

November 2, 2006 – Feast of All Souls

Dear Families,

Yesterday, about communion time during our All Saints Mass, a warm sense of connection came over me. As the music began and we started to queue up to receive, my mind wandered to friends I know in Catholic schools around the country all doing the same thing this morning. Whether in California or Arizona, Illinois or Oklahoma, New York or Florida – and many places in between – we were all sharing in a liturgy highlighting a rich point in our school year. That comfort, that solidarity, with so many students, teachers and parents, serves to remind us that we never do this task alone. And there is great joy in that.



So, too, this All Souls Day reminds us that those friends and family, who have gone before, remain with us in very special ways. They paved a path for us here in this world and continue to do so in the next. And again, we can feel great joy in that fact. We offered special prayers for your loved ones today. May they continue to walk with you in both your lightest and darkest hours.

ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT

As mentioned last week, Archbishop Brunett will be here next Thursday for a meeting and has asked to preside at a prayer service with the school students. It will begin at 9:30am in the church. You are most welcome and invited to attend. From the looks of the order of worship sent to us by his office, it appears to last about thirty minutes or so.

This is the first time the Archbishop has visited us formally since we opened our doors and it would be great to have many here to greet him and thank him for his continuing support of our efforts. Here's hoping you'll have a chance to attend.

AUCTION NEWS



Melanie Salsgiver and her growing team are planning the absolute best event yet. Make sure you have Saturday, March 24, circled in red on your calendar.

Already we have asked for a contribution from each student toward the class project to be auctioned off that evening. A suggested amount of \$10 per child would help pay for the materials that go into the creative piece designed and executed by the kids and adult artist. These items are one of a kind and incredible.

As you remember, on the registration agreement, part of every family's commitment to the school each year is to support the auction. A target is set for each family to procure a minimum of two (2) new items (with a projected net auction value of at least \$150) or solicit \$300 in cash or patron pledges to be donated to the auction committee to cover expenses related to items, contributing to the bottom line. Included in today's packet is the following information:

an auction letter from Melanie, a list of suggested auction ideas, our business procurement letter (on letterhead), and three (3) procurement forms. The organizers are working hard to help you meet this goal in as easy and painless a way as possible.

What they have also fashioned is a way to use those patron pledges to leverage as much as possible. If you just simply can't find a way to procure items and are intending to meet the pledge threshold, this is for you. Contributions of funds from each classroom will be combined in a "Classroom Parents' Project" Fund and those represented will have a chance to decide on purchasing an item or items to be packaged for the live bidding portion of the evening. For instance, if a class was to generate \$800, the group may decide to package a "Night on the Town" by using the money to purchase gift certificates for dinner at a great restaurant and tickets to a show. Depending upon the amount, they may even have enough to kick in for an overnight at an upscale hotel. These kinds of "experiences" have a history of going for well beyond their value. All it takes resources and creativity to get the bidding frenzy started.

We'll be sending letters home giving more details about your classroom parents' project as they become available. Of course, it is up to you. Procure items or help secure funds (your own or those of others) to count toward your target goal. No one way is mandatory, just your support. And don't forget: the suggested goals are strictly minimums! You are welcome to participate in both ways at whatever level of generosity you find possible.

This surely will be a FUN event!



GOLF TOURNAMENT

And speaking of fun, Saturday, April 28, will find many on the China Creek course up at Newcastle Golf Club for our first St. Madeleine Sophie Scholarship Golf Tournament. Details will be out soon. We have some fantastic support lined up and plenty of ways to show your skill – or, in my case, lack thereof. Pray for sun and mark your calendars.

EASY MONEY

(Guess that is today's theme.) We receive checks regularly from the ink cartridge recycling company, Safeway eScrip, WaMoola, Sally Foster, and Readers Digest, for all the ways you have contributed to date. If you still haven't signed up, you can find details on our web site at <http://www.smsbellevue.org/fundraising.html>. Just this year already we have brought in nearly \$500. It all helps – and it grows quickly with the number participating.

VETERANS' DAY

Next Friday, November 10, will be a day of no school as we observe both the national observance of the contributions of our men and women in the service, as well as our own State Admission Day. Classes will be writing letters this week to our men and women in Iraq and these letters will be combined with packages sent by the local Knights of Columbus to our friends overseas.

We'll be back to our regular schedule on Monday, Nov. 13.

Finally...

There isn't a day that goes by here in the office that Holly and I don't remark about how wonderful everyone is about volunteering for so many tasks. Whether it is here during the day, in the evening, on the weekends, or at home, know it is noticed and appreciated. And our little, growing school is getting noticed outside as well. I constantly receive stories from around the diocese of people beginning to hear about the good things we have going on. Of course, you knew that!

Enjoy your weekend!

Dan