

**Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan,
It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people,
and the planet, living in relationship with all of God's creation.**

April 22, 2008

Dear Families,

I hope that when your child awoke this morning that you knew that today is **Earth Day** just because they had something GREEN to wear by their bedside along with a plea for \$1.00 that gave them an opportunity to dress in green. The money will go to a certain cause that we will ask our older students and Student Council to research and present to the school. Actually, during Catholic Schools Week, we were encouraged to make a commitment to learning everything we could about **Global Warming** and care of the earth. Next week I will share some of them although I just received a wonderful letter from Mrs. Sanchez noting all the things her class will do. This is what she wrote:

“**Room 103** spent some time talking about Earth Day and the ozone layer. We listed all the things that we currently do to help care for our earth. We also listed, role played, and have made a commitment to do more in efforts to care for our Earth. One thing we do quite often is use sunlight as our light for the classroom, use dictation paper front and back, place lost pencils and crayons in our bucket, reuse paper from previous projects. We know we can donate used paper like Mr. Sanchez. If seen caring for the world daily, our students will be rewarded with a recycled pencil. Beginning tomorrow, Brother Tim will do a lesson in science. We will use paper to make an Earth Day Board.”

What a marvelous testimonial to what 6 and 7 year-old children can learn about the Earth's care and commit themselves to doing more—much more than they ever could dream of doing. This morning, we honored Sister Jeanette with a very special certificate. She has driven our commitment to make a serious response to the world. **Every day** her 4th graders challenge the school to collect all the tin trays used for breakfast and lunch or the cardboard trays used for breakfast and lunch. No one gets away with just throwing the cartons in the garbage cans. We have probably taught the upper and lower grade levels by their example. At the end of the day, two faithful recyclers wear an official **Recycler identification badge**. They are awesome. Let's give the 4th grade as well as the 1st grade for this wonderful commitment to the world. Stay tuned for more news.

SPRING PICTURE ARE GLORIOUS! For those of you who decided to get Spring Pictures taken of your child, you will be delightfully surprised. We are sending them today with your child. The pictures are dated material! Return your payment within 5 days and receive a \$2.00 discount with coupon inside. (Must purchase the full package). Material con fecha de vencimiento! Envía el pagodentro de un plazo de 5 días, y recibe un descuento de \$2.00 con el cupón a dentro. Pictures absolutely must be turned in to the office by Tuesday of next week if you do not intend to buy them. Remember you don't have to buy all of the pictures. Each sheet is \$12.00 and you can buy them like that. Return pictures you don't want with money for pictures that you do want.

As we come to the close of the 2008-2009 school year, we all step back and ask ourselves: “Is there something else you are asking of me, God? Can I still do so much more for the children I serve? Am I being called to minister to others in a way other than in education. This careful look at our gifts and the way we are being asked to use them for the sake of God's kingdom is difficult because it causes us to change. At the same time, if we are true to the Gospel, that change brings grace to us all. Those who will be retiring from teaching after years and years of teaching children are Mrs. Flanagan and Mrs. Pierce. Mrs. Flanagan looks forward to being a Grandma to a newly born grandchild as well as all the other grandchildren she has. Mrs. Pierce is involved in so many ministries through her Church. These will truly keep her busy. Brother Tim has decided, after many, many years here in the Archdiocese, that he will serve his community in new ways. Earlier in the year they had asked him to return to Africa where he previously served. We will see what happens. I must say that I loved being a first grader again since I can hear every

response they make to their teacher who is a born actor. Mrs. Laramie has decided to seek a position elsewhere in the Archdiocese. She has spent many years devoted to children in the Central City of Chicago. I have no doubt her pathway will continue in that direction. We wish each of them God's blessings in abundance for what they have brought to our St. Michael and blessings for all that they will bring to their new ministry. All the other teachers requesting to remain at St. Michael have been offered contracts that will be signed on April 30th. In the next few weeks, we will be talking to our staff—aides, librarian, secretary, clerical aide—about their intent and will let them know if their positions are needed.

REGISTRATION NEWS ONCE AGAIN! When I arrived on July 2nd last year, I had 150 children on the class lists. After spending six (6) weeks in the office. Now, after 4 weeks of registration, we have registered 242 students for the 2008-2009 school year. **If you intend to send your child back to St. Michael but did not register yet, please note that the following grades are full, closed, or we will be adding a classroom:**

- **PreK** **Closed** **Will open a second class if we have more interested children.**
- **K** **4 Openings**
- **Gr. 1** **2 Openings**
- **Gr. 2** **5 openings** **Will have (2) classrooms for grade 2 next year.**
- **Gr. 3** **6 openings**
- **Gr. 4** **Closed** **Will begin waiting list for grade 4.**
- **Gr. 5** **Will have (2) classrooms if we enroll 7 more students.**
- **Otherwise, we will start a waiting list.**
- **Gr. 6** **2 openings**
- **Gr. 7** **4 openings**
- **Gr. 8** **Closed**

SO PLEASE DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER. If you don't have forms, call Mrs. Sandoval for help. **Our policy will be to open classrooms as they are needed. Teachers have not yet been assigned the grade they will be teaching. That will be determined soon.**

Please note that your Registration Fee that is \$35 this month must be paid in order to keep your child's place on the waiting list. Also, all tuition fees, book and supply fees, fundraising fees and registration fees from this year must be paid in full or your child will not receive a report card.

Graduates' tuition, supplies, fundraising fees and registration fee from this school year-2007-2008 must be paid IN FULL by May 15th. Students will not be permitted to participate in Graduation activities, Mass, or conferring of the diplomas without all fees paid in full.

HEALTH ISSUES! All children coming into Kindergarten and grade 5 must present the office with the shots record and the health exam record to the office **BEFORE** they will be allowed to enter school. Pre-K must have the same appropriate shots and health record. Mrs. Sandoval is sending you a copy of these documents so that you can attend to them as quickly as possible rather than wait until late summer to take care of this matter. **Due on the 15th of May this year are the dental forms for Kindergarten, Grade 2, and Grade 6.**

SPECIAL DATES TO NOTE!

There IS School on Friday, April 25

First Eucharist—Sunday, May 4th at 9:30 AM Mass

**2nd Grade School Mass Honoring First Communicants—Monday, May 5th
followed by Breakfast for Immediate Families**

May Crowning and Ribbons' Ceremony following Mass at 8:30—Wednesday, May 7th

May God allow each of us to live in the moment so that we do not miss even a tiny bit of grace that is heaped in our laps.

