

December 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

Mass: You are most welcome to join us tomorrow for our 8:30 Mass planned by Mrs. Downey and the Staff. Your prayer presence is always very important to us.

Rosary: You are also most welcome to join us in church for our all-school rosary this Friday, 18th, 8:30, led by our Student Council.

Gift Wrapping Party: Like to wrap gifts? Need volunteer hours? All are invited to wrap Christmas presents on Saturday, 19th from 9-3pm. Come to the McMahon Center Gym for even an hour. Student Service hours will be given. No experience necessary. We need you. Teens who can lift boxes, sort and help select items for other teens are especially appreciated. We will wrap all the wonderful presents the parishioners have bought to give to needy families. Sign your family up to deliver gifts on Sunday, 20th, 9-12:00 at Annevogel@cox.net. (You can choose a family in south Phoenix or one in our parish.)

Scholarship News: Parents, you only have a couple weeks left to redirect your state taxes to Saint Theresa Catholic School through CTODP. Many of your fellow Saint Theresa Catholic School families need these tax dollars to remain enrolled and if you yourself received CTODP funding you know first hand the importance of this free program. Please, do not drop off your CTODP form to the school or parish office, they must be mailed, submitted online at CTODP.ORG or called at 602-218-6542 (or 888-TAX-CRDT) by December 31st in order to qualify. **Remember to designate Saint Theresa Catholic School—School Code 190.** Do not wait until the last minute and risk forgetting. **Mail, call or go online today** to redirect your state taxes to your school at no cost to you.

Scrip: Reminder that Scrip is sold each morning this week and again tomorrow and Thursday at dismissal help you with your last minute Christmas shopping. **Shop our Scrip table!** We have many, many merchants. We can fill your shopping needs. You can make it one-stop shopping and avoid the hassle of the malls. Give the gift that allows them to choose what they want! In rainy weather the Scrip table will be located in front of the school office instead of the parking lot. Even if it rains, Scrip will be sold! **Think Scrip. Shop Scrip. It is a win-win deal.** The last day to buy Scrip is Sunday, 21st, 10-11am in the Church Ramada. Regular Sunday Scrip hours will resume Sunday, January 3rd. (Don't forget about the special order items—one of which is the Visa gift card.)

Sock Drive: WOW! The Student Council is very proud of the student involvement in the all-school Advent Outreach project of collecting men's adult white socks for Sister Adele's homeless ministry. Students can still bring more socks in tomorrow, Wednesday. Thank you.

Wellness Survey: Thank you to the parents who have already completed the 7-point Wellness Parent survey. If you haven't done so, please go to <http://www.quia.com/sv/361032.html> before Friday, December 18. Your input will be respected and acted upon. Thank you.

Kindergarten Information Night: We will be hosting a Kindergarten Information meeting for all new families with Kindergarten children for fall 2010, Wednesday, January 13th, 6:30pm in Fr. Feeney Hall. Please pass the word on to your friends and neighbors who may be interested in our STCS for their child.

Mass of Remembrance for the Homeless: Our third Mass of Remembrance for the Homeless will be held on Wednesday, January 13th. Would you and your family be interested in "adopting a soul" for 2010 and praying for them regularly throughout the year? When we come back to school after our Christmas Break we will provide a form for you to complete stating your wishes to adopt a soul for 2010. Families will receive a votive candle to decorate with the name of a homeless person who died in Phoenix in 2009 and had no one to pray for him/her. During our regularly scheduled School Mass on January 13, students will bring their candle to the altar to

be blessed. The candles will then be taken home as a reminder to pray for that person throughout 2010. Watch for more information in the Parent Letter January 5th. Questions? Contact Mrs. Downey at cdowney@diocesephoenix.org.

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!

Save the Date: Reminder to invite the children's grandparent(s) (or a very special senior adult) for our **First Annual Grandparents' Day, February 1**. Please make as many copies as needed or list all grandparent(s) (or older adult) and grandchildren on one copy or on separate copies. Reservations should be turned in by January 15th. **See the attached invitation.**

Early Arrivals: We know it is sometimes necessary to bring your child/ren to school early for study group or to meet with a teacher or whatever the reason. When that is necessary it is important to use the pedestrian gate near the school, not the ones near the church. We are in the office so can buzz you in. **Do not use the pedestrian gates near the church or try to get in the vehicular gates.**

Ho! Ho! Ho! Clothing: Students and staff are enjoying wearing their Christmasy sweatshirts, sweaters and socks. They are welcome to continue wearing these all week. (Regular uniform shorts/skort/skirt/jumper/shirt and shoes.)

Christmas "Gift": Your staff has decided it would be an exciting, fun idea to give the students a Christmas "gift" of a jeans day, no, not buck-a-jeans day, just an outright gift of go ahead and wear your jeans with your Christmasy sweater or sweatshirt or socks with your regular uniform shoes and shirt this Friday, 18th.

Re-Registration: Time flies! We will include Re-registration information for all current Preschool-Grade 7 families in our January 5th 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 Sunday, February 7th.

Camp-out: "Okay Dads, get ready for the first annual dads and school-age kids camp-out on our field, Saturday/Sunday, February 27-28th. Break out the tents and sleeping bags. Check in time is 3 pm, Saturday, 27th. We will have Mass, games, dinner, campfire and a really good time. We will have coffee and donuts Sunday morning with check out time at 9am. All this for just \$25.00 a tent. Mark the dates on your calendar now. More info later." Questions? Contact Mike Hernandez, Dads' Club President at hernfamaz@gmail.com.

Buck-a-Jeans Day: Friday, January 9th will be the first Student Council sponsored Buck-a-Jeans Day of the new year. Students are welcome to wear any color, clean (no holes) jeans with their regular uniform shirt, socks and shoes. The spirit t-shirts are acceptable. This month's donation will go toward Student Council expenses.

End of Quarter: This Friday, 18th marks the end of our Second Quarter/First Semester. Time flies! Report cards will be given out Tuesday, January 12th.

Concert: Reminder of the Phoenix Boys' Choir Concert, *Holiday Traditions*, Thursday evening, 7:30 pm in St. Theresa Church. Tickets can be purchased at 602-264-5328 or www.PhoenixBoysChoir.org. All parishioners and school families will receive 10% off tickets. Use promotional code 10HOLSTT.

Strep Throat: Ten more students have been diagnosed with strep throat in the past week. Please keep children home and seek medical attention 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 on the throat and tonsils
- ** bright red throat or dark red spots on the roof of the mouth at the back near the throat
- ** swollen tonsils, although this symptom may also be caused by a viral infection

Flu Info: Please log onto my Quia site for on-line links to updated flu information, including where to go to get a flu shot. Please contact me at ebretzke@diocesephoenix.org or 602-952-1208 if you have any questions. Merry Christmas and Happy New year! Nurse Ellen

H1N1 Vaccine: St. Theresa Catholic School is **NOT** impacted by Sanofi Pasteur Pediatric vaccine recall. "We are reaching out to you this morning to reassure you that Mollen Immunization Clinics has not received or administered the Sanofi Pasteur H1N1 Pediatric vaccine that was recalled this morning. Your students and faculty that received their H1N1 vaccinations by Mollen Immunization Clinics are **NOT** impacted by this recall." The Mollen Immunization Clinic Team

High School Placement Test Course (Grade 8): We are **attaching information** about a six session, 12 hour review course in preparation for the High School Placement Test that is being offered from 4-6 pm, December 28, 29, 20, January 2,3 and 4th. The cost for the sessions and all materials is \$480.00. Registration information is on the attachment.

Correction: There is a correction to an address on page 30. Please fix the address in your booklet.

Mike and Rosary Hernandez
5501 E. Camelback Rd. (not 5001)
Phoenix, AZ
602-466-3960

Dismissal/Break: Reminder of our **12:00 dismissal this Friday** and vacation up through January 1st. School will resume January 4th. (There will be Extended Care this Friday. **All students staying for EC need to bring their lunch/drink.**)

Website: Keep checking out our school website for new and interesting news as well as pictures. Don't miss checking your teacher's links often. The teachers have worked creatively on their links and do try to keep them current.

Please know that it is our wish that each of our families has a very happy, holy and safe Christmas with family and friends. Let us always continue to remember that Jesus is the reason for this season.

Thank you for accepting, supporting and loving all of your staff here at STCS.

When I count my many blessings you, my STCS family, are way up at the top.

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