



St. Michael's School  
Cranford, NJ

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## SMS HSA Fall Newsletter

### Imagine... "Whirled Peace" September 21, 2011

In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, SMS students took part in an international art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace, by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace in the school play area.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art project started in 2005 by two teachers as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world.

All SMS students created pinwheels, pinwheels of



all shapes and sizes - as part of the creation process, the students wrote their thoughts about peace on one side. On the other side, they drew to visually express their feelings. The students assembled these pinwheels and on International Day of Peace they "planted" their pinwheels in the playground area as a public statement and art exhibit/installation.

The spinning of the pinwheels in the wind spread thoughts and feelings about peace throughout the country and the world!

### School Advisory Board Update

The School Advisory Board has been hard at work over the last several months evaluating school advisory board guidelines issued by the Newark Archdiocese. In October the SMS School Advisory Board adopted a new School Advisory Board Constitution and By-Laws.

The purpose of the new guidelines is to help SMS carry out the teaching ministry of the Catholic Church in accordance with the teachings and laws of the Roman Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Newark. The guidelines direct the Board in overseeing the school's planning, finances, and facilities, as well as, the school's goals/objectives as they relate to marketing and development.

The new structure will require meetings of the full board four times a year with board committees holding work session between the full board meetings.

All meetings of the Board will be open meetings, unless designated as Executive Sessions. Non-Board members wishing to address the Board may contact the chair to be placed on the agenda in advance of the meeting.

According to the guidelines set by the Archdiocese, items to be discussed at Board Meetings are limited to matters related to the Boards' areas of responsibility. Only those whose matter has been approved for the agenda by the chair in advance of the meeting may be presented at a Board meeting.

The SAB and the HSA will work together to facilitate open communications and dialogue with parents and guardians. The HSA will continue to host open meetings and the SMS Principal and Pastor will be available at the Open HSA meetings. A portion of time will be allotted for attendees to bring up topics that can be presented to the Advisory Board. *If you would like more information on the changes please see the SAB section of our website, details will be posted soon.*

## SMS Welcomes Miss Babcock

SMS is thrilled to welcome Miss Meg Babcock to our SMS family. Miss Babcock is teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The HSA had the opportunity to talk with Miss Babcock...

### Why did you become a teacher?

*I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I have always loved seeing the light bulb come on in young minds.*

### What is your teaching philosophy?

*Teaching is not only about giving information; it is about creating a warm and safe environment for the kids. I also like to get my class to use the creative side of their brain.*



Miss Babcock with her sister, Shannon, at a family event.

### What influenced you to become a teacher?

*My older sister, Shannon, has always been my role model and my inspiration. She is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher in Sparta, NJ.*

### Favorite experience since coming to SMS?

*In general, the warm, friendly and kind atmosphere at SMS. The catholic school experience is amazing.*

### Teacher Facts:

School: Westchester University PA

Hobbies: Relaxing with family & friends, coaching field hockey.

Pets: No pets but loves dogs.

## Help Wanted - Fall/Winter 2011

### SMS Open House

#### **Tour Guides & New Family Referrals Needed**

January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00

January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 1:00

February 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 – 2:00

### Cafeteria Volunteers

Ongoing Mon-Fri, 9:30 to 12-30

### Goods and Service Auction

February 4<sup>th</sup>, evening

### Operation Shoebox

February 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning

*See SMS website for details.*

## SMS Sports

### Let the Winter Games Begin

It is that time of year again. It is time to send in the 2011-2012 Sports Registration form. **Basketball will begin in January.**

We have many options for sports at SMS. SMS has one of the most extensive grammar school sports programs in the area.

SMS offers a strong sports program while, most importantly, maintaining the academic integrity of our student athletes. We emphasize sportsmanship and scholarship equally as much as hearty competition and winning results. The bottom line of the SMS sports program is the kids have fun, learn the benefits of teamwork while taking pride in SMS.

We encourage all SMS families to come out and support our teams. The events are fun for all ages and grades. Please visit the SMS website for a complete listing of all of the games.

### Volleyball Recap:

*The girls Volleyball Teams had an amazing 2011 season and qualified for the Union County CYO Championship game. All three teams, JV, Varsity 7 & Varsity 8 brought 2nd Place trophies back to SMS for their respective divisions. We are very proud of each and every one of our Volleyball Players!*