

June 30, 2009

Dear St. Theresa Catholic School Parents,

I hope you are in the midst of enjoying quality family time. Isn't that what vacations are all about? Relax. Enjoy reading a favorite book or doing whatever re-energizes you.

I am very excited to be at St. Theresa Catholic School as your principal working with Fr. Chuck as a very caring, committed pastor, this awesome staff, dedicated School Advisory Board members and PTO officers. I am most eager to again have the campus "come alive" with our students. The campus is way too empty and quiet now.

Website: Please check our website, www.stcs.us for current staff listings, to reacquaint yourself with the quality school and campus St. Theresa's really is. As we move forward into the new school year you will again have the option of ordering Scrip on-line as well as seeing more classroom and campus activities cited. As in the past, the principal's weekly letter will be posted on the website.

Core subject grades for seventh and eighth graders will continue to be posted on-line as well as core subject grades for the fifth and sixth grade students. All grades will be current by dismissal twice a month. Additionally, grades for core subjects for third and fourth grade students will be posted later this quarter or beginning Second Quarter. Specifics will be made very clear at Parent Curriculum Night August 27th.

Summer Math "Work" (Gr. 3-8): Reminder that all Grades 3-8 students "get to" do some type of math computation over the summer. Go to the website for a further explanation and the listing of options. All work and/or proof of class and/or proof of tutoring is due the first week of school. Students of Grades Kindergarten-Second Grade are all encouraged to review their basic math facts periodically throughout the summer.

Congratulations/Good-Bye/Welcome: Mrs. Molly Mendoza and her husband Enrique are the proud parents of baby Sophia Maria born May 30th, weighing 7lbs. 7oz. **Congratulations!** While this is wonderful news and we are very happy for them it is also a little sad for us as Mrs. Mendoza has chosen to stay home and be a full time mother.

We want to share with you the changes/names/positions of some staff for the 2009-2010 school year:
Mrs. Marisa Jordan will teach the third Kindergarten class in the portable (former Art Room). Mrs. Karlene Langfeldt, formerly Extended Care Aide, will be her full time teacher Aide.
Mrs. Christine Griffin will be Mrs. Leeland's full time teacher Aide.
Mrs. Amy Encinas will teach second grade with Mrs. Sharon Bailey as her full time Aide.
Ms. Nicole Sanders will be a full time teacher Aide for the Grade 5-6 teachers.
Mrs. Daneen Dixon will be a full time teacher Aide for the Grade 7-8 teachers.
Mrs. Lisa Corona will be a part time Aide for Mrs. Sotelo, Mrs. Nicol and full time Aide in Extended Care.
Mrs. Nancy Gifford will be our Literacy Specialist working each morning.

Homeroom Placements: 2009-2010 Homeroom Placement lists will be posted on the bulletin board in the church Ramada the weekend of August 8/9. Please stop and check your child/ren's placement either before you go to Mass or after Mass. (Access is limited outside of Mass times.)

August Scrip Sales Schedule:

Sunday, August 2: 10-11am in the Church Ramada
Tuesday, August 4: 9-11am in the Scrip Office
Thursday, August, 6: 9-11am in the Scrip Office
Sunday, August 9: 10-11am in the Church Ramada
Tuesday, August 11: 9-11am in the Scrip Office
Wednesday, August 12: 8:15am New Parent Orientation in Fr. Feeney Hall; 12:00 New Family/Mentor Pizza lunch in the McMahon Center Gym

Thursday, August 13: 8:15am Welcome Back Coffee in Fr. Feeney Hall; 11:45-12:15 at the student pick up area
Sunday, August 16: 10-11am in the Church Ramada

August 18 and onward: Tuesdays/Thursdays: 7:50-8:15am in front of the school office; 8:30-2:30 in the Scrip Office;
2:50-3:15 at the student pick-up area
Sunday mornings from 10:00-11:00 in the Church Ramada

Your participation and support of this win-win program is truly appreciated.

School Start-Up Days: Our school year begins August 12th for all new students and August 13th for all returning students. Dismissal is at 12pm August 12-14th. Full days will start Monday, August 17th, 8-3pm. (Regular uniform dress code is in effect starting August 12th.) Extended Care will start Monday August 17th.

School Mass: Please join us for our opening of school Mass on Wednesday, August 19th at 8:30am. Parents/grandparents are always welcome to sit with their child. The next student Mass will be August 26th.

Dress Code: Please **see the attachment** of Pp. 27-28-29 of the 2009-2010 Student/Parent Handbook in reference to our student dress code. As a staff we are asking each of our students to proudly wear their uniform and to fully support and cooperate 100% in the full dress code policy.

Safe Environment Training: We will again provide several opportunities for you to take the diocesan mandated safe environment training for all parents who wish to volunteer as chaperones, classroom helpers, playground monitors, coaches, fall festival workers, etc. etc. etc. throughout this upcoming school year. Because of the required 20 hours of volunteer service all parents "get to" take this training, right? Each volunteer must be in compliance before he/she can have the opportunity to volunteer. With your cooperation and support we can achieve 100% parent participation/compliance in this diocesan mandated annual training.

Terez Sanguine-Barta, volunteer SET coordinator, has scheduled several early fall training sessions. Mark your calendar now for one of these sessions:

Initial training, Called To Protect: August 17th 8:15-10am or 6-8:30pm ***Renewal training:*** August 18th 8:15am. These three sessions will be held in Fr. Feeney Hall.

Please **see the attached explanation** which Terez has prepared of the diocesan mandated procedures.

Meetings: Reminder to all Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten parents of the August 6th, 6:30pm informational meeting in Fr. Feeney Hall. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for all new parents of Pre-school through 8th Grade to gather and hear lots of school information on August 12th, 8:15am in Fr. Feeney Hall. Both meetings are intended to give new STCS parents valuable, practical information about the school.

Bus Program: We are still accepting new applicants for bus ridership for the 2009-2010 school year. Our neighborhood bus and the express bus are nearly full. The 2 other buses will try to accommodate additional riders. If you are interested in more information (routes/times and costs) please call the school office after August 3rd, 602-840-0010 and ask for Mrs. Ferry or Mrs. Downey.

Hot Lunch: We have contracted with Blue Willo Café and Catering to provide the daily hot lunch option. Their services will begin on Monday, August 17 at a cost of \$3.00 per lunch for K-Grade 3 students and \$3.50 for Grades 4-8 students and parents. (All walk-ins are \$5.00.) All lunches will include a main entrée, milk or water, side salad bar, and, usually a soup and sandwich bar. The complete monthly menu will be on-line at www.bluewilllocafe.com, starting July 15th. However, ***attached is a sneak preview of the August menu and a letter from the caterer.*** (Sandwich fixings will always be included on the salad bar. Soup option will begin in September.) All ordering and payment of lunches will be done on-line. No menus or lunch money will be accepted in the office. Those students who bring cold lunch are welcome to buy milk or water, .50. **PLEASE! In keeping with the diocesan Wellness policy and our school's Wellness policy, no fast food, pop or candy for those students bringing their lunch.**

Curriculum Night: The annual Parent Curriculum Night is Thursday, August 27th starting with prayer and general information at 6:30pm in church and then moving to your child/dren's classroom(s) for a factually packed session(s). Also, we will have a brief presentation/explanation about our Campus Expansion/Early Childhood Center Project. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to sign up for classroom, Fall Festival, etc. volunteer opportunities. Please mark this very important date/meeting on your family calendar now.

School Pictures: We have contracted with Imperial School Photography to photograph all students (in uniform) and staff on Monday, August 24th. An explanatory flyer with pricing will be sent home the week of August 17th.

Smart Tuition: Each family will receive a bill from Smart Tuition sometime in July in time for your initial payment of August 1st. Your August payment will reflect the one-time \$38.00 processing fee. All payments are made directly to Smart Tuition.

Student Directory: We are pursuing a mid-September distribution date for the 2009-2010 Student Directory. In order to meet this much earlier deadline we will need to get all information to the printer in a timely manner. In previous years many parents seized the opportunity of purchasing space for an ad for their business. We are again inviting parents to show their support of our school and this particular project as well as showcase their business by purchasing an ad space. If interested we will ***need your ad sized and copy ready as well as your payment made out to STCS by August 21st.*** There are a limited number of spaces available. Ad sizes/prices: 1/4th page: \$50.00, 1/2 page: \$100.00, full page: \$200.00 and inside front and/or inside back cover: \$600.00.

School Theme: Our chosen school theme for the 2009-2010 school year is ***Our God Is Here.*** You will see this theme displayed throughout the school, the song used repeatedly at Mass and, hopefully, the meaning lived out by all of us here at St. Theresa Catholic School.

Classroom Rug: Does anyone have an area rug about the size of 10 ¼ by 10 ¼ that you no longer need and would be suitable for a classroom? We would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

Athletic Dates for Fall, 2009(Gr. 5-8):

August 18: 6pm: Fall Coaches meeting, Room 17
August 20: 3:15pm: All-Sport Mandatory Parent Athlete Meeting in the McMahon Center Gym
August 21: Paperwork due in the office for all sports (See website, www.stcs.us for sports paperwork which will be available on July 1st)
All paperwork and fees must be completed in order to practice on Monday, August 24th.)
August 22: 8-10am: 5th Grade volleyball clinic for girls and coaches in the McMahon Center Gym.
10-12:15pm: 6th Grade volleyball clinic for girls and coaches in the McMahon Center Gym.
August 24: 3:00: First practice for volleyball and football

Coaches Needed: We need coaches for girls' volleyball and boys' flag football in Grades 5-8. Please e-mail Coach Kathy at kputta@diocesephoenix.org and Coach Kaye at skaye@diocesephoenix.org if you are interested in coaching and are safe environment compliant. The first practice is August 24th and the season ends around October 22nd.

Volunteerism: You were the best! I knew you were generous with your time but I didn't realize how generous until I got the volunteer report from Terry Finigian on the number of reported volunteer hours from you. Throughout the 2008-2009 school year 90+% of our parents reported 13,773 hours of volunteer service hours. That is incredible. Thank you so much for your willingness to help whenever and wherever needed. You really did make a difference.

A very special welcome to all new students (and parents) and staff. And, a gigantic thank you to all current students (and parents) and staff who have already made everyone feel welcomed and a part of this amazing community. Together we will know that our God is very present on this campus and in each other.

Sincerely,

Sister Patricia

Sister Patricia Gehling, SSND
Principal