



# PAW PRINTS

## WESTSIDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL



ONE FAITH. ONE FAMILY. ONE FUTURE.

MARCH 14, 2014

### PARENTS – EXTENDED MAKE-UP DAYS!

Due to the school day cancelation on March 3, we will follow the decision EVSC and Mater Dei has made to go an **additional hour of school for six days Monday, March 31 – Monday, April 7, 2014.**

Next week is Spring Break and no school March 24-28! We hope everyone has an enjoyable week and safe travels to those heading out of town.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, students may wear an appropriate GREEN top/sweatshirt with their uniforms bottoms to school on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### PEN PALS



First Grade students are writing letters to their pen pals. They have been pen pals with a First Grade class from Indianapolis since January. They love receiving their letters as much as writing to their pen pals!

Pictured writing their pen pal letters are **Evan Schaefer, Ethan Stolz and Aiden Robb.**

### TEEN POWER

Middle School Students - consider yourself invited! It's never too early to get excited about Youth Resources' TEENPOWER!



**What:** Youth Resources' TEENPOWER Camp is a jam-packed conference designed to empower youth to lead drug-free lifestyles while engaging them in leadership development and community service.

**When:** Middle School TEENPOWER (Fall 2014 7th & 8th graders), Monday June 23, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. to Wednesday June 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** University of Southern Indiana

This year we are again using our online registration system to streamline the process for you and for us. This invitation contains a link to a registration form that you will need to fill out with Participant, School and Parent/Guardian information.

Your student is **NOT** officially registered until we receive payment of your registration fee of \$195 for Middle School TEENPOWER. You will be mailed a packet of information - including a health form and detailed instructions about drop-off and pick-up - in mid-April.

For more information about YR & TEENPOWER, visit the Youth Resources website! <http://www.youth-resources.org/Teen-Power.aspx>

## HELPING MOTHER NATURE



Mr. Ricketts and some of our students from the St. Agnes campus decided to help Mother Nature along in bringing Spring our way. Although we always tell the students “not” to play on the ice or snow, we felt it was most appropriate to use our street hockey sticks and just have fun chopping the snow away. Boy, did the **Kindergarten** and **First Grade** have fun!

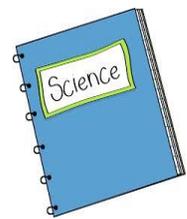
## PEELERS

The P.T.O. wants to thank all families that participated in the Peeler Fundraiser this year. We made \$2,690 off of our Peeler Sales. Congratulations to our lucky winner Lilly Reising, our \$100 gift card recipient for selling all 10 cards and returning them back to school on time!

## SCIENCE DISCOVERIES

Grade 6 science students **Mitchell Hoon, Daniel Hackney, Cooper Hobbs** and **Travis Kirsch** (right) are germinating radish seeds in 4 different simulated biomes. So far the pond and rainforest biomes show the best conditions for germination.

8th graders **Betsy Happe & Makenzie Warren** and **Flannery Bishop** are using colored gummy bears to show patterns of inheritance in their unit on genetics. They are studying basic dominant/recessive Mendelian patterns as well as complex patterns including incomplete and co-dominance.



## LOOKING AHEAD

March	17	Happy St. Patrick's Day	April	1-7	Extended 1 hour days
	18-20	IREAD3		2	Grade 7 & 8 Field Trip to Ferdinand
	18	6:00 School Board Meeting			5:30 PTO Officer Meeting
	20	5:00-8:00 Burger King Give Back Night		4	FREE DRESS
	21	Evansville Philharmonic Gr. 4 & 5		7	Strengthening Families
	24-28	Spring Break		8	6:00 PTO Meeting
	31	Extended 1 hour day		10	Mater Dei Band visits Gr. 3 and 4
					6:00 Talent Show at SBC Gym
				13	Palm Sunday

## **RELIGION: MOVE IT OR LOSE HIM**

**By Rev. Alex Zenthoefer**

Reading the gospels can feel at times like approaching an indecisive squirrel on the road, which isn't quite sure which way to dart for safety. Jesus always seems to be on the move: healing here, preaching there. He is constantly hiking from one place to another, usually surrounded by a crowd of limping, coughing and possessed beggars.

The fact that Jesus is always moving means that for those who claim to follow him there is a requirement to move. If you are not moving, then you are not following. I have discovered the significance of this reality over the last several months as I serve the two Catholic parishes of Christ the King and Holy Spirit here in Evansville.

Recently Bishop Charles Thompson unveiled the strategic plan for our diocese, which includes the merging of our two parishes on July 1. We could reduce it to a reorganization of resources or slip into a lament on the number of active priests, but at the heart of this move is a request from Jesus: "Follow me."

It's an invitation for two entire communities to look at themselves and consider where they are being called to go. It could be tempting as the pastor to seize some illusion of control and implement my own vision of where I think we should go. But then I would end up being that squirrel in the middle of the street with a caravan of congregants driving my way.

Instead we have solicited the input of a large number of parishioners from both churches serving on a variety of committees, nine in total, to help us move forward with a direction. We don't want to just merge parishes because it is an inevitable fact. We want to merge with a mission so that we are moving toward a destination rather than running from a past that is no longer effective.

The first priority has been to establish a name for the new merged parish. We are blessed in that both churches will remain open with their current names, but we will take on a new "family name." This new family, which will live in two houses of prayer, will continue its mission of educating children and caring for those in our local community. Suggestions for this new family name have been collected from the congregations and our Naming Committee has compiled a list of five names that will be voted on by the congregations in the near future. I think of Abram and Sarai whose names were changed after God chose them to play a critical role in his divine plan. I think of Jacob who became Israel, Saul who became Paul and Simon who became Peter, all as a result of being chosen for a particular mission. So it is for us. As we begin this new mission in our little corner of the world, we mark its inception with a new name.

It is an exciting time for us. I know that we have made mistakes and I am sure there are more waiting to be made, but I am grateful that we have been given this opportunity to take stock of who we are and what we need as we take these next steps. We are not so different from the crippled, moaning beggars who followed Jesus around Galilee. We still need direction and hope and healing. And we will find it as they did: by knowing our need and following him.

*Article from the Evansville Courier and Press 3.7.14. Fr. Alex Zenthoefer is a Westside Catholic School and Mater Dei Graduate. He is currently Pastor of Christ the King and Holy Spirit Parishes in Evansville.*