

St. Francis School Newsletter

September 7, 2006

Virtue of the month: HOPE

School phone numbers:
503-625-0497
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School Address:
15643 SW Oregon St.
Sherwood, OR 97140

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Sept. 8th, 6:00PM, PSO Welcome BBQ
- ◆ Sept. 11th, 6:30PM, Auction Meeting, Parish Hall
- ◆ Sept. 13th, 8:30AM, School Mass
- ◆ Sept. 13th, 6:15PM, Back to School Night, Meet in the Church
- ◆ Sept. 14th, No school, In-service
- ◆ Sept. 20th, 8:30AM, School Mass
- ◆ Oct. 13th, No school, In-service
- ◆ Oct. 21st, School Auction

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

As we begin the year, I thought it a good time to list some goals for the year. I will also be talking about these at our Back to School Event next week, but here is a little sneak preview!

Academic: Last year, your help in raising funds to purchase new Math texts and materials will begin to bear fruit. The teachers underwent training in the new texts last spring, and I have planned an additional follow-up training session to make sure we optimize the use of this quality Math series. As I did last year, I have asked the teachers to give the children in Grades 2-8 an evaluation test as we begin the year. These will be done next week and are purely for planning purposes. They are not intended to supplant the Standardized tests given in the spring. From the results, we will then plan further strategies to best serve each of the children.

I have asked the teachers in Grades 1-3 to conduct a Reading level evaluation test this first week. Those results will be shared individually with parents and you then can work with your child's teacher to better help your youngster improve. Reading logs will be sent home in all grades to promote reading skills. By the way, our school-wide reading scores as tested in the last standardized tests were good, but we can do better.

I will be asking the teachers to take a hard look at our Science Curriculum this year and look for ways to enhance this area of the curriculum. We will also be doing the same for our Religion program. As many of you know, last year our Math program underwent this same enhanced scrutiny leading to positive efforts and positive ongoing results. With the same breath, let me add that although we will have a special focus on Language Arts/Reading, Science and Religion, we will not neglect the other subjects. The process is meant to bring into sharp focus subject areas on a rotational basis.

Student life: Efforts will be made to increase the importance and contribution of the Student Council. I am going to invite students from the council to sit in on occasional sections of the Faculty Meeting to help them better understand processes for positive change and input. I want to see the establishment of student participation in a Safety Patrol during Morning and Afternoon drop off/pick up. We are in the process of establishing a Student Garden in front of the school office.

All members of the faculty seem to be in support of some sort of service driven project program. And of course, we want to continue student support of outreach efforts to help the poor, visit the Retirement Home etc.

Parents: I want to play a role together with the PSO and Room Parents and all parents in enhancing our community building events. In some cases, simply promoting existing events that may not be well known or attended. I believe that we can never overdo efforts at communication, so extra efforts will be made to get better at this and this will always continue. There is a suggestion box in the School Office, but you can also give me a call or drop a note off with a teacher or to me, if you think of a good idea concerning something you think we can improve upon. Every suggestion may not be used, but some will and this input is important to me and to the growth of the school. Above all, I want this school to be a positive influence for you and your children. There will be many days to celebrate, we can expect the usual difficulties from time to time, but lets stay in this collectively for only positive results can come from it for the children. I think that this stage of parenthood, while it may be stressful at times, is one the highlights of life and certainly a wonderful time to grow in our faith.

Sincerely,

Michael Cantu,
Principal

Share Hour Opportunities:

Do you shop at Costco? Do you want to earn share hours for shopping at Costco? Please contact the school office for more information.

We have the opportunity to earn school supply shopping certificates for our teachers by picking up and delivering donated items. For more information contact Robert Hawkins at 503-570-3297.

Be sure to return this envelope to the school each week. It will be used for our Thursday packets.

Insurance information is enclosed. Please note that the school is providing accident insurance for all students. (No cost to the parents.) Other insurance options are also available for purchase.

AUCTION NEWS

Auction meeting - Monday, September 11th, 6:30PM in the Parish Hall. All school parents are welcome. Reminder to 1st grade parents - this is our year - please attend if available. Any questions contact Auction Chairs: Mary Parietti 503-692-0516 or Valerie Rice 503-691-0253.

We are accepting donations of wine for the auction dinner. They may be left in the school office. Be sure there is a donation slip with them and all donations.

Read a good book lately?

Want to share it?

If you'd like to see if some of your family favorites are on the current library wish list,

email Library Mom, Lynn Ries, at lynneries@comcast.net

Thanks.

PARISH NEWS

Religious Education registration is the weekends of September 9-10 and 16-17.

Knights of Columbus Garage Sale is September 8th and 9th at the Albertson's parking lot.

Parish Picnic, September 17th, Noon to 4PM

OUT OF PARISH NEWS

Cheerleading Clinic!

Who: Ages 5 years – 8th grade

When: Saturday, September 16th, 9AM-2PM

Football game performance is Friday, September 22nd. You will receive a flyer with details on this at the clinic.

Time: Registration from 8:30-9:00. We will start promptly at 9AM.

Where: La Salle High School
11999 SE Fuller Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Price: \$40 per participant – this includes all instruction, a t-shirt for your game performance and a set of pom poms. Money is due by September 8th to ensure a t-shirt and poms. You can still register after this date but will not receive a t-shirt or poms.

Contact Information: For registration and release forms please contact:

Cindy VanDrimmelen at either: cinder_bug@yahoo.com (title your e-mail Kids' Clinic) or 503-652-5923