

August 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

Mass: Please join us tomorrow, Wednesday, 8:30am for this week's Kindergarten-Grade 8 student Mass. Your prayer presence is so very important to all of us. As always, you are welcome to sit with your child with her/his class. (The Kindergarten students will leave after the Prayers of the Faithful.)

School Theme: Join us in celebrating our chosen theme for this school year of ***Our God Is Here***. The theme is posted in every classroom and because it is part of a song we will be singing it frequently at our weekly student Masses.

Sacrament Preparation: Parents, if your child/children are in second or third grade at STCS, this is a big year for them in terms of sacramental preparation! Our second graders will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, and our third graders will receive the sacraments of Confirmation/First Eucharist.

Sacramental preparation is a family/child program for our entire parish (children in religious education classes, included) that requires your participation at the meetings and retreats. Please **see the attachment** and calendar those dates, and make plans for a spiritually-rich year with your child. For questions, call Gina Keating at 602-840-0850.

Parent Orientation: There is a meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd, 6:15pm in Fr. Feeney Hall for all parents who are interested in the Stepping Stones Program for any Grade 4-8 students who have not received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Are there any parents who are interested in being Catechists or finding out more about the possibility of teaching RE classes? If yes, please contact Rita Laguna at rlaguna@diocesephoenix.org.

PTO/Homeroom Parents: Special thanks to our PTO Officers and their committees for all the start up work they have already accomplished! All parents will receive a letter from their Homeroom Parents within the next couple of weeks explaining some of the class projects for the year.

There is a very important meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, 8am in the Upper Room for all Homeroom Parents. **See the attached list** of this year's Homeroom Parents! Thank you for saying "yes" to the invitation and/or volunteering. If you have any questions please contact Polly Wintergalen at 602-840-1942 or Joanne Trueman at 480-272-5796, Coordinators.

Parking: PLEASE! For ease of drop-off and pick-up, ***the north parking lot is reserved for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten parents only***. PLEASE! All other parents should be using the east lot. Thank you for your full cooperation.

We are aware that there is still some amount of congestion in the north lot during afternoon pick-up. We know this is partly due to the beginning of the school year and not all bus students riding the bus yet. In an attempt to ease this congestion the far east gate will be opened from 2:40 to 3:15pm (on Wednesday's 1:15-1:45pm). That entry is a one way with traffic going southbound only.

Be patient, drive slowly, don't use your cell phone when driving on campus, pay particular attention when backing up (lots of little children around), check the mirror to the right of the entry gate next to the "Christ statue" when driving through the gate to see if there is a car or person coming around the circle and if/when walking your child in the north lot walk between the blue line and red curb! Our primary goal is the safety of each of our students!

Health News: Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I'm so happy to be back to being my 4th year as your school nurse. Now, down to business... ☺ I need paperwork from many families. You should have turned in two forms to my office: (1) "Student Medical Information and Extended Care Registration Form", and (2) "Emergency Information and

Immunization Record Card". It is very important that these forms be filled out completely and turned into the Nurse's Office as soon as possible.

Most of you have been hearing in the news that we may see a big resurgence of the H1N1 flu this fall. I've asked teachers to start out this year with a lesson on hand washing. I want to encourage you to stress the importance of hand washing at home, and please remind children to cover their sneezes and coughs with their arms. These are the best techniques to prevent the spread of illness.

I want to bring to your attention a community heart screening event which will be held Saturday, 29th at Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa for students 12 years and older. The three schools with the highest attendance will receive a free AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for their school. Please **see the attachment** for more information.

Finally, please remember to call my office to report a student tardy or absent. My direct line is 602-952-1208. You may leave a message any time day or night. You may also send an e-mail to me at ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org. If I have not received a message by 9am it is my duty to contact the parent. Therefore, please be sure to call or e-mail my office first thing in the morning. Thank you. Nurse Ellen

Recycling: Please help us fill our Student Council sponsored paper recycling bin. The Student Council will receive the profits from this project and as you know most of the money they raise goes to charitable projects. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Directory Ads: Last chance! **Ad Space:** As you know we are aggressively 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 in 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 Thursday, 27th**. Send to the office or drop it off but indicate on your envelope: Attention Sister Patricia, Student Directory Ad. 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.

Parent Curriculum Night: We are so excited about **meeting all the parents next Thursday night, 27th, 6:30pm**. Our meeting will start with very important announcements in the church and move to the classrooms for explanatory sessions.

Safe Environment: Reminder that all parents need to be compliant with Safe Environment training by September 18. **See the attachment** for specific details on the remaining sessions offered here at STCS. Additionally, we are holding a special session for SET compliance on Curriculum Night! This session has been added to assist parents needing to meet with volunteering requirements. We recognize your busy schedules so have added this to assist you on a night you are already at school. This session will be 45 minutes in length. Please pre-register at www.safeenvironmenttraining.org. This session will be open to only St. Theresa parents. **Called To Protect:** 8:30pm in Fr. Feeney Hall.

Bible Study: St Theresa Parish is again offering Bible Study sessions for parents. This is a great way to learn more about God and meet other parents.

Daytime and evening class offerings:

- 8 week Quick Journey through the Bible, September 24-November 17, cost \$17.00, Tuesdays at 1pm and 7pm, Thursdays at 1pm
- 24 week Bible Timeline, September 24-March 18, cost \$40.00, Thursdays at 7pm
- 24 week Adventures in Matthew, September 22-March 16, cost \$26.00, Tuesdays 7pm
- 20 week Adventures in Acts, September 21-March 1, cost \$26.00, Mondays at 7pm

To register call the Parish Office, 602-840-0850. For more information call Lynn Cassidy at 602-296-5093, seclec@aol.com or Erin Campbell at 602-952-1297 or josephcmbl@msn.com or visit www.great.adventureonline.com.

Tuition Payments: Please send all tuition payments to Smart Tuition. Don't bring or send them to school. If you have any concerns contact Maureen Ferry at 602-840-0010, ext.205.

SIRS Discoverer on the Web: STCS has a subscription to SIRS Discoverer, a wonderful resource tool, that can be accessed by students at home as well as at school. Please **see the attached flyer** about this wonderful resource tool, and how to access it from home.

School Pictures: All student school pictures will be taken by Dorian Studios on Monday, August 24th. The company is providing 4 photographers. Explanatory flyers are included in this week's Family Envelope. Don't return the form or

money until Monday, 24th. Checks are made payable to Dorian Studios and a separate check is necessary for each child/student. All students will be photographed, in uniform, for yearbook and ID purposes. No parent is required to purchase a package.

Parent Meeting (Grade 7/8): The NotMyKid Clear Choices Program on depression and eating disorders presentation for parents is September 9, 6:30pm in Fr. Feeney Hall. The speakers who will talk to the students are young adults, ages 18-29, who have personally dealt with these life altering issues. They help by sharing how they have overcome these life-controlling addictions, situations and behaviors. Through this program we hope to help you, as parents, continue a more in-depth dialog about these topics with your Grade 7-8 children and to increase the awareness of some of the difficult situations your children, our students, must deal with at this time in their lives. Student presentations will be September 11th, 8:15am. Mark your calendar now for this very important parent meeting!

Dads' Club: All dads are automatically members of our fantastic STCS Dads' Club, no initiation necessary! The first meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday, 19th, 6:30pm at Arcadia Tavern (corner of Indian School and 48th St.). Don't be left out...or, in your absence, volunteered for a job,,,go to the meeting! Come prepared to share your ideas for activities with President Mike Hernandez.

DC Trip Gr. 7-8): All 7-8th Graders are invited to participate in a specially designed educational trip to the Washington, DC area April 5-9. This trip is coordinated by World Strides, a nationally recognized student tour company. This trip is well chaperoned and extremely well-planned. We already have 20 signed up for this exciting tour. Mrs. Steve Kaye and Mrs. Dee Schaff will be our staff chaperones. **See the attached flyer** for more information.

Sally Foster: Get Ready! Our annual Sally Foster Fundraiser is right around the corner. You'll find: Premium Gift Wrap, value-priced; unique gifts and chocolates so good they've been served at the White House! And, everything is \$20 or less! **50% of every purchase goes to our school!** We will kick-off the sale at closing prayer this Friday, 21st, 2:20pm in the Beatitudes Ramada. Details about the sale as well as catalogs will be coming home with your children Friday so look for the packets. Our sale will run from Friday, August 21-Friday, September 4th with lots of prizes for top sales so, sell, sell, sell! The products will be delivered on Thursday, October 15th. (Reminder: Cartons are not allowed home on the bus so please make arrangements to have them picked up that day.) If you have any questions, please contact Gina Anthony at gsanthony@cox.net.

Athletics: Parent/Athlete Meeting: The Parent/Athlete meeting for all Grades 5-8 students who wish to play sports at STCS during this school year is this Thursday, 3:15-4pm in the McMahon Center Gym. Please bring completed paperwork and fees (**see attachments** or go to our website, www.stcs.us/Athletics). Be sure to have the Transportation of Minor form notarized before Thursday's meeting as we have not been able to get a notary to be at our meeting.

Notary Needed: Are you a notary? We are looking for notaries to come to our Parent/Athlete Meeting to notarize athletic forms for parents. The meeting is Thursday, 20th, 3:15-4pm in the McMahon Center Gym. This is a great way to get volunteer hours. If you can help please contact Coach Kathy at kputta@diocesephoenix.org

Fall Sport Coaches Meeting: Meeting for those who will be coaching football or volleyball will be today, Tuesday, 18th, 6pm in Room 17. Please bring coaches paperwork which is available on our website, www.stcs.us/Athletics and look under "Coaching Opportunities".

We are in need of Fall Sport Coaches for 6th Grade Girls Volleyball (2 more coaches) and Boys Football. Contact Coach Kaye at skaye@diocesephoenix.org if you can help or come to our coaches meeting tonight (8/18) at 6 pm in Room 17..

Athletic Dates: Today, Tuesday, 18th, 6pm, Room 17, Fall Coaches meeting and paperwork for coaches due at the meeting; Thursday, 20th, 3:15pm Parent/Athlete meeting in the McMahon Center Gym and all sports paperwork due; Saturday, 22, 8-10am 5th Grade Girls' Volleyball clinic, 10:15-12:15 6th Grade Girls Volleyball clinic (both are in the McMahon Center Gym); Monday, 24th, 3pm, First Volleyball practice; Tuesday, 25th, 3pm, First Football practice.

All students who are playing sports must fill out the "1st Time Participant for After School Sports, 2009-2010" information which includes 6 different forms and a sports physical. Please do not fill out the "Returning Athlete Form". The **correct forms are attached** to this letter.

Enrichment Classes: Our fall sessions of Enrichment classes will start next Wednesday, 26th, 1:40-2:40pm. We are expecting the offerings to include: Chess, Young Rembrandts, Athletes in Training, Fencing, Math Tutoring, Girl Scouts, and Tennis. More information will be coming as the paperwork, etc. gets finalized. Watch for more info throughout this week.

Mentor Families: What a great program! Thank you to the many families who are mentoring with our new families. Your enthusiasm is awesome! The pool party and pizza lunch were very well attended and lots of fun for both new families and mentor ones. We apologize if there are any new Kindergarten-8th Grade families who have not been contacted by their Mentor family. If you have not, please call Lisa Bullington at 602-762-1441 or lisabullington@cox.net.

Absenteeism: Reminder: If your child will be tardy or absent you are asked to call or e-mail the school by 9am and leave a message with Nurse Ellen, 502-952-1208 or ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org. It only takes you a minute but takes Nurse Ellen a very long time to make multiple calls.

Cub Scout Registration: All new and returning scouts will be meetings next Tuesday, 25th in the McMahon Center Gym at 6pm. The Cub Scout program is for boys in Grades 1-5. For more information contact Paul Scott at pスコット@ctsaz.com or 602-370-1231.

CCF Service Awards: The 2010 Catholic Community Foundation's Christian Service Awards application process has just been announced. Christian Service Award recipients will receive \$2000.00 per year for each of the four years they attend Catholic High School (\$8000 total award).

While this is for 8th grade students, younger grades can learn of the award and begin thinking ahead for their applications when they reach 8th grade.

Any practicing Catholic 8th grade student, registered in the Diocese of Phoenix, who plans to attend Catholic High School, can apply. Funding for these awards is made possible thanks to the generosity of friends and benefactors of the Christian Community Foundation.

Informational brochures have been given to every student in 8th grade. Students must submit their completed application packets, including all required documents, to the Catholic Community Foundation office by October 15th. Visit www.ChristianServiceAwards.org for applications, instructions and additional information. Call 602-354-2407 to receive an application by mail.

Library Usage: Library classes started this week. Look for the wonderful books that your child/ren will be bringing home this week. There are just a few reminders about library usage. Books are checked out for one week. Older students can renew the book(s). If a book is overdue there is a fine and the student(s) will not be able to check out a new book. The fine is .10 per day per book. If your child has an overdue book please help him/her out by sending in not only the book but the fine. That way he/she will be able to check out a new book on his/her library day. Thank you. Mrs. Bushard, Librarian

We are truly enjoying getting to know your children. They are delightfully energetic! Our God is truly here and present in and among all of us.

The mission of St. Theresa Catholic School is to form 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