

## A PARENT'S PRAYER

Loving God,  
You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.  
We THANK and PRAISE you!  
Thank you for the GIFT of our CHILDREN.  
Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.  
Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.  
May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love.

October 29, 2007

Dear Families,

It seems like there is so much news to share with you. Somehow, we pack so many events into a week's time. I have included a favorite prayer of mine for you to think about—long after you send your child(ren) to bed—just before you are about to turn out the lights for the night. I reflect on it as I slow down for the evening to think about my 294 children who will return to me at 7:00AM each morning. I pray for a full dose of patience and the wisdom to guide them on their paths here at St. Michael.

**LEADERS! We have LEADERS!** Join me in congratulating our new Student Council Officers under the guidance of Ms. Gabriela Padilla this year. We are proud of: **Karla Padilla, President, Jacky Neri, Vice-President, Jasmin Alvarez, Honorary Secretary, Danny Gallegos, Treasurer.** Last week our candidates gave brief speeches over the public address system for all students to hear. Voting followed. These leaders are role models to whom we will look for examples of respect, fairness, justice, creativity, team spirit, faith, and selflessness. We will keep you tuned to some of their plans.

**TRICKS AND TREATS!** Friday night's Halloween party was a delightful event. There were fascinating (and scary) tricks in the Haunted House that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders designed. I must admit, I did my fair of screaming as I walked through with three of my little girls on my two arms. Special thanks to the School Board Members who planned the event—Mrs. Gallegos, Mrs. Facen, and Mrs. Hernandez along with all of the great volunteers who turned out to feed over 325 guests and keep them involved in games as well. Thanks to our 7<sup>th</sup> graders who created games that the little ones (and some big ones) played over and over to keep their bag of candy growing. THANKS so much to all of you who sent candy for this event. Honestly, we did not have to buy a single bag of candy since you all were so generous. I know you saw the large bag of candy that came with their hotdog. Delightful! If anyone volunteered that evening and did not sign the volunteer slip, call Mrs. Sandoval in the office and ask her to add you to the list.

**GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIPS!** Thanks to all of you who took time to carefully submit the documentation needed to apply for a tuition scholarship from Big Shoulders—a wonderful organization that serves 50 Catholic Schools in the inner city of Chicago. They have been wonderful to us. While I wish I could have applied for scholarships for all of you, Big Shoulders asked us only to submit those who demonstrated the most need. The applications will be sent to Big Shoulders this week. We will learn who will be chosen for the grants sometime in late December or early January. I have no idea how Big Shoulders will make its decisions. It will be a surprise for us all.

**Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences!** You are all wonderful for responding to our request that you give us the best time when we can meet with you on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Please remember—conferences are a MUST. We are working long days to see to it that you have the

opportunity to see your child's teacher(s). We will not make up conferences by staying late on other evenings. You will only receive your child's report card on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of November. If you have not let your child's teacher know when you will be coming on those days, send a note to the teacher tomorrow. As a parent of a child in St. Michael School, you are required to take your child's progress seriously by being present at conferences throughout the year. It is our obligation to let you know what type of progress your child is making and how you can assist the teachers.

**We are PROUD to announce that eleven of our last year's Graduates made the HONOR ROLL at St. Francis de Sales High School. They are the following:**

Principal's HONOR ROLL—Grade Point 3.65+  
Lucia Botello, Marc Loon, Alexis Pelaez, Byran Whiting  
HONOR ROLL—Grade Point 3.0 to 3.649  
Shiniqua Alford, Dejon Collins, Christopher Maxwell, Daniel Meraz, Sergio Pedraza  
Carlos Sandoval, Brandon Whiting

**Did you know that our students in Grades 2-5 go to Russell Square Park each week to enjoy an art class taught to our students?** Art is such an essential part of the curriculum. When you don't have it, you truly find yourself missing it. Hopefully, in the year to come, we might find the means to have art class in our own building from PreK through Grade 8. **Did you know...**that we have a teacher on our faculty whose teaching minor is in drama and dance? Miss Lammie just came to us from Whitney Young High School where she produced a play and did all the choreography for the show. She also is a dancer who teaches ballet, jazz, salsa and...so much more. She would love to teach jazz and salsa to students who might be interested in grades 5—8. She is also willing to produce a show with out students in the spring if there is interest. We will see.

**Blessed are they who are PEACEMAKERS....**

Our Peacemakers were chosen by their teachers for special reasons that may follow their names.

- K Maria Mendoza (She encourages others to share.)
- K Cristian Rivera (He is always willing to give up a toy to someone else.)
- Gr. 1 Jaylon Ingram (Always is a cheerful giver.)
- Gr. 1 Landen Boyd
- Gr. 2 Alex Omelanczuk (Always has a smile for anyone who may feel grumpy).
- Gr. 3 Eric Rivera (Always is kind to others and willing to help them.)
- Gr. 4 Julisa Cerda
- Gr. 3-4 Mia Walker (Helps others make good choices.)
- Gr. 5 Heather Meyers
- Gr. 6 Kayla Cabrales (Is always so positive with her peers.)
- Gr. 7 Eranese Wilson (Her calm presence brings a peaceful element to the class.)
- Gr. 8 Kenyata Smith (He uses humor to dispel any negative vibes between two classmates.)
- Gr. 8 Nichele Walker (Promotes peace time and a time again.)