

September 8, 2009

Dear Parents,

Mass: Please join us tomorrow for our 8:30am Mass led by Mrs. Drummey and the eighth graders of 8.17. You know your prayer presence is very important to us.

Dads' Club Breakfast: Work on your appetite! Our Dads' Club will be serving their "world famous", all you care to eat Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, 8:30-11am in the McMahon Center Gym. How can you say no to pancakes, biscuits and gravy, breakfast meats, scrambled eggs, orange juice and their delicious omelets? I can't! See you there, Sunday, September 13th. *(Parents, please keep your children with you, off the stage and not running around. Thank you.)*

Diocesan Activity: Get eight of your closest friends together and plan to join the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Schools for the inaugural **Night of Hope** on October 24th. We'll be gathering at the new Sheraton Hotel in downtown Phoenix at 6pm for a night of dinner and celebration that will benefit the Catholic Schools Endowment Fund. Dr. Elinor Ford, former Superintendent of the Catholic Schools of the archdiocese of New York City (200 elementary and 80 high schools), renowned lecturer, champion for Catholic education, respected educator, and author will be the keynote speaker. The cost is \$100.00 a person. For more information or to make reservations, check out the website at www.diocesephoenix.org/NOH or call the Catholic Schools Office at 602-354-2345. For further information or questions contact our parent representative, Mrs. Lynn Cassidy at seclec@aol.com or Tracey Theisen, Development Director, at ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org

Drop-Off/Pick-Up: The traffic flow seems to have improved at drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you for your attention to this very important safety matter. **Reminder when dropping-off and/or picking-up pull to the far east end of the basketball court** to allow more cars to follow. **Additionally, follow the flow of traffic when parking and driving. Rumor has it some parents are exiting through the far east gate when it is clearly marked as an entrance only.** Hopefully this is only a rumor. If proven to be true that gate may again stay locked at pick-up time! Please do not use your cell phones when dropping off or picking up your child/ren. **Reminder that only Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten parents should be parking in the north lot at drop-off or pick-up time. Additionally, do not drive through our north lot to get to the east lot!**

Parent Presentation: Reminder of the special parent presentation tomorrow, Wednesday, 6:30pm in Fr. Feeney Hall from the NotMyKid Organization on "Depression and Eating Disorders". **All parents are welcome to hear this presentation.** The program promises to be one you won't want to miss. However, only the 7-8th Grade students will have the age-appropriate presentation Friday, 8:20 in Fr. Feeney Hall.

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 to the school office or email Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development at ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org.

Patriots Day, Friday, September 11: Parents, you are cordially invited to join our students at our **Friday Prayer Service** led by Mrs. Schaff's 7th Grade class at **2:15pm** in our Beatitudes Ramada. We will honor and pray for those who have dedicated their lives to protect America's freedom on this special Remembrance Day. We will have a military presence as well as some "special guests".

The Scouts of St. Theresa Parish/School (Boys, Cubs, Girls, and Ventures), will be conducting a **Flag Remembrance Ceremony** this Friday, 11th. You are invited to join this ceremony at **5:30pm** on the basketball court on the southeast side of the campus. All scouts are asked to be in their scout uniform and to be present at 5pm to prep the flags. The ceremony will begin at 5:30pm with a color guard and prayer. There will refreshments at the conclusion of the ceremony. A special invitation to all military families. Any questions? Please e-mail Yolanda Guerra at yotomas@yahoo.com or 602-463-9217.

Used Uniforms: Do you have some STCS school uniforms that your child no longer is 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 is an order form/pricing list in the office. All shirts/shorts/sweatshirts are \$5.00, skorts/skirts \$10.00 and PE shorts/shirts are \$1.00.

Playground Volunteers: Thank you to the parents/grandparents who have come forward to volunteer to help with playground duty. Wednesdays are now covered. Your willingness is greatly appreciated. We would welcome a few more moms and/or dads and/or grandfathers who would like to spend some quality time weekly or monthly with our children. Playground times are 11:35-12:50pm. If interested and you are current with safe environment training please contact Coach Kaye to let him know of your interest. skaye@diocesphoenix.org

Safe Environment Training: We have planned one extra Safe Environment Training session, **Called To Protect**, at STCS on Monday, 14th, 8:15am, Fr. Feeney Hall. If you need to take this initial, foundational training of **Called To Protect** and don't take it the 14th, you will need to participate at another parish. **See the attached flyer.** Go to the website of www.safeenvironmenttraining.org to find locations as well as registering for that session. Special thanks to Peggy Sandahl for assisting Terez with some clerical tasks. **Just to recap: Reminder:** Prior to volunteering at STCS you are required to annually participate in SET training. Your first annual compliance requires completing **Called To Protect**. Each year thereafter requires renewal which can be completed on-line. Deadline for compliance is September 18th. 52 parents became compliant over the weekend. Thank you. We are expecting 100% compliance from all of our parents. We can do it! You know you want to be able to volunteer! Remember to turn paperwork in to the office when your renewal is completed. Questions? Contact Terez Sanguine-Barta at terez@staffing-consulants.com Thanks, Terez. You have done an awesome job!

Gift Wrap: Please remember to turn in your Sally Foster Gift Wrap orders if you haven't already done so. **Order packets are due in the office no later than this Friday, 11th.** Not ready to place your order? Order on-line throughout the school year and St. Theresa will continue to earn 50%! Just go to: sallyfoster.com and shop away. When you are ready to check out, just select the option to give credit to a school. Then type in your code: **297917**. Product will be shipped directly to your door in a week. It's that easy. Any questions, contact Gina Anthony at 602-571-6504, or gsanthony@cox.net. Thank you for your support.

Athletic News: Let the volleyball and football games begin. Good luck to all of our teams. Play hard, play as a team and show outstanding sportsmanship! On September 14 the coaches and team members will meet at 3:15pm for their team pictures for the yearbook. Parents, if you are driving to an away game, meet your child at the parent pick-up area. Players will walk out with their class and meet you there.

Brown Grocery Bags: Thank you for the donations of the brown paper grocery bags for the art project(s). We have enough for now.

Enrichment Classes: The Enrichment classes which will meet tomorrow, 1:40-2:40, are Young Rembrandts, Chess Club, Choir, Fencing and Athletes in Training. Tennis will begin in October. Any questions? Contact Coach Kathy at kputta@diocesphoenix.org.

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