



# St. Michael Elementary School

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*Wherever you place your foot,  
there rests a BLESSING!*

*October 28, 2009*

*Dear Families,*

*Thank you so much for participating in our fundraiser—both the Taffy Apples and the Candy. Candy orders with money should be in the office no later than Monday, November 2, 2009. We will then put the order through so that you can get them quickly.*

*MORE IMPORTANTLY, thank you all who are on time with your tuition. I was only able to meet payroll this week because I emptied some accounts that really should have remained where they were. Also, thank you to those who call and talk with me when you are having difficulties. I am working on Big Shoulders scholarship papers to return to Big Shoulders next week, and yet, many of you who are on the exclusion list have not applied for grants. You have until Friday to do so. Please call Mrs. Sandoval and get it taken care of so that you might stand a chance of getting some help.*

*The plain fact is that we cannot run a school worrying every other week if we have enough money to pay our payroll and our bills. I am sorry, but if you are behind in tuition, your child(ren) will not be allowed to enter their classroom until you have paid all tuition including October. Then you must also complete your November payment on time as well. If that happens, I will have no other recourse than to exclude your child(ren). I know times are very difficult, but regular payments every two weeks—even if they are not the entire amount—would be an indication to us that you have good faith. An updated letter of exclusion will be sent on Friday of this week to families whose children may not come to school on Monday without their tuition payment. I really regret having to do this since it is in the best interest of every child to be in school on a daily bases. Our attendance record has been very high if not 100%. We want it to stay that way.*

*HALLOWEEN FUN is around the corner thanks to Mrs. Solis and her crew as well as the teachers who will be setting up the haunted house and running games for the little ones. Please note that **NO CHILD MAY ATTEND THE HALLOWEEN PARTY WITHOUT THE SUPERVISION OF A PARENT.** If you buy your tickets early, you will pay only \$5.00—they will be \$6.00 at the door. Sounds like great fun!*

*ADVISORY SCHOOL BOARD: New members are being sought who are interested in working on marketing our school this year so that we can increase our enrollment for the coming year. Among other things, we take a look at policy and strategic planning based on our School Accreditation last year both by the Archdiocese and the State. If you cannot be faithful to regular monthly meeting and*

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Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition

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*some small committee work, please don't apply. I would ask for a sizeable letter indicating the following:*

- *What strengths would you bring to the BOARD?*
- *What experience have you had serving on BOARDS and COMMITTEES in the past that would make you someone to consider.*
- *What marketing experiences do you have where you have worked to build a strong financial base for whatever organization you were a part of in the past.*
- *What ideas might you have that would contribute to extra activities for our students or powerful field work in the city of Chicago that is so rich in opportunity outside of the neighborhood.*
- *Since St. Michael is a Catholic school, how might you contribute to the building of a strong Catholic Identity (whether or not you are Catholic).*
- *Add any other ideas that you think are appropriate for Board membership.*

*UNIFORMS need to be laid out every evening for some students who cannot find what they need and come to school out of uniform. There will be a consequence in that any child who does not wear the uniform as it is meant to be worn will not participate in DRESS UP or DRESS DOWN days this year. Please help your child understand their responsibility in this matter. It is clearly stated in the handbook.*

*PARENT-CHILD-TEACHER CONFERENCES on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. That day will be a shortened school day for children. They will be dismissed at 12:30, and teachers will begin seeing families as they come in from 1:00-6:30PM. Report cards will only be given to parents who attend the conferences. If it is impossible for you on that day, you will need to discuss a make-up conference with your child's teacher. Grades 5-8 will be having conferences in the cafeteria. The rest of the grades will be in their own classroom. This is always a time we look forward to. It is an opportunity to tighten the circle of support around your child and keep them open to taking risks in their learning and building skills that will hold them in good stead in the future.*

*Yesterday (Wednesday) was our first drumming competition for the year. In addition, our fourth and fifth graders who just learned to play the drums under Mr. Glover shared two pieces that were utterly wonderful. Ms. Agnew, who began our drumming program last year has produced marvelous skills in our sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. It includes not only drum playing, but also use of a variety of percussion instruments, xylophone, and singing African chants. Our first place winners were our 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 2<sup>nd</sup> second place winners were our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and our third place winners were 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We had educators from other schools do the judging. Thanks to all for this fabulous performance.*

*Blessings!  
Ms. Lee*

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