



St. Joseph School Newsletter

November 2010

Dear Families,

Not long ago, I was at a gathering where several families were together. I overheard a father talking to his son; a young boy of about 10. He had been watching his son play with the younger children; pushing swings, playing in the sand, helping the little ones climb up to use the slides. He told the boy, "I noticed you playing and laughing with the little kids. You were so patient and caring with them. You're going to make a great father someday."

I was so touched by his comments to his son. It reminded me, once again, that we are always training our children to become adults. In this case, the father was very intentional and deliberate in what he was pointing out to his son. Most of the time, however, our messages are less direct, but equally influential. We just can't afford to forget that our actions have a strong impact on the kind of parent/adult our children will become. Do they learn from us to talk to each other with respect? Or do they learn that name calling and yelling are the way to communicate? Do they know that our faith is lived daily in the way we pray and live out God's call to love others... or do they think Christianity is just an idea/not a lifestyle? Do they see us valuing honesty, integrity, and compassion? Or will they model anger, gossiping, and put downs? Will our children grow up to be the kind of people who share their time and talents by volunteering to help out when they can... or will they honor selfishness and self-interest? We can't wait until our children are older to teach these lessons; they are already learning them now by watching us. Maybe it would be useful to step back and take a look at the kinds of lessons we are teaching, verbal *and* non-verbal. Maybe, like the father I described above, we could be even more direct with our children about the kind of person we want them to be. Maybe, if we're lucky, someday we'll watch our children parent their children with great lessons that we hope they learned from us. It doesn't get much more gratifying than that.

Please put the following dates on your calendar:

Thursday, November 11 - Picture retakes @ 9:15 in the gym

Thursday, November 18 - Education Commission meeting 6:00 Teachers Lounge

Monday, November 22 - Shoeboxes for Appalachia due

Tuesday, November 23 - Bluejean/cupcake Day

Wednesday, November 24 - School Mass for Thanksgiving - 9:05

Thursday & Friday, November 25 & 26 Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 29 - End of 1st Trimester - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

School Masses are on Fridays @ 9:05, unless otherwise noted.

CARNIVAL 2010 was a huge success. It was great to see all the families here, enjoying each other and sharing the workload. Although all the numbers are not in, we know already that

you graciously sold more tickets this year than last year. The word is out that the students earned a reward of "St. Joe Palooza" (who named this thing??) which really is just Mrs. Page-Hunter, Mrs. Poff, Mrs. Schultheiss and their guitars (Lord, Help us!), playing some sing-along kid's songs with all the classes in the gym. While we don't guarantee an award winning performance, we think we will all have fun together☺. The date for this amazing event is yet to be determined, though with the Christmas program just five weeks away, I suspect it will not happen until January.

AS WE MOVE TOWARD THE WINTER MONTHS, please be aware of the erratic weather temperatures when you dress your children for school. Trying to keep the building at a comfortable level is very challenging (though we are loving our new boiler)! Along with the varying temperatures, we are also trying to be good stewards of our finances. As you know, heating costs have skyrocketed and are certainly impacting our budget here at school. As always, we will be trying to strike a balance between keeping the school comfortable and not wasting resources. A key component of this will be dressing your students appropriately for the weather. I strongly suggest dressing in layers so the cooler mornings will not be uncomfortable for them. Sweatshirts and sweaters are useful in these circumstances, but *they should meet dress code requirements*. They can even be left at school if that helps.

THE GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON has drawn to a close with great success for both of our teams. The fifth grade team finished in first place for the league and took second place in the tournament. The sixth grade team won top honors in both the league and the season. I think all the girls experience much growth and a lot of fun. Big thanks to all the coaches who shared their time and talents with our girls.

A couple reminders:

- Please remember to call in the morning when your child is not in school. If you call before 8:15, just leave a message on the machine.
- We are always looking for people to add to our substitute teacher list. Interested? Please call the school office.

During this month of "Thanksgiving," I am especially grateful to have all of you in my life. I feel so blessed to have crossed paths with the wonderful families who send their children to St. Joseph School. I know that you are all people who love your children and you are daily making sacrifices to send them to this school. Your love for your children is a true example of God's love at work in this world and is inspiring to me. I know the entire staff joins me in thanking you for sharing your children with us.

Sincerely,

Tomi Ann Schultheiss, Principal