

Saint Michael School
80 Maple Avenue
North Andover, MA 01845



Phone (978) 686-1862
Fax (978) 688-5144
st-michael@comcast.net
www.saintmichael.com

August 2, 2011

Summer News- We've been very busy at school unloading books and supplies and getting ready for the students' return. We have moved the Extended Day Care room to the old art/music room. We feel the new classroom will allow Mrs. Hughes and her students the space they need to be creative. We're also adding computers to the Ext. Day Care classroom (the ones we won through Touchdowns for Technology last year!). The art/music classes will now be held in the Maple Ave. Atrium. Art will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and music will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The old Ext. Day space is now being utilized for storage of art/music supplies.

We've additionally turned an old office space into a new nursery classroom for the new 2-day program (Monday & Tuesday AM or Thursday and Friday AM). The new classroom is located behind the Religious Education Office and is just the right size for the small class size of the new 2-day program.

We are pleased to announce our new employees for the 2011-12 school year:

Mr. Ron Annand will be joining us as the new Middle School Science teacher and 6A homeroom teacher. Mr. Annand is coming to us from the recently closed St. Mary School in Lawrence. He is both science and math certified. Mr. Annand is sure to be a hit with our middle school students!

Mrs. Fran Puglisi is also coming to us from St. Mary School. Mrs. Puglisi will be the new kindergarten teacher. Her previous principal refers to her as, The Mother Goose of the School. Mrs. Puglisi is certified in both early childhood and elementary school. We are confident that the children will LOVE her!

Mr. Jeffrey Moses will be joining our school as the new art teacher. Mr. Moses has been teaching art in North Hampton and at the Portsmouth Music and Art Center. He is certified in art and has a wonderful personal portfolio detailing student work and his own art work. Mr. Moses has also agreed to expand our art program to include kindergarten students. We are sure that the kids will love his creative ideas!

Ms. Carrie Kropiwnicki will be the teacher for the new two-day nursery program. Ms. Kropiwnicki holds certifications from the Department of Education in Early Childhood Education. She has been most recently teaching at Meritor Academy but due to its closing, she was able to accept a position at SMS. Ms. Kropiwnicki is creative, loving and very excited to be joining our school community. We are delighted she is joining our family!

Mrs. Cathryn Rich has been a day-to-day substitute in the school for many years. This year she'll be joining our community as a full time aide in kindergarten. She'll assist the students and teachers and will share her early childhood experience with all!

Golf Tournament Update- We are hosting the Teeing Off for Technology and Fine Arts Golf Tournament on September 13th. There are still a couple of slots available for those who wish to sign up. You don't need to have a foursome. We will happily pair you up with another group. Visit the school website www.saintmichael.com for more information. You can also still sponsor the tournament!

Smartboard Update- We are so very pleased to announce that we have purchased 8 Smartboards this summer that will be installed in grades 1-8 in August. Your donations last June helped us reach half of the price of the

Smartboards. The parish, knowing how important the Smartboards are to the educational experience that your children receive, generously offered to lend the school the remaining money so that we could purchase all of the equipment at the same time. We hope that your continued donations and the funds we raise at the Tee Off for Technology and Fine Arts Golf Tournament will allow us to quickly pay off this loan. We are so excited about this wonderful opportunity and we greatly thank everyone who made a donation!

2010-2011 Standardized Test Scores- We hope you'll visit the school website to take a look at the outstanding performance of our students on the Stanford 10 testing that we administered in March. Our school far exceeds the National and Archdiocesan scores. We will continue to strive for excellence!

School will re-open on Tuesday, August 30th for students in K-8. School will be in session from 9:00a.m.-11:45a.m. on Aug. 30th, Aug. 31st and Sept. 1st. There are no buses to/from school on these 3 days so please make arrangements for your child. Students should be dressed in uniforms (warm weather uniforms are acceptable). School will be closed on Friday, September 2nd. Grades Nursery through grade 8 will be back in session on Tuesday, September 6th.

Bus service will begin on Tuesday, September 6th (this does not include kindergarten). Kindergarten bus service will begin on Wednesday, September 7th. The town of North Andover will mail your child his/her bus tag that you should attach to your child's backpack. K-5 students are all eligible for free bus in N. Andover. We already provided the town with the names of our students in those grades. Grades 6-8 are paid transportation so you'd have to contact the Superintendent's Office to arrange for paid busing.

Extended Day Care: Extended Day Care is available from 7:00am-9:00am and from 11:30am-5:30pm each day. Extended Day Care from 7:00a.m.-9:00a.m. will be held in the Main Street Atrium (near the gym). An adult must escort all students (grade 3 and under) to Extended Day Care. The homework room will be open from 3:30-4:30p.m. Monday-Thursday. Extended Day Care will be available on Aug. 30th, Aug. 31st and Sept. 1st, but will be closed on September 2nd for the holiday weekend. *Please note that the hourly rate for Extended Day Care will remain the same this year... \$6.00/hour.*

Morning Line-Up: Students will line up with their classes at 8:50a.m. School begins at 9:00a.m. Students are expected to be in their classrooms when the 9:00a.m. bell rings. Please be sure that your child arrives on time! If your child arrives to school prior to 8:50a.m. and you cannot stay outside with him/her, please register with Ext. Day Care. You'll be billed once each week.

Prayer Service: We will gather for a prayer service on Sept. 1st at 11:00a.m. at the church. All families are encouraged to attend. Students may be dismissed immediately following the prayer service. Informal uniforms may be worn.

First School Mass- We'll gather on Sept. 9th at 9:15a.m. to celebrate the first mass of the school year. Students should be dressed in formal uniforms for this mass. During the months of September and October, students will be able to wear sneakers with their formal uniforms.

Classroom Assignments: We will be posting assignments during the week of August 22-26. The class lists will be posted on our website through a secure, log-in procedure. To view the class lists from home, visit www.saintmichael.com and enter the user name: **stmike** (all one word) and the password: **umatter**

Kindergarten Information: Kindergarten students will start school with grades 1-8 on Tuesday, Aug. 30th from 9-11:45a.m. Kindergarten bus doesn't begin until September 7th.

Pre-Kindergarten and Nursery Information- Mrs. Bagge and Mrs. Godek invite the students and their parents (no siblings please) to come visit their classrooms before their official start of the school year. The schedule for these before-school visits is below:

AM Pre-K will visit Aug. 30th at 9:15a.m.

All PM Pre-K will visit Aug. 31st at 9:15a.m.

Pre-K full sessions begin September 6th. AM sessions are 9:00-11:45a.m. and PM sessions are 12:30-3:15p.m.

Nursery Parents- Students and their parents (no siblings please) are invited to visit the classroom before their first official start to the school year. The schedule for these before-school visits is as follows:

M-T-W AM class will meet Aug. 30th at 9:15a.m. (Miss Piessens)

W-Th-F AM class will meet Aug. 30th at 10:15a.m. (Miss Piessens)

T-W-TH PM class will meet Aug. 31st at 9:15a.m. (Miss Piessens)

M-T AM class will meet Aug. 30th at 9:15a.m. (Miss Kropiwnicki)

Th-F AM class will meet Aug. 31st at 10:15a.m. (Miss Kropiwnicki)

Nursery School Opening Days:

W-Th-F AM session begins on September 1st. Students attend school **with their parents** from 9-10:30a.m.

Th-F AM session begins September 1st. Students attend **with their parents** from 9-10:30a.m.

M-T-W AM session begins on September 6th. Students attend school **with their parents** from 9-10:30a.m.

M-T AM session begins on September 6th. Students attend school **with their parent** from 9-10:30a.m.

PM session begins on September 6th. Students attend school **with their parents** from 12:30-2:00p.m.

All AM sessions of nursery school will start full-time (9-11:45a.m.) on September 7th.

All PM sessions of nursery school will start full-time (12:30-3:15p.m.) on September 7th.

Morning Bunch Program- For those who have registered for the Morning Bunch Program with Mrs. Hughes, we welcome you to drop by her classroom after your child attends his/her visit with his/her nursery or pre-k teacher. Morning Bunch will begin on Tuesday, September 6th.

Summer Assignments and Supplies: Please remind, encourage and assist your child in completing his/her summer assignment that he/she received at the end of last year. Many students received supply lists at the end of the school year. Please be sure that your child has everything he/she needs on the first few days of school. If you have lost your list, visit the school website and click on [summer info](#). Items such as Clorox wipes, bandaids, paper towels, etc are completely *optional*.

Summer Reading Challenge- We hope you've been reading and keeping track of your summer reading. Remember to keep track and hand in the tally sheet to your teacher no later than Sept. 9th.

Lunch/Recess- We are changing the schedule for recess & lunch to accommodate our kindergarten children.

Grades 6-8 11:30-12:00 Grades 4-5 11:50-12:20

Grades K-1 12:10-12:40 Grades 2-3 12:30-1:00

Uniforms: All uniforms must be purchased from our sole uniform carrier (JB Edwards). Informal uniforms (polo tops, shorts and sneakers) may be worn from Aug. 30th-October 31st. Please note: Formal uniforms (shirts, ties, shoes) must be worn to masses throughout the school year. In the months of September and October, students will be able to wear sneakers to mass. Boys at school will be expected to wear their hair short enough so that it doesn't touch the collar of their shirt. Belts will still be required to be worn by all boys in grades 1-8. We will not allow "Silly bands" or other bracelets/jewelry this year. The girls who wear headbands, bows, etc. will need to wear navy blue, white or yellow headbands, etc. All girls will be expected to wear flats for shoes. This does not include ballerina shoes. All boys and girls are expected to have *dress shoes*. This does not include sneakers that are black that the kids think are considered shoes. You may still use the slip on dress shoes that can be purchased through LL Bean, Lands End, etc. Also, a reminder that the new logo is required on all uniform apparel. Finally, the only embroiderer who has permission to use the school logo is JB Edward.

You may NOT go to any other retailer to have the logo printed on your uniforms. This is a breach of our logo policy.

High School Fair Night- Students in grades 7 & 8 are invited to the High School Fair Night on September 20th from 6:30-8p.m. in the school gym. We've invited all of the local catholic and private high schools to attend. This Fair will be open to current grade 7 & 8 SMS students and students from our parish. Please mark this date on your calendar so you won't miss out on the opportunity to meet informally with representatives from all of the high schools.

Health Office News- Mrs. Sullivan wants to remind everyone to have sent in their immunization records to her office. All new students need these records to be sent to the office. In addition, if your child had any shots since the end of the school year, those records should also be sent.

Open Houses: Please plan on attending our Open Houses. Parents will be welcomed by our PTO and administration in the cafeteria and then the teachers will talk with you about curriculum, their expectations, the school day, and homework. *Please note that we have changed the format for Open House and will now have Open House on three nights instead of two.*

- Parents with children in Nursery, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and grade 1 should plan on attending Open House on Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00p.m.
- Parents with children in Grades 2-5 should plan on attending Open House on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00p.m.
- Parents with children in Grades 6-8 should plan on attending Open House on Monday, September 19th at 7:00p.m. 8th grade parents are asked to arrive at 6:30p.m. for a brief meeting to discuss special 8th grade activities and events.

PTO: The PTO remains a great strength behind the success of Saint Michael School. Parents interested in becoming involved with the PTO should attend the Open House and speak with the PTO coordinators. We love to have new members who bring fresh ideas to the PTO.

Instrumental Program: We are pleased to announce that we will be continuing our successful instrumental program for students in grades 3-8. There will be an informational meeting with the children on September 8th at 10:00a.m. Parents are welcome to attend. Instructional classes will be held during the school day. Students will be required to make up any work missed during their 30 minute lesson. Last year, we had over one hundred students in the band.

PGC Workshops and CORI Checks: All parents who wish to volunteer in *ANY* way at school **MUST** complete a new CORI form (a new one is required each year). **Everyone needs to complete a new CORI!** You must present a photo ID at that time and the form must be authorized by a school employee. Feel free to process your CORI when you attend an Open House. If you have never taken a Protecting God's Children Workshop, you must participate in one before you will be allowed to volunteer, coach, assist, chaperone, etc. The workshops are offered throughout the school year and you may also attend a workshop that is offered at another parish (be sure to bring us a copy of your certificate). Thank you for helping us to keep your children safe!

Upcoming PGC Workshops: Call Donna O'Brien at 978-686-4050 to register. Classes are held in the parish hall.

Tuesday, August 23, 2011 @ 6:30p.m.
Thursday, September 8, 2011 @ 6:30p.m.
Tuesday, September 20, 2011 @ 6:30p.m.
Wednesday, September 28, 2011 @ 9:30a.m.
Tuesday, October 4, 2011 @ 6:30m.
Thursday, November 3 @ 6:30p.m.

We wish God's blessings on you and your family over the upcoming weeks. Spend some quality time together before the hustle and bustle begins with schoolwork and extracurricular activities. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call the office (686-1862).