

September 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

**Mass:** Please join us for our 8:30 Mass tomorrow planned by Mrs. Downey and the Staff. Your prayer presence is very important to us. As has been the custom you are asked to sit with your child with his/her class.

**Diocesan Activity:** What are you doing on October 24? Dancing the night away at **Night of Hope**, of course! Plan to join our community members from all over the Diocese as we celebrate our Catholic schools and help ensure their future. This night of dinner and fellowship begins at 6pm at the new Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix. All proceeds go to the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund, which provides tuition assistance for every school in the Diocese. For more information, check out the website at [www.diocesephoenix.org/NOH](http://www.diocesephoenix.org/NOH) or call the Catholic Schools Office at 602-354-2345. Ms. Tracey Thiesen our Development Director and Mrs. Lynn Cassidy, are our school representatives on the diocesan-wide preparation committee.

**ITBS Testing (Grades 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 9-24<sup>th</sup>. Please have them eat breakfast, send a healthy snack for mid-morning, and encourage them to do their best. Please do not schedule 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 of the subtests. Realistically, if a student has missed most of the series of testing make-ups will not be possible.

**CTODP Update:** Parents, if you missed last week's Curriculum Night's mini update presentation in the church and/or have questions about the recent changes with CTODP's Catholic Education Fund (or other STO's that may offer donor recommendations), please contact Tracey Michelle Theisen directly at 602-840-0010 x 204 or [ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org).

**Parent Meeting (Gr. 7):** There is a really important information-packed CIMI educational Science trip parent meeting, Monday, September 14, 6pm in Fr. Feeney Hall for all parents of Grade 7 students. You are asked to bring your son/daughter's medical records in order to complete the **required medical information** for the Institute.

**Playground Volunteers:** Are there Moms or Dads who would love to spend extra time with their kids and their friends? We have just the opportunity for you. We would welcome more parents as playground monitors. If you are current with your safe environment training, can spare the time, 11:35-12:50, one day a week or one day every two weeks we would appreciate your assistance. Let Coach Kaye know of your willing interest and preference of day(s).

**Used Uniforms:** Do you have some STCS school uniforms that your child is no longer wearing but are in good condition? We would welcome any/all donations of good, clean, wearable uniforms to be recycled to families who need them. Please bring them to the office for pick-up. If you are in need of purchasing good, clean, wearable used uniforms there will be an order form/pricing list in the office. Orders will be filled in a very timely manner.

**Homeroom Parents:** Thank you so much to each of our parents who have volunteered to be Homeroom Parents. You are/will be a tremendous conduit for that teacher to get many extra tasks accomplished. Homeroom parents have or will be sending an appropriate letter home to each student of each class explaining some of the big tasks of the year and the implementation of an upfront financial donation from each family to cover the auction project, class retreat, teacher Christmas gift, etc., etc. (Field trips are still extra.) Don't hesitate to contact your room parent or Polly Wintergalen or Joanne Trueman, Homeroom Parent Coordinators or Shellie Andreen, PTO President, with any questions or concerns.

**Safe Environment Trainings:** An overwhelming thank you to Terez Sanguine-Barta for coordinating the Safe Environment training sessions for our STCS staff/parish and parents. Since August 10<sup>th</sup> she has provided multiple training sessions for staff and parents. Some parents still need to do their renewal to be compliant for 2009. Renewal can be done on-line or by going to another parish. Some parents have not yet done the basic **Called To Protect** class. This cannot be done on-line but must be done in person. Terez has agreed to do one more **Called To Protect** session on

Monday, September 14, 8:15am in Fr. Feeney Hall. Please pre-register by going to [www.safeenvironmenttraining.org](http://www.safeenvironmenttraining.org) and click on "register for classes". The session will last about one hour. *This will be the last scheduled Called To Protect training scheduled for STCS.* (Thank you, Terez, for this extra session!)

If you are unable to be at this session, and still require CTP (the foundational session), you can take a session at any of the other parish locations in the diocese. To find out time and location go to [www.safeenvironmenttraining.org](http://www.safeenvironmenttraining.org) and click on "register for classes". You can sign up for CTP for Parents and Families or Ministries.

Check your status for compliance by going to [www.safeenvironmenttraining.org](http://www.safeenvironmenttraining.org) and click "my obligation" and follow the prompts. Please correct any data that is incorrect. You will be told what to take in order to be compliant.

Please remember September 18<sup>th</sup> is the cut off date for SET compliance. Annual SET compliance is a diocesan requirement for any and all volunteering on our campus.

We know all parents will "want to" be on campus at exciting activities and/or volunteering throughout the year. PLEASE! Make our bookkeeping/record keeping task easier. *PLEASE! All parents are asked to be compliant by September 18<sup>th</sup>.*

**Faith Formation and Sacramental Prep for Children and Teens:** There will be an orientation meeting for parents with children currently attending or wanting to be a part of Faith Formation Classes or Sacramental Preparation Classes in St. Theresa Parish tomorrow, Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:15pm in Fr. Feeney Hall. The meeting will last about 45-60 minutes and will include information about 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Sacramental Preparation, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade *Stepping Stones* program, and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade *Edge* program. This will be a great opportunity to pick up registration materials, meet the program coordinators, and ask questions.

**Athletic Dates:** Our volleyball and football games will start September 8<sup>th</sup>. The week of September 14 all coaches and team members will meet at 3:15pm at their first home game for team pictures for the yearbook.

**Away Games:** If you are driving to an away game, meet your child at the parent pick-up area. They will walk out with their class and meet you there.

**Enrichment Classes:** Classes that will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, are Young Rembrandts, Chess Club, Choir, and Athletes in Training. We are still waiting on Fencing. Tennis will begin in October.

**Wish List:** A few times each year we compile a generic Wish List of items the teachers could really use but are not budgeted items. If you can contribute toward any of these it would be greatly appreciated. Send any donations to the Office. Thank you.

Math Manipulative Sets:	\$80.00
Fraction Card Sets:	\$25.00
Office Max Gift Cards (7)	\$25.00
Target Gift Cards (9)	\$25.00
WalMart Gift Cards (8)	\$25.00
Michaels Gift Cards (6)	\$25.00
BestBuy Gift Cards (3)	\$25.00
Radio Shack Gift Cards (4)	\$25.00
Costco Gift Cards (4)	\$50.00
Office Max Gift Cards (4)	\$50.00

**School Shirts:** It has been brought to my attention that on some of the new school shirts the edges of the "patch" of the crest have loosened. I checked with Dennis Uniform and they have assured me that you are very welcome to take the shirt(s) back to their store. (4920 E. McDowell St.) The "patch" is guaranteed for the life of the shirt. Don't hesitate. We are working with representatives of the company to alter how the crest will be attached/embroidered.

**Dennis Uniform Advantage Cards:** Today is the start of the Dennis Uniform Co. Dennis Advantage Cards in which you can earn money towards your purchases. Throughout the year they will validate all in-store purchases on Dennis Advantage Cards and you can redeem "full" cards for savings on your next purchase. March is "double punch" month, in which families receive two punches for every ten dollars spent. *Please see the attached flyer.*

**Parent Meeting (Gr. 8):** All Parents of Eighth Grade students are invited to an informational meeting Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm in Room 17. Specific information about their SkyY trip, high school admissions information,

calendar of other Eighth Grade activities, etc., etc. will be discussed by the teachers. Please plan to attend. Park in the north lot and enter using the pedestrian gate immediately west of the convent.

**Sally Foster Gift Wrap:** All Sally Foster sales packets are due back this Friday, 4<sup>th</sup>. It is your last chance to sell to neighbors, friends and family. Did you know that on-line ordering is another great way to get people to buy? Just go to [sallyfoster.com](http://sallyfoster.com) and begin shopping! During checkout, choose the option to give the credit to a school; type in our school code: **297917**. It's that simple! In addition to the product being delivered directly to your door, our school continues to get 50% credit for all on-line sales until June 2010. So, if you forgot to pick up enough holiday paper, or need a last minute gift for a friend, just go to [sallyfoster.com](http://sallyfoster.com) and shop all year long for St. Theresa Catholic School. Questions? Contact Gina at [gsanthony@cox.net](mailto:gsanthony@cox.net).

**Spirit Day:** Our Student Council is inviting all students/staff to support their special fundraiser this Friday, 4th by paying \$1.00 to wear their favorite pair of shoes and socks. *(Of course shoes must be playground safe, closed toes and closed back.)* **See the attached flyer.**

**Bible Study:** All parents are invited to join the parish sponsored Bible Study class entitled ***The Great Adventure: A Journey Through the Bible***. To find out more information or to register for either class contact the parish Office at 602-840-0850.

**Pancake Breakfast:** Are you ready to enjoy the first Dads' Club Pancake Breakfast of the 2009-2010 school year? They will be serving their "world famous" pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, breakfast meats, biscuits and gravy, fruit, orange juice, coffee and who can bypass their fantastic omelet bar? Prices are still \$4.00 for adults and \$20.00 for a family. See you Sunday, September 13, 8:30-11:00 in the McMahon Center Gym. Thanks, Dads! *(All students are asked to stay off the stage, not run around and stay with their parents. Thank you.)*

We are so very proud of our students and the gentleness and respect they are showing toward each other and the adults they are interacting with. Thank you for being good role models for them.

*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