

Thursday Thoughts
November 12, 2009
Carlton Rider
Principal

The big weekend is almost here! Our annual Holiday Happening opens this Saturday, November 14th at 12:00 noon and will run until 8:00 p.m. On Sunday, November 15th the hours are from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with lots of entertainment, games, food, and good fellowship throughout our two day Happening. Many thanks to our students for hitting the pavement and selling raffle tickets the last few weeks. There are numerous parent volunteers to thank for getting everything ready for this big event, too numerous to name here, but know that your time and talent, as volunteers, is much appreciated. It should be a good time for all who attend and I look forward to seeing everybody this weekend.

The question is frequently asked at this time of the year as to when this annual event first took place and who organized it. As far as I know, it began over 40 years ago when two ladies, Mary Catherine McAfee, the cafeteria manager at the time, and Mary Motter approached the principal, Sister Joanne Baltz, with an idea to raise funds for the school by hosting a craft show. Around \$3,500 was raised through this first effort and the tradition grew from that first year to what it is today – an event that raises over \$40,000 a year and helps provide funds for academic-oriented field trips, the after-school Spanish program, art projects, authors, visits from COSI, inflatable day, to name just a few things. In past years, funds raised from the Holiday Happening have been used for the purchase of stage and window curtains in the gym area, lockers for the second and third floors of our main building, tables for our cafeteria and the weather bug camera. In more recent years, the funds raised have gone toward the academic-oriented areas mentioned above along with physical education equipment. Basically, all of the funds raised go back to our students in enhancing their education at St. Mary's.

Parent/Teacher conferences begin this week on Thursday, November 12th between 3:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and on Thursday, November 19th between 3:00 – 8:30 p.m. Conference request forms were sent home with you child's report card last Thursday. Call our school office at 740-654-1632 if you need to schedule an appointment.

Due to the gym area being prepared for the Holiday Happening, there will be NO cafeteria service this Friday, November 13th. Students will be eating on the bleachers that day.

Don't forget that the first day of our Thanksgiving break is Wednesday, November 25th. Tuesday, November 24th IS NOT an early dismissal.

If you are the parent of an 8th grade student, we recently received applications for the Shelly Strigle Memorial Scholarship. Deadline for the application is Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Call or visit the school office for further information or an application.

See you at the Holiday Happening!