

Dear Parents,

September 11, 2009

This morning we had a spirit-filled gathering in the gym. The theme of our prayer service was this month's school focus - "Imagine - Peace!". We sang some of our favorite mass songs, had a school blessing from Fr. Michael Creagan, and introduced our new students. Our first school mass will be held next Friday, Sept. 18th at 9:00 am. Parents are always welcome to join us.

My thanks to the **Home and School Association** for sponsoring this summer's used uniform sale and for providing volunteers to welcome our students on these first days of school. There will be another used uniform sale mid-year.

A big thank you to all parents who have been so cooperative with our **drop off and pick-up routines**. Your positive participation and support has helped ensure a safe return to school. Keep it up!!

Thank you for the great attendance at the **Jr High Meeting** for 6, 7th and 8th grade parents last night. Handouts will be sent home to those families who were not able to attend. If you have questions about our jr high program, I'd love to visit with you.

Please join us for our **fall Home and School Meeting/Open House** next Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 pm in the gym. Meet our faculty/staff, hear about our academic and program goals for the 2009-2010 school year, meet new parents and greet old friends. Visit your child's classroom and feel free to leave a note of encouragement in their desk. The Home and School Directory will be available that night as well. Extra copies may be purchased for \$1.00 from the school office. My special thanks to Paul Welle for all his work on this annual project.

A meeting for new **band parents** will be held in the Band Room at 6:30 pm, September 17, before the Home and School Meeting. This meeting is intended for parents of 4th graders and new students in grades 5-8 who may be interested in our outstanding band. If you have questions, contact Miss Quinlan, our Band Director, at 651-457-8550. A flyer is coming home today.

Next Friday, is our **marathon kickoff pep fest**. Last year we brought in over \$90,000! All proceeds stay here in our school, reducing tuition and supporting school programs, financial assistance and capital projects. Mark Saturday, October 3 on your calendar for a morning of family fun and fund raising followed by a hot dog lunch. We need everyone's support. If your family will be out of town on the 3rd, we encourage you to sponsor your teacher or the principal! More Marathon details next week.

J.A.G. Quest 2009 (Home and School fund raiser) preparations are under way! Mark Saturday, November 14 on your calendar for a fun night! See the flyers coming home today.

Thank you for promptly returning the many **office forms** you received in your summer packet. If you have not completed and returned those forms, please do so as soon as possible. Internet Policy forms were sent home last week with each student. These forms must be signed and returned to school before students may participate during their computer time.

Looking for a way to "get in the spirit"? A reminder that the online store for **Jaguar Apparel's** (www.designer-sports.com/teams/stjoseph) last day for ordering is September 20.

A reminder that all school volunteers are required to complete a three hour **Virtus: Protecting God's Children** training session and have a **background check**. You may register online for Virtus: www.virtus.org. This includes volunteers for coaching, classroom help, field trips, library, etc. St. Joseph's will have a Virtus training session in the parish Great Room on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm. Background check forms are available through the school office.

Congratulations to Katie Schultz, sixth grade teacher, who recently won a writing contest - "What I love about teaching..." sponsored by the Water Park of America.

All students will participate in a **bus evacuation training** with District 197 Transportation on Wednesday, September 16.

A flyer for the **CCW Craft/Bake Sale** (September 26/September 27) is coming home today. The **school office has flyers** for The Art Academy Fall 2009 classes and for Henry Sibley Dance Team's Pom Clinic on Saturday, September 26.

Thank you for all your preparation in getting your children ready for the start of a new year. Your many kind thoughts and encouragement mean so much to us. **It's great to have everyone back!**

Jane E. Nordin, Principal