

Principal's Notes

July 28, 2011



PRINTER FRIENDLY VERSION

MR. RIDDER'S REMINDERS

- July 30** 3 X 3 Basketball Tournament
Aug 7 *Get Set for School* 1:00 – 5:00pm Parish Center
1:00-2:00 All **New** Families to St. Patrick's School
2:00-3:00 Last Names Beginning with A – H
3:00-4:00 Last Names Beginning with I – P
4:00-5:00 Last Names Beginning with Q – Z
- Aug 13** St. Patrick's Street Dance 6:30-11:00pm
Aug 15 *Back to School Night* for Kindergarten – 8th Grades
5:30-6:00pm Last Names A – H
6:00-6:30pm Last Names I – P
6:30-7:00pm Last Names Q - Z
- Aug 17** **First Day of School for Kindergarten – 8th Grades**
Kindergarteners Attend 8:05 - Noon with Lunch thru Aug 19th
- Aug 18** PreS Open House
Aug 19 PreK Open House
Aug 22 **First FULL Day of School for Kindergarteners**
Boo Hoo/Whoo Hoo Kindergarten Parents Breakfast 8:15am Boland Hall
PreK First Day of School
- Aug 23** **PreS First Day of School**
5th-8th Grade Curriculum Night 6:30 & 7:15 classroom then to church
- Aug 25** **2:00 Dismissal**
2nd-4th Grade Curriculum Night 6:30 & 7:15 classroom then to church
- Aug 26** Parish Golf Outing
Aug 28 Parish Carnival

LAST CALL FOR SUMMER SCHOOL REGISTRATION – Summer School is next week, August 1st – 5th



from 8:00am until 11:00am. There are still spots open. Registrations need to be in to the school office by the end of the day tomorrow. This class is intended to be a brush up to get the students ready for the upcoming school year. Emphasis will be placed on reading, writing, and grammar, as well as a review of math concepts. Parents should register for the grade their child will be **entering** in the fall of 2011. Dress is summer casual. The list below tells what teachers will be teaching and to the right you can find a link to their registration form. **Please make checks payable to the teacher.**

- Ms. McGinty Kindergarten Summer School Form
Mrs. Kill 1st Grade Summer School Form
Mrs. Hotovy 2nd Grade Summer School Form

Mrs. Peal 3rd Grade Summer School Form
Mrs. Miller 4th Grade Summer School Form
Mrs. DeWald 5th Grade Summer School Form

“GET SET FOR SCHOOL” – On **Sunday, August 7th**, we will have “Get Set for School” from 1:00 – 5:00pm in the Parish Center. On this day, class lists will be posted and students will learn who their teacher is. Families will open their lunch accounts, register for Extended Care, pay for membership along with signing-up for volunteer projects with Home & School, approve your entry in the School Directory, and shop the Used Uniform Sale. At least one parent from each family is expected to attend. It is **not** necessary for children to attend this event. Students can come Monday, August 15th to “Back to School Night” and meet their teachers and drop off school supplies.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE “GET SET FOR SCHOOL” INFORMATION

ST. PATRICK’S SCHOOL WEBSITE – The school website has been updated with the new school year (2011-2012) information. Tuition, School Supply Lists, Home & School information and other items have all been updated. If you have bookmarked the St. Patrick’s school website on your computer, please be sure to hit **the refresh button** so you get the most updated information. The same goes for “Principal Notes” or others items on the webpage! Open the bookmarked page, then press “Refresh” every time you open the site.



2011-2012 FAMILY HANDBOOK WAS POSTED ON July 22ND - The 2011-2012 Family Handbook is posted on the school web site. All parents/guardians and students are expected to read and follow the entire handbook. There are several changes to acknowledge. The main procedures or changes to note are:

- Addition of Exploratory Classes
- Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities
- End of School Year Financial Obligations
- Security System
- Student Birthday Recognition
- Uniform Policy – Note that trendy hair accessories are not allowed which includes **feathers or distracting colors/cuts**.

Family Handbook Acknowledgment Forms will be distributed at “Get Set for School” where all parents/guardians and students will be asked to sign that they have read **and expect to follow the procedures** the handbook in its entirety. **These handbook acknowledgment forms will be due into the office by Friday, August 19th.**

MARKETING/SHARING OUR PHOTOS! – St. Patrick’s School is always looking for ways to market our school and tell the community about events taking place in our school. If you do **not** want your child’s picture to be a part of any of our marketing tools, such as in the Omaha World Herald, Catholic Voice, or The Douglas County Post-Gazette, or the school website, then you need to inform Mrs. Moritz ASAP.



PAPERWORK NEEDED - Health information listed below for students should be turned into the school office by August 1, 2011 if you have not previously submitted it. Please refer to the Family Handbook for additional information.

- **PreS and PreK** - Birth Certificate & Immunization Record
- **Kindergarten** – Birth Certificate, Physical Exam, Visual Exam, & Immunization Record if you have not submitted this already.
- **7th grade-** Physical Exam and Immunization Record
- **Out-of-State Transfer Students** - Physical Exam and Immunization Record that meets Nebraska requirements.
- **ALL STUDENTS** – Verification of 2nd Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination if the School Nurse, Mrs. Friedt, notified you that your child needs it.

We MUST have a copy of each child's Birth Certificate, Immunization Record and Baptismal Certificate (if this sacrament took place at another Parish) before your child(ren) can attend school. We are currently going through every child's file to make sure we have their Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate. If you get an email stating we are missing one or both of these items, please get a copy in to the office **BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

***The above documents are **required by the state of Nebraska for school attendance.** These documents must be turned in, signed off as complete and accurate by office staff and the school nurse **before your child is allowed to attend school at St. Patrick's School in August.** Please plan ahead and get this information into the school office so your child will be able to start school on August 17th.

CATHOLIC 101: Cremation – by Fr. Rodney Adams



Someone asked me recently about cremation. They asked if the Catholic Church allows cremation now. The answer is yes, however it's a bit more nuanced than just yes. Cremation is permitted for Catholics as long as it's not done as some kind rejection of Christian teaching on the Resurrection and the sacredness and dignity of the human body. Now, as the saying goes: *what is permitted is not always preferred.* The *Order of Christian Funerals* and the document *Reflections on the Body, Cremation and Catholic Funerals Rites* (Committee on the Liturgy, USCCB 1997), both stress that the Church prefers that the body of the deceased be buried or entombed. The reason is that that ritual better imitates the burial of Jesus' body. Let me paraphrase the document I mentioned above. Basically it says that because of the incarnation our identity and even self –consciousness as human persons are expressed and experienced in and through our bodies. So in light of that understanding we reverence the body even after death. Now when we chose cremation for a good reason, the full funeral rite can and should be celebrated. That means a wake and a funeral mass with the human remains present. Now noticed I said **human remains** not ashes. Ashes are something you throw away; they are good for nothing, which is why the symbol of ashes on Ash Wednesday is so powerful. What remains after the body is cremated are actual human remains. This is why the Church insists that cremated human remains must be given the same respect as the body which means the human remains are to be buried or entombed using the rites in the *Order of Christian Funerals*. Think of it this way, we would never think it acceptable or respectful to dump a dead body on top of a mountain, or dissecting it into pieces and dividing it up, or taking it home after the funeral. *The remains of the cremated body should be treated with the same respect given to the corporeal remains of the human body. This includes a worthy container to hold the cremated remains.* (Quote is from the above mentioned document.) Now, if your family has "scattered ashes" or some other such ritual, obviously you did it out of love and respect so please don't read this as a reproach. I talked with John Reichmuth, he and his wife Mary are parishioners here, he owns Reichmuth Funeral Homes. I talked with him because I was curious to know how common cremation is. He told me that currently in this part of the country 35% of families choose cremation. I also asked about Catholics and he told me that most Catholics who choose cremation, have the body cremated after the funeral mass, and a smaller percent have the funeral after the cremation with the human remains present. He of course tracks all of this and gave me the actual percentages but I was on my cell phone and had nothing to write on. If you are considering cremation, it's wise to talk about your choice with your family, Fr. Gary, John, or the Catholic Cemetery Office.

TWO PART-TIME EXTENDED CARE ASSISTANT POSITIONS NEEDED – We have two openings for part-time positions in the Extended Care Program for the 2011-2012 school year. If you or someone you would recommend would be interested in this position, please contact Dana Gerten, Extended Care Director at dgerten@stpatselfkhorn.org.



MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN DELAYED – Due to the power outage that we experienced in the Elkhorn area last week, we were unable to submit the monthly payments to the bank as originally planned. This month's payment was actually withdrawn on **Friday, July 22nd**. Please email Vicki Payton if you have questions at vpayton@stpatselfkhorn.org. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

IT'S DIRECTORY TIME AGAIN - Watch your inbox for an email showing the information we have on file for your family which will be published in the 2011-2012 Home and School directory.



You will have the option to choose what you do NOT want published or to update what you do. This email will arrive the week of August 1st. If you don't receive an email and would like to update your information, you may contact Jaymie Oehler at jaymie@jaymie.net or visit the directory table at Get Set for School. We are making every effort to ensure that all information is as accurate as possible.



4 DRAWER FILE CABINETS – We are in need of a 4, or preferably 5, drawer file cabinet that has the capability to lock. If you would like to donate one to the school, contact the school office at (402)289-5407.



*Free T-Shirt for all participants
Referee's for all games, Music,
Concessions and Much More*

7 Permanent Goals

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
Saturday July 30th, 2011
St. Patrick's in Elkhorn, NE
204th & Maple St.

Register early as some brackets fill up

Register online at www.elkhorn3on3.com

Last year had 125 teams from Eastern Nebraska
& Western Iowa

Divisions

3rd & 4th Grade Boys & Girls
5th & 6th Grade Boys & Girls
7th & 8th Grade Boys & Girls
9th-10th Grade Boys & Girls
11th-12th Grade Boys & Girls
Adult Rec & Competitive



SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING – ALL staff and volunteers **must** be Safe Environment Trained as required by the Archdiocese of Omaha to be around children in any capacity. This includes but is not limited to volunteering in any way around the school, coaching, sponsoring clubs, etc. The following information will tell you when, where and how you may take the training classes.

Initial Training

The next trainings at St. Pat's for **Safe Environment Initial Certification** are Wed. Aug. 3rd from 6:30-8:30 pm in Boland Hall and Saturday, Aug. 20th from 9:00-11:00 am in Boland Hall. To register, contact Jenni Vankat, Safe Environment Coordinator, at jvankat@stpatselkhorn.org or [402-289-4289 x1527](tel:402-289-4289).

Recertification Online Training

The Archdiocese has released a new **Safe Environment Online Recertification** program. Since the initial certification was good for five years many people will need to renew their certification this year. This online program was created so individuals may complete the training at their convenience.

The training takes approximately 60 minutes to complete. Below are the steps to access the online recertification and other key points to acquire recertification.

1. Go to the Archdiocesan website - www.archomaha.org
2. Select the "Safe Environment" tab.
3. Click on "Recertification Online Training" to get started.
4. Follow the instructions. Note: You will have to create a login and password for yourself.

- Once training is completed, you must print and fill out: 1) the Online Recertification Registration form, and 2) the Notification, Authorization and Screening form. Mail the two completed forms to the Safe Environment Records Office. (The address is noted on the Recertification Registration Form.)
- The training fee is \$12 for volunteers and \$15 for employees.
- Once the fee and paperwork are received, processed and validated by the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Office, a Safe Environment certification card will be mailed to you.

Questions... contact Jenni Vankat, Safe Environment Coordinator, at jvankat@stpatselkhorn.org or [402-289-4289 x1527](tel:402-289-4289).

WELCOME DESK VOLUNTEERS – CALLING ALL PERSPECTIVE WELCOME DESK VOLUNTEERS



– We need your help! We are looking for a volunteer for each afternoon while children are still in the building for after school activities from 3:00 – 6:00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. You or your friends, parents, grandparents, could volunteer once a week, or once every two weeks or what works best for your schedule. Don't miss out; this could be a lot fun for you. If you have a friend or relative that might

be interested, please let us know. If you or someone you know are interested, please email Dan Van Anne at dva47@hotmail.com.

ARE YOUR KIDS “BORED” WHILE ON THEIR SUMMER BREAK? – We can use their help!



If your child is a responsible, hard worker, give us a call! We have many projects going on around the school getting ready for the fall. We ask that the students that volunteer be going into 6th, 7th, 8th grade or above. We do ask that you call first to make sure that we need that type of help on a day that they are available. Do not drop them off without talking to the office first. This can count for service hours at their various high schools or for part of the

sacrament requirement. This is also a great way for them to take ownership of their school. Call the school office at (402)289-5407 if your kiddos can help.

SCRAPBOOKING - Are you creative and willing to help with the St. Patrick's School scrapbook?



We are in need of some assistance in placing all of our awesome newspaper articles in a scrapbook so prospective families and current families can view all of our great accomplishments! All of the articles are in order and ready to go, we just need some volunteers to help put it together. If you are willing to help, please contact the office at (402)289-5407 for more details.

USED UNIFORM DONATIONS – The next Used Uniform sale will be, **Sunday August 7th**. If you have uniforms in good condition that you would like to donate, please contact Suzanne Kahnk at skahnk@otcvs.com or [402-289-5420](tel:402-289-5420) to arrange pick up or drop off **prior** to the sale. We currently have a waiting list & are in need of size 14 plaid, sweaters both medium & large & short sleeved shirts in good condition.

ROSARY CLUB NEWS - St Patrick's Rosary Club will resume September 12th. Rosary Club meets on Monday's after school. We gather together to pray Our Lady's Holy Rosary and make mission Rosaries to share this sacred prayer with Others around the world. Last year we were able to send around 700 rosaries to St Mary's, our sister school in Uganda. It is our mission to make enough for every child attending school there. Rosary Club is one of the most popular clubs at St Patrick's. We will have a table again this year at *Get Set for School*, August 7 from 1-5pm.

You will be able to talk to us more about the club as well as register your child. There is a \$10.00 registration fee per child to cover cost of supplies needed throughout the year. We will also be looking for volunteers to help out during the year.

We will meet in Boland Hall again this year, but have a few changes due to the new security system. You will no longer be able to pick your child up through the church doors. We will dismiss the children at **4:35**, and bring them to the front entrance of the school. Please plan to line up in front of school and we will dismiss your children to your car. If you have any questions regarding Rosary Club, You may contact Denise Ervin at [\(402\)393-2273](tel:402393-2273), or by email at dervin8@msn.com.

CHESS CLUB NEWS - Start thinking about Chess -- Chess Club will once again meet on Mondays after school until 4:25pm in the Parish Center, starting September 12. Membership is open to all St. Patrick's students 1st through 8th grades. You do not need to know how to play chess to join. Monthly tournaments throughout the Omaha area are open to anyone wishing to participate, but not required. St. Patrick's will host their 3rd Annual Chess Tournament in January. We are also in need of parent volunteers are needed to help run the club. Last year we had over 50 members meeting weekly, so additional help is greatly needed. Registration forms will be available at the *Get Set for School* event on Sunday, August 7, at the Chess Club table. Contact David Adams at stpatschess@gmail.com for more info.



SCRIP - Educational Outfitters has joined our SCRIP program just in time to purchase school uniforms. They are offering \$20 gift cards with 5% going back to the SCRIP program. Anyone who redeems an Educational Outfitters gift card before August 31st will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift card.



The Scrip program is "going green". We will be offering an online ordering option with automatic bank withdrawals so no more writing checks. We are also going to cut down on paper use by sending Scrip gift cards home in reusable envelopes. More information will be provided at "Get set for school" on August 7th. If you have any questions please contact Amy Hansen at (402)689-4141 or hansenhome@cox.net OR Julie Druke at (770)833-6517 or omahadruke@msn.com.

2011 FALL BASKETBALL SESSION - Registration is now open for the 2011 Fall Basketball Session for parish youth grades K-4. The grades will be separated as the following: Kindergarten, 1st/2nd grade boys, 1st/2nd grade girls, 3rd/4th grade boys, 3rd/4th grade girls. The season runs October 22nd - December 10th. For any questions regarding this session please contact Scott Kubicek: carrie.kubicek@cox.net. For questions regarding online registration please contact Katie & Brent L'Heureux at lheureux03@yahoo.com. Cost is \$30 for YMCA members, \$60 for Non-YMCA members. Registration will end September 17th and late registration fees will apply after the 17th. To register please go to: <http://new.stpatsekhorn.org/athletics/athleticsindex.cfm>



PARISH STREET DANCE – Come one! Come all to this summer's St. Patrick's Parish Street Dance on Saturday, August 13, 2011 from 6:30 – 11:00 p.m. See the link below for more information to this fun event.

[CLICK FOR INFORMATION ON THE ST. PATRICK'S PARISH STREET DANCE](#)

PARISH CARNIVAL NEWS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED– The St. Patrick's Parish Carnival is set for Sunday, August 28 from 1:30 - 5:30 pm. If you would like to help set up the carnival or run one of the games or inflatables please contact Tammy Olson at olsonp1@cox.net. or Jacquie Schumacher @ 201-1183/email jacquieschumacher@cox.net. We will also have a table set up at the "Get Set for School" day, so don't forget to stop by.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday, August 26th,
St. Patrick's Parish 11th Annual Golf Outing**
New location... Indian Creek Golf Course

**Visit the St. Pat's Facebook page for
Registration & Sponsorship Information**

*Contact Charles Olson at 402-290-0294 or
Charles@ociservices.com for more information*