



Principal's Message

Dear MTRS Community,

I can't believe that November 1st has arrived already. It seems like yesterday that students were coming into school for the first day. We have accomplished so much in just two months.

Classrooms have new whiteboards thanks to Mrs. Antol and Mr. Kenny getting them installed. Teachers are now able to use the interactive whiteboard projectors and airliners much easier. We are using reusable

eco friendly markers that are non toxic which will help reduce dust and smells in the classroom. The faculty are integrating technology into the classrooms. Special thanks to Mr. Duminski and Mr. Leite for keeping the technology up and running and continually getting better.

You may see more pictures online this year. I have spent a great deal of time walking through the classrooms, observing the teachers, photographing the students and I have been pleased with our progress. I hope that you have taken the time to read the newsletter updates that are posted on the website to hear the good news of what is going on at MTRS. Photos on the web share what takes place at MTRS, the science experiments, the fun at recess, the creativity of art class, the special events, the comraderie of house events, and our faith being put into action.

The building has gotten a new paint color in the stairwells. Thanks to Pat Quiqley who is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for this great job. We are hoping to paint the remaining trim in the school the same color one Friday evening. Thanks to Donley Kuendel our new board member for fixing the sign out front of the school. This helps to get the sign changed easily and protect the

letters. We are going to improve the building and maintain its condition.

The first PTA fundraiser was a huge success. Thanks to Sherilyn Przelomski, Bev McGee, and their entire committee for the Taste of the Bay event. The food was delicious and I hope that you are able to patronize the restaurants who came to our event. We exceeded the goal in fundraising for this event. I hope that you gearing up for the Christmas Extravaganza which includes the Evergreen Sale, Breakfast with Santa, the Christmas Bazaar, and the Cookie Swap.

We have had some wonderful Faith In Action projects. The children have enjoyed creating Liturgical calendars, making creation mobiles and rosaries with their buddies, and participating in social justice projects such as the Hunger Challenge. Please join us on Fridays at 9am for these special projects. We welcome guests at our prayer services and liturgies and can always use a pair of hands to help with projects.

Enjoy this newsletter. Hope to see you soon at one of our events.



Mother Teresa
Regional School

PTA News

Taste of the Bay

On Friday, October 14th we had our annual Taste of the Bay in the Parish Center. This year included not only delicious restaurants in our area but there was also wine and beer tasting. The atmosphere, food and spirits were a wonderful way to ring in the Fall season at MTRS. Thank you goes out to our many vendors who graciously donated their delicious food, drinks and services for our evening along with Sherilyn Przelomski and Beverly McGee, the event's chairpeople for putting on such a class event. Look forward to seeing you at next years Taste!!!



This Thanksgiving, the PTA is thankful for parent volunteers and their support for Mother Teresa Regional School.

Trunk or Treat

Friday, October 28th was a cold, spooky and fun night at MTRS! We had our first Trunk or Treat event. There were witches and princesses; super heroes and scary monsters all on a search for treats. We had a terrific show of families that all had their trunks decorated.

Our evening started out with dinner and games in the cafeteria. The pumpkin contest was underway. Soon after we then moved outside for the trick or treating to begin! Some parents even got into the spirit! The judges walked through the lot to see who had the coveted trunk. We all then headed into the Parish Center to find out the winners of the contests.

Thank you to the PTA Chairs, Laura Lattiere, Martha Rose and Megan Yahara for putting on such a great event. Fun was had by all.



Coffee Chat with Mrs. Wisk

Our first coffee chat went well. Several parents joined me and we had a nice discussion. A question about how much homework should be given was asked.

The amount of homework varies with a child's age. Homework should be able to be completed independently and without too much struggle. Students in grades PK-2 should be spending approximately a half hour on homework. Students in grades 3 to 5 should be spending approximately an hour and older students between one and two hours. Remember that time will vary if a child has procrastinated on a long term project, needs to study, or has not mastered a concept in school. If you find that your child is spending too much time on homework or is struggling too much with homework, please be sure that you speak to your child's teacher.

Another question was in regards to how to help obtain intervention services for your child. If you are concerned that your child has a speech language problem or may be in need of the child study team for remedial services, please speak to your child's teacher first. If your child is in Kindergarten through eighth grade, Monmouth Ocean Educational Services would provide testing to determine your child's eligibility. If your child is in preschool, you need to contact your local public school district for determining eligibility.

Our next two coffee chats will be November 29th at 7:00 pm and December 2nd at 8:00 am. I hope that you will be able to join us.



Math Coaching: Reinforce Common Language

Once a month, our math coach has been coming to school to work with our Math teachers. This may sound like a strange idea to have a coach for the teachers but it is a great way to help the teachers improve math instruction. As much as Mrs. Wisk understands the importance of Math, teaching Math is not her gift so she has enlisted Catapult professional development to help the teachers improve on what they are doing in the classroom to benefit all students.

The math coach has been meeting with teachers, discussing lesson plans, goals for the teachers and strategies that can be used. Teachers then work on implementing those strategies and when the coach returns, they discuss the successes of the strategies and anything that is needed to make teaching math better.

As you visit the classrooms, you may notice the math walls that have appeared. These math walls are one of the goals of the math coach. Students are developing a common language of math and also reinforcing key words that appear in math word problems. Ask your student what words are appearing this week. Use those words at home when cooking, measuring lights for the Christmas tree, or grocery shopping. Using Math in everyday activities help students learn.

Congratulations to the teachers on a great job with our math coach.

Members of the Board of Limited Jurisdiction

MTRS' Board currently has nine members:

- Reverend William Dunlap, Pastoral Representative
- Mrs. Melissa Whelan Wisk, MTRS Principal
- Mrs. Julia Racile Nagy, Board Chair and Ad Hoc Member of All Committees
- Messrs. Daniel Harning and Frank Teeple, Finance Committee
- Messrs. Matthew Goushy and Donley Kuendel, Building and Grounds
- Mrs. Mariann Musella, Endowment and Development Committee
- Ms. Ellen Williams, Secretary and Ambassador Facilitator

A Note from Our Board Chair

There are several projects that the Board has helped to implement this year. We have hired a Development Coordinator who is responsible for building data bases so that we are able communicate to our community about the achievements and events that take place at Mother Teresa Regional School. Currently the Coordinator is working on our Matching Gift Challenge. As you know, if we are able to raise \$50,000 within this school year, we will receive an additional \$50,000 from our St. Thomas More Scholarship Foundation benefactor. If you believe in Catholic education and are able to contribute to this challenge, it would be appreciated by our entire community, especially our current and future students who are our greatest asset.

We received a grant from a private foundation to hire a Coordinator for our Learning Academy. It is planned that diverse courses will be run after school, weekends, and the summer. The Coordinator has created an interesting October and November program that ranges from Irish Dancing to Magic Scientist experiments to New Jersey history. If you are

interested in hearing about these programs, know young people who would be interested in participating in these programs or would like to offer your skills in running a program or helping getting the word out about these programs, please contact Mrs. Stinson, MTRS' secretary at 732.291.1050.

We did not review our 5-year Strategic Plan last year because we are planning to amend it as a result of our 2012 and Beyond sessions. We would like to hear your ideas on how we can improve MTRS – so come out and join us in December for our final session. The more input we gather, the better our ability to define MTRS. We have received kudos from the Diocese on several occasions commending us on our Strategic Plan. Your thoughts and ideas will help us to further demonstrate to the Diocese what a great school we are, our vision for our future, and our plans for attaining our goals and objectives.

A blessed Christmas to All!
God Bless,

Julia Nagy
Chair MTRS Board
of Limited Jurisdiction

HAWKS Basketball Schedule

Show your school spirit and come cheer on the Hawks at Home for Basketball games during the month of December.



Date	Time	Visitor	Home
12/4/2011	1:45 PM	SR JVG5/6	MTRS JVG5/6
12/4/2011	12:30 PM	SR VG7/8	MTRS VG7/8
12/10/2011	9:00 AM	SJ VB 7/8	MTRS VB
12/10/2011	10:15 AM	IC VG7/8	MTRS VG
12/11/2011	1:45 PM	SC VB7	MTRS VB
12/11/2011	12:30 PM	SB VG7	MTRS VG
12/17/2011	12:45 PM	IC JVB5/6	MTRS JVB5/6
12/17/2011	11:30 AM	SC VB8	MTRS VB7/8
12/18/2011	1:45 PM	SB JVG5	MTRS JVG
12/18/2011	12:30 PM	SCNM VG7/8	MTRS VG

Changes to the Mass

The first Sunday of Advent will begin the introduction of the third edition of the Roman Missal's English translation. Many parishes have already begun to introduce the new Mass settings at church. The major changes in the settings are to the Gloria, and Holy, Holy as well as the doxology. Changes will also be made in the responses to the priest, "And also with you" is being changed to "And with your spirit." The Nicene creed also has changes that will affect those of us in attendance at Mass.

The changes are being made to have the English translation be more closely aligned to the Latin translation. All English speaking countries will be experiencing the changes this coming Advent which marks the beginning of the church year. Many parishes will have explanations of the changes in the pews to help parishioners follow along with the new changes.

At school, we will be introducing the children to the changes and will also be purchasing Mass books to help them follow along with the translations. We have already introduced a new Mass setting. The Mass of Joy, for the

songs for Mass. Please talk with your child about these new changes. For more information on the changes visit <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/>, or <http://www.romanmissalchanges.com/>.



Faculty-Recommended Homework Tips

Now that the newness of school has worn off, it is time to be sure that our students are focusing and doing their best on their assignments.

Homework is one way that teachers assess student progress. It is a way to reinforce skills and concepts, extend learning, and practice independence skills. Faculty members were asked to share their homework tips. Here is a compilation of their top tips.

1. Reading is fundamental — From preschool thru eighth grade, a love of reading is very important. Younger children should be read to every night and older children should be encouraged to read. Participate in the million pages challenge and keep reading. Reading helps your child complete their homework on all levels.
2. Be organized — Be sure that you write your assignments in your planner before leaving each class or when instructed by your teacher. Checking your bag before you leave school to be sure that you have all of your books.
3. Prepare a space — A quiet, consistent space with all the necessary tools makes tackling homework easier. Have pens, paper, crayons etc available at home. Purchase items for projects well in advance.
4. Make every day items learning opportunities — Trips to the grocery store are math lessons, driving is a lesson in geography, road signs are geometry lessons, the alphabet game is language arts and simply retelling the events of the day in order in a lesson.
5. Independence is important — Students should be working on their homework independently. Since homework is an important part of a teacher's assessment of your child's understanding, it should be done independently with minimal assistance. If your child doesn't understand something or can't complete the assignment, write a note to the teacher. Simple Solutions especially should be done completely independently.

Miss Reddan's Tips for First Grade Parents

It can be difficult to know how much to help your child with their homework at such a young age. It is very easy to end up helping too much or not enough. First Grade has two lessons of Simple Solutions every night along with one other assignment.

Simple Solutions: You should be letting your child read the pages on their own only helping them if they are stuck on a word. (If time permits while they are doing their homework, they could even read the pages to you.) Let them do the math on their own only helping if they are not sure of something. If they are confused frequently, please let me know as soon as possible.

Other Homework: Homework directions are always explained in class but have your child read the directions to you again helping with any difficult words. Let them work on their own letting me know of any recurring difficulties.

Reading: First Grade's weekend homework is usually to read aloud to someone. Choose different books and always check periodically that they are actually reading the words printed on the pages. Ask them questions about the story from time to time (Why do you think that happened? Would a different ending have been better? Who was your favorite character? What was the setting?) Have your child read as much as you can. Road signs, menus, calendars, recipes etc are all reading opportunities that show up every day. Weekly trips to your local libraries can lead to a lifetime of reading. Most libraries offer a free card if you live in their town. There are books and magazines for any interests. If your child has yet to develop a love for reading, find something that they are excited about and there is sure to be plenty of reading material available.

Family Hockey Night



We have heard from many that they miss playing hockey – how about - Hockey Family Night!

Format: There will be two sets of games, one for the juniors and one for the seniors. Each set will have four teams and each team will play three games, so every team gets to play each other. Games will be ten minutes long, of running time, so teams will be responsible to change players on the fly as no time will be given for changes.

Teams: Each team will have between 5-7 players and must consist of 2-3 adults, which can be teachers, coaches, or parents. The rest of the team will be made of the kids. It does not matter who plays goalie, whether it be kid or adult. Each team must be registered with Vinny or Ann Margret Duminski prior to the start of the games. If a person is not on the official team list, then they cannot play for that team. Junior players cannot play in the senior games and senior players cannot play in the junior games. Adults, however, can play in both if they have children in different grade levels and are registered before the start of the event.

Rules: The standard MTRS “Street Devils” rules will be in effect. This means no puck throwing or people being allowed to run off the bench and on to the playing surface. Games will feature 4-on-4 action.

Games: There will be no overtime. Games that end in ties will award 1 point to each team. The winning team will get 2 and the loser will get 0. At the end of the tournament, the two best teams will play in the championship, which will consist of three 5-minute periods. In the event of a tie in the tournament standings, the tiebreaker will be whichever team has scored the most goals overall. If there is a tie in the championship game, it will be decided by sudden-death overtime.

We are trying to put this together between regular hockey seasons as gym time slots allow. Start considering your teams and be ready for when the date becomes available.

Times and registration forms to follow.

Many thanks to MTRS students and parents for food donations. Your donations fill Thanksgiving baskets and help local food pantries feed many families this holiday.

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.” — Mother Teresa

Upcoming Events

Evergreen Sale

Orders due November 28
Pick up December 2

Secret Santa Sale

December 1 and 2

Christmas Bazaar & Breakfast with Santa

December 3

Christmas Concert

December 12

Clothing Drive

December 16



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