at the Tee Box or at the Hole.

BE A PRIZE OR RAFFLE SPONSOR

Feature your business by donating a raffle or prize item. Please drop off prize or raffle item at 613 W. Glen Ave. Include donor information and value (optional).

- **Registration/Check-in 11:00am-11:45am**
- **Shotgun Starts at Noon (Be at your hole by Noon)**
- **Followed by a Steak Dinner at St. Thomas**
- Registration Deadline Friday, September 11th
- Late Registration \$100 Per Person

For more information please contact:

Terri Moon (309) 688-3446

Email: terrimoon@stthomas-church.net

[Click Here To Register or Sponsor](#)



Fourth
Graders
hard at
work!

Picture Day is Coming!

Picture Day is:
Monday, September 21, 2020

Picture Day ID:
EVTTRZVVZ

Order today at
mylifetouch.com

Lifetouch.



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FREE PROGRAM!

The Greater Peoria Family YMCA's Rebound Program will not only teach (co-ed, ages 8-14) the skills of teamwork and leadership but also spend dedicated time each week to foster development in the principles and values of the YMCA. The session topics include:

- Hard work, Academics
- Employment
- Streets, Bullying, Gangs
- Cheating, Honesty
- Healthy Living

REBOUND SCHEDULE

St. Thomas Community Center
1008 E Lake, Peoria Heights, IL

Ages 8-10, from 9a - 10a
Ages 10-12, from 10:15a-11:15a
Ages 12-14, from 11:30a-12:45p

*A meal is provided to all kids who are enrolled in the program.

2020/2021 SESSIONS

- Session 4: Sept. 12-Oct. 31
- Session 1: Nov. 21st-Jan. 23rd
- Session 2: Feb 13th—Apr. 3rd
- Session 3: Apr. 24th- June 12th

Volunteers needed! If you would like to help with this FREE program, the Y has the following opportunities: Coaching, Topic Speakers & Mentors, Snack Aid, Scoreboard, and Referees.

Contact Charles @ Charles.gordon@peoriaymca.org or 309.251.1057

More info @ peoriaymca.org/REBOUND



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Youth Volleyball League Sept. 27th—Nov. 15th



Children learn the fundamentals, focusing on basic skill development and proper technique. Participants progress from learning the rules to developing skills in the areas of underhand and overhand serving, setting, spiking, and digging.

Who: Co-ed, Ages 7 to 14

When: Sundays

Ages 7-10, Grades 2nd-4th,
11:00a- 12:00p

Ages 10-12, Grades 5th-6th,
12:15p-1:15p

Ages 12-14, Grades 7th-8th, 1:30p-2:30p

Where: St. Thomas Community Center

Cost: \$36

Registration: Open Now. Online or with our Membership Team at the YMCA! **Program scholarships are available.**

We are seeking volunteers for coaches, co-coaches, referees, and snack bar. If you would like to help with your child's team, email Charles.gordon@peoriaymca.org

peoriaymca.org/YOUTHSPORTS

