

January 19, 2010

Dear Parents,

Mass: Tomorrow's 8:30 student Mass is being planned by Mrs. Downey and the Staff. Please join us. Your prayer presence is very important to us.

Catholic Schools Week: Each family is receiving a detailed copy of all of our activities for next week's annual national Catholic Schools Week celebration as well as an electronic version **attached to this letter**. Your Student Council worked creatively to find a balance of meaningful activities.

Some highlights of the week:

Join us for the award winning, delicious Dads' Club Breakfast Sunday, 31, 8:30-11am in the McMahon Center Gym.

You are most welcome to join us for our first ever Grandparents' Day Mass on Monday, Feb.1st, 8:30am (or when all are seated). (Please sit in the back and allow the children to sit with their grandparents.)

All students will **Follow the Yellow Brick Road** by participating with their partner buddies in the Auction sponsored 20-30 minute **Walk-a-Thon** Tuesday morning on the field.

The pep rally including the staff vs. Grade 8 volleyball game, is on Thursday, 1:30 in the gym. Come cheer (the staff) on to a victory.

Friday's 11:00 closing prayer, announcements and Family Picnic (Bring your own blanket and picnic lunch or eat the pre-ordered pizza from the 6th Grade CIMI fundraiser.) will be in the Quad.

Join us and help us join Catholic School students across the nation as we celebrate....**Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life!**

Open House: Please extend an invitation to our February 7th, 10-1pm Open House to any new families you are aware of who may be interested in Catholic School for their child/ren. Information is in the St Theresa Church bulletin as well as neighboring church bulletins (of those parishes that do not have their own school) and many area preschools. Word of mouth from you is more effective.

Re-Registration: There are still a few Preschool-Grade 7 families who have not returned their Re-Registration forms and money for the 2010-2011 school year. Please get these in. Due date was Friday, January 15th. Mrs. Ferry will start making contact with those families who have not returned their form/money. Please save her the time and submit your form.

Dress Code: Thank you to the parents who have been more attentive about their child/ren conforming to the established, published dress code of sock, skirt, hair length.

Save the Date: The Daddy-Daughter(s) Dance will be Friday, February 19th in the McMahon Center Gym, 6:30-9pm. **See the attachment** for more information.

Calendar, 2010-2011: The start and closing dates for all Catholic Elementary Schools in the Diocese of Phoenix for 2010-2011 are August 10th (new students) and May 27th. August 10-13 will be half days.

Recycling: Please *see the attachment* reminding us of our need to recycle to help the environment as well as support the Student Council sponsored project. The recycle bin is at the SE corner of the McMahon Center. Thank you.

Spelling Bee Winner: Congratulations to, Skylar Seminara, Grade 7, Room 18. Skylar is our school-wide Spelling Bee winner and will compete at the diocesan-wide Catholic Schools Spelling Bee Tuesday, January Feb. 2nd, 6:30pm at St. Francis School. **Good luck, Skylar.. We are very proud of you.** Louis Campbell, Grade 7, Room 19 was first runner up! **Good job, Louis!**

Second Quarter Awards: The student listing of Second Quarter Awards will be in next week's Tuesday Parent letter. I apologize for the lateness of the listing.

Rummage Sale: Christ Lutheran School, our neighbor to the northeast, has extended an invitation to their rummage sale Saturday, January 30th, 6:30am-2pm entitled Bells for Christ in support of their Handbell Choir.

Walk-a-Thon: STCS's first ever **Walk-a-Thon** is well underway! It's time to Follow the Yellow Brick Road to wellness and student/partner participation. This exciting event will take place on Tuesday, February 2nd, during Catholic Schools Week. Student and their partners will walk during the school day for about 20 minutes around the perimeter of the baseball field. Our goal is for every student to try and collect at least \$50.00 in pledges for STCS. This event will also kick-off our upcoming Spring Auction themed, **Wizard of Oz...Follow the Yellow Brick Road.**

We will be having another early bird drawing this Friday. If you bring in \$75.00 this week you will be entered into the drawing twice to win fun pieces of sports equipment. Also, this Friday, we will draw three (3) additional early bird winners. These winners can request a song from the DJ on the day of the **Walk-a-Thon.**

If you need more pledge forms they are on-line. Just click on the Auction logo on the home page. To donate to the **Walk-a-Thon** on-line go to <http://www.stcsevents.com/apps/webstore/OR>. Forward this link to out-of-town family and friends so they can donate, too.

We would also like to thank Stephen and Susan Smith, and Mark and Tammy Holinger for their early underwriting. You can find the underwriting and Scrip forms on-line, also.

Permission Form: Please return a hard copy of the permission slip for attendance or nonattendance at the funeral liturgy/reception to your child/ren's homeroom teacher tomorrow, Wednesday. All students are to be in uniform, signed out in the office and signed back in in the office, as well as being accompanied by a parent (or an adult friend) to the funeral and reception. All students will sit with their adult within the class grouping.

Thank you: Our diocesan Catholic Schools Office provided excellent professional help for all of us last Friday by having 4 elementary School Counselors and Mrs. Cissy Frakes, Assistant Superintendent, on campus all day for students, staff and parents. We have asked for two of these same counselors to be on campus Thursday.

Special thanks, too, to our counselor, Mrs. Dee Cullen, for her excellent coordination and vigilant follow-up with students and staff.

Fr. Chuck, our pastor, has been a very strong, steady presence on campus, listening to and praying with students and staff.

Let us continue to lift each other up in prayer, support and love. Please continue your prayers for Lucas and the Gifford family.

*The mission of St. Theresa Catholic School is to prepare students spiritually, academically and socially to assume responsible and productive roles in society while living out the values of the Gospel.
(STCS Mission Statement)*

Sincerely,

Sister Patricia

Sister Patricia Gehling, SSND
Principal