

May 5, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

God has blessed us with May showers that have greened up lawns, watered crops and plants, washed away winter mold, and somewhat curbed the notion that summer was here already. Believe me, the remaining three and a half weeks of school will fly by so quickly that summer vacation will be upon us before we know it. Until then, there is still much to learn, much to experience, and much for which to be thankful. Enjoy!

CONGRATULATIONS, FIRST COMMUNICANTS: Last Sunday at a special 2:30 P.M. Mass, forty-one young people celebrated their First Holy Communion. On Monday, those who attend St. Philip's School were recognized at our morning prayer, and today they were again welcomed to the table of the Lord at school Mass. May you always cherish the Lord in this special sacrament.

CONGRATULATIONS, TOO, TO OUR SPEECH CONTESTANTS: Yesterday's final round of the Modern Woodmen Civic Orator contest gave us three winners: first place went to eighth grader Erin Jones; second place to seventh grader Megan Serratore; and third place to seventh grader James Hendricks. Other competitors in the third round were eighth graders Guy Clay and Didu Keddah and seventh grader Logan Solheim. All six did an excellent job in writing and delivering their speeches. This year's topic was: If I was President of the United States. Well done, everyone!

SPRING CONCERT AND TAILGATE PARTY: Join us a week from today (Wednesday, May 12) for our spring music concert featuring each of our classes, K-5, our choirs, and our bands. The program begins at 6:30 P.M. in the church. Upper grade students need to report to the music room by 6:00 P.M., while younger students should be in their classrooms by 6:15 P.M.

Before the concert, come for dinner sponsored by the Parent Association. Hamburgers and hot dogs (grilled outside) and all the fixings will be available for a free will offering beginning at 5:00 P.M. It's a great way to get into the picnic season. If you still need Service Hours, here's another opportunity.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Our kindergarten students will present their play "Three Men Who Walked in Fire" this Friday, May 7, at 2:15 P.M. in the social hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

5TH GRADE ART SHOW: Another showcase of talent is the community 5th Grade Art Show at the Art Center, running from May 7th through May 22nd. All fifth graders from Bemidji will have pieces of their art work on display at this show. Please take time to appreciate the artistic talents of these students.

4TH AND 5TH GRADE TRACK AND FIELD DAY: Wednesday, May 26th will be the date of the Bemidji community Track and Field Day at the BSU track. Watch as our students run, jump, and throw in competition with other elementary schools. This is a great day for our students; chaperones are needed. Service Hours.

LAST DAY OF HOT LUNCH: The last day of hot lunch will be Monday, May 24th. Students will need to bring cold lunches on the remaining days (Tuesday through Friday). Milk will be available for purchase.

SCHOOL PICNIC: Another opportunity to fulfill Service Hours or just to enjoy the company of children and families is to attend our School Picnic on Tuesday, May 25th at Lake Bemidji State Park. This is a wonderful day to experience the beauty of nature around us. Watch for the permission slip next week.

GRADUATION: Everyone is cordially invited to attend our Graduation Mass on Friday, May 28th at 9:00 A.M. to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's eighth graders. It is a beautiful and moving ceremony. Join us, please.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: Friday, May 28th, is also the last day of classes for this school year. All book fees (library and text books), all activity and snack fees, and all meal accounts should be rectified by that date.

YEAR BOOK: This year's year book is delayed in the making. However, it will be available this summer. Order forms will be distributed later this month.

C.A.P. DAY THANKS: Thank you for your support of our most recent C.A.P. Day. Contributions amounted to over \$400 for one of our regular kitchen volunteers, Gretchen Swenson, whose barn and goats were destroyed in an early morning fire during the winter. Thanks for your generosity.

CHICKEN POX VERIFICATION: If your child has already had chicken pox, please stop by the office and sign your child's health folder indicating so. Beginning in September, 2010, a doctor's signature will be necessary to verify the disease.

CLOTHING DEPOT: The St. Philip's Clothing Depot is in need of donations of clothing, small household items, and bedding. As you do your spring cleaning, consider giving your unneeded items to the Clothing Depot. Proceeds from this ministry are distributed back to the Bemidji community.

ST. PHILIP'S ALUMNI REUNION: As part of the Bemidji-wide school reunion, August 12-15, we will have a special Mass and program for our alumni. If you are interested in being involved with this weekend, please let me know.

SUMMER TUTORING: Sue Hengel and Sue Swartz will again be offering tutoring for students this summer. If you are interested, please contact them directly.

A TIME OF TRANSITION: This month and next will bring a few changes to our parish staff. Fr. Tony will be given his own parishes in Fertile and Mentor. Development Director Jodi Maki will be moving on to a new challenge as a financial planner. Liturgist and Music Director Linda Wolf will be retiring to travel with her family. How fortunate we have been to have had the expertise and the passion of these individuals in our parish. We thank them for their years of ministry and wish them all the best as they embark on their new endeavors.

HUGS AND KISSES AND HEARTFILLED THANK YOU'S go out to all mothers (and Grandmothers) everywhere. Enjoy your day this Sunday!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Tail Gate Party help; Information Desk help; Alumni Reunion; Clothing Depot workers; School Picnic; Track and Field Day chaperones.

Please remember to submit your hours!!!!

"May God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness." Genesis 27:28

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal