

# ALL SAINTS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 19, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next Wednesday is **ASH WEDNESDAY** - - the first day of the season of Lent. Our parish theme for Lent is:

“**LOST IN LOSS ~ FOUND IN HOPE**”

We all experience loss—a feeling deep inside like something is missing. Have you ever felt like you've lost control? Have you ever lost your job? Have you ever lost a child in a store? Has your family ever lost a pet? Have you seen someone you love begin to age and perhaps lose their memory or mobility? Have you ever suddenly lost someone you love? Moments of loss are filled with shock and pain and anger and insecurity and doubt. They often make us feel like we don't know which way to turn.

Lent can feel like we're lost in a desert or lost on a journey. It's a time when we think about Jesus choosing to *lose* His life for us. But, the story doesn't end in loss. We already know the story ends in Resurrection! But it's not just something we save just for one holiday every spring. The Passion, Death and Resurrection give us a model for the loss we experience very day! Even though pain is part of being human, this Lent will challenge us to carry that pain *without* fear. It will challenge us to let go of those things that stop us from being able to hope. This is a journey that we all share, and because we know the truth of Resurrection, we can help one another not stay *lost in loss* but be *found in hope!*

## **OLWEUS ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM**

As most of you know, All Saints School has been given a tremendous grant for the purpose of piloting this anti-bullying program in our school. As part of the grant, we are connected to the Catholic Education Office of the Archdiocese.

Since August, our school has done the following:

- ◆ We have established an **Olweus Bullying Prevention Committee** composed of staff, teachers, administration, and parents/guardians;
- ◆ We have had this group professionally trained by an **Olweus** professional;
- ◆ Teachers, staff, and playground monitors attended a full day training;
- ◆ And, on the Monday of Catholic Schools, we had a fantastic **Olweus** kick-off for all our students.

**Olweus Anti-Bullying Program** is now an official part of All Saints School!

Do you notice that there is one VERY IMPORTANT component missing from this program?

**YES, THAT WOULD BE YOU!**

Parent/Guardian involvement and support for this program will result in many benefits. First, you will be reinforcing the same anti-bullying messages and Christian message of caring for others. This, then, provides a consistent message for your child in all areas of his/her life. Secondly, your involvement and support improves collaboration and cooperation should a bullying situation occur. By understand the program, some of the uncomfortable aspects of addressing bullying situations can be reduced. We can all learn together to assume a solution—oriented as much as possible.

***Because you are essential to this program, we are setting a mandatory meeting for all parents/guardians. We would appreciate both parents/guardians attending but at least one must attend:***

**MARCH 16, MONDAY  
6:30 P.M.  
IN THE GYM**

**The “MC” for the evening is JILL DEVINE from  
“THE BULL”**

**Lynn Lang, trainer for the Olweus Program, will  
speak.**

**PLEASE RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THE  
FLYER THAT IS IN YOUR FOLDER.**

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION AND EDUCATION

**HOW WELL WE CELEBRATED!** And how much you certainly stretched your "HEARTS AROUND THE WORLD"! We are so grateful for all that was done to help us celebrate *Mission Carnival 2009*.. What a truly successful reaching out we had once again! The needs of the poor will be met with Dr. Eck's Appalachian program. And our project associated with the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the "**Solidarity with Southern Sudan**" project which will help with rebuilding after 21 years of civil war where the people have been brutalized and have suffered greatly for their cultural, ethnic, and religious identity, having been persecuted and sold into slavery.

Both of these projects will be more joy-filled and enriched through the gift of the children of All Saints. Our projected profit of \$4,100 from the carnival was outstanding this year. The carnival fun and excitement abounded in the gym on Feb. 13 and the hours of preparation beforehand were deeply blessed. Thank you, parents and guardians, for all your assistance; thank you, ASPA, for the delicious lunch; thank you from the **grateful global heart of God!**

### ALL SAINTS SPEECH TEAM

We are pleased to announce the results of the Second Bellarmine Speech Meet of the 2008-2009 school year which was held on Saturday, February 7th. This competition is open to students in Grades 5-8. All of our students were outstanding. Results are as follow:

#### **DUET DIVISION –**

Peyton G. & Sophie C.— Red Ribbon, Second Place  
Rachel W. & Emily M. — Red Ribbon, Second Place

#### **HUMOROUS DIVISION –**

Elaine E. – Gold Ribbon, Perfect Score  
Owen C. – Blue Ribbon, First Place

#### **SERIOUS DIVISION –**

Ben H. — Red Ribbon, Second Place

Special thanks to our school coaches, Mrs. Lapinski, Mrs. Mesler and Mrs. Williams and our school judges for the day, Mrs. Carlson.

The next scheduled Speech Meet is Saturday, March 21, at St. Peters in St. Charles



**MISSOURI MATH LEAGUE CONTEST &  
ST. DOMINIC MATH FESTIVAL**

February 17th, 2009 Seventh and Eighth Grade students at All Saints participated in the Missouri Math League in school competition. The Missouri Math League was formed to promote interest and enjoyment for the subject of Math.

February 10, 2009 6th, 7th, 8th Grade students attended the St. Dominic Math Festival. In the Individual Round, the following students received ribbons:

**6th Grade**

Luke S.—Superior Rating—Red Ribbon

**7th Grade**

Matt D.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Jim G.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Sam C.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Liam P.—Superior Rating—Red Ribbon

Tom G.—Superior Rating—Red Ribbon

Evan D.—Superior Rating—Red Ribbon

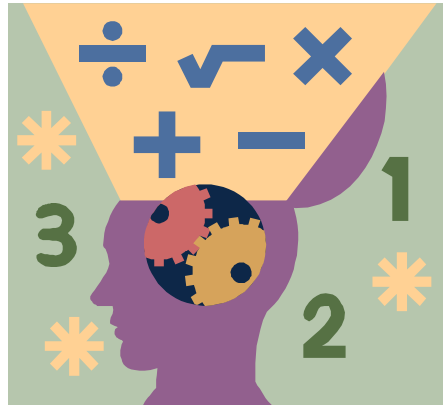
**8th Grade**

Nolan M.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Rob F.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Joe M.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Joey K.—Superior Rating—Red Ribbon



In the Triples Round, All Saints received the following ribbons. We would like to mention that these teams were only made up of two students instead of the three that are allowed.

**White Ribbon — Good Rating**

Jim H. & Matt D.

Rob F. & Bennett B.

**Red Ribbon—Superior Rating**

Craig M. & Tom G.

Adam G. & Erik R.

Joey K. & Maddie B.

Joe M. & Evan D.

**Blue Ribbon—Excellent Rating & the top Triples in the entire competition:**

Nolan M. & Liam P.

The Elimination Round is chosen by scores achieved in the Individual Test Round. The top eight 6th & 7th graders and the twenty top 8th graders are invited into this round. All Saints had three of the eight top scoring 7th graders in this round, and three of the top twenty 8th graders. The results were:

**7th Grade**

Tom G.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Evan D.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Liam P.—Superior Rating—Red Ribbon

**8th Grade**

Joe M.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Nolan M.—Good Rating—White Ribbon

Rob F.—Excellent Rating—Blue Ribbon

Rob finished fourth in the Elimination Round. **WAY TO GO, ROB!!**

Thank you, Mrs. Marilyn Peacock, Junior High Math Teacher

**Fantastic Job All Saints!!!!**

## ACADEMIC BOWL

Mrs. Peacock and Mrs. Wegescheide would like to announce the results of the Academic Bowl held at I.C.D. on Tuesday, February 10th. Nineteen of our junior high students participated. The All Saints Gold Team made up of Rob F., Dominic N., Nolan M., Marissa S., Evan D., Jim G., Kelly S., Lia V., and alternates Andrew W. and Samantha N. came in third out of 20 teams. That is the best placement All Saints has ever had in the Academic Bowl. The Blue Team also did very well coming in fifth out of 20. The Blue Team was made up of Craig M., Joe M., Brigid S., Joey K., Tom G., Owen C., Ally M., and Tyler C.

Congratulations All Saints Aca-  
We are proud of you!!!

ademic Bowl Teams for a great job!!!



## REMINDER

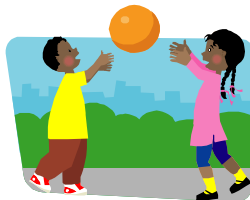
### SIXTH GRADE CAMP PARENT MEETING



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
7 P.M. in the PARISH CENTER

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

There are several openings available in the After School Care Program. If interested, call Mrs. Joyce Reitmeyer at 636-397-4125 for more information or to register your child in the program.



### ATTACHMENTS:

SCRIP Report  
Re-enrollment Reminder  
Olweus Anti-Bullying Flier  
Barnes & Noble Flier  
STUCO Dress Down Flier  
Safety Planning Info (2)

## All Saints Builds Friendships in Belize

Dear Friends and Family,

A few mishaps are expected when twenty people travel over 4,000 miles via four airplanes, two buses, two vans, and a couple of water taxis. You'd count on at least one lost suitcase or flat tire. Everything fell perfectly into place last month when our mission team traveled to southern Belize. Thanks to your generosity we left St. Louis with 2,000 lbs. of donations and at least as many prayers. Your support ensured another successful, unforgettable mission experience!

Time spent in the villages reminded us of all we take for granted back home. We stopped our van to offer a ride to a barefoot woman walking down the dirt road carrying her young son, Leroy, who was ill. She asked to be taken to the health clinic about four miles away! The one bus traveling to Punta Gorda Town leaves the village at the end of the road at about 4:00 AM only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It returns later in the evening. So, if someone gets seriously injured or ill on Monday, he has to wait until Wednesday to get to the hospital in P.G, unless he is able to charter a ride from someone in the village. Nobody in San Lucas owns a car, but there is one motorcycle. The drive from San Lucas to Punta Gorda takes about 1 ½ hours.

The All Saints Mission Team participated in several projects this year. I feel blessed for having had the opportunity to live and work with such a great group of people including: Ann and Conde Canedy, Jay Couch, Carol and Jack Deveney, Mike, Bridget, and Colleen Doherty, Kathy Kane, Shannon Lacker, Bob and Rebecca Mueller, Jaime Powers, Dave Rauh, Anne and Mike Schappe, Chris Schmid, Joanne Turek and Fr. Don Wester. Their friendship means the world to me because of the unique experiences we have shared.

A vanload of volunteers helped to build a concrete-block church in the village of Midway. Others assisted at a nearby health clinic as well as the emergency unit at the hospital in Punta Gorda. A few team members worked with the *Animals for Others* project and learned that vaccinating pigs is no picnic. Two men spent a day building shelves at the convent where we stayed. Our education team headed off each day to teach and tutor in three elementary schools. In addition to presenting a health and hygiene program, we assisted teachers with math, reading, and science activities. The Pen Pal Project was a big hit with students who exchanged photos and responded to letters from friends in the U.S. We also introduced watercolor marker painting and how to make origami jumping frogs and googly-eyed pipe cleaner people. Shannon and I played *Duck, Duck, Goose* with the little ones and sang *The Hokey Pokey*, *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, and *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*. They taught us how to play *Rat, Rat* and how to sing *Building of the Temple of the Lord*.

We had enough health and hygiene items, school supplies and instruction materials to bring several suitcases full to "our" three schools in the villages of Blue Creek, Santa Teresa, and San Lucas. Specific items requested by teachers at two additional schools visited last year, Otoxha and Dolores, were delivered to them. Students at San Lucas could hardly wait to show us that their teachers had hung wall clocks in every classroom, some still framed by the display boxes they came in. Our construction team took school supplies to Sunday Wood, last year's church construction site, and to Midway. Hundreds of donated flip flops were distributed among each and every one of our Belizean students! Most of the extras were given to a health clinic in Santa Teresa. Many children wore their new flip flops to school, but took them off to run and

play at recess. Dorla Bowman asked that we bring small toys for the children “to help them enjoy their childhood days.” We brought soccer balls, frisbees, marbles, tennis balls, matchbox cars, beanie babies, dolls, jewelry, and lots of sparkly hair accessories!

After delivering teachers to other schools every morning, Fr. Don, Shannon and I continued driving to the farthest school, in the village of San Lucas. The people and scenery along the way inspired quite a few memorable conversations, which were either so touching or hysterically funny that we’d all end up crying! On the way to our first day at school, we discovered my friend, Conceptione Caal, walking down the road with a horse and her husband of two weeks, Felix. They invited us to the home they shared with Felix’s family and our visits became a daily habit. By mid week, the women would sprint down the path to our van smiling with their hair down (literally). Fr. Don arranged for Felix to sell his hand-carved wooden forks and spoons to several members of the mission team!

Some of last year’s volunteers who could not join us sent photographs for the children. Students at San Lucas were delighted to see pictures of Kris Burkemper and Mary Leonard, so Shannon and I taped them to the classroom walls. Fr. Don seemed to enjoy every moment of his return to classroom teaching. At the end of the week the father of one of his students, Benedicto, thanked him for the time Don spent with his son. Those little ones loved Shannon and fought to hold her hand all week. She remembers the names of every student in “our” school and still watches videos of them singing every day!

We were fortunate to see *Socio-Economic Outreach* founder, Dorla Bowman, and her assistant, Mario Chub, daily. Dorla is one of the most amazing people I’ve ever met. She is highly-educated and works tirelessly to improve the quality of life for many Belizeans, especially women and the poor. She arranged a cultural night so that we could learn the history and dances of the Garifuna people. There, the principal of St. Peter Claver School, a large school in Punta Gorda, asked for my email address because he is trying to revive the school’s fine arts program. (Hmmm....another possible project) Dorla hosted a delicious dinner party for us on the rooftop patio at her home. After dinner I found her in the kitchen preparing plates of leftovers for her neighbors.

Our team shared a few meals and celebrated Mass with Fr. Dick Perl, Pastor of St. Peter Claver parish in Punta Gorda, who also serves thirty-two surrounding Mayan villages in the Toledo District. We were able to bring most of the items on his wish list for the parish, including about 40 First Communion dresses! At the end of the week, Fr. Dick gave each one of us a mission solidarity ring and a wooden crucifix. The rings are made from cohune nuts, and treasured by all who receive one.

Fr. Dick arranged for us to meet with Mr. Telesforo Paquiul, the Assistant Manager of School Administration for thirty Roman Catholic schools. (Fr. Dick is the Manager) We asked a lot of questions and learned that teachers in the U.S. are pretty lucky! 50% of schools in Toledo district have only 2-4 teachers in multi-level classrooms. The school year lasts from September-June. Teachers are expected to be on call throughout the month of August for workshops and meetings. The minimum requirement for teaching is completion of high school and a teaching license. Beginning teachers make \$455US/ month. Teachers with an education degree earn \$600US/month. Those working in nineteen hardship communities earn an additional \$100/ week. (Keep in mind that many staple items are more expensive than in the U.S. because they

are imported.) Principals also teach in the schools and earn an Additional Responsibility Allowance. Salaries are paid by the government. The church is responsible for hiring principals and teachers, and provides the school building and all supplies. Villages are responsible for providing their schools with “extra” luxuries like plumbing and electricity. San Lucas has neither.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to Julian Cho Technical High School, where Anne Schappe and I met with the principal and Alicia Salam, one of the two girls sponsored by the All Saints Belize Scholarship fund. The other young woman, Adelita Ack, was not at school that day because of an illness. The principal explained that students from remote villages are the most conscientious because of the sacrifices made to get them to school. Alicia catches her bus at about 5:00AM and returns home at about 5:00PM. She is working hard and looking forward to receiving her report card!

No visit to Belize would be complete without lunchtime visits to a few homes. Of course, we had to drop in on Isabella Caal and her family, where we met their newest addition and ninth child, Irma. When we visited Principal Julio Cal’s house for lunch we saw pipe cleaner guys sitting on a shelf with their little legs dangling. Julio’s two-year old son, Edgar, made motor noises while playing with a matchbox car we had given to him. We ate lunch one day with Matt, a Peace Corps volunteer, in his home. He enjoyed his first two-year assignment in San Lucas so much that he extended his stay for a third year. I’m sure that tall skinny white guy stands out like a beacon when he does his laundry and bathes in the river! We were invited to visit the home of Mr. Saki, the woodcarver. His daughter, Maria Elena, jumped up on a block of wood, proudly displaying the flip flops she had selected earlier that morning. If we had a good sport award, it would have gone to Jaime and Joanne. They joined Rob, Anita Dutrow’s Peace Corps friend, for lunch at a home in Santa Teresa. Their hostess was proud to serve them gibunut, which resembles a dog-sized guinea pig and is referred to as the royal rat because it was served to Queen Elizabeth when she visited Belize. Unfortunately they could not describe how gibunut tastes because the family had displayed its bloody, severed head on the table during the meal!

At the end of the week, the construction team joined us in San Lucas for an assembly featuring speeches from PTA members, recitals, songs, and gifts from the students. Our team distributed rosaries made by the All Saints Rosary Club. The celebration was held in the new church, which a mission team I joined in 2005 helped to build. The women of the village prepared a meal of chicken caldo and tortillas. We all packed into the small, thatched-roof, “older” church for lunch. Obviously, the entire village had cooperated to prepare for and share a memorable celebration. Most of us left teary-eyed with gratitude for having been part of their village for a week.

We spent our last two days at the beach in Placencia. Rob joined us throughout the weekend. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to rest and just “be” on the beach together. Images of the week before swept across the ocean before us as Fr. Don said Mass on the beach at sunset. Rob sang and we all waited as Anne tried to consume the remainder of a large Creole bun and Carol spilled wine in the sand. The Eucharistic celebration was so perfectly “us” that it seemed more like a family meal.

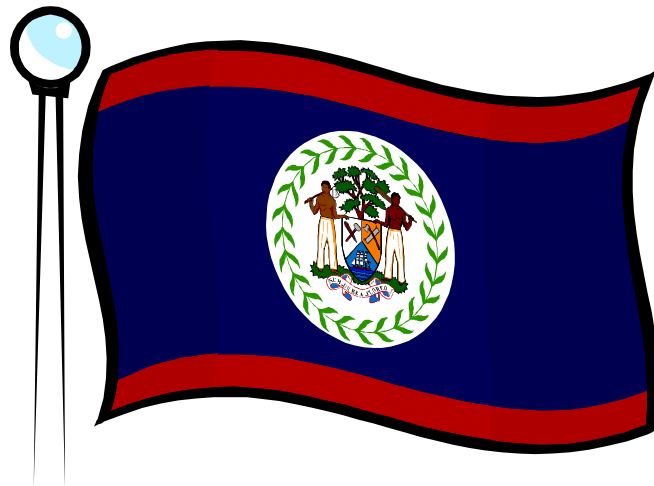
If I had to choose one word to describe this mission experience on a personal level, it would be FRIENDSHIP. January’s trip would not have been possible without donations, financial contributions and prayers from family and friends, who came up with everything on our huge

wish list! Our mission team finds excuses to spend time together throughout the year and we couldn't wait to get back to Belize. Friendships continued to grow with eight new team members joining us. Working in the school each day I saw my daughter Shannon as a responsible, nurturing young woman and got to know the "Don" side of Fr. Don. Each year the trip back to Toledo district seems more like visiting out-of-town family. As spread out as the villages are, I feel like I'm returning to a small town, meeting familiar friends along the road each day.

People have asked me "Do you think that going to Belize and working for only one week really makes a difference in the lives of those people?" I believe that the answer is "YES!" Of course, we return from Belize as different people because we have witnessed the unequal distribution of the world's wealth. We've met others with few possessions and overwhelming gratitude for God's gifts of land on which to farm, rivers in which to bathe, and fires on which to cook. We've been to a place where a five year old girl can walk down a deserted road without fear. We bring back so much more than we deliver. Sure, we cannot change the world in one week by building that concrete church wall a few feet higher and providing 250 students with much-needed school supplies. We cannot change the world by sending two girls to high school and uniting children 1,900 miles apart through songs, games, and letters. However, I like to think that we are making the world a better place, one step at a time, and that's good enough for me. One pair of flip flops doesn't seem like much until you're trying to find space to pack three hundred pairs for children who have no shoes. I know that we are making a difference in the lives of our Belizean friends because we've been asked to return year after year. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers, donations, and financial support, which enabled our mission team to transform ideas into reality while strengthening our connection with friends in southern Belize.

Bantiox!

Ann Lacker



# **REMINDER**

**IT'S CRUCIAL FOR OUR  
SCHOOL AND OUR  
TEACHERS TO HAVE  
YOUR REGISTRATION  
RETURNED BY NEXT  
FRIDAY, FEB. 27TH**

**Thank you,  
Administration and  
Board of Education**

**ALL SAINTS SCHOOL  
“PARTNERING WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
NIGHT”**

**OLWEUS ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM**

**MARCH 16—MONDAY—6:30 P.M.— GYM**

*“The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program has had a positive impact on our entire school of over 650 students and staff. We have become a safe predictable environment for all, and all feel empowered to make a difference. Following our first full year of implementation, bullying referrals have decreased by 68%.”*

Edgerton Elementary School

It is necessary for you to attend. Your child/ren and our school need **YOU**. We all need each other!

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**OLWEUS ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM**

**“PARTNERING WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
NIGHT”**

FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD/REN IN GRADE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by Monday, March 9**