

**Peace before us.  
Peace behind us.  
Peace under our feet.  
Peace within us, peace over us.  
Let all around us be peace.**

November 6, 2007

Dear Families,

So many things are happening around the school these days. I am delighted to tell you about them. Last Thursday, Ms. Gabriela Padilla, the Student Council Adviser, planned a lovely installation ceremony to celebrate the choice of Student Council officers for the 2007-2008 school year. Before each officer was sworn in, different teachers reflected on the magnificent qualities of each officer. I was so touched by what was proclaimed by each teacher. The Student Council met right away and planned some events for this week with its unusual schedule due to Parent/Student/Teacher conferences. On Wednesday and Thursday, a BAKE SALE will be held not just during lunch but also during the day when parents arrive for conferences. The Student Council will also provide teachers with apple cider during the day to keep their throats "wet" so that they have voices to share "good news" with parents. How wonderful to begin with acts of service.

**REMEMBER! There will be a 12:30 dismissal on Wednesday and Thursday this week.  
There will be NO SCHOOL on FRIDAY, but there WILL BE SCHOOL on MONDAY!  
The Extended Day Program will be open on both Wednesday and Thursday.**

**On Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, I will be selling ICE CREAM during the lunch hour.  
As it has been in the past, ice cream will be sold for \$1.00 to grades 1-8 in the cafeteria  
AFTER lunches have been eaten. We have a yummy selection of ice cream treats.  
I plan to do this quite regularly. I will always let you know the dates ahead of time.  
Thanks to Mrs. Solis for doing the ice cream shopping!**

We have some great news about the **CANS FOR KIDS** project. An anonymous donor from the parish gave us \$200 toward the cause, and our students earned \$114 in little over a week of collecting cans from home. We might consider cans as good as gold right now. Kindly send them in a plastic bag, and Father Perez will see to it that they are stored in the basement of the Church. From there, someone will get them to a place that pays the best amount for aluminum cans right now. This money will be used for the purchase of a brand new **Cart of 25 Wireless Laptop Computers** for grades 5-8. This project will also be supported by the Patrons Grant—a group from the Big Shoulders Scholarship Fund who want to see new programs introduced in the schools they support. Teachers at those grade levels will be able to check out the cart for their classrooms so that all students at one time can be engaged in research as well as the development of Power Point presentations of their research and for many other projects as well. Last winter when representatives of the Patrons Grant met with our teachers, our teachers identified new computers as an important item on their "wish list." Along with the computers will come in-service for our teachers so that they can be sure that their students learn the skills that will be demanded of them as they move into high school. Some of the computers from the classrooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor will be moved down to classrooms requesting more computers as well. Thanks to our teachers for being such dreamers! Thanks to the Patrons grant that will make this happen! Thanks to Father Perez who started the CANS FOR KIDS project parish and school-wide because we will need to buy site licenses for software we wish to add to these computers!

Next on the list of the teachers' "wish list" were **BOOKS** for the classrooms. Accelerated reader books and quizzes for grades 2-4, books that provide great background knowledge for science and social studies throughout the grades, great literature for the middle school grades, and marvelous picture books for the PreK through primary grades. A healthy amount of money will be dedicated to this cause by the Patrons grant. I call this our "Print Rich Initiative" because it makes our classrooms a wonderful place for readers to be. Besides this initiative, do you realize that our school library has over 5000 books in its

collection? Do you realize that our Sister Parish—Holy Family—in Inverness, Illinois has been sending us some awesome volunteers who automated our library. Every book has its own bar code. As a little tool moves across the bar code, it shows on computer that the book has been checked out of the library. They have invested hours and days and months. During the summer when it was 90 degrees in the library, one of the volunteers came almost every day of the week to work on the project from early morning until about 5:00 or 6:00 PM. Since school started, four volunteers show up at 6:00 AM to begin their work on Tuesdays where their goal is to finish this project before Christmas. What a help to Mrs. Quinones, our librarian!

**Stay tuned for the next project on the “WISH LIST.”**

A very special THANKS to each of you for arranging to meet with your child’s teacher(s) on Wednesday or Thursday of this week or at other times proposed by teachers who have to be at Religious Education Classes in the Archdiocese or who will be attending the national early childhood education conference being held in Chicago this year. I had a chance to review all of the report cards in PreK through Grade 8 today so I am aware of the successes and the struggles for the students entrusted to our care. Tomorrow I will begin with grade 8 and work my way down the grades—meeting with each student to celebrate their successes and help them set goals in areas where grades suggest changes. I encourage you to come to conferences with some questions in mind for your child’s teacher. You have watched your child’s approach to homework and have signed tests that have been taken. You have e-mailed or called teachers so that you could discuss ways to support your child. Don’t leave your conference without a plan for your child if grades suggest that work is not getting done or tests are not being studied for or conduct needs to improve.

I look forward to seeing you these next few days. Every evening before I fall asleep, I leave your child(ren) resting in the Heart of God who so lovingly created each child who walks through our front door each day. I remember you as well—parents, guardians, grandparents—who have been called to raise your child(ren) in this challenging world. It is our desire to walk with you through the joys and the challenges.

Blessings,

Ms. Lee