

St. Patrick School Family Newsletter

June 2, 2010

Dear Parents,

Every child and family in our school is valued and important to our staff and school community. Thank you to all who remain patient and continue to work with the school office as together we resolve financial and other issues of concern. If we can assist you in some way so that your family can return next year, please call the school office. Many people have donated to the local tuition assistance program to support your efforts to provide Catholic School education to your children. In addition to the extra financial support our school has received from parishioners, alumni, school families, and friends, I also acknowledge the leadership support that is being offered. The Blue Ribbon School Committee, School Committee, PTO and school auction have been blessed with strong leadership for the upcoming year. Given the tremendous positive response, it is obvious that the people in our community are willing to put forth the effort and creativity needed to continue our school's 168 years of excellence.

Please remember that we expect in July to receive notification on the AOD tuition assistance awards. After this we will distribute our local tuition assistance. Office personnel will be available to assist you with your final financial arrangements in July as needed.

As we prepare for our final days, I extend my gratitude to all who are helping in the transition to the 2010-11 school year. Last week our AOD associate superintendent, Mary Swinkey and Patty Hojnacki from the AOD Finance Department spent the day with me to review enrollment projections, curriculum progress, local tuition assistance funds, and overall budget needs for the upcoming year. In the next few weeks, Ms. Hojnacki will also meet with the parish office to assist with the final parish/school budget that will be submitted to the AOD for 2010-11. Next week Father Bob and I will go to the Catholic Schools Office to discuss and prepare for the implementation of the Blue Ribbon School Committee that begins after July 1.

As we move towards the implementation of multi-age classrooms, it is important that we have a wide range of reading materials and other items available to accommodate our students' needs. We have been blessed with additional educational resources from public school teachers who are experiencing job changes in their professions. A school parent has provided 6 boxes of trade books and other items for our class and school libraries. Yesterday, I received a call from a teacher in the Brighton School District, who has graciously offered her entire classroom of reading and instructional materials to our school as she is retiring. She estimates the value of these items if new at approximately \$10,000. My husband and I will travel to pick up these materials. If another van or enclosed pickup with a couple more people could journey with us to speed up the loading process, it would be most appreciated. If you are unable to go to Brighton, but could come to school and help with the unloading it would be most appreciated. Please call the school office if you can assist in helping to bring these resources to our teachers and students.

Today our eighth graders complete their studies at St. Patrick Catholic School. At the end of the day our community gathers for a *Parade of Champions* and a wonderful send-off for these fine individuals. Tomorrow they will graduate during the 6:30 p.m. Mass. To honor them, the evening also includes an awards presentation and a reception which acknowledges our graduates for their many accomplishments throughout their elementary school years. Students have created memory boards which are currently displayed in the upper elementary hallway. Later they will be moved to the gym for the graduation reception. Thank you to those who have given our graduates a memorable ending. Mrs. Grinn for assisting the 8th grade girls in preparing the Liturgical Dance, Fr. Bob and Mrs. Grinn for preparing and providing our Graduation Eucharistic celebration, to our school parent who prepared the media DVD presentation, to the 7th grade parents who coordinated the graduation dinner and for helping to prepare the dinner, the two moms who have graciously baked and decorated the cake, and the parents and students who will show their support by helping serve the dinner. Finally I thank the family, friends, and staff members who will be with our graduates on this special day. Together the St. Patrick School community wishes our graduates much happiness and success in high school and beyond.

Thank you to our 8th grade girls who created the liturgical dance for their final school Mass. I also thank Mrs. Grinn for assisting the girls in this reverent presentation and Mrs. Laginess who made the floral head pieces.

Our school recently received a package from the IHM Sisters residing in the motherhouse. Each student will receive a hand crafted book mark in their report card envelope on our final day. The sisters have also promised to pray for our students and school as well. Our school is blessed to have the support of such wonderful friends and we will continue to pray for the IHM community as well.

To wrap up the year students are being given the opportunity to send an electronic prayer request to the Father Solanus Casey Center as part of their computer class. If you are interested in sending a prayer request the website is www.solanusc Casey.org. On the homepage you will see a section: prayer requests—click here. Father Solanus is at the Venerable phase in the process of becoming a saint. After our visit to the multi-age classrooms last week, Ms. Werstein, Mrs. Sroka, and I visited the center and offered prayers in the chapel as well as at his tomb.

This Friday, June 4, Kristy Fields of the National Wildlife Federation will be here to acknowledge third grader for being the overall winner for the Wildlife Patch Contest and our other four finalists. Our third graders winning design is being made into a patch that will be available for purchase through this organization. Last week a K-3 assembly was held to recognize students for their participation in the Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear poster contest. Mrs. Mary Webb of the Swan Creek Garden Club provided special recognition to local winners and one of our first graders was the first place state winner at the first grade level. Her poster has now advanced to the next level of competition. I thank our teachers for using these contests to instruct students on the importance of respecting our natural resources and appreciating the beauty of these treasures. I also compliment our students for their best efforts in these activities as well as the many other projects that were offered during our school year.

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Thursday, June 3 (PHYS ED)

- Eighth Grade Graduation, 6:30 p.m.
- Rosary in the Peace Garden, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, June 4 (MUSIC)

Monday, June 7 (PHYS ED)

- Field Day with hot dog lunch provided by PTO

Tuesday, June 8

- Final Day of School – students wear school uniform
- Mass 9:00 a.m.
- Dismissal at 11:15 A.M. **with no Airport Bus**

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR INFORMATION FOR 2010-2011: Be sure to watch next Tuesday for “beginning of the year” information for the 2010-2011 school year. It will include a beginning of the year calendar and class supply list.

SCRIP: When you reload your Busch’s gift card, keep in mind that they offer a 5% contribution when you pay with cash. If you use a credit card, they offer 3%. Tiffany Pizza has a new owner at the Newport Road, N. Dixie, and S. Dixie locations, which is called “Mary Sacco’s Pizza”. Be aware that these locations do NOT honor Tiffany’s gift certificates. The remaining locations that are still called “Tiffany’s” does, however. We have a limited number of order dates this summer. **The last order date for this school year is Thursday, June 3rd.** Your order must be received by 8:15 a.m. for delivery next week. If you want to order during the summer, your order must be received by our scrip coordinator by June 17th, July 8th, and August 12th. Please call her to let her know if you will be dropping an order off. The order that will be placed on July 8th will be available for pick-up at the festival. Thank you for all of the orders placed this year!

CAMP STORER 2010: Invoices for Camp Storer 2010 were included in last week’s family envelope. The first payment of \$100 is now due, with the balance due August 1, 2010.

PEACE GARDEN ROSARY: The Rosary will be recited in the Peace Garden on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. before the 7:00 p.m. Mass. We invite all to attend. This will be a wonderful way to honor Mary, our Mother. We will pray for peace in the world, our country, and our parish. We plan to pray the Rosary each Thursday from now throughout the summer. Bring a chair and join us any Thursday you are able. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

FIELD DAY: Field day will be held on Monday, June 7. Students may wear gym uniforms or jeans with an appropriate school, college, or professional sport spirit wear short (or gym t-shirt) and gym shoes. Jean shorts are to be no more than one inch above the knees. Students should also wear hats and sunscreen. Additional help is welcome and appreciated for the games and lunch preparation. Thank you also to the families (K-2-4-6) who volunteered to help or send cookies for field day lunch. Please call the school office if you are able to help with lunch and/or the games. Set-up for Field Day begins at 7:45 a.m. Our school will gather at the Peace Pole at 8:30 a.m. for an opening prayer service.

AUCTION: Yesterday an Auction wrap-up meeting was held. I thank last year's chairperson and our other sub-committee chairpersons for their leadership in making our school auction a financial and social success. Last year's coordinator has graciously agreed to chair our auction for 2010. We are now forming our sub-committees to assist her. An area of special need is a chairperson or con-chairpersons for the tree raffle. We also need of one or two people to solicit advertising for the booklet.

Enclosed is a letter that includes a list of suggestions for auction items, an auction donor sheet, and auction booklet advertising form. Please keep the auction in mind as you come across summer sales or visit establishments that may willing to donate an item or service. Your help in soliciting items is a vital part of our auction. It is especially important to begin soliciting now, as if we wait until the fall, many businesses have already reached their yearly allocation and are unable to donate.

FESTIVAL SIGN-UP SHEET: Thank you to those who returned the festival sign-up sheet. It is helpful for the festival chairpersons to have this information. If you haven't returned your form yet, please do so by Monday, June 7.

OUTSTANDING FEES: As a reminder, all outstanding fees must be paid by Thursday June 3 if your child is to receive his/her final report card. This includes money for lost textbooks, lost library books, hot lunch, FACTS, and latchkey. Thank you to all families who have been prompt with their payments this year.

FINAL MASS AND SCHOOL DAY: Our final Mass is Tuesday, June 8 at 9:00 a.m. It will include an honor assembly and all students will receive their report card from Fr. Bob. Students will then move up to their new grade and teacher. All students who will be in kindergarten next year, as well as any other new students, are invited to attend and process out with their new teacher. After spending about fifteen minutes at the new grade level, students will return to their current teacher for dismissal at 11:15 a.m. The PTO will have refreshments after Mass in the lunchroom for parents. There will be no Airport bus for our 11:15 a.m. dismissal. Students should wear their school uniforms on the last day of school.

LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE: Thank you to the two moms who volunteered to help guard the Little Red School House for the 5 – 8 p.m. shift. Help is still needed for the 1st and 3rd shifts. Passes will be provided to get you into the fair. Please contact the office or Ms. Werstein if you are able to help.

LATCHKEY: On Monday latchkey parents will be receiving the invoice for this week, which will be due the next day (Tuesday, June 8). Parents should plan to pay for Monday's latchkey service at the time of pick-up. Latchkey parents are also reminded to pick up their child's snack bins or left over snacks on the last day of school.

MEDICATION: If your child has medication on file in the school office, you are asked to pick it up by June 5.

HOT LUNCH NOTICES: If you are receiving a hot lunch notice in today's family envelope, be aware that the notices are dated today, however, it is **before** today's lunch.

NEEDED TO BORROW:

- If anyone has a “tug-of-war” rope that the school may borrow for Field Day, please call the school office.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Ruth Meiring

Principal

A SUMMER BLESSING

By Gwen Costello

*Go now, families, and know that the
Spirit of Jesus will be watching over you.*

*Go now and enjoy God's summer gifts
of warm sun, cooling waters,
and long, light days.*

*Go now families, with the gift of faith
that you might see God's hand
in all your work and play.*

*Go now with the gift of hope,
that you may know God's guidance
which is keeping you safe.*

*Go now with the gift of love,
that you might offer love and care
to all you meet.*

*Go now with the gift of knowledge,
remembering all that you have learned.
with God's help, live it.*

*Go now, families,
with these words of Jesus in your hearts:
“I will not leave you alone;
I am with you always.”*