Catholic Schools Week 2016...

A Year of Mercy? OR A Year of Mercy a Day at a Time?

It’s a great time to be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. A new calendar year has begun. The second semester filled with academic competitions has begun. A focus of Pope Francis---our focus---a “Year of Mercy” is happening. The Holy Father reminds us “God’s name is Mercy”. Mercy must happen a day at a time!

When you tell someone you work in education, the blood drains from their face. But if you ask them about their education---they’ll have hilarious stories, tales of great teachers, life-changing revelations and of course the horror stories. I often get a good laugh at my line—“How to get an empty seat next to you on a plane?” Wear a tee-shirt that says “Let me tell you about my school”. I can clear the room if people think they are done with formal education but if it is your child, you will be enraptured by what goes on in our progressive Catholic School.

During CSW, we celebrate with family posters on Mercy, support Catholic Urban Programs, Our Brothers Keeper, Covenant House, use patriotic and liturgical colors, adopt-a-seminarian, have 8th graders teaching a religion class, host a Book Fair, have morning prayer led by the 8th grade, and have an 8th grade vs. Faculty volleyball game.

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings remind us why we have Catholic Schools: Virtues! Jeremiah talks about a God who loved us from the womb---our hope! Paul to the Corinthians reminds us everything depends on love—and “When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.” We all have to grow up!

School is an internship in mercy. Thanks to our parents, students, faculty, staff, our Tinkers (who fix it as fast as we break it), our School Board, our parents and Friends, our Parish and Benefactors, Fr. Carl, Fr. Chris, and Fr. Linus for “feeding us” mercy...one day at a time!

~Mike Kish, Principal
**Parish Staff Directory**

**Parish Office**
411 Palmer Road Columbia, Illinois 62236  
618-281-5105 Fax: 618-281-6848  
Pastor, Fr. Carl E. Scherrer ext. 358  
or cell phone 618-541-9008 clown@htc.net  
Sacramental Minister, Fr. Chris Reuter, O.F.M.  
618-482-5570 cnreuter@yahoo.com  
Parish Admin., Stan Osterhage ext. 350  
Parish Director of Liturgy, MaryBeth Babcock ext. 353  
Parish Director of Music Karen Lundy ext. 359  
Director of Faith Formation, Lizzie Young ext. 354  
IC-PSR Coordinator, Heather Schaef er ext. 352  
Bookkeeper, Sheryl Oglesby ext. 351  
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**Sacramental Preparations**

**Baptisms:** Parents/guardians are asked to call the Parish Office to register to attend a preparation seminar available the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Parish Library. Baptisms are celebrated at all Masses the first weekend of the month, and every third weekend after 11 a.m. Mass.

**Weddings:** Please contact the Parish office a minimum of four months prior to Marriage.

**Anointing of the Sick & Funerals:** Since individual needs differ, please contact the Parish office at 281-3605 for pastoral care. Do not hesitate to call; we are grateful for the opportunity to open our hearts to you and your family and offer these sacramental services.

**RCIA:** Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Deepen Your Experience of God Through the Catholic Faith In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him on the last day." The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is for everyone who has been drawn by God to form a deeper relationship. Wherever you are in your faith practice – whether baptized in another Christian faith, starting from the very beginning, or simply interested in enriching your Catholic practice – consider the RCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic.

We meet in the Fr. Steve Library on Sundays, starting with “Breaking Open the Word” dismissal from 9 a.m. Mass, and catechetical sessions from 10-11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Lizzie Young at 281-3505 x354, or email lyoung@icmail.org.

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**Father Carl’s Reservoir…**

“Find a cushion and sit down your tush,” the Southwest Airlines boarding agent barked out as he tried to get the long line of flyers more speedily into their seats for our return flight home from Ft. Myers, Florida this past Monday morning – no one seemed to be in any hurry to return to winter! Two weeks goes by too quickly when you’re enjoying a relaxing time in sunny Florida. Besides enjoying lots of tennis and delicious seafood during my time away, I also finished reading one book (“For a Greater Purpose,” by Zip Rzeppa), read a second (“The Hiding Place,” by Corrie ten Boom) and started a third (“The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto,” by Mitch Albom ). I wish I read more books, but always seem to struggle to make time for reading unless I’m on vacation. One of my favorite adages is, “A life without reading books is like living in a house with no windows!”

I also enjoy movies, but seldom find or make time go to the theatre unless I’m on vacation. Fr. Jim Buerster (pastor of St. Boniface in Germantown and St. Cecilia in Bartelso) and I managed to see six movies between our tennis matches in Bonita Springs. My favorite was “Brooklyn,” a wonderful and moving story about a young woman who left her family in Ireland to begin a new life in Brooklyn, New York. Other movies we saw were: “Eight Hateful Men,” which I don’t recommend; and “Thirteen Hours,” “Revenant,” “Concussion,” and “Spotlight,” all of which I enjoyed.

And of course, I’m happy to report that the Florida palm branches survived the two tornadoes in our area, and should be in full greenery for our Palm Sunday procession. As always, if you don’t like the ones I selected, I’ll be happy to return and get some more – satisfaction guaranteed!

~Fr. Carl

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**Our Sympathy…**

To Jeanne Kish and all her family on the death of her mother, Pauline Jablonski, formerly of Fairmont City and recent resident at Garden Place here in Columbia, who died on January 20 at the age of 90; and to Donna Bohn and all her family on the death of her mother, Pauline Julien, of Columbia, who died on January 25, at the age of 91.

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**Mardi Gras…**

February 9, at 6:15 in the Garden Level of church. Dinner served around 6:30. Pancakes and Sausage - no charge, but please bring a desert to share. Milk, water, and coffee will be served. We finish with the burning of last year’s palms. Please bring your palms to church so we can have a big fire. For more info contact Lizzie Young or Diane Zika.

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**Reminder…**

Please bring your palms from last year for the Mardi Gras palm burning ceremony which will take place on Tuesday February 9.

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**Little Black Books…**

Once again we’re making these little black books available to you to be your Lenten prayer companion, compliments of McCauliffe Chiropractic Office in Columbia. Please feel free to take one from the pews this weekend.

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**Blessing of Throats…**

In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, which is on Feb. 3, we will offer the traditional Throat Blessing after all the Masses **THIS weekend**, Jan. 30 & 31, after all the Masses.
Altar Society News...

~ The next Altar Society meeting will be February 4, 2016. Come join your sisters in Christ as we plan the Spring Card Party, and begin our new program, “Keeping College Students Connected.” (It’s not too late to sign up. Forms available on the Church website under “Altar Society”.)

Reflection and Preparation, for Lent and All Year...

On Thursdays, starting February 4, you are invited to spend time preparing for the weekend Liturgy by "Breaking Open the Word." We will meet for an hour to discuss the themes presented in the Sunday readings, how the Old Testament and the New Testament work together, and how you can take the Good News with you into your upcoming week. Make Mass more meaningful with this head start, and consider this activity as a great way to get into the spirit of the Lenten season. In the Fr. Steve Library, either Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m., or Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

Stewardship of Charity...

As part of our Full Stewardship plan, we will have our annual parish Stewardship of Charity meeting on Sunday, February 14, at 2 p.m. in the Garden Level. All parishioners are welcome to attend and help discern which charities we will support with the 2% of our parish come to attend and help discern which charities we will support with the 2% of our parish collections from 2015 that are designated to help the poor.

Messenger Renewal Weekend...

February 6-7, 2016
Please stay “connected” through a subscription to The Messenger.
Payments can be made in your parish envelope or on-line at www.bellevillemessenger.org.
Subscription Cost: Print - $25.00, Electronic - $25.00, Both - $30.00.

Please Note...
The next parish work day will be on Saturday, February 13.

Monday Morning Meditation...

Kick off your week by stopping before you start. Spend some meaningful silent time in the Fr. Steve Library every Monday morning. Gather by 7:10 a.m., participate in a brief reflection, then sit in silence from 7:15-7:35 a.m. No need to reserve a space, simply come by (use the Garden Level door by the Warming Kitchen).

K of C Free Throw Champs...

K of C council 6165 held their 45th annual Free Throw competition on Sunday January 24, in the ICS gym. The students winning the first round of the competition will go on to compete at Valmeyer on February 21. The winners of round one were: Girls (listed in alphabetic order): Emma Blaskiewicz, Karsen Jany, Adelynn Murphy, Emily Pfeffer & Dharby Tiemann. Boys (listed in alphabetic order): Hayden Bueltemann, Bryce Pautler, Isaac Shreckenberg, Brian Stark, & Jimmy Von Der Haar. Good luck to all our champs! (names in italics are all ICC parishioners!)

Adeodatus says:

“A truly poor person is not one who has too little, but the one who craves more.”

Contribution Tax Forms...

Please take time to pick up in the church gathering space your annual statement of your stewardship of treasure for last year, and save our parish the postage.

Mega Raffle...

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School is conducting a special raffle for a $10,000 grand prize, to be given away at their annual benefit dinner and auction on March 5, 2016. Tickets are $100 each, and only 300 will be sold. Tickets can be purchased following all masses THIS weekend of January 30/31.

Eucharistic Adoration...

Now takes place in the New Church. The side entrance to the church should be the only entrance used (in or out) during Adoration.

Themes for Adoration...

1st Tuesday – Building Church While Building a Church – theme still centers on praying for all our parishioners and for all those involved with the continuing progress on completing the various projects in the New Church.
2nd Tuesday – For the sanctity of human life
3rd Tuesday - World peace, safety of all those in the military, especially those from our own parish (the name of those service men and woman are mention at the beginning of the Holy Hour from 6 to 7 p.m.)
4th Tuesday – Vocations to the priesthood and religious life
5th Tuesday – For those suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses.
If you are interested in becoming an Adorer – even if it is just for a few minutes on a Tuesday, please contact: Ann Luth 281-8266 or 618-719-6904 or Pat Novak 281-5620 and 618-975-0381. **A prayer box has been placed in the gathering space of our New Church. Please drop your intentions in this box and they will be prayed for by our Adorers during Tuesday’s Eucharistic Adoration.
**This Week’s Liturgical Celebrations**

**Monday, Feb 1 ...8:05 a.m. ...** (New Church)  
Mass offered for Eula Borsche  

**Tuesday, Feb 2 ...8:05 a.m....(ICS) ...**  
Mass offered in honor of Pauline Neumohr  

**Wednesday, Feb 3 ...8:05 a.m (ICS) ...**  
Mass offered for Patricia Simmons  

**Thursday, Feb 4 ...8:05 a.m. (ICS) ...**  
Mass offered for Elyane Schaefer  

**Friday, Feb 5 ...8:05 a.m. ...** (New Church)  
Mass offered for Joseph Rice  

**Saturday, Feb 6 ...5:00 p.m. ...**  
Mass offered for Mary Gonzalez and Family  

**Sunday, Feb 7 ...7:00 a.m. ...**  
Mass offered for Parishioners  

**9:00 a.m.**  
Mass offered for Peggy Von Der Haar  

**11:00 a.m.**  
Mass offered for Betty Beckerle  

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**Please Pray For...**

- Mary Rodriguez
- Josh Ritter
- Sharon Lewis
- Luke Meyer
- Jack Finney
- Shirley Langhans
- Jeremy Kohlberg
- Brendan Schaper
- Gary Huguet
- Nancy Raymond
- George Wiligek
- Mike Foster
- Tim Keele
- Carol Howell
- Lisa Straub
- Rich Cullen
- Derek Dillon
- Aiden Howard Maul
- Kathleen Adams
- John Brugman
- Audrey Sambo
- Alan Conradi
- Mia Simpson
- Teresa Kish
- Desiree Frasure
- Tony Range
- Carolyn Messery
- Richard Sambro
- Cheryl McAlister
- Dan Whelan
- Floyd Crowder
- Carl Garwood
- Betty Schmidt
- Mike Roddelger
- Tyler Dillon
- Donna LaCourse
- Gertrude Schemer

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**Troops in Service**


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**Prayer Shawl Ministry...**

If you know of someone suffering from illness, and would like a blessed prayer shawl, lovingly made by our ladies in the prayer shawl committee, delivered to them, please contact Angie at the office 281-5105.

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**Financial Stewardship**

For January 24, 2016

- Total envelopes and loose... $22,664.79
- Budget .................................................. $22,700.00
- Fiscal year to date collected ................ $932,150.88
- Fiscal year to date budgeted ............... $931,450.00
- Over (Under) budget .................................. $700.00
- St. Raymond’s in Guatemala .................. $35.00
- New Church Fund ...................................... $6,533.66
- Children’s collections (included in envelope total) .................... $46.61
- Gibbalt .................................................... $50.00
- Capital Improvements ....................... $25.00
- Votive Offering ........................................ $122.00
- Altar Society ........................................... $10.00

**New Education Center:**

Memorials:  
- Lou Schlafly ........................................... $50.00
- Carl & Glenda Parres ............................... $500.00

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**Eugene Schorb Education Fund:**

- Memorials:  
  - Lou Schlafly ........................................... $100.00
- Danny Saltzman ...................................... $45.00
- Donnna Greene ....................................... $75.00
- Kirk Brinovec ......................................... $100.00
- William Wright ...................................... $40.00

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**Online Giving...**

The number of parishioners that use online giving continues to grow and is currently at 249. To access online giving, just go to our website, click on the full stewardship tab and then on online giving.

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**Discipleship Corner...**

**The gift of time**

**How much free time does a person actually have?**

According to a University of Maryland study on Americans’ use of time, the average person has 38.7 hours of free time a week. This compares to 40 years ago when the average American had 33.9 hours of free time.

The project defined “free time” as time not spent working, sleeping, eating, doing housework or taking care of children.


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**Advertiser of the Week:**

**Dr. Ken Kloess**

- **Trusted Dentistry**
- **286-4855**
- **240 S. Main**
- **Dupo**

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**Thank you for sharing your blessings!!**

From Our Young Stewards...

Daily prayer, cleaned up my toys; Took recyclables; made people smile; made a snack for Maxx; taught my sister Mary how to pray; told my daddy I liked his haircut; took care of my sisters boo-boos; read to my brother; cleaned the whole kitchen without being asked.

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**Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours.” ~ Mark 11:24**

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**Troops in Service**


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**Prayer Shawl Ministry...**

If you know of someone suffering from illness, and would like a blessed prayer shawl, lovingly made by our ladies in the prayer shawl committee, delivered to them, please contact Angie at the office 281-5105.

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**Whoever is kind...**

Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours.” ~ Mark 11:24

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**THE ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

**Dr. Ken Kloess**

- **Trusted Dentistry**
- **286-4855**
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- **Dupo**
**Corporal Works of Mercy...**
The Corporal Works of Mercy are these kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

- feed the hungry
give drink to the thirsty
clothe the naked
shelter the homeless
visit the sick
visit the imprisoned
bury the dead

**Spiritual Works of Mercy...**
The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, as listed below, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

- counsel the doubtful
- instruct the ignorant
- admonish sinners
- comfort the afflicted
- forgive offenses
- bear wrongs patiently
- pray for the living and the dead

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**Weekly Reflection**

**February 5, 2016**

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8  
Second Reading: First Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11  

**St. Louis Cathedral Concerts...**

This is your opportunity to attend an upcoming concert at the “new” Cathedral in St. Louis. We are purchasing a block of tickets at group prices. **If you want to attend but do not want to drive, we will arrange carpooling or caravanning for all interested.**

To celebrate Leap Day, we have tickets for The Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra who will perform on Monday; February 29, 2016 at 8 p.m. Tickets will be $19. This orchestra was created in 1945 following Poland’s postwar independence. This will be the orchestra’s inaugural tour of the United States. It will be an all Tchaikovsky program featuring the Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture in B minor, the Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 and Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 36. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for any of the concerts, please contact Mary Schroeder at 281-7498 or 314.750.3443. Valet parking available for $5.

**Stewardship Renewal...**

Thanks to all who have turned in their stewardship form! There is still time to turn yours in! Please take the time to do so as soon as possible.

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**Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy:**

“Let us not forget the great teaching offered by Saint Paul II in his second Encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia*, which at the time came unexpectedly, its theme catching many by surprise. There are two passages in particular to which I would like to draw attention. First, Saint John Paul II highlighted the fact that we had forgotten the theme of mercy in today’s cultural milieu: “The present-day mentality, more perhaps than that of people in the past, seems opposed to a God of mercy, and in fact tends to exclude from life and to remove from the human heart the very idea of mercy. The word and the concept of ‘mercy’ seem to cause uneasiness in man, who, thanks to the enormous development of science and technology, never before known in history, has become the master of the earth and has subdued and dominated it (cf. Gen 1:28). This dominion over the earth, sometimes understood in a one-sided and superficial way, seems to have no room for mercy...And this is why, in the situation of the Church and the world today, many individuals and groups guided by a lively sense of faith are turning, I would say almost spontaneously, to the mercy of God.”[9] Furthermore, St. John Paul II pushed for a more urgent proclamation and witness to mercy in the contemporary world: “It is dictated by love for man, for all that is human and which, according to the intuitions of many of our contemporaries, is threatened by an immense danger. The mystery of Christ...obliges me to proclaim mercy as God’s merciful love, revealed in that same mystery of Christ. It likewise obliges me to have recourse to that mercy and to beg for it at this difficult, critical phase of the history of the Church and the world. “[10] This teaching is more pertinent than ever and deserves to be taken up once again in this Holy Year. Let us listen to his words once more: “The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy—the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and the Redeemer—and when she brings people close to the sources of the Saviour’s mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser.”[11]

~#11 of Pope Francis’ Letter announcing The Year Of Mercy

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**LIFE Network of Southern Illinois...**

All services are free. Call 618-939-4224 or www.mylifenet.org

Neither Do I Condemn You… The Catholic Church lovingly offers help with neither judgment nor condemnation through the ministry of Project Rachel which brings hope and healing to the hurting. Please give us a call at: 888-456-HOPE

If you know of someone whose unborn baby has been diagnosed with "fetal anomalies" or an "adverse prenatal diagnosis", please refer the parents to the following web sites: BeNotAfraid.net and PrenatalPartnersforlife.org www.fontebella.org.

**Fontebella Maternity Home**

618-406-4355 or 618-406-4355

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**Quilter’s Block...**

Quilting times are: Tuesdays 8:30-2pm & Wednesday 4 –8p.m. All new talent is welcome and we can also teach the art! Any questions, please call Carlene Kisro 281-5877 or Vicki Gallagher 281-3977.
ICS Open House...Success!
On January 24, ICS hosted an open house for new families. The event was hosted by the IC School Board. The day included a light lunch, short presentation and school tours.
What a way to kick off Catholic Schools week and show people how we are opening doors to mercy!

ICS 5k & Kids Fun Run...
Saturday March 19th @Immaculate Conception Church
Check-in: 8:15am Garden Level
Run Kick-off: 9:00am ~Registration forms available at icscolumbia.org
1st and 2nd Place Class Prizes for the child who brings in the most pledges for the Kids Fun Run! Family Fun Fair following the run with food, refreshments, and games available for purchase! Questions contact: Holly (h_blaskiewicz@yahoo.com 314-707-1046) or Kim (kim@kimschwartz.net)

Wacky Ninja Warriors-
The Inaugural ICS Mother/Son Event ~ A competitive day for ages 4-14 ~ April 23rd 1-4pm at ICS Gym
$15 for Mother/SonTeam
$20 for Mother with more than one son
Games, awards, light snacks and beverages included
Registration available at icscolumbia.org
Questions contact: Donna empowered2016@gmail.com or Kara (knboyd2@yahoo.com)

Kids Against Hunger...
23 donors have contributed $1580 so far towards our goal of $3000! Thank you! On February 6, we hope to make about 14,000 meals again. Hannah Janson and Maggie Schulte are chairing this event.

Initial Child Protection Training...
Our Next Initial Child Protection Training will be held Feb 2, 6-8 p.m. in the K of C Room.
The Child Protection Refresher Course is now available online. You can either print and turn in your certificate of completion to Stan Osterhage or email your certificate from the site to him at soster@htc.net. Anyone who wishes to volunteer at school or church when there are children present, must be in compliance with the Diocesan child protection policy which includes taking the initial Child Protection Course. Information on times and locations that the course is being conducted elsewhere is on the diocesan website: http://diobelle.org/bout_db.aspx

Welcome New Parishioners!
Please take a moment to register with Immaculate Conception Parish by filling out all the information below and allow us to welcome you fully into our faith community. Return the completed form by collection basket, mail, or bring it to the Parish Office, so that your information can be accurately added to our parish database.
Name(s)

Address

City/State/Zip

Home Phone Email

Children living at home, and dates of birth:

ICS book fair will be February 5th - 7th in the Garden Level of Immaculate Conception Church. Due to no available space at our school, we have moved our fair to Church. Hours: Friday Feb 4th: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday Feb 5th: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. & Sunday Feb 6th: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We Want Your BoxTops!.. Boxtops for Education Are accepted year round at school and through the church collection basket. Each one is worth 10 cents for school-related purchases. Your participation is appreciated! Please turn in right away (they have expiration dates!). Thanks!

Book Fair Is Coming!...

Welcome Wednesday series continues!
Feb 3, 9 – 11 am.
Meet Principal Russ Hart for coffee and conversation about Gibault—an area leader in academics, technology, fine arts and athletics. Tour the campus “live” when classes are in session. RSVP: Pat Herzing:

Gibault News...
Taste of the Region: at Gibault will take place on Saturday, February 6 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.. Tickets are $25, please contact Sev by email at: sev@gibaultonline.com for more information or ticket orders.

Go Hawks!