

October 2011

St. Croix
Lutheran High School
of West St. Paul



ST. CROIX

Informing Parents. Reaching Out to Friends.

www.StCroixSchools.org

NEW FEATURES

Current students and several alumni share their “reflections.” in a video posted at www.stcroixschools.org/Admissions

Advanced Writing students have a blog -- linked from www.StCroixSchools.org/hs.

Find SCLHS on Facebook and “like” us for updates and highlights!

Along with the wider text screen, now you can return to the “home” page with a click on the SCL logo in the upper left corner!

HOMECOMING OCT. 3-8, 2011

Homecoming Details posted at www.StCroixSchools.org/homecoming

Join the Fun!

Support the Crusaders!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED

Parent-Teacher conferences for HS and MS students will be held on Monday, October 17 (families A-M), and Monday, October 24 (families N-Z). These are both walk-in conferences where the teachers are at tables in the Commons and parents are seated while they wait for a particular teacher. Middle School teachers will be stationed in the hallway leading from the Commons to the MS Office. Parents can visit all of their child’s teachers or select which ones to visit. Depending on the size of the crowd, visiting all your child’s teachers can take 40–90 minutes. The conferences are scheduled for 5:00 – 7:30 on both evenings.

If you cannot attend the evening your family is scheduled alphabetically, feel free to come the other evening, or contact your student’s teachers for alternative meeting times.

SECURITY INFORMATION

In an effort to secure the building, we follow the procedure of closing the doors to the classroom hallways at 3:20. We ask the students to be out of the hallways at that time. If there are no public activities in the building, the doors remain unlocked until 6:00. The front doors to the building also remain unlocked until 6:00 pm.

If there is a public activity (i.e., a volleyball game), the hallway doors are locked at the beginning of the first game (usually 4:30). The front doors remain open until the last game is done. Whenever we lock the hallway doors early, students are asked to get their belongings out of the lockers before the doors are locked. Only coaches are to permit access to the lockers to their own team members following games. Spectators and others are not to be allowed into the classroom hallways.

St. Croix will conduct the state-required number of lockdown and fire drills to make sure that our students are well prepared for safety in case of emergencies. The students were briefed in emergency procedures on the first day of school, and teachers will review with them prior to these scheduled drills.

Please remember to lock all valuables (purses, bags, backpacks, laptops, etc.) in the trunk of your car when parking in our lot, especially during games and activities. There have been reported break-ins and thefts from cars in recent weeks in West St. Paul.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

As part of their continuing work to improve the program of education at St. Croix, the faculty and staff take part in a self-study/improvement-planning cycle that follows a seven-

PARENT NETWORK & DIRECTORY

Those high school families who have joined the Parent Network can receive their copy of the 2011-12 Student/Parent Directory from the main office when they become available (later in October).

If you have not yet joined the Parent Network and are interested, the pledge form is available on our website under Student Life & Activities, Forms.

FINANCIAL OFFICE REMINDER

Don't let your tuition payments get behind. Late fees of \$25 per month will be assessed on all late payments!

Tuition statements will be mailed around the 7th of each month. Convenient and secure online payments can be made from the SCL High School website – click on the link in the left-side navigation bar and complete the form. Remember to click on “confirm” to complete the transaction.

Monthly automatic payments are also available.

Contact Sharee Horzewski at SHorzewski@StCroixSchools.org or at 651-455-1521 ext 103 if you have any questions.

“LIKE” us on

FACEBOOK®

year course. The cycle begins with a yearlong self-study that culminates in the creation of a School Improvement Plan and a visit by an accreditation team. The team, which consists of members of the Minnesota Non-public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA), approves the school for accreditation and makes sure the School Improvement Plan reflects what was noted in the self-study. St. Croix is currently in the third year of the seven-year cycle. To maintain its accreditation, the school must annually show that it is making progress on its School Improvement Plan.

If you would like to see a copy of the self-study, the School Improvement Plan, or the annual reports to the MNSAA, please speak to President Pfeifer, Principal Gibson, or the Director of the Middle School, Todd Russ.

The Strategic Issues to be addressed fall under one of these four areas:

1. Mission
2. Academic Offering
3. Recruitment
4. Financial Health

This year our focus is on seven objectives which are derived from the four areas:

- To enhance and improve student life and school climate through various curricular and extra curricular programs
- To expand the curriculum to meet students' academic endeavors
- To improve technology in the classroom
- To continue to recruit a diverse student population
- To increase financial support to continue a strong and viable school
- To continue to provide a safe, functional, and attractive learning facility
- To work toward a more cohesive 6-12 program

The Board of Regents and General Board have adopted this strategic plan and monitor it through reports from the administration.

JUNIORS VISIT NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

All students in the junior class will attend the National College Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Tuesday, October 4. Buses will transport the juniors to the Fair, departing St. Croix at about 8:40 a.m. and returning by 11:30 a.m. The cost per student for the bus is \$4, to be paid to Pastor Huebner or the main office.

Students will have a chance to meet and visit with representatives of colleges from all over the U.S. in a compact time period. For more details, including a listing of which schools will be present, check out the website at www.nationalcollegefairs.org.

Regular classes will be held during this time for all other students.

FRESHMEN-JUNIORS TAKE STANDARDIZED TESTS OCT. 12

On Wednesday, October 12, the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes will be taking standardized tests in the morning. The freshmen will take the EXPLORE test. The goal of this exam is to begin to make connections between high school coursework and

ANNUAL VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM

To celebrate America and honor all who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Friday, November 11

9:00 a.m. – registration,
coffee social

9:45 a.m. – Chapel
- guests are invited

10:15 a.m. – ceremony in
gymnasium

SCLS Recycles!

Please bring all your used laser and inkjet cartridges and old cell phones to the office at St. Croix Lutheran Schools for recycling.

Mr. Dave Mielke manages this recycling program, and the funds generated purchase non-budgetary items for classrooms and activities. Thank you for contributing these items.

The administration and maintenance department also encourage students and all visitors to SCL to separate their plastic and aluminum recyclables from other trash and deposit them in the tall blue bins in the Commons and hallways.

By utilizing the recycling of plastic bottles and aluminum cans, as well as clean paper collected in classrooms, SCL has reduced its landfill trash by 40%! This reduces the cost of trash collection and helps take care of the environment.

future career options. Freshman students and parents can find out more about the test by visiting www.actstudent.org/explore.

The sophomores will take the PLAN test. This test is intended to measure academic achievement, suggest career options, and help to suggest courses that would be of value in the upcoming years. The link to the information about the PLAN test for students and parents is www.actstudent.org/plan. Both the freshman and sophomore tests are produced by ACT as initial preparation for that exam.

The juniors will be taking the PSAT, which closely mirrors the SAT. It is great preparation for both the SAT and ACT. It is also the test by which they may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. If you have questions about the PSAT, please contact Mr. Pufahl or Mr. Harley. Students can find a question of the day and further information at www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.

Remind your students to prepare for these tests by getting a full night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast before school. Results of these tests will be returned to the students by their advisors later in November.

Early Dismissal October 12 - No School for Seniors

In order to create a more appropriate testing schedule for the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on October 12, school will be dismissed at 12:15 on that day. Seniors will not be required to come into school that day unless they have a rehearsal or practice scheduled.

All 6th – 11th grade students will attend school from 8:05 – 12:15 that day. Lunch will be served beginning at 12:15. Students may stay as late as necessary to be picked up from school, as there will be adults in the building all day.

Some rehearsals or sports practices may be scheduled earlier in the afternoon. The participating students will be informed about such changes.

Seniors are encouraged to use this day to involve themselves in a service project in their community or church. This day may also be a good time for seniors to schedule a college visit.

UPDATES FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT

"Star Struck" Homecoming 2011 is October 3-8. The homecoming parade is at 5:30 on Friday, Oct. 7, followed by the football game against Concordia Academy at 7pm. The Alumni greeting area will feature a chance to win Crusader spirit wear. Alumni can go online at www.stcroixschools.org/alumni to print out their complimentary admission to the football game.

Annual Fund - We are launching the 2011-12 Annual Fund Drive. The Chemistry and Biology rooms have been completed, and Mr. Schacht's Physical and Environmental Sciences room is scheduled for remodeling next summer. Details of this exciting project and how you can help will be coming out soon.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT NOTES

Marching band and pep band are putting together a parade and pre-game entertainment for the Homecoming football game on Friday, October 7. Band students are required to be at Thompson Oaks Golf Course Parking Lot (about ¾ of a mile south of St. Croix on Oakdale Avenue) by 5pm with instruments, music, band jacket, black pants, black socks and black shoes, ready to march.

SENIORS & PARENTS

The deadline for submitting your senior yearbook photo and your "Ad for Grad" is Friday, December 16. Info is posted online on the SCLHS home page.

Teens For Life at SCL

Teens for Life SCLHS Chapter is entering its seventh year as a service-oriented club based on Proverbs 31:8, *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.*

The group supports all life issues from conception to end of life. Each year it selects a different life organization to directly support, and members present demonstrations to the student body and the community. The first presentation for 2011-12 will be walking in the Homecoming parade.

Teens for Life is open to the entire student body and offers opportunities for service credits. If you or your student would like to learn more, please email Mrs. Rebecca Hillstrom at rhillstrom@stcroixschools.org.

Volunteers Needed

Parent volunteers are needed at the Homecoming game to supervise the small children taking turns playing in the inflatable bouncing game, which will be set up at the north end of the home bleachers.

Please contact Jeff Lemke at jlemke@stcroixschools.org or 651-455-1521, ext. 123, if you can help.

Concert - The Band, Choirs and Strings Club of St. Croix will present a Fall Concert on Sunday, October 16. Choir and Chorus members must arrive at St. Croix by 5:45pm dressed in proper concert attire (required). Boys: black pants, black shoes, black socks and a clean white t-shirt. Girls: black shoes and a skirt/dress that the hem does not exceed the hem of the choir robe. Band members and strings club: check at www.stcroixschools.org/mrpufahlsclasses for required attire. All students must be in place to warm up by 5:55pm.

ALL STUDENTS are required to help take equipment down and put away after the concert. This is part of the performance grade. Every student must check out with Mr. Pufahl or Mr. Pasbrig before leaving to receive full credit.

Children's Theatre - Student volunteers will be assisting with the backdrop, set, and props for the Drama Department's children's theater production of Jack and the Giant Beanstalk. The Graphic Design class is working on promotional posters for the play as well.

Visual Arts - Student work from various classes is on display in the case in the entrance hall of school, while the Drawing class's chalk drawing efforts have been put on hold due to the weather.

The National Portfolio Day is being hosted by and at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design on Sunday, October 16 from 12pm - 4pm. Students interested in studies in the art field after high school should consider submitting their work to be critiqued and to get more information on college programs available throughout the country. More info can be found at <http://www.portfolioday.net/>.

MUSIC PARENTS HOST SOCIAL

The Fall Concert will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2011, at 7 pm in the St. Croix gymnasium. The Music Parents Organization (MPO) will host the annual Chili & Pie Social, serving from 4:30 - 6:30 pm on October 16 before the concert. Remember to come early and enjoy fellowship around a bowl of chili and a piece of pie (or two)!

Parents of students in any of the musical groups or classes will receive details via email or in the mail concerning their duties for this event. If you have any questions, contact MPO Chairman Melissa Ivey (theiveysplace@msn.com).

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Students are encouraged to visit with college and career recruiters when they are scheduled at St. Croix in the Guidance Office. See Mrs. Gatzke or Pastor Huebner for a pass from class. October visitors scheduled are:

Monday, October 3	University of Massachusetts, 8:30 am
Weds., October 5	University of St Thomas, 1:00 pm (International Students)
Thursday, October 6	Rutgers University, 10:30 am Clarkson University, 1:30 pm
Thursday, October 13	Wisconsin Lutheran College, All Day
Weds., October 19	Valparaiso University, 1:00 pm

GET CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERING

High school students involved in any volunteer activities at school, church, or in the community should complete the volunteer service hours credit form available online (www.StCroixSchools.org/studentforms) or from the Guidance office.

Though SCL does not require students to clock volunteer hours, hours submitted to the advisors are recorded on the student's transcript.

Many colleges review applications for community service and co-curricular activities in addition to the student's GPA.

Some examples of service or volunteer hours eligible for credit are church or school ushering, teaching/helping with Sunday school or VBS, working for blood drives, church youth group service projects, volunteering in hospitals or care facilities, and community food drives.

Contact your child's advisor if you have questions.

CAREER INFORMATION DAY PRESENTERS NEEDED

St. Croix will hold a Career Information Day (afternoon) for the benefit of our students on Wednesday, November 9. During that afternoon there will be 5 sessions of 25 minutes each, from 12:30 until 2:55, with a 5-minute break between the sessions.

We are seeking a variety of careers for our students to learn about, and parents and/or alumni of St. Croix have a variety of experiences to draw from. If you or someone you work with is interested in presenting some information about a particular career on that day, we would love to hear from you. All of our students will select from the list of topics offered, and then we will do our best to schedule them into the five time slots.

Please respond to the school office at 651-455-1521 or to Pastor David Huebner at dhuebner@stcroixschools.org. Whether you would be available for the whole afternoon or even just for an hour, we can schedule you for as many time slots as you are able to handle. Please let us know by Friday, October 28. Thanks for your consideration!

"JACK AND THE GIANT BEANSTALK" ON STAGE NOV. 19-20

The St. Croix Drama Department's Children's Theatre will present the classic fable *Jack and the Giant Beanstalk*, as dramatized by Linda Daugherty.

You are invited to come see how this version plays out as it is performed on Saturday, November 19 at 2pm and 7pm, and Sunday, November 20 at 2pm in the SCLHS auditorium. This production is appropriate and enjoyable for all ages -- invite your neighbors and friends!

STUDENT COUNCIL 2011-12

Elected by their classmates and peers, the 2011-12 HS Student Council is comprised of the following students, with faculty advisors Pastor Leach and Mrs. Hillstrom.

President: Maria G.
Vice President: Marissa L.
Secretary: Jackie C.
Treasurer: Katelyn K.

International Representatives: Jialin L. and Wanchen C.

Senior Class President: Chelsea A.
Representatives: Matt L. and Mary W.

Junior Class President: Jeremy S.
Representatives: Zach H. and Tori R.

Sophomore Class President: Aaron Z.
Representatives: Mitch K. and Afton S.

Freshmen Class President: Sofie K.
Representatives: Caleb J. and Alexis S.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 1 ACT Prep Class Session 2, 8am - Noon
- 4 National College Fair - Juniors attend
- 7 End of 6 weeks
Homecoming Parade - 5:30pm, Oakdale Avenue
Varsity Football game - 7pm
- 8 Homecoming Dance (semi-formal) - 7:30-11:30pm, Commons
- 10 Early Dismissal - 2:37 pm, Teacher work time
- 11 Grade School Soccer Semi-finals - 4pm
- 12 Testing Day - PSAT/NMSQT, Juniors; PLAN, Sophomores; Explore, Freshmen
Early Dismissal at 12:15 for Grades 6-11
No School for Grade 12
- 13 Board of Regents Meeting - 7pm
- 14 Grade School Volleyball - 4pm
Grade School Soccer - 7pm
- 15 ACT Prep Class Session 3 - 8am - 12:00pm
- 16 High School & Middle School Open House - 2-4:30pm
Chili & Pie Social - 4:30-6:30pm, Commons
Fall Concert - 7pm, Gym
- 17 Early Dismissal - 2:37 pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences - 5-7:30pm, Commons
- 20-21 NO SCHOOL - Teachers' Conference
- 24 Early Dismissal - 2:37pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences - 5-7:30pm, Commons
Dance Team season begins
A+ Driving Classes begin - 3-6pm, Room 113
- 25 Right Triangle Theater Begins - 6:45 AM, Room 104
- 29 Grade Schools Public Speaking Meet @ SCLHS
- 30 Area Reformation Festival Service - 4pm, St. Croix Chapel
- 31 Girls' Hockey season begins

November

- 1-4 A+ Driving Class - 3-6pm, Room 113
- 9 Career Information Day
- 11 WELS Choral Festival Pops Concert - 7pm, MLC, New Ulm
Veterans Day Program - 9-11am, Chapel and Gym
- 12 Festival of Seasons Boutique - 9am-4pm, Commons and Gym
Elementary Forensics Meet - West Lutheran HS
WELS Choral Festival - MLC, New Ulm
- 13 WELS Choral Festival Sacred Concert - 2pm, MLC, New Ulm
- 14 Girls Basketball and Boys Hockey begin
Music Parents Organization Meeting - 6pm
- 17 Red Cross Blood Drive (NHS) - 8am-1pm, Gym
Board of Regents Meeting - 7pm
- 18 End of 12 Weeks
Early Dismissal - 2:37 pm
- 19 "Jack and the Giant Beanstalk" - 2pm and 7pm, Auditorium
- 20 "Jack and the Giant Beanstalk" - 2pm, Auditorium
- 21 Wrestling and Boys Basketball begin
- 24-25 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

HOMECOMING DRESS-UP DAYS and ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Monday: Pajamas & "Dig PINK" Day
Dodgeball at 2:09 pm - Gym

Tuesday: Generation Day
9th - Babies
10th - Toddlers
11th - Adults
12th - Elderly
Volleyball at 2:09 pm - Gym

Wednesday: Class Color Day
9th - yellow
10th - orange
11th - blue
12th - black
Pep Fest & Classes & Faculty Skits 6pm - Gym
Powder Puff Football at 7:15pm - Stadium
(weather permitting)

Thursday: Star Struck Character Day
(Celebrity or Astronomy)
Activity during Homeroom

Friday: Spirit Day (wear school colors)
Indoor Soccer at 2:09pm - Gym
Parade on Oakland Avenue - 5:30 pm
Bake sale & Concessions - 5:30 - 8:30 pm -
East ("home") side of Stadium
Football Game vs. Concordia Academy- 7pm
Kick, Pass & Spike - Halftime on the field

Saturday: Semi-formal Dance at 7:30-11:30pm



FESTIVAL OF SEASONS BOUTIQUE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011
9 AM to 4 PM

CRAFT SALE

About 100 Vendors—many of them new!

FREE ADMISSION

- Arts & Crafts - Bake Sale
- Entertainment

St. Croix Lutheran High School
1200 Oakdale Ave.

West St. Paul, Minnesota

For more information please contact:

Lynn Kosloske at: lkosloske@aol.com
(612) 750-0022



Funding provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Crafter registration fees will benefit the Athletic Dept.



1200 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118-2601

P 651.455.1521 F 651.451.3968

www.StCroixSchools.org

Gene Pfeifer, PhD., President
gpfeifer@StCroixSchools.org

Richard Gibson, Principal
rgibson@StCroixSchools.org