



Dear Parents,

February 12, 2010

Last week's **Carnival** was a great success. Students enjoyed the many games and booths. A special thanks to Melissa Kishish, Sueann Coan, Carrie Coan and Mary Sue Rhoda for organizing this year's carnival and to Ellen Kuenster for organizing the volunteers and Lisa Johnson for running the kitchen. Thanks also to all parents, teachers and students who worked, donated and supported the carnival in so many ways. Without your help, we could not continue this fun tradition!

Monday night's **Kindergarten Parent Information meeting** was a very informative evening for new and returning school parents. My thanks to Mrs. Kilduff and Ms Wood for the great job of giving an overview of our kindergarten program. If you know someone who is interested in our all day, every day / or half day option kindergarten program, have them contact the school office.

Thank you to Sally McNamara for organizing our annual **Scholastic Book Fair** and all the many volunteers who helped work, organize, restock, etc. Proceeds from the Book Fair help keep our library collection updated. The Book Fair will be open this weekend after all masses if you missed the Family Nights this past week.

We are thrilled to announce flat tuition for the 2010-2011 school year! The school and parish finance committee worked long hours in December and January trying to balance our budget. Our goal was to support our families in this difficult economy and we hope the "no increase tuition" will be helpful and appreciated. Please contact me if you are able to support another family through a student sponsorship or gift to the financial assistance fund.

Registration materials for the 2010-2011 school year were mailed out last week. Your registration fee of \$160.00 and completed forms are due back in the office by March 12th. Please keep the back copy (pink) of the 3-part registration/tuition agreement for your records. The top two (white & yellow) are to be returned to school. If your child will not be returning to St. Joseph's in the fall, please contact the school office. I would like to thank Anne Miller, Finance Chair, Susie Grojean, Board Chair and the entire School Board for their many hours of work preparing the budget for 2010-2011. Their commitment to the families of St. Joseph's is greatly appreciated. The registration forms are also available on our school website.

Winter conferences will be Tuesday, March 2 from 5-9 pm, Thursday, March 4 from 5-9 pm and Friday, March 5 from 9-12:00 and 1-3 pm. These conferences may be requested by either the teacher or the parent. Winter conferences are requested for, but not limited to, academic or behavior concerns, special updates, etc. Conference appointment times will be mailed out next week. Conferences are held in the teacher's classroom/office unless otherwise noted.

There will be **no school** on Monday, February 15 for President's Day. Teachers will be working on accreditation materials.

This Saturday, the parish's family life program for children/parents, "**All in God's Plan**", will be offered for students in grades 5 & 6. The girls will meet from 2:00 - 5:00 pm and the boys from 6:00 - 9:00 pm, in the Great Room. There are still openings available for both programs. Come a few minutes early and sign-up at the door.

Classroom composites from Lifetouch are coming home today for all students who ordered them.

On Wednesday, February 17th we will begin an all-school **Lenten coin collection** for our **Guatemalan pen pals**. The money raised will aid our sister parish of San José, Guatemala in building and sustaining a new medical clinic. We will collect coins in homerooms from February 17- March 4 and present Padre Mario with our donation when he comes to visit March 12.

Volunteers are beginning their student presentations in the classrooms for our **Art Adventure program**. The theme this year is "Amazing Animals". A summary page will be coming home to inform families what the students are learning in their classroom.

The Home and School Association will be holding a midyear **Used Uniform Sale** on Wednesday, March 3. More details to follow. This is a great time for parents to purchase some extra uniforms, especially if the "growth spurt" has hit your family! If you have any used uniforms, you may drop them off in the office at any time.

The office has **flyers** for the Children's Program of Northern Ireland for parents interested in hosting a family, the Catholic School's Shinnery Hockey Fridays for Squirt Boys and Henry Sibley's 20th Annual Youth Baseball Clinics (age 6-14). You may have one sent home or stop by the office to pick one up.

There will be a school **mass** on Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday). There will be no school mass on Friday.

Jane E. Nordin, Principal