

September 2011

St. Croix  
Lutheran High School  
of West St. Paul

@ST. CROIX

Informing Parents. Reaching Out to Friends.

2011 - CHAPEL THEME

## “Shine Like Stars”

Philippians 2:15

### BRING YOUR LUNCH!

ISD 197 hot lunch will begin service on Tuesday, September 6. **Students must bring lunch from home during the first week of school.**

More information on hot lunches is provided within this newsletter..

### Come for Parents' Night

All parents are invited to experience their student's schedule and meet their instructors on Wednesday, September 14, 7-9pm.

Teachers will share their class requirements and expectations and be available to answer your questions. Plan to come!

### **I OUGHT TO BE COMMITTED!** BY PRINCIPAL GIBSON

“I ought to be committed!” is not a phrase you would normally want to hear from your child's principal. As I write this the week before school starts, the campus is busy with students who are here for various co-curricular activities, new international students are arriving for orientation, and everyone is scrambling to make sure the last minute details are taken care of for the opening of school. Several things come to my mind as I observe all this activity.

We have students who are incredibly committed to doing well in school. They come from various places around the Twin Cities, the United States, and the world to attend St. Croix. We have parents who are extremely committed to the education of their children. They sacrifice time and money to make sure their children can get the strong, Christian education and atmosphere that St. Croix offers. The faculty and staff are committed to their jobs of delivering that strong Christian education. Just this morning one of the office staff took extra time to drive a new student to a soccer scrimmage because he had missed his team bus.

A lot of effort from a lot of people goes into making St. Croix the successful school that it is. When we say, “Global Leader in Christian Education – Grades 6 – 12,” it's not bragging. It's just fact! But none of our efforts would be effective if it weren't for the blessing of the Lord. His willingness to take on the guilt of our sins and to make sure that St. Croix is a place where the message of salvation can be taught is why all of our efforts are successful.

When I see how committed our God is; when I see how committed the students, parents, and staff are to the success of St. Croix, then “I ought to be committed.” I ought to be committed to working with the St. Croix family to continue to ensure that St. Croix is all it can be. And I am! It is not difficult to be motivated after seeing members of the St. Croix family work so diligently together. May God continue to bless the committed members of the St. Croix family!

### **BIOLOGY LAB RENOVATION NEARS COMPLETION**

Mr. Mielke's biology room has been remodeled this summer, and final details will be completed in September. With a half-wall of windows from the hallway showcasing aquariums and growing plants, and two skylights offering sunshine, Room 303 will be an exciting venue for learning about God's wonderful creation.

This project was made possible by the contributions to the St. Croix Annual Fund, and is phase 2 of the efforts to update the Science Department classrooms. The 2011-12 Annual Fund is designated for the renovation of Room 304, Mr. Schacht's general science classroom.

## Course Change Deadline *Sept. 9*

Students must check with their **advisor** to make schedule changes, must have parental permission, and pay the \$15 fee.

## NOTICE OF SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Tune into WCCO TV and 830 WCCO Radio for the most up-to-date information on school closings.

You may also go online for immediate access to the list of school closings and delays at [www.wcco.com/schoolclosings](http://www.wcco.com/schoolclosings) or [www.830wcco.com](http://www.830wcco.com).

## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Has any of your contact information changed since you submitted registration forms?

If you have a new address, email, phone number, work place or number, or medical insurance providers, etc., please call the office to update your child(ren)'s records. Thanks!

651-455-1521

## *ID Photos September 2*

Picture Day is Friday, Sept. 2. All students will have their photograph taken for their school ID card.

Families may order photos from Lifetouch via order forms distributed by advisors on Monday, Aug. 29.

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## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS CALENDAR IS ONLINE

Our scheduled sports and extracurricular activities and all events for the upcoming school year are posted on our website. When you click on the "SCL Sports & Activities Calendar" link in the left navigation list, you will open our school-wide events calendar. This comprehensive tool lets you customize a calendar by sport or activity, so you can find out when your volleyball-playing-band-member has games or performances.

A "User's Guide" for this calendar feature is available online when you click on "Calendar" in the left navigation bar. Explore the calendar and utilize its features to help simplify your family's scheduling.

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## FINE ARTS DEPARTMENTS NEWS & NOTES

### **High School Music Arts**

The high school band and choirs are looking forward to a great year. **Band students** will need to purchase all or portions of their concert attire. Boys will need to purchase a tuxedo shirt, black dress socks and shoes. Tuxedo pants and jacket will be loaned to the boys from the Music Department. Girls will need to purchase a black concert dress which has sleeves and is long enough to cover the knees when seated. Mr. Pufahl has vendor information on his school website. You are not required to purchase through these vendors; however, these dresses are quite durable and most are cost efficient. Girls will also need a pair of black closed-toe dress shoes (flats or low heels only, please).

**HS Band students:** please remember to register your instruments on the SCLHS Instrument Inventory. You may do so online at home. The link is found on Mr. Pufahl's SCLHS webpage: [www.stcroixschools.org/band\\_class\\_info](http://www.stcroixschools.org/band_class_info). Please complete this registration by Monday, September 12.

**Boys in choir** will need black dress pants, socks and shoes. When robes are worn, boys may wear a clean tee-shirt under the robes (shirt and tie are not required under robes). **Girls** may wear skirts/dresses where the hems do not go below the hemline of the robe (about mid-to-lower calf muscle). Girls will also need a low-heel black dress shoe. Please no dress slacks.

Our first concert is Sunday, October 16, at 7:00pm in the SCLHS Gymnasium, following the annual Chili & Pie Social hosted by the Music Parents Organization (4:30-6:30pm). All music students will be asked to report early for warm-ups that day. Please feel free to contact Mr. Pufahl at [cpufahl@stcroixschools.org](mailto:cpufahl@stcroixschools.org) or Mr. Pasbrig at [jpasbrig@stcroixschools.org](mailto:jpasbrig@stcroixschools.org) for more details.

### **Drama**

Children's Theatre, *Jack and the Bean Stalk*, is coming up soon. All high school students are eligible to audition in October for Children's Theatre. Watch for announcements from Mr. Tom Hansen for more details.

### **High School Visual Art**

Eighteen grade school students attended the 1st annual Summer Art Camp at St. Croix last July. Students made, fired, and glazed coil pots, created a line-and-wash drawing and painting of flowers on campus, began a self-portrait study and screenprinted their own shirts. Look for a similar class next summer!

### **Video Recording Arts**

Video Recording Arts classes will stream all St. Croix concerts this year as well as various sporting events. Check out the website and school announcements for links to streamed upcoming events.

## LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER INFO

- \* Students and parents can find general SCLHS Library Media Center information and access to various resources online at [www.stcroixschools.org/lmc/home](http://www.stcroixschools.org/lmc/home).
  - \* Library hours are 7:30am – 3:30pm daily.
  - \* Students should have an established email address that will be used to register for school-offered databases.
  - \* Verbatim USB 97086 flashdrives with 2 GB capacity are available for purchase for \$10 each.
  - \* The library has flashdrives available for students to borrow/check out. Please note that flashdrives borrowed from the library are limited to a check-out period of five (5) school nights; however, renewals are granted when the item is physically in the library.
- Fines of \$1.00 per day are charged to the student when a USB is returned after the due date. There is a replacement fee of \$20 charged for flashdrives that are lost or not returned.
- \* Contact Mrs. Lori Budahn at [lbudahn@StCroixSchools.org](mailto:lbudahn@StCroixSchools.org) with any questions.

### *Parking Permits*

Students who park on campus must show a SCL parking permit in the front windshield. Register your vehicles now in the main office!

Parking is restricted to the main front parking lot, except in the Tiny Tots designated section. No students are permitted to park in back by the dormitories or storage shed.

Owners of vehicles not showing a permit or parked illegally are subject to discipline.

## **Middle School Music Arts**

The Middle School will perform a concert on Monday, December 19 at 6:30pm. The Twin Cities Fine Arts Festival (Jr High Solo/Ensemble) has moved to Spring 2012 (formerly in November). This year's TCF AF will be hosted by West Lutheran High School in Plymouth, MN, on Saturday, April 14. The MS Choirs, Band, and individuals will be performing, as a required part of their music grade. Please check the MS calendar and watch weekly newsletters for more details.

## **Music Parents Organization**

The MPO (Music Parents' Organization) is an important and vital organization that supports the St. Croix Music Department. Many projects have been completed by the MPO and we look forward to more success stories in the future. All parents of students in the choirs and band are MPO members.

The first meeting of the MPO is scheduled for Monday, September 12 at 6:00pm in the Music Room. Please join us to plan and prepare for the 2011-2012 school year. Your help is needed on committees for fundraisers (TBD), Chili & Pie Social (October 16), Starlight Dinner (February 26), and other functions of the Music Department. Bring your calendar and bring a friend!

## **St. Croix Lutheran Schools Band Program**

The elementary schools band program under the direction of Mr. Jim Pasbrig is looking forward to a great year in the SCLHS Association grade schools. For this year, St. John's Lutheran in Red Wing joins Bloomington Lutheran, Crown of Life (West St. Paul), Good Shepherd (Burnsville), Pilgrim (Minneapolis), and St. Croix Middle School in offering instrument instruction and band class.

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## **TUITION REMINDER**

Parents will be receiving monthly tuition statements approximately 10 days before payments are due. Late fees of \$25 per month will be assessed on late payments.

Convenient and secure online tuition payments can be made from the SCL website – click on the link in the left-side navigation bar and complete the form! Monthly automatic payments are also available. Contact Sharee Horzewski at [SHorzewski@StCroixSchools.org](mailto:SHorzewski@StCroixSchools.org) or 651-455-1521 x103 if you have any questions.

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## **EMAIL CONNECTIONS**

Parents are automatically set up to receive daily announcements via email in order to have the latest news from St. Croix. If you don't currently receive these messages and would like to, email [News@StCroixSchools.org](mailto:News@StCroixSchools.org) and tell us your name and your student(s)' name along with your email address. Make sure your company or home SPAM filter allows our email to come through.

St. Croix faculty and staff always like to hear from parents and keep communication lines open. If your email provider sends you messages that it cannot deliver email from you to a St. Croix address, please contact the school office. Your email address will be placed on our "safe" list for our spam filter to allow your mail to be delivered. If you have any problems receiving or contacting us through email, let us know (651-455-1521).

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## **SCL ASSIGNS MENTORS TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Under the supervision of Mrs. Tammy Leyrer, the mentoring program at St. Croix exists to provide new international students with an American student mentor who will help them

## Fall Sports Season Tickets Available

Family and friends of athletes at St. Croix are encouraged to purchase season ticket passes for their favorite sport(s) at a discounted price.

Individual and family passes for a single sport or combinations will be sold at the ticket tables for the first few weeks of the season. Ask the ticket seller for details.

## RETURN FORMS TO OFFICE

Please remember to complete the Parent Pledge and Confidentiality forms and return them by Friday, September 16.

Parents submitting the Parent Pledge form commit to providing safe student gatherings at their homes with no drugs or alcohol available, and to being called concerning any activity hosted at their home. The parent/student directory where Pledge members are identified will be published in October.

If you wish to block the use of your student's name or photograph from official publications of SCLHS, please return a signed Confidentiality form.

Forms are available at [www.St-CroixSchools.org/studentforms](http://www.St-CroixSchools.org/studentforms).

through their first year at St. Croix. Many of these friendships become permanent, lasting past the student's first year.

American mentors receive cross-cultural sensitivity and skills training, engage in special activities throughout the year, and are encouraged to welcome the international students into their home. American students who are mentors experience a unique educational opportunity as they develop the specific skills and characteristics one needs to navigate language and cultural differences. The "global perspective" that our mentors gain helps prepare them for the 21st century of international business, academics, and world ministry opportunities.

The international student body at St. Croix offers all of us the chance to embrace the beauty of God's created cultures and people. If your child is a mentor to an international friend, please support his/her efforts and welcome these students so far from home!

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## GRANDPARENTS' DAYS SEPT. 29 AND 30

Grandparents of St. Croix students are invited to attend one of our annual Grandparents' Days on Thursday, September 29, or Friday, September 30. If your student has not returned the form with his/her grandparents' addresses to the office, please return it by September 9. The form is available on the St. Croix website under Student Life & Activities, Forms.

The office prepares letters of invitation for your student's signature and mails them to the grandparents. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Gatzke at 651-455-1521, ext. 121, or [wgatzke@StCroixSchools.org](mailto:wgatzke@StCroixSchools.org).

Parent volunteers are needed to help with the activities of Grandparents' Days. If you have time (9:30am-12:30pm) on either of these dates and can help with serving lunch or taking memento photographs of the students with their grandparents, please contact Robyn in the Advancement Office at [rswiderski@StCroixSchools.org](mailto:rswiderski@StCroixSchools.org), or 651-455-1521, ext. 106. At least six parent volunteers are needed each day.

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## CELEBRATE & SUPPORT ST. CROIX SPORTS

St. Croix Sports Day is **Wednesday, September 21**. Planned activities include a "fun run," a parent/athlete meeting, and a picnic meal of burgers and brats for all student athletes and their parents. **Attendance is required of all students considering participating in any sport (fall, winter, or spring).**

Beginning at 5 pm on Wednesday, September 21, athletes, parents, siblings, other family members and friends are invited to participate in a "Run for St. Croix Sports" on a course around Thompson Lake Park and to our stadium at the track finish line (approximately 1.5 miles).

This "Run" replaces all other individual sports fundraisers. Students will collect pledges/donations to the sports program in advance for their running (\$25 in pledges earns the student a T-shirt). Participating in the "run" is not required, but attendance at the event is expected. Monies raised by this event will be used for non-budget items, and as in the past, specific needs will be met as they arise. The goal for pledge funds this year is scoreboards for the baseball and softball fields.

**All athletes and their parents are expected at this Sports Day. Join the fun and support all SCL sports!**

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## CAREER INFORMATION DAY

The Guidance Department needs adult volunteers who are willing to share information about their personal career with our students on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 12:30-2:55 pm. All of our students (grades 9-12) will select 5 presentations to attend. Presenters

## ACT TEST INFO

**Juniors and seniors:** Get your information on registering for the ACT from Mrs. Gatzke in the Guidance office. There is also information on eligibility for submitting a fee waiver.

Test dates for 2011-12:

October 22  
December 10  
February 11  
April 14  
June 9

For registration, [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)

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An ACT preparation class is offered by Dr. Carrie Pfeifer at SCL.

Click on [www.StCroixSchools.org](http://www.StCroixSchools.org) > Academics > Learning Resource Center for registration details.

## CRUSADER SPIRIT WEAR AT OUR ONLINE STORE

Crusader sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, wind jackets, and more are available through our online store at [www.StCroixSchools.org/hs](http://www.StCroixSchools.org/hs). Click on the spirit wear tab in the left-hand column.

The store has visuals of all the items; you can view them close up for details. Just follow the directions to order them online at this secure site. Payment may be made by credit card, or print your order form and submit it with your check.

Place your orders for fall spirit wear now so items arrive in time for the **October 7 Homecoming** game and celebrations.

*Go, Crusaders!*

will select one to five 25-minute time slots, with 5 minutes between sessions, and usually talk about what kind of educational background they have, what they do on an average day, what opportunities exist in the field, etc. Some sort of "show-and-tell" or handout is often popular with the students.

We hope to offer a variety of careers for our students to learn about, and parents and alumni of St. Croix have a variety of experiences to draw from. If you or someone you work with is interested in presenting information about a particular career on that day, please let us know. All of our high school students will select from the list of topics offered, and then will be scheduled into the five time slots.

Please respond to the school office or to Guidance Director Pastor David Huebner, phone number is 651-455-1521, or [dhuebner@stcroixschools.org](mailto:dhuebner@stcroixschools.org). Whether you are available for the whole afternoon or just for an hour, we can schedule you for as many time slots as you are able to share. Please let us know by Friday, October 28, if you are interested in participating. Thanks for your consideration!

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## HOT LUNCH NEWS

The District #197 Child Nutrition Department provides hot lunches for St. Croix beginning Tuesday, September 6. For 2011-12 information, including monthly menus and pertinent news for parents, check their web site [www.isd197.org](http://www.isd197.org). Lunch prices are \$2.75 each, which includes milk; a half-pint carton of milk is \$.50; an adult meal is \$3.75.

Parents should receive lunch account PINs and account information for their students via US mail before September 6.

### Reduced-price or Free Hot Lunches

Households that may qualify for the federally-funded free or reduced-price (\$.40) lunches are encouraged to apply for the 2011-12 school year. Applications and income guidelines were included in the July mailing. Qualifying families remain anonymous; SCL is only given the total number of students who qualify.

The Minnesota State High School League uses the number of applicants and recipients for this program to help determine the classification (A, AA, AAA) of the school.

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## MISSION ADVANCEMENT DEPARTMENT NEWS

### 50th Graduation Anniversary Art Project

St. Croix has commissioned a mural for the school's main entry hall to commemorate the 50th SCLHS graduation (2011). Artist Jason Jaspersen is maintaining a blog showing the progress of the painting. See how the creative process unfolds over time, and watch as this significant art piece comes to life through a link in the right-hand column at [www.stcroix-schools.org/hs](http://www.stcroix-schools.org/hs). Once on Jaspersen's blogsite, notice that you may also sign up to receive new blog posts via email (scroll down in the right-hand column on his blog to the "Follow by Email."

If you would like to support this project, visit our Mission Advancement Office page.

### Back to School Appeal - Supporting Tuition Assistance

This year St. Croix has awarded over \$450,000 in need-based tuition assistance. The Back to School Appeal will be in mailboxes this week. Your gift to this appeal will help many of the 430 high school students enrolled this fall become part of the caring, Christian family community of St. Croix Lutheran. You can also respond online at [www.stcroixschools.org/back\\_to\\_school](http://www.stcroixschools.org/back_to_school).

## *Juniors Visit College Fair*

All students in the junior class will attend the National College Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Tuesday, October 4.

Two 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 \$3 – to be paid to Pastor Huebner or the main office.

Students will have a chance to 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](http://www.nationalcollegefairs.org).

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

## **Seniors & Parents**

The deadline to submit your senior yearbook portrait is Wednesday, December 21. “Ads for Grads” orders are also due that day.

Specifications for the photos and the ads are online at [www.stcroixschools.org/stcroixatoz](http://www.stcroixschools.org/stcroixatoz).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **September**

- 2** ID Pictures Day
- 5** NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- 9** Last day to change class schedules
- 12** Music Parents Organization Meeting - 6pm, Music Room
- 14** Parents' Class Night - 7pm, begins in Chapel
- 15** Board of Regents - 7pm
- 21** Annual Sports Day - 5pm, Stadium
- 24** ACT Prep Class Session 1 - 8am - Noon
- 28** Fall Sports Pictures  
General Board Meeting - 7:30pm, Chapel
- 29** Grandparents Day, 9:15 - noon
- 30** Picture Retakes 7:30am  
Grandparents Day, 9:15 - noon

### **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 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



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[www.StCroixSchools.org](http://www.StCroixSchools.org)

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