



# St. Michael Elementary School

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September 8, 2009

Dear Families,

**Parent Orientation Evening:** The school year is off to a very quick start. There is no time to waste when it comes to learning **how** to learn rather than **what** to learn. Our teachers have high expectations of their students. That is exactly what we want for our children—reach the high bar in every way possible. On **Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**, there will be an **orientation evening for parents only. There will be three (3) sessions that will allow you to see your children's teachers. The evening begins with a 5:30-6:00 session, a 6:00-6:30 session, and a 6:30-7:00 session.** We will also be displaying some of our new curriculum materials that we have been talking about in bulletins. Please put it on your calendar as a **must** so that we can build the home-school connection that is critical for student success.

**First Fundraiser:** On Orientation evening we will launch a fundraiser that we have not done before. The fundraiser was introduced to the Board at the end of the school year and is called **Scratch & Help**. To receive one of the books, each family must put down \$10.00 to get a book. If you look inside, the far right hand side of the book looks like a lotto card that you scratch off to see if you are a winner. There are fifty (50) boxes to be scratched. Underneath will be an amount ranging from \$.50 to \$3.00. If a friend or family member scratches a box that says \$1.75, they will pay you that amount. If all boxes are scratched, you will have \$100 to return to the school office. If you would like a second book, we can give you one—again for a \$10.00 charge. If every family completes one **Scratch & Help** booklet, we will bring in \$13,900. \$50 will be credited to your fundraising amount. If you complete a second card, another \$50 will go toward your fundraising responsibility.

We are planning to have a candy sale; however, we will only sell candy—not other gifts such as the booklet of candy and gifts the **Kathryn Beich Candy Company** provided last year. We are also looking at the **World's Finest Chocolate Company**; however, we believe the candy is more expensive than Kathryn Beich. That sale will probably take place later in October. We really could use some volunteers who might assist in running the fundraising efforts we try this year.

**Please mark your calendar for September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for the St. Michael 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fest here on the parish grounds.** This festival will benefit both the church and the school. Any family who has a scholarship or grant is required to volunteer work during the year. This is a perfect opportunity to get some volunteer work in and enjoy good food and music as well as great games for your children to enjoy. What a great community builder as well since you will meet through volunteer work as well as through family fun. Bring other family members as well. We would like this to be a magnificent weekend. There was a pink flyer in your folder that tells you the time and date—**Saturday 12 noon to 11 PM and Sunday 9 AM to 4PM.**

**Information on N1H1—the Swine Flu—from our Superintendent:** We are urged to begin with prevention—tissues, hand sanitizers (before meals and after play), hand washing, covering coughs with

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the sleeve, sanitizing surfaces, more hand washing, and STAYING HOME WHEN ILL UNTIL WELL. At this point in time, the closure of school is not being recommended. Please do not send your child to school with a fever or a bad cough or sore throat. I know that you struggle with what to do with a sick child when you are working. This might be the time to develop your own plan in terms of who can care for your child rather than sending him or her to school where others will be infected.

**Band Program:** We spoke with a band company to see if there might be any interest on the part of families for having their child learn to play an instrument in a band setting. For now, the band company will be here on September 10<sup>th</sup> to do a half hour long classroom demonstration for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Band teachers will demonstrate various instruments and hand out a flyer to take home to you. On Friday, all of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will get a chance to try two instruments of their choosing. More flyers will be sent home with recommendations. I have no idea what band lessons cost or how much it costs to rent an instrument. There will be a parent sign-up meeting in the evening, but the time given to me conflicts with something else so I have to find a new time for parent sign-up. I believe that there need to be at least 15 interested individuals for the band to get underway. I am going to try to have the parent sign-up on Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> when we have Parent Orientation. I will let you know that for sure when I find out.

Our enrollment has been growing. We budgeted for 190 students and now have 212 which is good news. I do need to say that we will be reviewing our accounts tomorrow. Anyone who has not paid supply fees of \$200 and the registration fee must get it in this week in order for your child to return next Monday. August tuition should also be paid. If you need to talk with me about a plan, please call so we can keep bringing in tuition on a regular basis so that we can pay our employees and our vendors.

God bless you all.

Ms. Lee

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