

February 2, 2010

Dear Parents,

**Mass:** Thank you for joining us for our special Grandparents' Day Mass yesterday. What an uplifting, spirited Mass. Wasn't it inspiring to have a packed church of Grandparents, great-grandparents and special adults sitting with their grandchild/ren? You know your prayer presence is always very important to us. (No 8:30 student Mass tomorrow, Wednesday.)

**Rosary/Blessing of Throats:** You are welcome to join us for our all-school rosary tomorrow, **Wednesday, at 8:15 am** led by members of our Student Council. The rosary will be in church. Tomorrow, Wednesday, is the feast of St. Blaise who was a bishop and martyr. Tradition tells us that a boy who was choking from a fishbone stuck in his throat was brought to St. Blaise and through his prayer the boy was cured. The church has the ancient tradition of blessing throats with unlit blessed candles asking protection from diseases of the throat. Therefore, immediately after the rosary, staff members will have the opportunity to give this blessing to each student.

**Correction:** Madeline Forshey, Grade 4, Room 10 and Olivia Guerra, Grade 8, Room 15 were inadvertently left off the Second Honors listing. My apologies. *Congratulations!*

**Thank You:** We are making some unforgettable, wonderful memories this week. Our first-ever Grandparents' Day yesterday exceeded all expectations. We aren't sure who enjoyed it more and/or was more proud—the grandparents or the students! The PTO Board members and Grandparent Day committee members did an awesome job of putting the day's activities together. Thanks, too, to Mrs. Rahman and the First and Second Graders for their musical entertainment. What a day!

Today's **Walk-a-Thon** proved to be a really fun time for students and their partners. Thank you for supporting this first-ever Auction **Walk-a-Thon**.

Reminder of our 1:20 Pep Rally in the McMahon Center Gym Thursday. You won't want to miss the parade of posters, the all-school Cupid Shuffle dance as well as the staff vs. 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball game. You will cheer for the staff, right?

Friday's 10:50 closing prayer, and Family Picnic will be fun. Bring your picnic baskets and blankets. The weather is slated to be perfect! Closing prayer will be at 10:50, students will then go back to their classrooms so you can check them out. There will be a limited amount of pizza/dessert/drinks for sale at 11:00. Dismissal for all students is 12:00 (Bus students will leave at 11:50.)

**Shoes:** We have all seen the devastation on the news caused by the powerful earthquake in Haiti. Many schools are doing fundraisers or a project as an outreach project. It was suggested that we have a gently used or new shoe collection. This seems like a really good, practical idea. Therefore, we will participate in the Soles4Souls project tomorrow, Thursday and Friday. We will have boxes available near the office. If you want to purchase a pair of shoes to donate you are welcome to or if you have some gently used shoes that your child/ren have outgrown and want to donate them it would be greatly appreciated. Please put them in a plastic bag or tie the shoes together so pairs aren't separated. Thank you.

**Article:** Each family is receiving a powerful article from the St. Anthony Messenger Press entitled *Catholic Schools: I'd Choose Them Again*. Mrs. Downey and I were both struck by how practical and "real" the examples cited are. They certainly exemplify some of the dividends of Catholic schools.

**Open House:** Reminder! Please *extend an invitation to our Open House this Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 10-1pm to any families* you are aware of who may be interested in Catholic School for their child/ren. Information has been in the St. Theresa Church bulletin as well as neighboring church bulletins (of those parishes that do not have their own schools) and many area preschools. *Word of mouth from you is more effective!* For more information contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of development, at [ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org).

**Re-Registration Forms:** There are still a few Preschool-Grade 7 families who have not yet returned their re-registration forms. Open Registration will begin this Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mrs. Ferry as soon as possible with your paperwork and registration fee.

**National Geography Bee:** Alex Nord, Grade 6, Room 14, is the repeat champion of the Geography Bee for STCS. Alex then “got to” take a written test to see if he qualifies for state competition. Congratulations, Alex. It may be on to Washington, DC for you! Paul Bullington, Grade 6, Room 13, was runner-up. Thanks, too, to Mrs. Schaff for coordinating our annual Geo Bee.

**Free Throw Contest:** Congratulations to the following students who won the Knights of Columbus sponsored Free Throw Contest for their age division:

**Girls:** 10 year olds: Megan Schmidt  
11 year olds: Emily Weigel  
12 year olds: Tierney Turelli  
13 year olds: Maddie Sargent  
14 year olds: Natalie Merrill

**Boys:** 10 year olds: Patrick Wintergalen  
11 year olds: Britton Brunkhorst  
12 year olds: Kendall Barnes  
13 year olds: Chase McQueen  
14 year olds: Zach Kotoske

These students will move to the next level of competition in mid-February. Special thanks to Coach Kaye and Coach Kathy for coordinating this contest.

**Diocesan School Board:** The Diocesan School Board is accepting applications for membership on this Board. Are you interested in being considered for a position of service on the Diocesan School Board? If interested please go to [www.diocesephoenix.org/catholicschools](http://www.diocesephoenix.org/catholicschools) or contact MaryBeth Mueller, Superintendent, directly at 602-354-2345.

**NJHS Induction:** National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) will be holding its second annual induction ceremony after Mass, Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. All new members in sixth, seventh and eighth grades who have met the high standards of character, scholarship, leadership, service and citizenship will be inducted at this time. Students will be notified of their acceptance this Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to join us for 8:30 am Mass next Wednesday followed by the induction ceremony.

**Title Programs:** Please review the form in your Family Envelope on Free, Reduced or Family Does Not Meet Income Guidelines sheet. If any of this information applies to you please complete the survey/form and return it to Mrs. Downey by this Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>. This information is very important to insure continued participation in the Title 1 program which currently provides children with supplemental materials and services. It is one of the few benefits your child/ren receives from your tax dollars and we currently wish to keep these services. All information will be kept in confidence and on file in Mrs. Downey’s office. Your name is not needed on this form.

**Sports Uniforms (Gr. 5-8):** Sports uniforms washed, in a baggie with your name on the baggie are all due on the following dates:

Softball: Due Now  
Basketball (Gr. 5-6): Due Now  
Basketball (Gr. 7): Due Friday, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Basketball (Gr. 8): Due Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup>

**Boys’ Baseball (Gr. 5):** Team placement for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade boys will be tomorrow, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30-3:30. There are no other baseball or basketball teams that will be having team placement. Questions? Contact Coach Kaye at [skaye@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:skaye@diocesephoenix.org)

**Baseball (Gr. 7):** Due to lack of interest, there will not be a 7<sup>th</sup> grade baseball team. Fees will be returned.

**Junior High Parents:** We are having a special speaker, Hal Nevit, LCSW/LISAC/CEAP, from NotMyKid who is an outstanding expert in the field of Critical Incident Stress Education. The program will be **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** in the McMahon Center Gym. Any parents of other grade students are welcome to attend.

We are very privileged to have Stacia Ortega of Hospice of the Valley with us **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** to share her expertise on grief and loss. We have several appropriate sessions planned. **10:45-11:30** for Grades 7-8 students, **12:30-1:30** for any/all parents and **2:00-3:00** for staff. The student presentation will be in the McMahon Center Gym and the parent presentation in Fr. Feeney Hall. If any parents prefer that their child does not participate in their presentation it is necessary to send a note explaining your reasons.

**Auction Flyer:** You want to be part of *Following the Yellow Brick Road*, right? There is a special flyer in today's Family Envelope explaining about donations and underwriting which will entitle your child/ren to a special free uniform pass "button" good for the next 5 Tuesdays. Don't miss it.

**Campus Expansion Capital Campaign:** Classroom Captains for the Capital Campaign will be making another contact to each of their families over the next two weeks asking for your financial support of our campus Expansion Capital Campaign. Please give them your time and consideration. Pledge envelopes will be sent home in the Tuesday Family Envelope February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to have 100% participation with all pledge cards in by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Check the website, [www.stcs.us](http://www.stcs.us) for more information on the project and/or take a look at the renderings which are displayed on the wall near the Library. Thank you. Questions? Contact James Zorn, On-Site Parent Liaison for the Campus Expansion Project, at [james.zorn@cox.net](mailto:james.zorn@cox.net).

**Spring Fashion Show/Tea:** Please mark your calendars for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fashion Show/Tea March 27<sup>h</sup> themed *Spring-a-licious!* All girls/Moms/Grandmothers/Aunts and friends are welcome to join the festivities of *Spring-a-licious!* All girls, Grades Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> are welcome to be "models".

**Father/Daughter(s) Dance:** It is now time to register for the Father/Daughter(s) Dance, Feb. 19, 6:30-9:00, in the McMahon Center Gym. The theme will be "Rock Back the Clock" so you can wear clothes from your favorite era or you can come formal if you like! Eighth Grade girls will be honored at the dance! *See the attached flyers* for all the details. (Hopefully you will be able to open both or at least one—both have the same information—one is fancier!) Fill it out and return it to the school office ASAP. Questions? E-mail Lynn Cassidy at [seclec@aol.com](mailto:seclec@aol.com). You and your daughter(s) won't want to miss this fun activity.

**Spirit Store:** *Attached is a flyer* describing this month's Spirit Store feature. Don't miss out! Questions? Contact Heather Chapman at [heatherchap@cox.net](mailto:heatherchap@cox.net).

**Valentine's Day Parties/Clothing:** Classroom Valentine's Day parties will be Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:45pm (or part of that time). Room Mothers are asked to consult with the homeroom teachers about party plans. Grades 7-8 students will have a dance in Fr. Feeney Hall, 1-2:30pm. All students are invited to wear Valentine shirts and/or socks or any red or white or pink shirt and/or socks. Regular uniform bottoms and shoes.

**Dads' Club Campout:** Don't forget the Dads' Club sponsored campout on our field February 27/28<sup>th</sup>. *See the attachment* for more details and sign ups. Should be fun, exciting and packed with games and food! Questions? Contact Mike Hernandez, Dads' Club President at [hernfamaz@gmail.com](mailto:hernfamaz@gmail.com).

**No School:** Reminder of no school Friday/Monday, February 12 and 15<sup>th</sup>. It is Presidents' weekend and a mid-winter break for all of us.

*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