



# Saint Dennis Catholic School



1415 STEPHENSON HIGHWAY ♦ ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN 48067  
PHONE: 248.398.6555 ♦ FAX: 248.398.2878  
STDENNIS.ORG

December 17, 2009

## IOWA TESTS

In October, students in Grades 3-5-7 took the IOWA Test of Basic Skills. The first grade took the Cognitive Abilities Test.

This is done as a part of the plan to regularly evaluate our students' and school's progress.

This year our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were ranked in the 83<sup>rd</sup> percentile nationally. This means that they scored, on average, as well or better than 83% of the students who took the test.

Fifth grade scored at 75<sup>th</sup> percentile and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders at the 72<sup>nd</sup> percentile.

We are proud of their achievements.

We also use these tests to look for areas to improve in the future. This year we are particularly focusing on Math computation. It is important that all students know their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.

These are the building blocks for fractions, decimals, equations, geometry, etc.

We will be practicing on these items at school. We ask that you do the same at home.

(Flashcards and Math games make terrific stocking stuffers).

## GREAT LAKES SCHOLARS

Attached find an explanation of the program and a list of our students who achieved this honor.

## LUNCH-TIME HELPERS

If there is any way you can give some time to help out, please call the school or contact Mrs. Hermes. Your service will help to keep our students safe.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

See attached.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

This Saturday starting at 9:00 A.M. in our gym.

## CHRISTMAS-NEW YEARS

The Concert today/tonight is a symbol of what the Holiday season represents. Watching your children's bright and often smiling faces as they perform symbolizes the joy that should be with all of us.

We are grateful that we can share that happiness everyday of the school year.

We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmastime.

Best wishes,

Greg Pilarski

December 17, 2009

Dear Parents,

### Auction

The last newsletter contained a great deal of information regarding our Auction on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Gazebo in Warren. This is a very important and the largest fund raising event for the school. Please visit the Auction portion of our web site should you need information, forms or have a question.

### Michigan Humane Society

The Humane Society will be coming to do a presentation after the Christmas vacation to Mrs. Clark's First Grade class to help her children learn about animals, their care, and safety when around animals. Mrs. Clark's class along with their 7th Grade friends in Mrs. Stolz's class will do something in return for the Michigan Humane Society and their animals.

Over the break the students will do extra chores around the house to earn money for their contribution. The presenter, who has been at St. Dennis many times, gave a list of items the Humane Society could benefit from having for the cats and dogs they shelter. These items include food (cans or bags), treats, toys (non porous), clean bowls (stainless is best), towels, blankets, litter, leashes carriers, cages, cash, etc.

If you have friends or family that would like to donate as well please send in to Mrs. Clark's class. Thank you for your support of the children's project. We will be collecting items until Friday, January 29th.

### Shopping and Free Money

While you may be wrapping up your Christmas Shopping, the following opportunities will continue into the new year. As you're celebrating Christmas and the New Year with friends and family it may be an opportunity to tell them about how they can help St. Dennis earn Free Money.

- **Online Shopping** – If you're doing online shopping, don't forget to use **GoodSearch's GoodShop** shopping mall for your online shopping (<http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=907022>). You may also access GoodSearch from the St. Dennis web site home page. Nearly every major online retailer is available through the GoodShop link. It's a great way to send "free money" to the school for just doing what you always do! If you have any questions on using the site please contact us.
- **Oakland Mall** – will St. Dennis School Rule? The contest will run through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to take your receipts to the Information Center (lower level next to escalators), and tell them you want to credit St. Dennis School. The whole process takes a couple of minutes and you can help the school win \$5000.
- **SCRIP** – a great way to purchase gift certificates you may need any time of year.

If you have any questions or comments send an email or call the School Office.

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We are pleased to announce that 12 of our students have been named 2009 Great Lakes Scholars.

The students receiving this recognition are:

Abigail Lama  
Trevor Tyle  
Benjamin A. Mick  
Julianna Saad

Amanda Saad  
Courtney Kusters  
Seth A. Reinoso  
Claire Sexton

Jaymes Jackson  
Mitchell Kulak  
Alexis Rushton  
Mitchell Kusters

The above students join over 5000 3rd-8th graders from across the Great Lakes Region of the Midwest that received such acclaim. Over 1300 teachers participated in the project to select and honor students who not only excel academically but show that they are well-rounded individuals. To find a qualified individual, teachers were asked to only consider students with a B average or higher. From there, they were asked to nominate students who were involved in extra-curricular activities, athletics, participate in community or church groups and are involved in community service. Students nominated then submitted an application to complete the process.

Great Lakes Scholars was established to inspire children to achieve with the hope that it motivates students at a young age level to show that achievement counts, hard work matters, and actively participating in school and community events is important.

Great Lakes Scholars is part of the 12 year old Scholars Program that honors students in 6 mid-west states (Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota) and three others across the country.

Over the summer, Great Lakes Scholars were honored in various fashions. On two different nights, Scholars were honored by the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park while the Chicago White Sox hosted Great Lakes Scholars for the fourth time. In each of these events, the students were on the field for a ceremony prior to the start of a major league baseball game.

Congratulations to these students!

Mr. Pilarski