



Holy Rosary School
St. James Catholic School
St. John's School
St. Michael's Lakeside School
St. Rose School

Faith and knowledge together.

Progress Report: February 2012

We are experiencing a mild winter with just an occasional dusting of snow. However, a few snowmen have been sighted on playgrounds of our Duluth Area Catholic Schools. Students were very busy during Catholic Schools Week, January 29-February 3, participating in a spelling bee, talent show, and service project of gathering baby items to place on the shelves of the new Women's Care Center Duluth, opening in the fall. Faculty and staff were busy, as well, planning and participating in various events. You may have heard highlights covered on local radio and television stations.

The Duluth Area Catholic School System released a new promotional video to coincide with Catholic Schools Week. View it at www.duluthcatholicschools.org or any of our schools' websites. It will be used in presentations during upcoming Kindergarten Round-Up events and as a tool for recruitment and development. Our schools also have new registration folders and customized inserts so materials carry a consistent, professional look from site to site.

Teachers of all five Duluth Area Catholic Schools recently attended an in-service, called "Imagine," led by Sr. Lisa Maurer, OSB, and supported by a grant from the Catholic Religious Education Endowment Fund of the Diocese of Duluth (CREED Fund). This gathering gave teachers and principals an opportunity to reflect on and be rejuvenated by their relationships with God. Tools were available to inspire teachers and to use in their classrooms as they celebrate and strengthen the Catholic identity of our schools.

The Duluth Area Catholic School Board continues to discuss how best to configure schools so they meet the current and future needs of families. Two resources, *Review for School Viability* and *School Self-Assessment Tool*, have been approved and are available to help schools assess their progress and plan for the future. **There currently are no plans to close one or more of our schools, and all will be open for the 2012-2013 school year.** Please share this information and encourage your friends and family members to pray for our schools and to enroll their children.

Several major fundraising events are being planned for the Duluth Area Catholic School System, including a 5K run organized by the Knights of Columbus and a new signature event supported by Bishop Paul Sirba. Watch for details in upcoming weeks and months.

Check out our new School System website and follow links to customized websites for individual schools. These coordinated sites provide valuable calendars and information for parents and prospective families. Each school and the Duluth Area Catholic Schools have a Facebook link, and news is shared with families and supporters on a regular basis.

The next regular school board meeting is April 5, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center. Visitors are welcome to attend.