

December 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

**Mass:** Join us tomorrow, Wednesday, for our 8:30 student Mass led by the Staff. Your prayer presence is always very important to us.

Join us next **Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00**, for our holyday Mass celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception. (No school Mass on Wednesday at 8:30am.)

**Thanksgiving Food Donation:** Our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry personnel were overwhelmed with the amount and variety of food donations (937 items) from our students and staff at last Wednesday's pre-Thanksgiving Mass. Thank you for your generosity!

**Basket:** Lack of food or toiletry products doesn't just happen at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. While these are awesome times to be aware of the needs of others and have these collections it is also important to be conscious year round of those who have less. The staff asked that we have a container available at all times for food and/or toiletry items for our St. Vincent de Paul Society to distribute as needed. We moved forward with this idea and now have a very large covered basket outside the office for non-perishable food or toiletry products. If/when you are out shopping and have room in your cart for a little something extra please remember this cause. Thank you.

**Scholarship News:** Parents, thank you for helping us promote CTODP so we can ensure our students continue their Catholic education. In addition, the forms we sent home (and more are available in the school and parish offices) we are happy to mail CTODP brochures to your friends, family, coworkers, grandparents, etc. Contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development, at 602-840-0010x204 or [ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org). **I can't stress enough how vitally important this program is to our school families.** If each family encouraged just one more person/family to redirect their taxes to Saint Theresa Catholic School, we could offer an additional \$300,000 in scholarship assistance, at no cost to the taxpayer!

This weekend only, we will have a CTODP table after all the Masses with additional forms and an opportunity to talk to Tracey about redirecting your taxes. For those attending the 7:30 and 9:00 Masses, when you complete your CTODP form after Mass you will receive a coupon for a free, delicious pancake breakfast compliments of the Dads' Club.

**Dads' Club Breakfast:** Reminder of the monthly Dads' Club Breakfast this Sunday, 8-11am. Enjoy a really scrumptious breakfast and fellowship with parishioners and school families. You can't find a better breakfast in the valley! See you there!

**Community Building Event:** Reminder of the upcoming Christmas ornament exchange party on December 9<sup>th</sup>. **See the attached flyer.** This is the first Community Building party for Auction, 2010. Don't be left out.

**Christmas Eve Play:** The **Children's 4:15pm Christmas Eve Mass in Fr. Feeney Hall** needs children of all ages to participate in the gospel play that tells the story of Jesus' birth. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or by calling Gina Keating at 602-840-0850 x 111.

**Parking:** Reminder! Do not park in any handicapped parking spots at drop-off or pick-up unless it truly applies to you. Some people who have the need have not been able to park in the handicapped spots because others are and are not handicapped. Please be conscious of the

needs of others. Also, do not park in any spaces that are marked **Reserved for Auction Winner**. Please! Remember that the north parking lot is needed by our Preschool and Pre-kindergarten parents. Please reserve this area of parking for them. Thank you.

**Messages:** Yesterday we implemented a new process of getting messages received from you during the day to your students. We will no longer call into the classroom(s) and disrupt the teaching process (often tests are interrupted). Any messages or items dropped off for your student will be held in the office until 12:00. A memo concerning the message will be put in the appropriate staff member's mailbox. Each staff member will continue to check her/his mailbox about 12:00 and will deliver the message or item to your son/daughter. Messages received after 12:00 will be held until approximately 2:35 at which time those classrooms will be interrupted and messages given.

Please continue, or do, write out your bus notes and give them to the homeroom teacher(s). Thank you to those parents who already do this. This will really help minimize classroom interruptions.

We are working really hard to minimize/eliminate any interruptions for the teachers and students. We are confident you understand our intentions and will support our efforts.

**Advent Program:** We look forward to all of the children participating in the musical entitled, "**The Christmas Chronicles**" for our Advent program on Tuesday, December 15, 6:30pm. The children have been practicing very hard to make this a wonderful program for you. The success of the program depends on everyone participating as this is a school-wide activity.

Children need to be in their classrooms at 6:00pm on December 15. All children must be picked up after the entire program from their classrooms, where they will receive a special treat. We ask your cooperation and regard for the children's safety in following this procedure. **Please do not take your child while they are in transition from the church to their classroom.** Thank you for your assistance in making this a blessed time. Questions? Contact Mrs. Rahman at [jarahman@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:jarahman@diocesephoenix.org)

**Advent Outreach:** As an all-school Advent outreach program, our Student Council is inviting all students and staff to bring one or more pairs of new adult socks for Sister Adele's homeless ministry. Please send/bring these in between next Monday, 7th and Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Classroom Christmas Parties/Clothing:** Reminder that all classroom Christmas parties are Friday, December 18, 10:45-12:00 dismissal. All Homeroom Mothers are asked to confer with the homeroom teacher **before** party plans are finalized.

All students/staff are invited to wear Christmasy sweaters, sweatshirts, socks with their uniform shirt/shorts/skirt/jumper/skort/shoes Monday-Friday, December 14-18<sup>th</sup>.

**Flu Shots:** Mollen Clinic will again be on campus to give students the seasonal and/or H1N1 flu shots on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 9-2pm, in Fr. Feeney Hall. Parents must be present during the vaccination. Children 9 and need to have an H1N1 booster, so if your child is 9 years old or younger and received his/her initial H1N1 vaccine here at school on November 18<sup>th</sup>, he/she will need a booster and may get it at the clinic on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If this will be the initial H1N1 vaccine for a child under age 10, then you will need to find a booster in mid-January. This will be the last flu shot clinic to be held here on campus. Please **see the attached flyer** to register, and contact me at [ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org) or 602-952-1208 if you have any questions. Nurse Ellen

**Save the Dates:**

December 8: 10:00	Holyday Children's Mass
December 9: 9:00	XCP Concert Choir and Handbell Choir concerts
December 15: 6:30pm	Children's Advent Program (Students in Hrms.at 6pm)
December 18: 10:45	Classroom Christmas Parties
December 18: 12:00	Dismissal for Christmas Break
December 31:	CTODP contributions must be postmarked
January 4:	School Resumes
January 5:	Re-registration for current families begins
January 12:	Report cards will go home
February 1: 8:30-12:30	Grandparents' Day (or older adult)
February 5: 11:00	CSW Family Lunch
February 7: 10-1pm	Open House for new families (Spread the word)
February 19:	Father/Daughter(s) Dance, McMahon Center Gym
February 27:	Father/Kids Overnight Campout on the field

March 13:  
March 27:

Annual Auction: ***Follow the Yellow Brick Road***  
Second Annual Fashion Show: ***Spring-a-licious***

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass:** Any students, Grade 3-8 who would like to participate in a very special way in the Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 8am Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass are encouraged to contact Laura Dominguez at 602-290-2390 or Gina Keating at 602-840-0850. There will be rehearsals in church Monday, Dec. 7 and Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> immediately after school. ***See the attached flyer.***

**Spirit Store “Stuffs”:** Reminder that Spirit Store “stuffs” will again be on sale this Thursday at dismissal near the Scrip table. They have some really neat car decals with the school crest, blankets with the school crest, new navy blue sweatshirts with the school crest, spirit t-shirts and lots of stocking stuffers.

**Scrip:** Are you remembering that, for your convenience in shopping, our Scrip “store” is open for business on the east parking lot each morning and afternoon up through December 18<sup>th</sup>? Stop by and purchase more stocking stuffer gift cards. They have an endless variety of gift cards. The Harkins cups are sold out. However, they do have \$10 and \$25 Harkins gift cards in stock.

**Think Scrip! Shop Scrip.** It is a win-win deal.

**Buck-a-Jeans Day:** Reminder of the Student Council sponsored buck-a-jeans day this Friday, 4<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go to the Diocesan Student CDA collection. Any of our school spirit t-shirts can be worn, too. (Regular uniform socks, shoes and shirt if not wearing a spirit t-shirt.)

**CIMI Fundraiser:** Join other St. Theresa families and friends at Rubios Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm and help support the 6<sup>th</sup> grade CIMI fundraiser. 20% of your bill will go toward their trip. ***See the attached flyer*** which must be given to the cashier when you check out.

**Concert:** Reminder of the Phoenix Boys Choir Concert at St. Theresa Church on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling 602-264-5328 or at [www.PhoenixBoysChoir.org](http://www.PhoenixBoysChoir.org) (10% discount for parishioners and school families. Use promotional code 10H0LSTT.)

**End-of-Quarter:** Time flies when you are having fun! Can you believe the second quarter/first semester will end December 18<sup>th</sup>? Continue encouraging your son/daughter(s) to do their best.

**Website:** If you haven't been on our school website for a few days you are missing out. Turn your volume up high, sit back and enjoy. The teacher links are awesome! Check us out!

**Hot Lunch:** ***Attached is a copy*** of the December Hot Lunch menu if you have not already accessed it on the website.

**Magazine:** We have been provided a copy of ***In The Zona*** magazine for each family. Notice how much coverage STCS students received. Awesome.

*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