Catholic Schools Celebrate Service: The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2009 celebrates Catholic schools and community service. This year's theme highlights Christian duty and the delight we feel in giving. After all, it is in giving that we receive.

The 2009 theme links to a recently completed NCEA initiative, "Birthday Blessings for Pope Benedict." During the pope's April 2008 visit to the United States, Catholic youth were asked to pledge hours of community service to honor the Pope's 81st birthday. More than two million hours of service were pledged by the end of the campaign!

Please join in our Catholic Schools Week 2009 celebration. Participate in the activities and, if you can, volunteer your time. Visit the classrooms during our Open House, meet with the students and teachers, and congratulate them on their accomplishments. Encourage friends who may be considering Catholic education for their children to visit the school.

Also, take time to express your appreciation to Monsignor Swope, our teachers, staff, school council members, volunteers and supporters and everyone else involved in making Saint Michael School a special place. Through their dedication and commitment, they make our school exceptional and truly "light the way" for our students.

These are the events we have planned for this year's celebration. Please join us in celebrating and supporting Catholic Schools Week. Spread the Good News!

SATURDAY. January 24th - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SERVICE: IN OUR PARISH

A. 4:00 PM Catholic Schools Week Liturgy - Students will wear uniforms

ALL students and teachers are expected to be at the Basilica by 3:45 PM. The students who signed up to sing in the Choir will meet in the choir loft. Students who are not singing with the Choir will meet in Basilica Hall and process in as a school family to celebrate the Liturgy. Since this is a celebration recognizing Catholic schools, **students are asked to wear uniforms.** Kindergarten students should wear dress clothes. **AH students who are in attendance, and In uniform, will be awarded a dress down day on Monday, February 2nd (Groundhog Day).**

B. Open House/Hospitality Hour - Open House will be held in the school following the liturgy. Parents, students and parishioners are invited to view the family projects hanging in the hallway and to read the Catholic Schools Week paragraphs, essays or poems displayed in the hallway.

C. Coffee, cookies and punch will be available in the cafeteria during Open House. All students, families and parishioners are welcome to enjoy the refreshments.

D. In order to serve and to show compassion for the less fortunate in our area, parents & students are asked to bring canned goods or other nonperishable food items to our Hospitality Hour (or to school throughout the week) for our" Food Fight." These donated items will be given to the Dorothy Day Center.

MONDAY January 26th - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SERVICE: IN OUR STUDENTS

DRESS DOWN DAY - Student Choice (attire must be school appropriate)

Pizza will be ordered for lunch, a sundae bar will be offered and drinks will be provided. Students will eat at their regular time.

John Robertson, a magician, will perform for the students @ 1:00 in OLOL hall.

(We thank our Home-School Association for their willingness to pay for lunch as well as for the entertainment).

Saint Francis University's World Drumming Ensemble (featuring Jim Donovan, former drummer from Rusted Root) will present an uplifting evening of drumming and song tonight from 7:15 - 8:15 PM at Our Lady of Loretto Parish Hall. **All proceeds will go toward improving our Music Program so your attendance at this event will be appreciated. Suggested donation Is $3.00 (adult) and $1.00 (children). All students who are present this evening will be awarded a dress down day on Friday, February 6*.**

NO HOMEWORK TONIGHT - NO TESTS TOMORROW!

TUESDAY January 27th - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SERVICE: IN OUR COMMUNITY

STUDENTS WEAR UNIFORMS

"Help Our Firefighters Serve" - loose change contest between homerooms. Winning room will have a DRESS DOWN DAY and NO HOMEWORK NIGHT! Money collected throughout the week will be donated to the Loretto Volunteer Fire Company.

Students will decorate Bingo Bags and make a Thank You banner for those who support our Bingo.

Thank You cards to Loretto businesses will be made and delivered.

Cards for bus drivers will be given to students to give to their driver.

Community "Celebrity" Speaker - Sr. Marilyn Welch, a Carmelite Sister of the Word, will speak to the students about her first hand experience as a Missionary in Haiti.

WEDNESDAY January 28th - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SERVICE: IN OUR VOLUNTEERS

STUDENTS WILL WEAR UNIFORMS

Volunteer/Supporter Luncheon @ 12:00 **PM**

Thank you cards and gifts will be given to volunteers/supporters

THURSDAY January 29tH - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SERVICE: IN OUR NATION

DRESS UP or DRESS DOWN DAY - "Show Your American Pride" by wearing red, white and blue (NO face paint or hair coloring)!

Kindergarten Visitation Day - Invitations have been sent out to children who will be five years old by August 31,2009. These children will spend the day with our present Kindergarten students to see what school is all about. It promises to be a lot of fun and a good experience for them! If you know of anyone who did not receive an invitation, please let us know.

FRIDAY January 30th - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SERVICE: IN OUR ' FACULTY/STAFF/PARENTS (Teacher Appreciation Day)

DRESS DOWN - "School Spirit Day" - Students will wear St. Michael T-shirts, sweatshirts or green and/or gold shirts

Students will write thank you notes to parents in the morning

All School "Bingo" - students will play Bingo and will have an opportunity to win prizes

Teacher/Staff Luncheon (following dismissal @ 12:30 PM)

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE OF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ACTIVITIES HANDY AND REFER TO IT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

REMINDERS:

information reqarding the family participation project for Catholic Schools Week was sent home on January 12th. Since we will be using these projects as part of our celebration, we would like to have them no later than Friday, January 23rd . Please send them m so we can have them hanging from the ceiling in the hallway for Open House.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in this special family project.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! , , ,

Help is needed on the following days. If you are able to lend us a hand, please complete the form below and return to the office **tomorrow.** If you sign up to volunteer, it will be assumed that you will be present at the appointed date and time.

SATURDAY. January 24th

Clean-up -following Hospitality Hour

MONDAY. January 26th

10:15 -12:30-Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch (pizza and sundae bar)

THANK YOU for all you do to assist us. As we celebrate this week, we also celebrate your presence in our lives.

----------detach and return----------

NAME _____

I/we will be available to help:

_____ Saturday, January 24th, with the clean-up following Hospitality Hour.

_____ Monday, January 26lh, with the Student Appreciation Day luncheon.

January 24th - 30th

"FOOD FIGHT"

As part of our service to our community, we are helping the Dorothy Day Center by collecting food to assist families in our area.

It's a rivalry between Grades K-4 and Grades 5-8.

A table will be set up for each team. The team with the highest score wins, and the winners will receive a dress down day!

Food	Number of Points
Cereal, pasta, rice, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, cake mixes, cookie mixes, dried potatoes, pasta mixes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner	3
Canned meats, stews, coffee, teas, cocoa, dried milk, stuffing, canned milk, sugar, flour	2
Canned vegetables, soup, gravy mix, canned fruit	1