



St. Michael Elementary School

March 23, 2010

**“To BLESS is to put a bit of yourself into something.
It is to make holy, to change something or someone because of your presence.”**
--Macrina Wiederkehr

Dear Families,

Each day your child walks into school, I realize how wonderfully they are blessed by you—that you sacrifice so much to allow them to have a Catholic education, to learn to create a peaceful and caring, safe and respectful school environment. Raising our children in a world where values are quite different than the ones we hold for our children asks much of both families and teachers. Daily we work to set their feet on the path that leads them to love God and one another. Each day I can see the ways in which you bless your child(ren)...the ways in which you change your child(ren) by putting so much of yourselves into their lives. Thank you for that! We count on that blessing to carry on our mission as Catholic educators.

We want to be sure that you understand the calendar for this week and next week.
Please note **DAYS, DATES, AND TIMES** below.

Wednesday, March 24th of this week...

You may pick up your Fundraising Items that you ordered through the catalog. They will be in the Teachers' Lounge (Room 102) on the first floor.

NO MASS THIS WEEK DUE TO A FUNERAL.

Thursday, March 25th of this week...

CAFETERIA SPECIAL (All money due in office on Tuesday. Add an extra dollar if money is turned in on Wednesday.

EARLY 12:30 DISMISSAL ON Thursday, March 25th (Extended Day program will be open from 12:30-6:00.)

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES will be held from 1:00-6:00 PM on Thursday, March 25th. Report cards will be distributed at the conference. (If you are unable to make conferences on Thursday, please arrange a time with your child's teacher(s) to meet with them before Easter break).

Friday, March 26th of this week...NO SCHOOL. TEACHERS HAVE A SCRIPTURE IN-SERVICE ON THAT DAY.

April 1st—Holy Thursday will be a FULL DAY OF SCHOOL. Easter break begins at 2:45 on that day. We will return to school on Monday, April 12th.

HEALTH AND DENTAL FORMS

Grades 5 and Grades 6 are to have both a DENTAL and HEALTH EXAM. The form is due in the office on May 1st.

Grade 2 needs a DENTAL EXAM. The form is due in the office on May 1st.

We are required by law to report to the state that we have these forms on file. Please give prompt attention to these exams.

Thank you for being so responsive to our notice about tuition due this week. Already next week we begin the month of April with April tuition due on the 1st so that we can meet payroll during the month of April. There are three pay periods during that month so we rely on prompt payments to meet each of those payroll dates. If you do receive an EXCLUSION note, please do not send your child to school until your tuition payment has been received. Your child will not be admitted to class.

Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition

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Tuesday of this week—today—we have a special guest who will be visiting St. Michael School. **Bishop Joseph Perry who is responsible for a number of parishes and parish priests in the Archdiocese of Chicago will be visiting classrooms.** Bishop Perry has not been here for quite some time so he is looking forward to his visit to classrooms. I hope you ask your child what they shared with Bishop Perry when he visited your child's classroom.

We have submitted proposed **tuition increases for the 2010-2011 school year** to the Archdiocese for approval. Once we receive an accepted rate that allows us to balance our budget, we will send home official Registration Forms for you to complete and return to us. We are happy to hear that Big Shoulders will be working to make summer enrollment grants available to us along with their regular grants applied for in September that are awarded in December. In the meantime, we continue to plan curriculum changes that will bring a richness in the area of **foreign languages (Spanish, French, and Mandarin Chinese)** as well as in the area of Math and Technology. Our partnership with Dr. Eileen Quinn Knight, Professor of Mathematics at Xavier University presented teachers with a variety of technology options to enhance the math learning of our students in this digital age. We already have a grant to address technology next year; however, Dr. Knight and I will be pursuing additional grants to bring interactive smart boards to classrooms, hand-held devices, new computers, data projectors to enhance teaching with the smart boards, a wireless building, classroom sets of tablets so that students can send their answers to the smart board so that teachers can get immediate feedback as to who understands the concept taught, video recorders for movie-making, and so much more.

We have begun to develop a **Board with expertise in Marketing, Construction, Finance and Banking, Security, and Curriculum/New Models of Education.** The first five board members representing these areas are Mr. Steve Schmieder—Marketing, Mr. Kevin Lynch—Construction, Ms. Patricia Reyes—Banking and Finance, Mr. Ken Lee—Security, and Dr. Eileen Quinn Knight—Curriculum/New Models of Education. Mr. Schmieder will be launching a Facebook page so that we can identify and communicate with our alumni. I will let you know when the page has been launched. In the event that you are an alumni of St. Michael School, we hope you will let us know who you are and what year you graduated and that you will pass the information on to other family members or classmates. We are currently preparing a survey to send to all of our high school students to learn more about their progress and goals as well as how St. Michael prepared them for the challenges of high school. We will continue to build our Board. If you have any recommendations, please let me know.

We look forward to seeing you for conferences on Thursday. **Please note that the teachers in Grades 5,6,7, and 8 will hold their conferences in the CAFETERIA. Preschool through Grade 4 will meet with you in their classrooms. The Student Council will be holding a bake sale that will be held in the cafeteria this quarter.** They look forward to your support.

Blessings be yours!

Ms. Barbara Lee

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