

February 9, 2010

Dear Parents,

Mass: Please join us for our 8:30 student Mass tomorrow, Wednesday, planned by Mrs. Downey and the staff. Your prayer presence is always very important to us. Your strong singing and answering of the prayers is a great help, too.

Next Wednesday, 17th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Our student Mass will be at 10:00, not 8:30 am. All students will receive ashes.

Thank You: What a week! We made some unforgettable memories last week. Thank you for your cooperation, support and participation in our many activities. Special thanks to our Student Council members and moderators, Mrs. Drummey and Mrs. Schaff for the planning and carrying out of many of the activities. Our first-ever Grandparents' Day was overwhelmingly awesome as was the first-ever Auction sponsored Walk-a-Thon. Thanks to the PTO, Coach Kathy and their committees for all the behind the scenes organization. Fabulous job. Thank you! Family Picnic was a great success. What a touching sight to see the Quad totally covered with blankets and picnic chairs. You can be justifiably proud of our STCS Community spirit!

Auction Items: Invitations for everyone to **Follow the Yellow Brick Road** to this year's Auction were mailed last Thursday. Did you receive yours? If not, please let Mrs. Sandahl know. (Special thanks to the graphic artist who donated her expertise as well as the printing company for their 75+% donation of the invitations.)

Buttons have been delivered to the students whose parents have already brought in their donation items or made a monetary contribution. Those students now get to wear one free dress item on Tuesdays for the next five weeks. We will be at drop off February 8-11th and at pickup every Tuesday and Thursday the month of February to collect your donation items. Please bring them in soon.

We are also in need of volunteers to help with the many needs a successful Auction requires. Please contact Terry Finigian, t1m.finigian@cox.net or Dominique Weigel, dominiqueweigel@cox.net to volunteer.

Smile you're on camera....please send in pictures of students in action at school to be used in our slideshow at Auction. All pictures have to be on a CD for our video technician.

The Ding Dong Witch posters have generated lots of enthusiasm. Please remember if you choose not to participate in "planting" the poster in someone else's yard you are very welcome to return the poster(s) to the school office.

Dorothy carried Toto in her basket. We need baskets, too. Please send your baskets in to the office for Silent Auction items.

Thank you to the businesses and families who have already donated to our Auction. **See the attached lists.**

We thank our three Auction chairs, Liz, Jill, Monica and all their committees for their tremendous leadership in planning for this great event. Thank you to all of our families for your support, participation and interest in ***Following the Yellow Brick Road*** to March 13th.

Campus Expansion Capital Campaign: You will find a pledge card and return envelope for the Campus Expansion Capital Campaign in today's Family Envelope along with some additional information regarding the monthly debit program. Our goal is to have 100% participation with all pledge cards in by March 1st. Classroom captains will be making continued efforts to contact each of our families over the next two weeks asking for your financial support of our Campus Expansion Capital Campaign. Please give them your time and consideration when they call and/or respond to their voicemail/email requests to speak with you.

There has been some parking lot chatter that there is a "mandatory donation amount" that the Steering Committee is expecting from everyone. The Campus Expansion Committee is only seeking maximum participation. We ask that everyone gives according to their means. If a one time donation works best, fine. If the quarterly or 15 month payment plan is easier to budget for, wonderful! This is an exciting project that is a benefit to the children of our entire community and we are asking everyone to participate.

Check the website, 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.

Valentine's Day Parties/Clothing: Students will participate in Valentine fun Thursday, 11th. All are invited to wear Valentine designed shirts/socks or shirts/socks that are predominantly pink or red or white. Regular uniform bottoms and shoes will be worn. The Grade 7-8 dance will be in Fr. Feeney Hall from 1-2:45pm and the class parties will be in the homerooms, 1-2:45 (or part of that time).

Correction: Megan Lawless should have been listed in last week's letter along with the other names as a free throw contest winner for the 10 year old category for girls. Sorry for the oversight, Megan. ***Congratulations!***

Used Uniforms: Has your child/ren outgrown their school uniforms? If yes and you have some that are still in good, wearable condition and want to donate them to STCS's Used Uniform "Closet," we would be happy to accept them. Please bring them to the office. Thank you.

Shoes for Haiti: What an overwhelming response to our Soles4Souls shoe request for the people of Haiti. In just 3 days we received about 6 boxes of gently used and/or new shoes. Thank you. You were very generous.

Volunteer Hours: We know many, many parents have done volunteer hours but haven't yet taken the credit for them! Only 50 families have reported 1500 hours. We know there have been many more hours of service. Please submit your volunteer hours by clicking on or by cutting/pasting this link, <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHJvLWdac3pwZG10MTZKS1FKeWtvc0E6MA> or submit your volunteer hours using the hard copy form found in the front office.

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, 16th, 7pm in the McMahon Center Gym. Any parents of other grade students re welcome to attend.

We are very privileged to have Stacia Ortega of Hospice of the Valley with us tomorrow, Wednesday, February 10th, to share her expertise on grief and loss. We have several appropriate sessions planned.

10:45-11:30: Grade 7-8 students **12:30-1:30:** Parents **2:00-3:00:** Staff All sessions will be in Fr. Feeney Hall.

If any Grade 7-8 parents prefer that their child does not participate in their presentation it is necessary to send a note explaining your reasons.

Thank you/Welcome: Many of you applied for the full-time position of Grade 7-8 Teacher Aide. Thank you for your willingness and interest in our students and staff. Mrs. Susan Turner has been hired for this position.

Prayers/Welcome: Mrs. Dee Cullen, School Counselor, will be out on medical leave for some time. I have promised her our prayers for a speedy recovery. We were fortunate to hire Mrs. Wendy Treon, part time counselor at Ss. Simon and Jude School and a member of the Diocesan Crisis Flight Team who were here Friday, January 15th, to be with us one day each week while Mrs.Cullen is out. Welcome, Mrs.Treon.

Lenten Fish Fry: Join other parish and school families each Friday of Lent, February 19-March 26th, 5-7pm in Fr. Feeney Hall for the weekly Lenten Fish Fry. **See the attachment** for more information.

Scrip Program: Have you bought groceries or filled your car with gas this week? Probably yes. Did you use Scrip? Every family is encouraged to participate in our Scrip program. It is a win-win deal. You pay no more for the gift card(s) and the school receives a percentage of the profit.

Empty Egg Cartons: Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry would be appreciative of any empty egg cartons that you might have and not need. They buy eggs in bulk but distribute them in dozen size cartons. Please drop your extra, empty egg cartons off in the school office. Thank you.

Father/Daughter(s) Dance: Last chance for Dads to register/sign-up for the annual Father/Daughter(s) Dance, **Rock Back the Clock**, Friday, February 19th, 6:30-9:00pm in the McMahon Center Gym. Eighth Grade girls will be honored at the dance! You and your daughter(s) won't want to miss this exciting evening! Questions? Contact Lynn Cassidy at seclec@aol.com

Dads' Club Campout: Don't forget the Dads' Club sponsored campout on our field Saturday/Sunday, February 27/28th. Check in time for pitching your tent starts at 3pm. Mass will be at 5pm in the Ramada followed with a BBQ dinner, games and many more "happenings". Check out will be about 9am Sunday after the continental breakfast. Questions? Contact Mike Hernandez, Dads' Club President at hernfamaz@gmail.com

Spring Fashion Show/Tea: All girls/Moms/Grandmothers/Aunts and lady friends are welcome to join the festivities of our second Fashion Show/Tea themed, **Spring-a-licious!** All girls, Grades Kindergarten-8th are welcome to be "models". There will be a brief meeting for all Kindergarten- 8th Grade girls, Tuesday, February 16th, 2:40 in the Ramada. Registration deadline to be a "model" is Thursday, February 18. Registration forms are available in the office and **attached to this letter**. Girls, you know you want to walk on the runway!

No School: Reminder of no school this Friday or next Monday, February 12/15th in honor of Presidents' Day.

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