

January 13, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I look at the calendar I am amazed that it is almost the middle of the first month of the first year of a new decade. Time certainly does fly by when you're having fun. And it is fun to be surrounded by smiles, laughter, and the excitement of learning. May God continue to bless us with his tremendous grace.

THANK YOU: Again, thank you so much for the delicious goodies that we sampled continuously the last few days of school last year. Your thoughtfulness, generosity, and baking talents are much appreciated.

ANOTHER THANK YOU for your support and participation in our fund raising activities thus far this school year. You have responded as we had hoped (and asked) by choosing to be engaged at some level. Hence, we are on track to fulfill our budget obligations. Thanks! FYI: The first 52 Club Raffle winner will be announced for the opening of Catholic Schools Week.

END OF JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS: Catholic Schools Week and the start of Registration for the 2010-2011 school year will draw this month to a close. Look for a complete packet of information detailing our CSW celebrations next week, but be sure to mark your calendars in advance for: Our opening **Mass and Pot Luck**, starting at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, January 24; the second annual **Parent Meeting** from 2:45 – 3:30 P.M. on Monday, January 25; our famous **Talent Show** on Thursday, January 28 at 9:30 A.M.; and a **Family Dance** from 6:00 – 9:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29. As for registration, all presently attending families will receive their registration packet following the Parent Meeting on January 25. Please return your forms promptly. New families will be invited to Information Night on Thursday, January 28, to learn about our programs and receive registration materials. New families will register in February.

PROCEDURAL REMINDERS: For the safety of our students and your (as well as our) peace of mind, parents are reminded that students need to be signed in and out whenever they arrive at school after 8:30 A.M. and/or leave for any reason during the day. It is quite helpful for us to have a note, call, or e-mail ahead of time, alerting us to the change in routine. If you need to pick your child up during school hours, please stop at the office to sign him/her out and our staff will contact the child. Parents of younger students are asked to accompany the child into the office if they are returning from an appointment.

Parents are also asked to inform the office of a student's absence. Give a call, write a note, send an e-mail. Please keep us informed. We call families to verify an absence if we do not receive notification. Our goal is to keep everyone safe.

Students who are ill and need to go home should be picked up within thirty minutes by a parent or by someone acting on behalf of the parent. Often, the comfort of one's own bed and bathroom, as well as a bit of parental TLC, help a sick child feel better. Thanks for helping us all.

SURVEY: Please assist us by completing the attached survey and returning it to school. Your input is valuable. Thanks.

NO SCHOOL: There will be no school on Monday, January 18, in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day..... **NO BUSES:** There will be no buses (or classes for ISD #31 students) on Monday, January 25. Parents will be responsible for transporting their children to and from St. Philip's that day. It is for that reason that we have scheduled the Parent Meeting for 2:45 on the 25th. We will hold students in their classes until 3:30 to allow parents to attend the meeting.

C.A.P. DAY: Moved by the reports of death and destruction facing the nation of Haiti due to the recent earthquake, the 8th graders have asked permission to sponsor a Caring About People (C.A.P.) Day on Friday, January 22. On this day, students who pay \$1 may wear a cap or carry a stuffed animal during the day. The funds raised will be sent to Catholic Relief Services earmarked for Haiti. I'm proud of our eighth graders and proud of all our students who will participate in CAP Day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JONAH MULLER AND BEN WILANDER, the champion and runner up in this year's National Geographic Geography Bee. Jonah, the fifth grade son of Kelley Margo-Hengel and Dr. William Muller, edged eighth grader Ben Wilander, son of Theresa and Mark Wilander, in their head-to-head championship round questions. Jonah has now taken a written exam to vie for a position in the state contest. Well done, gentlemen!

REPORT CARDS WILL BE SENT HOME WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27. The end of the second grading period is tomorrow, January 15. Report cards will be sent home with students during Catholic Schools Week. Please watch for it.

OUR MATHLETES TOOK THIRD PLACE in their Math League competition. Eighth graders Didu Keddah and Kayla Snell placed second and eighth respectively out of all the scoring contestants. A scoring team and an alternate team of four students each will now compete in the MathCounts Chapter Competition in Crookston in February. Congratulations to all our mathletes and to our coaches Mr. Terry Belanger and Mrs. Karen Williams for a job well done. Good luck at MathCounts!

SKI DAY: Our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will flock to the slopes at Buena Vista tomorrow as they take advantage of a wonderful winter sport outing. Be safe, everyone.

SNOW CLOTHING: We have snow on our parking lot and playground, and students do go outside to play. Students who play in the snow must have snow pants, boots, and gloves because they do get cold, snowy, and often wet. Students (gr. PK-6) without boots may play on the plowed areas, but are kept out of the deeper snow areas. If your child is one who likes to be in the snow, please help him/her remember appropriate outside clothing. Thanks.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW FACESStudent population increased by four last week as Michaela Moudry(gr.6) and Jacob (gr. 4) and Tori (gr. 7) Koch returned to St. Philip's, and Amber Barstad (gr. 7) entered for the first time. Also for the remainder of the school year, we are excited to have Kiki, a native of Lichenstein helping out at school several days a week. Kiki is here hoping to improve and perfect her English. We are glad to have you all with us.

HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Hard to believe, but our eighth graders are preparing to register for high school in the upcoming weeks. On Tuesday, January 19th, the students will get information regarding high school classes and then they will officially register for Bemidji High School on Friday, February 5th. There will be an important high school registration open house for incoming freshman and their families on Monday, February 1st, from 5-8 P.M. All our eighth graders and their parents are encouraged to attend.

BAND CONCERT: Our band students will perform in their own concert on Thursday evening, March 18, beginning at 6:30 P.M. You are all cordially invited to attend. **MISSING INSTRUMENTS:** Recently we have had two students lose their instruments. These are expensive items. Our music room or the hallways are not always safe areas for the placement of instruments, especially overnight. Students should bring their instruments to school on band or sectional days and take them home afterwards to practice. Please label instrument cases.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: All adults who volunteer in programs involving children must have received diocesan safe environment certification. This certification is valid for one year. To receive certification you must 1) complete the Acknowledgement and Consent form and 2) complete training on Component A (Signs of Abuse), which includes passing a short quiz on the material. Forms and training materials are available in the school, parish, or RF offices or online at www.crookston.org. Go to Safe Environment.

Our students have or will be receiving their annual Safe Environment training in school in January or February. Students in grades K-5 will be completing year 3 of the Virtus program, highlighting grooming and secrets. Students in grades 6-8 will review Part I of the Praesidium program "Called to Protect" dealing with boundaries. Please check their web sites for additional information: www.Virtus.org or www.Praesidiuminc.com.

SOCIAL NETWORKING: An emerging area of concern for schools comes in the realm of inappropriate cell phone and computer usage by students. Texting, Facebook, MySpace, and e-mails are useful forms of communication and social networking when used appropriately. When used to send unkind messages, obscene language, or sexual pictures or language, these tools are being used to cause pain. Parents, please be aware of your child's social networking activity. Monitor their usage. Removing incoming and outgoing picture components from cell phones lessens the opportunity for sending and receiving inappropriate pictures.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: the Information Desk; Monday & Tuesday lunch; help during Catholic Schools Week.

PLEASE PRAY FOR.....the people of Haiti.....friends and family members who have died.....those of us who are ill or injured.....those who are without employment.....those going through difficult situations.....our military personnel.....

"Guide our feet into the path of peace." Luke 1:79

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal