

NEWSLETTER

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QUARTERLY NEWS 2010

FROM THE DESKS OF THE PRINCIPALS

As we continue the 2010-2011 school year may we remain "Anchored in Faith, Hope and Charity." With the awareness of the "anchor theme" for the 2010-2011 school year, we hope you enjoyed the Welcome Back Night with your children. The entire staff enjoyed greeting you to a new grade level and sharing ice-cream at the "Welcome Back Night". Thank you to all who came and celebrated the opening of school.

A special thank you and welcome to Father Jim Bilot, our pastor, Father C. McDonell, our associate pastor, and Father J. Kelly, our visiting priest. We are blessed to have priests who visit regularly and show us how to stay anchored in Jesus. 2010-2011 is also the Year of Saint James, who traveled and gave witness to our Lord. We pray each morning as a school community that we, like our priests, may continue to be anchored in our faith.

Our staff is dedicated to our faith and to helping every child learn. We extend another warm welcome to Miss Bennet, Mrs. Corak, and Mr. Polo, our new staff members, who join us in anchoring our students this year. Thank you to our returning staff as they continue to steer their students through the courses of faith and knowledge. Our DCES staff is excited to be teaching and helping your children sail smoothly through their education!

We extend a hearty welcome to Janice Sandie and Marti Biscaro, our returning co-presidents. Thank you for reeling in the line of help and providing additional service for our teachers and students. We look forward to working with Janice and Marti as closely as we worked last year. We also extend our continued thanks to Carrie Ramon and Roseatta Stoops for now chairing the Boutique. Welcome to all our Parent Guild members, for without you DC would never be able to stay anchored in the education of your children.

Thank you for sending your children to Divine Child Elementary School; know that you are most welcome to come and discuss any areas of concern you may have throughout the year. Our doors are always open. May we remain anchored together in faith and knowledge, as we steer our ship towards excellence and persevere through the midst of storms.

Blessings as we remain anchored in Christ,

Sister Cecilia
Mrs. Ann Marie Grabarkiewicz



PARENTS' GUILD MEETING • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 7:00 P.M.

Divine Child Elementary School MPR

WOW

Stop and look around at all the new things that were improved from last year. The outdoor area is just wonderful. Have you noticed the new monument sign, entrance sign and labeled door signs. The Divine Child statue outside the entrance door has been mounted with night lighting and is in a beautifully landscaped area. The entrance is decorated with a brick paver entrance with an embedded DC and cross formation. Every door is now labeled for a more accurate entrance place for programs, games, religious education and school entrance. The east door area has had additional landscaping from which a path leads to the Father Kucyk's Memorial Garden.

Along with the beautiful landscaping, this area will have two benches and two icons displayed for prayer and reflection.

The gym entrance has new bricked columns and additional landscaping. The gym was painted and now has bright efficient lighting that shines on a refurbished gym floor. There also are new banners hanging on the gym walls representing each CYO team in our division.

The office and teacher's lounge has had an extreme make-over. Due to the water damage from the summer storms, the carpet throughout both areas was replaced. The teacher's lounge has a new sink and counter area. The one small office adjacent to the lounge was transformed into a copier room. The areas were painted along with the first floor hallway and entrance area.

New technology was added to various classrooms. Additional new lap top computers on a cart were purchased for individual classroom use. New printers were purchased and were installed to replace the old. Updates on the Gradespeed and Curriculum Mapper programs were installed. New on-line textbooks for grades 6-8 were added in social studies, science and literature. Five new Promethean Boards with sound systems and responders were added to improve student learning.

Welcome Back to School night was restructured to provide an exciting and more relaxed beginning to the school year. On the first day of school, summer reading and math packets were collected and students were awarded their first A's. Research shows that students retain more information when summer reading and math packets are completed.

The first Parent Guild meeting as well as the first School Improvement Team meeting were held. Thank you for being involved in your child's education.

Please use the School Improvement suggestion link to add your suggestions of ways to improve our school. Be assured that every suggestion is forwarded to the team to address for possible implementation.

Grade Speed Program

Grade Speed is the program that will allow teachers to report student progress for grades 4-8. The program provides a secure site to post on line grades from which you can track, from home, your child's progress.

You have received an on-line password in which to track your child's progress. Teachers are required to update every week and many do so more often. Thank you for anchoring in your child's academic progress. If you are having difficulty with the log in, please contact Mrs. Grabowski, the computer teacher; however, if you are having difficulty with any of the grades posted, please first contact that individual teacher before contacting administration.

*Secondary Medical Insurance

A secondary medical insurance is automatically provided for each student enrolled in the school and/or CYO program through the Michigan Catholic Conference – Student Assurance Services, Inc. This is a Student Accident Medical Policy. Your insurance is still the primary carrier, the MCC is secondary. Enrollment is NOT necessary.

CYO Sport Physical

Parents, please keep in mind that if your child plans to try out for one of the CYO sports teams, a physical is required to participate in the try-out. One physical will cover the entire school year. Remember to print the sports physical form from the website prior to the appointment.

IOWA Testing

IOWA Testing is scheduled for the first two weeks of October. Students in grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 have been diligently working on them. Thank you to the parents who donated the water bottles and mints for the students. Teachers have also been doing stress relieving exercises with the students. Keeping the students hydrated and stress free will help boost each individual test score. Thank you, parents, for making sure your children are going to bed earlier and for providing a great breakfast.

Heart Wellness Tag Program

Students are walking the track to earn tags for keeping their heart healthy. Four times around the track is one mile. Students receive four heart punches on each tag for walking one mile. After five miles/five completed tags, students receive a five mile foot tag. The first five mile marker is yellow, the second is orange...coordinating with the peace shirt colors. Students also receive other tags representing activities throughout the year, for example a red ribbon, dove etc. All tags are placed on the key chain given at the beginning of the school year. So check out the key chain and see how many tags your child has earned. Encourage a healthy heart - part of the DCES wellness plan!



Protecting God's Children

The following sites are offering the Protecting God's Children Workshop.

Register on-line at www.virtus.org.

October 20	St. Regis
October 23	St. Joseph, Trenton
October 27	St. John Neumann
October 30	St. Thomas a'Becket
November 20	Sacred Heart
February 26	St. Theodore

GFS

One source of fundraising for our school is participation in Gordon Food Service Market place. It is now possible to enroll on-line. Simply go to <http://www.gfs.com/funfunds/home.page>. Org number 2255732. This is DC's unique web address. Thank you for supporting our school by participating in the Fun Foods program.



The next Market Day of the school year is Monday, October 18. Market Day is the largest fund raising food cooperative. The money raised with Market Day goes into a general Parent Guild fund for Divine Child Elementary School. Recent PG purchases include Promethean Interactive White Boards, the DCES monument sign and lettering on the elementary school building.

Grocery shopping with Market Day allows you to serve great meals and raise funds for Divine Child Elementary School. There are over 150 products from which to choose including low calorie and all natural options. Products are 100% guaranteed or your money back. Orders can be placed on-line at marketday.com or by returning the order guide to the school.

We are in need of adult volunteers for Market Day. Please consider earning your DOVE hours by helping on Market Day, the third Monday of the month, September through May. An hour or two of your time would be appreciated! If you can help or have any questions please call Danielle Bielaczyc 734-658-7147.

PG MINUTES

September 29, 2010

1. Opening Prayer and Welcome: Meeting called to order by Marti Biscaro and Janice Sandie.

2. Market Day: Brought representatives to discuss ways to increase sales and also brought samples of food! Try the meatballs and the Pot Roast! They are delicious! There is a promotion code this month for \$5 off on a \$25 order! Please give it a try. We also need parent volunteers to inventory and pack for at least the first hour of Market Day, which is always on a Monday, from about 3:30 to 4:30. It counts for DOVES hours!

Also look for the pie sale in November right before Thanksgiving! We need a volunteer to run the pie sale. Call Janice Sandie if interested.

4. PG Board and Financial Update: The cash balance in the PG account as of September 30, 2010 is \$12,129.50. Welcome back teachers luncheon, ice cream social and teachers checks were among the expenses since August 1, 2010.

5. Board Member Reports:

Book Bank: Has kicked off for the year. The special out-of-uniform days will be on alternating days, instead of always on Tuesdays. Borders gift card drawings will be held for all students who read for book bank. Grades 7 and 8 must read 300 pages and grades 1 through 6 must read 500 pages to be eligible for the drawings and the out-of-uniform incentive.

Book Fair: Sales were up 15% from last Fall but down 7% from last Spring. Thanks to everyone who helped with the fair and who bought books!

Caring Committee: In need of volunteers! They provide meals, child care, driving help, school lunches, etc. for families in need of short term assistance. To sign up to help, go to the dces website and go to Caring Committee. It will take you to the "Lots of helping hands website". A mass e-mail goes out for helpers and you can choose to respond.

DOVES: If you haven't taken the **Protecting God's Children** workshop, please do so ASAP. It is mandatory if you plan to work with school age children in any capacity. The classes are listed on the website www.virtus.org and count as DOVES' hours. Some classes that are coming soon are:

Wed. Oct. 6, 2010	6-9pm	St. Fabian in Farmington Hills
Wed. Oct. 20, 2010	6-9pm	OLGC in Plymouth
Sat. Oct. 30, 2010	9am-12	St. Thomas a'Becket in Canton
Sat. Nov. 20, 2010	9am-12	Sacred Heart Parish in Dearborn

The archdiocese could not provide us any fall dates so we will look into scheduling a workshop late winter or early spring.

DC Apparel: A new hoodie and lounge pants will be available for Christmas. Gym shirts, both short and long sleeve, are available.

Holiday Boutique: Will be Sat. November 6, 2010. Look for volunteer and raffle information to come home. We still have openings for a few more crafters. Call Rosetta at 204-4496 to help with publicity!

Halloween Sock Hop: The sock hop is October 23, 2010 at 6-8pm. Contact Bridget Wilkie to volunteer.

Homeroom Parents: Have been selected and the first meeting was Sept. 30. Thanks to all who volunteered to be a homeroom mom!

Newsletter: Peggy Kerry is in charge of laying out the Newsletter. Her email is pkerry@wowway.com. If you would like to submit something, first have it approved by Sister Cecilia or Mrs. Grabarkiewicz.

Programs: The Cyber Safety program was in September for parents. October 9, 2010 at 11:00am is the annual Pet Blessing. Rosary Making will be Wed. evening October 20. The plans for the rest of the year include Mathemation, Germ Busters, Career Day, the Parable Project and Family Science Night.

Swap Shop: Thanks to our new chair persons, Leslie Bermudez and Raquel Vargas, for taking over the Swap Shop!

6: Old Business/New Business:

School News:

CYO Forms- Physical forms and sign up forms are now available online at the website, www.dces.info, under athletics.

Lunch Forms- Can be filled out online. We are working out the bugs so please be patient. Please send in your money as soon as you submit your forms. It would be greatly appreciated!

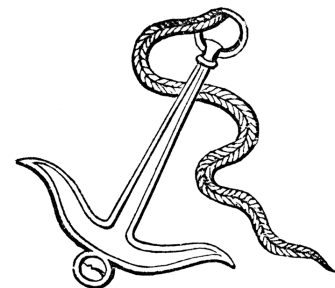
School Improvement Meeting: Held in Oct. Still discussing e-mail blasts

New Signs around School: The Parent Guild has provided the funds for the new signs for DCES! Thanks PG! They look awesome!

Library: Mrs. Socha needs help in Library on Tuesdays form 11:30-12:30 for the 2nd grade classes. Please consider volunteering!

7: Next PG Meeting Date: December 1, 2010 at 7pm in Multi-Purpose Room

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Bustamante-Secretary





Parent Guild News

Welcome Back and Welcome Aboard to all the new families. This year at DCES we are anchored in Faith, Hope, and Charity. The parent guild has been busy already and we thank all the volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents. Our first PG meeting was held on Wednesday, Sept. 29 and was well attended. Please mark your calendars for the next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 7:00. All are welcome and encouraged to come and get involved. Thank You to our Market Day and Book Fair teams for an outstanding job! Sales are off to a great start. The Market Day Pie Sale will be done through the regular November order. Please watch for your order sheet coming soon. All proceeds will benefit the Caring Committee to provide meals for families in need. Your orders for these delicious pies to serve your family will also help your DC family. Our annual Halloween Sock Hop will be on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 6:00 and the Holiday Boutique will be on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 10:00 to 4:00. Please consider volunteering your time to make these events a huge success. Our membership drive has been ongoing and will conclude on Friday, Oct. 8. So far, 78% of our families have responded. Let's pray for 100% this year. Please remember if you want to volunteer for any school events, including class field trips, you will need to attend the Protecting God's Children Workshop. You can attend a location and date of your choice by checking the Virtus.org website.

May the Divine Child continue to anchor us in our Faith.

Co-Presidents
Marti Biscaro
Janice Sandie