

December 8, 2009

Dear Parents,

**Rosary:** You are invited to join us for closing prayer in church Friday, 18th at 8:30 as members of our Student Council lead all of us in praying the rosary.

**Mass:** We will not have our weekly Mass tomorrow. Mrs. Beane's class led us at Mass yesterday as we celebrated the holy day of the Immaculate Conception. Thank you to the many parents and grandparents who joined us.

**Communication:** The staff is very appreciative of your willingness to communicate with them on such a regular basis. Thank you. PLEASE! Do not leave any voice messages for teachers. Use email or write a note. Voice messages are still fine for the nurse and all office personnel.

**Advent Program:** All grades Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited and encouraged to participate in our all-school Advent Program, *The Christmas Chronicles*, next Tuesday, December 15, 6:30pm in the church. Students should be in their classrooms by 6:00pm. Parents are welcome to escort their child to the classroom. All students will participate in a grand finale at the conclusion of the program. PLEASE! Out of courtesy to all students and not to be a distraction to any parents, all parents are asked to stay throughout the entire program. Your child/ren want to be part of their grand finale.

Parents are asked to pick up their child/ren in their homeroom after the finale, do not take them out of their line. All students will be receiving a mini gift in their homeroom.

All parents and grandparents are invited to this special time of celebration of prayer and song. This will be a great beginning of the conclusion of our 2009 Advent time together as a school family.

We do need a note given to the homeroom teacher(s) by Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> from parents if there are any Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> Grade students *who will not* be able to participate in this special program.

You are welcome to take pictures during the program; however do not go past the first pew nor near the organ/piano area, Mr. Sage, on piano, needs to see Mrs. Rahman who will be in front directing.

**Backpack Toys:** It has been brought to our attention by several staff members that the zippers of many backpacks have become loaded with "toys". We realize these are prized possessions. PLEASE! **No toys attached to backpacks.** Sometimes the toys go off in the middle of class, get tangled up with each other, fall off, are "borrowed" by other students, etc. Please find a special spot at home for these treasures.

Please print and add this to page 13 of your 2009-2010 Student/Parent Handbook.

**Birthday Free Dress:** We haven't been real consistent in enforcing the acceptable dress code when a student is celebrating her/his birthday (or half birthday). For the rest of the 2009-2010 school year the following is acceptable/appropriate dress on birthday free day:

- playground safe shoes (students should bring PE shoes if she/he has PE that day)
- pants or walking shorts
- dress or skirt (of appropriate length)
- favorite shirt/sweater/sweatshirt

Not acceptable clothing for free dress remains the same:

- no biker shorts, athletic/sport shorts, short shorts, cut-offs or frayed edged shorts
- no tank tops, miniskirts
- no clothing with inappropriate slogans
- no flipflops or open toes shoes
- no extra jewelry

- no make-up

Please print and add this to page 11 of your 2009-2010 Student/Parent Handbook.

**Recycling:** We have *attached a flyer* on paper recycling. Please continue to help our Student Council with their project of helping the environment. The green recycle bin is located at the far SE corner of the campus.

**Wellness Survey:** We are very conscious of wellness practices regarding our lunch program and the discontinuing of food birthday treats. Thank you for your cooperation in sending healthy cold lunches and not sending birthday treats.

We have collaborated with our hot lunch caterer and have created very brief student and parent surveys. Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students have or will take their 6 point survey in their schedule computer class. All parents are asked to click on <http://www.quia.com/sv/361032.html> and take the 7 point parent survey sometime before Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Your input will be respected and acted upon. Thank you.

**Save the Date:** Official Grandparent Day invitations for February 1<sup>st</sup> will be coming out after the Christmas break but please unofficially invite grandparents (or a significant older adult) when you get together over the holidays. The day, 8:30 to approximately 12:30, will include Mass, lunch and other special activities.

**Hot Lunch:** Reminder that it is best to do all ordering of hot lunches on line but if necessary we do have a basket in the front office for hot lunch checks and menu choices. (FYI: In the past the PTO has sponsored a student lunch the Monday of Catholic Schools Week. This year the PTO will be sponsoring the Grandparent Day luncheon on that day, so will not be sponsoring a student lunch.)

**Dads' Club Breakfast:** Thanks, Dads! Your breakfast Sunday was tastier than ever. It seemed everyone ate well and enjoyed their time together. Having Santa Claus there was a nice touch. Good crowd that seemed to really enjoy themselves!

**Scrip Winners:** *Congratulations* to the winners of our November Shopping Spree Drawings. Winners will receive STCS Scrip Gift certificates which are being sent home with the youngest child of each winner today.

\$100.00 Abby Dunham  
 \$25.00 Debbie Sebastian  
 \$25.00 Tammy Hebert  
 \$25.00 Steve Smith  
 \$25.00 Lynn Cassidy  
 \$25.00 Beth Bates

Every family is encouraged to support Scrip to a level of their choosing. However, it is a win-win, dollar for dollar program and benefits everyone. Think Scrip! Scrip will continue to be sold each morning at drop-off and afternoon at pick-up up through December 18<sup>th</sup>. Think Scrip!

**Catered Food Service:** Looking for someone to cater your Christmas party, your family Christmas dinner or any event? Want meals and/or desserts prepared? The Blue Willo Café has copies of menus and associated pricing in the front office. Check them out!

**New Student:** Please add Alexa's information to Page 35 of the Directory: Alexa Macy 3 Howe  
 Robin Macy  
 (917) 848-2656  
 robinmacy@gmail.com

**On-Line Grades:** The final posting of grades for students in grades 3-8 was last Friday, yesterday or today. Final grades for Quarter 2 will not be posted but will be on the report card (issued on January 12<sup>th</sup>). Quarter 3 will begin January 4<sup>th</sup>. Posting of grades will Quarter 3 will be on the regular two week cycle starting with January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Families for Caring:** The gifts for our parish adopted families will be wrapped in the gym on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9-3pm. Come for any amount of time, bring scissors/tape and enjoy this season of giving. (Bring your favorite Christmas music.) Teens who can lift boxes, sort and help select items for other teens are especially appreciated! Service hours available.

Sign up your family to deliver gifts on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-12:00 at [Annevogel@cox.net](mailto:Annevogel@cox.net). (You can choose a family in south Phoenix, or one in our parish.)

**Flu Shots:** Mollen Clinic will again be on campus to give students the seasonal and/or H1N1 flu shots next Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup>, 9-2pm in Fr. Feeney Hall. Parents must be present during the vaccination. 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 the age of 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 from last week's principal's letter* to register. See *attachment* for public clinics being held this weekend.

**Strep Throat:** Ten students from several different grade levels have been diagnosed with strep throat in the past month. Please keep children home and seek medical treatment for symptoms of strep, which may include:

- \*\* severe and sudden sore throat without coughing, sneezing or other cold symptoms
- \*\* pain or difficulty with swallowing
- \*\* fever over 101F; lower fevers may indicate a viral infection and not strep
- \*\* swollen lymph nodes in the neck
- \*\* white or yellow spots or coating of the throat and tonsils
- \*\* bright red throat or dark red spots on the roof of the mouth and/or at the back near the throat
- \*\* swollen tonsils, although this symptom may also be caused by a viral infection

Please contact me at [ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org) or 602-952-1208 if you have any questions. Nurse Ellen

**Auction Fundraiser:** Want to take your family to see some spectacular Christmas lights? The Pavilions at Loop 101 and Indian Bend has the St. Nick's Lights display nightly, 5:30-10pm now until January 10<sup>th</sup>. As a pre-Auction fundraiser you can purchase your \$10.00 tickets in the school office and \$4.00 of the ticket price will be given back to our school as an Auction fundraiser. *See the attached flyer* for more details about the lights.

**CIMI Fundraiser:** Reminder! Everyone is invited to eat at Rubio's (44<sup>th</sup> St. & Indian School) or get take out, tomorrow, Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm. *Present the attached flyer* to the cashier and Rubio's will donate 20% of the transaction to St. Theresa's as part of a CIMI fundraiser. Enjoy good food and support this project. See you there!

**Classroom Christmas Parties/Clothing:** Reminder that all classroom parties are Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:45-12:00 dismissal (Kindergarten 10-11:45). 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/jumper/skirt/skort/shoes, Monday-Friday, December 14-18<sup>th</sup>.

**Kindergarten Information Night:** Our annual Kindergarten Information Night for Kindergarteners for the 2010-2011 school year is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8pm in Fr. Feeney Hall. Tell your friends.

**CTODP:** You could wait until April 15<sup>th</sup> to pay your taxes but then some children may never get the opportunity for a Catholic education. We know that it's easier to delay paying your AZ state tax until April 15<sup>th</sup> and buy yourself a little time. But consider this: if instead, you redirect those same dollars by making a contribution to CTODP by December 31<sup>st</sup> some deserving students who might not otherwise be able to attend STCS will be able to do so. By contributing to CTODP you get the tax credit and more children get a Catholic School education. *There is only 3 weeks left to redirect your taxes.* Now more than ever your redirected tax dollars are needed for tuition assistance scholarships. For more information contact Tracey Michelle Theisen, Director of Development at [ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org](mailto:ttheisen@diocesephoenix.org) or 602-840-0010 x 204. You can pay by phone, 602-218-6542 or online at [www.catholictuition.org](http://www.catholictuition.org). *It is a win-win, zero cost to you, program. We are counting on you!*

**Re-Registration:** Time flies! We will include Re-registration information for all current Preschool-Grade 7 families in our January 5<sup>th</sup> Family Envelope. Reminder, it is the policy that all families need to have their tuition current through December in order to re-register. Registration for new families will start with our Open House February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Dress Code:** PLEASE! Check the Student/Parent Handbook, pp. 27-29, for appropriate hair length for boys as well as skirt/jumper/skort length for girls. Some hair is too long, some skirts/jumpers/skorts too short. Additionally, some white tennis shoes have mysteriously gotten some added colors on them. Reminder that only STCS (or CIMI for Grades 7-8) sweatshirts may be worn on campus. Thank you for taking care of this.

Also, there are many sweatshirts (and lunch boxes) in lost-n-found. Please "dig through them" if you know you are missing some clothing (or a lunch box). PLEASE! Label all sweaters, sweatshirts and jackets.

**School Website:** Keep checking out our school website for new and interesting news as well as pictures. Don't miss checking your child/ren's website links often. The teachers have worked creatively on their links.

**Advent Outreach:** Thank you for supporting your child/ren, our students, with our Advent Outreach adult men's white sock drive project, supporting Sister Adele's ministry with the Homeless. On the day your son/daughter brings in 3 or more pairs of adults men's

white socks they get to wear Christmas socks themselves! If you have not yet taken the opportunity to buy a few pairs of adult white socks, please do so. Would be great if your child/ren used their allowance or their own money to purchase the socks.

**Weekly Letter:** I have had numerous requests to put my weekly letter back on email and have the “blast” go out at midnight so you have the letter Wednesday mornings rather than needing to go to the website to read the letter. As long as you promise to read the letter and all attachments we will again go back to the midnight “blast” starting next Tuesday rather than having it on the website late afternoon on Tuesdays.

*The mission of St. Theresa 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