

The Bulldog Bugle

Notes from Mrs. Volkenant

Thank you for your feedback and insights as we implement our new reporting system. You can be assured that we are carefully listening to your concerns. Last year, as we prepared to make new report cards, we did much research on the subject. Following is an excerpt from one of the research sources we studied: Developing Standards- Based Report Cards, by Thomas Guskey and Jane Bailey. If this piece intrigues you and you would like to explore their work further, the school has several copies of the book we would be happy to lend to you.

The Need for Change

With all the factors hindering efforts to change the report card, why take on this daunting task? We believe that there are three important reasons for making this change and for making it *right now*. First, a lot of current grading and reporting policies and practices are shamefully inadequate. We persist in using these ineffective practices and antiquated reporting forms simply because we have never thought deeply about the consequences of their many shortcomings and limitations. In working with educators to address these issues, however, we find that relatively small changes in grading practices and reporting forms can yield huge benefits for students, parents, and teachers alike. Modest, thoughtful adaptations can result in a multitude of important advantages for all groups involved.

Second, most report cards today are dreadfully misaligned with current reforms in teaching and learning. In recent years, educators have made great strides in developing standards for learning that clarify what they want students to know and be able to do. They also have created better and more authentic forms of assessment to measure student's proficiencies based on those standards. The one element not aligned with these important advances is the report card- the primary tool used to describe students' learning progress and achievement to parents and others.

Third, thoughtful and well-informed initiatives to develop new reporting forms frequently prompt discussions about other elements of schooling, which can be vitally important to students' success. When educators begin talking about what to report and how to report it, they also begin thinking about the clarity of state or district learning standards, the effectiveness of their instructional strategies, and the quality of their classroom assessments. In addition, they often become more conscientious about helping students learn well, earn high marks or grades, and gain confidence in learning situations.

Today we know more than ever about effective grading and reporting processes. We have better information about what works and helps students and about what does not work and can even be potentially harmful. This knowledge base offers explicit direction for change efforts and provides guidance for making improvements. It also convinces us that we cannot wait any longer to put this knowledge into practice. For the sake of our students, improvements in grading practices and reporting forms are not just needed- they are imperative.



September 28, 2011

Volume III Issue 4
of the Bulldog

Dates to Remember

September 30

2:15 Marathon-kickoff!! In the Gym (parents invited!)

October 5

8:45 Mass-4W

October 7

Spiritwear Day

October 12

8:45 Mass-3H
Mid-Trimester

October 13

Individual Pictures: K-6, Full Day Preschool, 1/2 Day Preschool and 3 year olds

Group Pictures: Full Day Preschool 1/2 Day Preschool and 3 year olds

October 14:

Individual Pictures: 4/5 year olds

Group Pictures: K-6; 4/5 year olds

October 20-21

No school, MEA

October 26

8:45 Mass 2H

October 29 & November 5

1st Reconciliation Retreat

BASKETBALL AT ST. BARTS! Yes it's true, basketball is coming to St. Bart's. Beginning in mid- November (exact dates coming soon), St. Bartholomew Catholic School will be participating in the MCYO(Monsignor Coates Youth Organization). Grades 4 through six will be permitted to try-out for a basketball season which has practices beginning in the middle of November and games beginning shortly after Thanksgiving and concluding in late winter. All students who try-out will be on a team! The plan is to have at least one girls team and one boys team and if the level of registered students dictates, then we may have more than one team of each!

Participation is just \$50 and will help cover costs for equipment, etc... If interested please fill out the information and indemnity sheet that **will be sent home with your child this week**. Thank you and if you have any questions contact Mr. Miller at jmiller@st-barts.org or cell at 651-398-3885



SCRIP SPECIALS!

The following retailers have increased their rebate for a limited time. Stock up now!

AMC THEATRES 12% (\$25 card)

KWIK TRIP 9% (\$25 or \$100 card)

LL BEAN 17% (\$25 or \$100 card)

PAPA MURPHY'S 10% (\$10 card)

To make scrip a habit, go to www.shopwithscrip.com.

Check out Presto Pay and Scrip Now!

Firm deadline for ordering is
Mondays at 10 AM with delivery that Friday.

Scrip is sold every Wed & Thurs & Fri morning before school and at select weekend masses. Questions? Contact
Debbie Benson at debbieannmariebenson@gmail.com 952-404-3833
or
Sara Welch at sarawelch12@gmail.com 612-991-2227.

Thank you!

to all those who helped out with the Pinwheels for Peace Day:



Sheila Adams, Anne Egan, Faith Lira, Jodene Marquis, Lindsay Morgan, Maureen Frank, Gretchen Schaak, Emilie Heinz. PTO appreciates your time and help!

St. Bart's School Shirts Available

T-Shirts are \$10

Sweatshirts are \$15

All shirts are available in youth small (6-8), medium (10-12), large (14-16) and adult small, medium, large, x large.

To place an order, please contact

Julie Weninger
(jmweninger@msn.com)

or

Maureen Wersinger
(mwersinger@gmail.com)

Lunchroom Schedule

Playground Schedule

9-29: M, Tittler, A. Wilson	10-5: HELP NEEDED!!
9-30: T. Maxwell, Anne Egan	10-6: K. Gratton, D. Lewis, J. Fayfield
10-3: E. Heinz	10-7: M. Sinning, T. Maxwell
10-4: MB Viers	

9-29: J. Weninger, A. Wickner	10-5: J. Marquis, L. Ingram
9-30: L. Morgan	10-6: B. Trujillo, T. McCarthy
10-3: T. Galle	10-7: T. Sussner
10-4: M. Price	

Order your Spirit Wear online!

Remember: the first Friday of each month is Spirit Wear day for the students and school staff! And this year it's easier than ever to place your spirit wear order - online!

Simply click on the "St. Bart's Spirit Wear" link in the For Our Families section on the school website to view available items.

Orders are made to order in 7-10 business days and shipped directly to your home or office.

We'll be changing the selection of items at the end of October for the holidays so, order now!

Please remember: Spirit Wear is a fundraiser for the school and, as always, a portion of all sales goes back to the PTO to help us support school programs.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about St. Bart's Spirit Wear, please contact: Val Fazendin, vfazendin@gmail.com or Amy Dailey, amydailey@mchsi.com

Memorable Volunteering

Please consider volunteering on Picture Day, Friday morning, October 14th. If interested, please contact Jane Otto in the school office at 952-473-6189.

Thank you!

