

September 25, 2007

Dear Families,

How quickly this school year is flying! By the end of the week we will walk peacefully into the month of October where the days grow shorter and the nights are longer. The trees will soon be painted with oranges, reds, and yellows—just enough to catch our eye and to allow us to be in awe at God's creation. In the meantime, children continue to grow here at St. Michael as they take their class work and homework seriously as well as their relationships with one another, their teachers, and their God. How much their teachers and I stand in wonder at the great gift they are to our St. Michael School Family. Perhaps you might want to sit back for a few moments just to stand in awe at all you have done to bring your child(ren) to this moment.

“Back to School Night for Parents” was well-attended last week. We are grateful to each of you who took the time to come and listen to your child(ren)'s teacher share what is being asked of your child this year. Our teachers are working so hard to provide your child(ren) with the challenges and support they need to make outstanding progress in the various content areas. If you were unable to come, perhaps you might want to touch bases with your child(ren)'s teacher to see how you might support your learner(s). **Research tells us that if parents are very involved in their child's education, their child will be all the more successful.** Coming to evenings like last week or to special learning evenings that we will be having as well as to the Parent/Student/Teacher conferences that we will be having each quarter this year are ways you can lend your support.

I am in the process of beginning to apply for **GRANTS** through the Patron Grants that provided over \$75,000 in scholarships and grants this past year. If you received a grant last year, you will need to re-apply for that grant. I will be sending you an application form. It must be returned within the week if you wish to be considered since there is a considerable amount of paperwork on our end that will need to be completed. There is no assurance that you will receive the grant again this year or the amount that you received last year. You will need to provide information about the amount of income tax paid last year, your rent or mortgage payment, outstanding financial obligations, and other information that will allow us to determine need. If you have never received a grant or scholarship while here at St. Michael and feel that your finances are such that you might be eligible for a grant, please feel free to call me or send me a note expressing your desire to be considered. **Please note that no grants will be applied for students who are not in good standing academically or behaviorally.** The individuals who sponsor these grants expect to receive a copy of each child's report card and Terra Nova test results. They expect to see progress and to know that your child is benefiting from a **Catholic Education.**

Progress Reports will be coming out on Friday, the 28th of this week. Every child in Grades 2-8 should receive a report. You will have a clear idea what areas your child is doing well and what help might be needed. Teachers may request a conference or phone call with you. Please keep in mind that you actually have the opportunity to know what is expected of your child on a daily basis since we use the **student planner to communicate homework, tests that are coming up, and any behavioral concerns the teacher may be having.** **SUCCESS FOR ALL** is our desire.

Hats Off to the Most Responsible

Hats Off to the Most Responsible Students this week!

K—Tanay Dudley	K—Zavier Bates
1—Evelyn Padilla	1—Adrian Gallegos
2—Mariahelena Monroy	3—Undre Wilson
3-4—Sixto Avila	4—Arion Simmons
5—Jesse Rogers III	6—Adrien Cook
7—Analia Del Bosque	8—Karla Padilla
8—Deja Robinson	

We look forward to many more students joining this list in the weeks to come.

Market Day Helpers—Many Thanks

Market Days involve a great deal of preparation as well as work during and after the event. We are most grateful to all of our volunteers and want to say a special thanks to some of our students who joined Mrs. Andres on that day. These students include:

David and Donald Jeroski	Karla Padilla
Stephanie Alvarez	Alexandria Hernandez
Jacqueline Neri	Daniel Navarro

Service is an important component of our faith. Giving of ourselves without thinking about what we will receive in return is an important lesson we want all of our students to learn here at St. Michael whether they be in PreK or Grade 8. We will continue to show you throughout the year just how our students are engaged in service not only in the school but in the wider Chicago community.

Dates to Remember Dates to Remember

September 26—Tuition Late Fee
October 2—End of the Fundraiser
OCTOBER 19—NO SCHOOL FOR ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL STUDENTS
(This date was NOT on the calendar, so please note that there is no school)