

September 22, 2009

Dear Families,

Some Principles to Nurture Your Child's Faith:

- Listen with your heart as well as with your head.
- Encourage wonder and curiosity in your child.
- Gently guide your child to a life of honesty.
- Whenever appropriate, model for your child how to say, "I'm sorry."
- Pray together in good times and bad. Worship regularly as a family.
- Be generous to those who need help. Make helping others an important focus of your life as a family.

Because you as parents/guardians are the first religious educator of your child, these principles give us all some guidelines by which to measure our parenting. For us as teachers, these principles are supported by us each day in our classrooms. Together we can weave a strong circle of support around our child(ren) who are faced with decisions every day that follow in Jesus' footsteps or in the ways of the world that are often very different than what our faith tells us.

Special **THANKS** for coming to **Parent Orientation** meeting last week Tuesday. I know how difficult it is to add another commitment to a long day at work. It was an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and hear the expectations they have for your child(ren). **Monday, September 28th, we will be sending home PROGRESS REPORTS for the quarter thus far. Special thanks to the primary team (Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Schmieder, and Mrs. Baytala) for redesigning the Progress Report for grades 1-3.** Thanks, also, to Ms. Schmieder for taking the suggestions of her colleagues and putting them in a form that can easily be understood.

For our Eighth Grade Parents: This Thursday, September 24th, representatives of the many Catholic High Schools that our students may be considering will be visiting our school. You are invited to attend. It is a day of listening to what each school offers its students. Shortly after 8:00, the first school will be arriving. This will go through much of the day. Your 8th grader will bring home a schedule for Thursday so that you can choose the schools you are interested in if you desire to join us **that day.**

Please mark your calendar for October 7th when school pictures will be taken. That, of course, is DRESS UP day! We will have a different photographer this year from Van Gogh Studios. They offer a variety of interesting options unlike Life Touch has done in the past. All students, including the 8th graders, will have their pictures taken. Graduation pictures will be taken after Christmas. In the meantime, their pictures are used for our school records.

Please note an error in our calendar during October—there is NO SCHOOL on Friday, the 16th, because our teachers will be at an Archdiocesan In-service. There is also NO SCHOOL on Monday, the 19th since we have scheduled an important in-service. Originally, the calendar date was marked as the 18th—a Sunday.

Our teachers have had some rich conversation about Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15th). On the 14th, we will have an Hispanic Heritage Fair with each grade highlighting the celebration in their own way. Stay tuned for more information.

GREAT NEWS—Thanks to Big Shoulders—a group that spends millions of dollars in grants for Chicago inner city Catholic Schools—is going to provide free Vision screening for all students in Grades 1-8 and free Hearing screening for students in grades 1-3. In the past, this has been a costly item in our budget and the service was poor.

If you have a child in Preschool or Kindergarten, on October 15th, a group known as Child Find will be screening our children and will also do Vision and Hearing screening. We will be sending you a permission slip to sign closer to that date in October.

Thanks to all families who came to the Parish Festival this past weekend. If you volunteered either Saturday or Sunday, please send me a note letting me know that you did. We will be keeping track of your volunteer efforts since we rely on the help of our parents to make programs a success.

MARKET DAY PICK-UP WILL BE THIS SATURDAY from 9:00-10:00. Volunteers are needed at 8:00AM to unpack the truck and prepare the food for pick-up. We have asked our 8th graders to help as part of their service hours for Confirmation.

At the end of October, we will be having a Halloween Party for our students. We will need volunteers who can help set up and clean up, volunteers to work with Mrs. Solis in the kitchen as needed, volunteers to supervise the building and more. If you can help, please send a note to me and let me know that we can count on you.

BIG SHOULDERS TUITION GRANT APPLICATIONS will be sent to you next week so that you can complete the application process and return the paperwork to me. More on that next week.

There is much more to share. Thank you for seeing to it that your child arrives at school on time every morning. Our attendance has been very good. Let's keep it that way. A lost day of instruction makes a difference in your child's learning as long as they are well. However, remember to keep your child home if he or she has a fever, sore throat, or bad cough. We want to continue to keep the flu out of our building.

Peace to your family!

Ms. Barbara Lee