

August 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

Mass: Our 8:30 Mass tomorrow is being planned by Miss Murray and the eighth graders of 8.16. Please join us. Your prayer presence is very important to all of us. You are most welcome to sit with your child with her/his class.

Picture Day: Yesterday's picture day went really well. Students smiled and looked very handsome and beautiful! Picture packages should be back to us by mid-end of September. Make-Up day will be October 26 for students who were absent yesterday or whose picture was technically less than satisfactory. Additionally, if you have any younger siblings that you would like photographed they are welcome to come the 26th, also. Questions? Call the office at 602-840-0010. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped as runners, hair combers, etc., etc. It would not have been nearly as efficiently done without you.

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, 602-952-1208 or ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org. It only takes you a minute but takes Nurse Ellen a very long time to make multiple calls.

Enrichment Classes: After-school Enrichment classes will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, 26th, 1:40pm. Please send a note to inform your child's classroom teacher if they are attending one of these after school classes. Children will be taken to their first enrichment class after the 1:30pm dismissal. Pick up will be at the Enrichment class classroom(s) at 2:40pm unless told otherwise.

Parent Curriculum Night: All parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate in our annual Parent Curriculum Night Thursday, 27th, starting at 6:30pm in the church. There will be a wealth of information shared with you by the School Advisory Board, PTO, our Development Director and many, many more. After the announcements and sharing of information in the church you will have an opportunity to go to the classroom(s) of your child/ren. There will be 2 twenty minute classroom sessions. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to sign up for volunteer activities within your child/ren's grade level. Grade 7-8 teachers and parents will meet in Fr. Feeney Hall for their session.

Terez Sanguine-Barta, Volunteer Safe Environment Coordinator, will be offering a Called To Protect training at 8:30pm in Fr. Feeney Hall. CTP is the initial/foundation training. Every parent must be safe environment compliant by September 18th in order to volunteer in the classrooms, on field trips, etc. Please pre-register at www.safeenvironmenttraining.org

We received irrigation yesterday so ***parking on the field will not be an option*** for the meeting. Please carpool if possible. Come early to get a parking spot!

Important Sacrament Parent Notification: Many of you have yet to register your second grader for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or your third grade child for the Sacraments of Confirmation/First Eucharist. All forms have a deadline. If your child will be receiving the sacraments this year, come by the Parish Office for the information. As a courtesy, I will also be available to you during Curriculum Night this Thursday in the School Ramada. Please note: If your child received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last year in second grade from St. Theresa Parish, I have a copy of her/his baptismal certificate for their third grade sacraments this year. Questions, call Gina Keating at 602-840-0850.

Very Important CTODP News: Some of you may have heard about CEF (Catholic Education Fund), a new program launched last month through CTODP whereby Arizona taxpayers can redirect their tax credit to a specific, donor-recommended student. This new program is currently being suspended until further notice; however, all other existing CTODP programs will continue....and are needed for many of your parish school's children. In sum; a person filing as an individual who pays Arizona state tax can redirect up to \$500 of their state tax obligation to Saint Theresa Catholic School, school code 190, and a couple filing jointly can redirect up to \$1000 of their state tax obligation to Saint Theresa Catholic School for a full dollar-for-dollar tax credit, costing absolutely nothing to the taxpayer. Last year nearly \$300,000 of your tax dollars was redirected right back to Saint Theresa Catholic School helping many families keep their children enrolled. Now more than ever your redirected tax dollars are needed at your parish school, and it costs you nothing to participate

and redirect your tax dollars and designate Saint Theresa Catholic School. For more information contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development, at 602-840-0010 x 204 or ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org.

STCS Alumni: Help us find our treasured Alumni! Saint Theresa Catholic School is celebrating its 52nd year and we are looking to find our Alumni. **Attached is a quick form** to help us find our Alumni; simply write down who you know (maybe even yourself!) who's attended STCS over the years and their contact information. You can return the form in the School Office or e-mail Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development at ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org.

AR Home Connect: Grades 3-8 parents are receiving a letter in their Family Envelope today about AR Home Connect. We used this program last year for our Accelerated Reader. Please log-in and register your e-mail with the Accelerated Reader program. Registering will allow you to review the quizzes your child has taken and will alert you when your child takes a quiz. We are going green and will no longer print AR quiz results at school. This will save a lot of paper throughout the year. Thank you for your attention to this. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Bushard at jbushard@diocesephoenix.org.

ITBS Testing (Gr. 2-8): All Grades 2-8 students of the diocese will be taking the Iowa Tests of basic Skills (ITBS) during the weeks of September 9-24th. Please have them eat breakfast, send a healthy snack for mid-morning, and encourage them to do their best. Please do not schedule any doctor/dentist appointments during this time nor pull them out of school for an early start on the weekend. We are trying to minimize disruptions as much as possible. There will be an opportunity for make-up testing if the student has not missed too many tests. Realistically, if a student has missed most of the series of testing make-ups will not be possible.

Diocesan Sponsored Activity: Circle October 24th, 2009, on your calendar! Plan to join us for the second annual diocesan **Night of Hope**, an evening celebrating the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Phoenix. This night of dinner, dancing and fellowship will benefit the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund, which provides tuition assistance for every school in our diocese. This event begins at 6pm at the new Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix. Every school is asked to host at least one table of ten. For more information, see the event website at www.diocesephoenix.org/NOH or call the Catholic Schools Office at 602-354-2345.

Safe Environment: Special thanks to our School/Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Terez Sanguine-Barta, who is again coordinating this year's training sessions. Remember, it is the expectation that all parents are compliant with this diocesan mandated training. This is an annual training for all employees and volunteers. Terez is offering one more **Called To Protect** (initial/foundation training) session this Thursday, 27th, 8:30pm in Fr. Feeney Hall after the Curriculum Night meetings. Those still needing to renew need to do so on-line or attend at a different parish. The on-line renewal can be done by going to www.safeenvironmenttraining.org and following the prompts. You can check your status for compliance by going to the website and clicking on "my obligations" and following the prompts. Everyone needs to be compliant by September 18th.

Dads' Club News: Our very active Dads' Club had their 2009-2010 kick-off meeting Wednesday, August 19th. Two main points of business were the Dads'/sons outing and monthly Pancake Breakfasts.

President Mike Hernandez needs to hear back from all dads who are interested and can commit to the Father/sons outing at the Smoke Tree Resort Saturday September 26-Sunday September 27th. Arrival time is 3pm and check out is Sunday at 9am. If at least 20 rooms are booked the rate will be \$40.00 per room; 2-4 larger suites will go to highest bidder with bidding starting at \$80.00. El Toro will provide dinner which is included in the room rate. We need a firm number of dads/sons who will be attending and need to sell at least 15 rooms to make this a win-win deal. Need your answers by this Friday, 28th. Contact Mike at artisan catering.com if you can make the weekend.

As many dads as can are welcome to help clean and ready the McMahon Center Kitchen for our monthly Pancake Breakfasts. If you can help, please stop by this Saturday, 29th, 10-2pm.

Our first Dads' Club sponsored monthly Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, September 13th.

Art Project: Mrs. Robb will be doing an art project that requires brown paper grocery bags. If you have any of these bags please drop them off in the office. Thank you.

Cub Scout Registration: All new and returning scouts will be meeting tonight, Tuesday, 25th, 6-7:15pm in the McMahon Center Gym. The Cub Scout program is for boys in Grades 1-5. **See the attached flyer** or contact Paul Scott at pscott@ctsaz.com or 602-370-1231 for further information.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up: Reminder to use the east lot for pick-up and drop-off unless you have a Preschooler or a Pre-Kindergarten student. ***The north lot is reserved for these families.*** No other families should be parking in the north lot for drop-off or pick-up. Having the far east gate open at dismissal time seems to have eased the congestion slightly. ***PLEASE!*** We need everyone to give 100% attention while driving in either lot. There were almost 2 accidents last week involving people backing up and nearly hitting an adult and an adult and child. ***PLEASE!*** Do not use your cell phones when driving in either lot dropping students off or picking them up. Also, in the morning you are asked to pull as far south and east as possible before stopping to let your child/ren out. If you are going to park and walk your child/ren to their classroom you are still asked to drive as far south/east as possible before parking. It is necessary to keep the flow of traffic moving as smoothly as possible. Together we know our primary concern must be the safety of the children. Thank you.

Scrip Sales: Reminder: Scrip is sold every Sunday, 9-11am in the Church Ramada as well as every Tuesday and Thursday in their office and outside before and after school. This is a win-win deal. You know you need gas and groceries as well as the occasional going out to eat. Check our website, www.stcs.us for all Scrip offerings. Questions? Contact Marybarb at 602-840-0010 x 179.

Website: Have you checked out our school website lately? If not you are missing lots of exciting news. Go to www.stcs.us for all the latest news about school and classroom happenings, as well as checking out Scrip and Spirit Store items.

Gift Wrap Sales: Last Friday we kicked off our annual Sally Foster Gift Wrap Drive. All children should have brought home a sales packet. The sale will run until September 4th. Our school earns a whopping 50% of all sales. Last year we earned over \$15,000.00 for our school! Get your family and friends to stock up; all items sell for \$20.00 or less. Anyone wanting to buy can also purchase on-line (just input our school code located on the information letter in the packet) and the product(s) will be delivered directly to your door, minimizing your deliveries. For any questions contact Gina Anthony at gsanthony@cox.net or 602-571-6504.

Photographic Release Form: All students, Grades 1-8 received a Photographic Release Form today. Please complete the information and return it as soon as possible. This information is needed for inclusion in our annual yearbook, website usage as well as any submissions to the media.

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