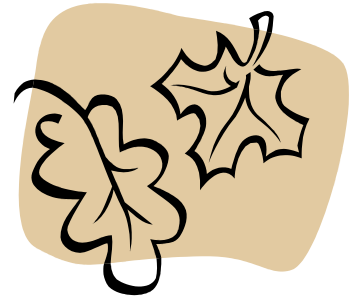


October 5, 2006



Dear Families,

Here's hoping that October is every bit as fun as September!

#### AUCTION

Fantastic news! Melanie Salsgiver has agreed to co-chair the upcoming auction on March 24! What an awesome gift to us all! Thanks, Melanie. She will team with an (as yet un-named) parish co-chair to coordinate our largest fundraising event. Each year we get so much better. Already, we have a three-page list of volunteers who will help Melanie and the staff pull the auction together. No doubt, this will be the best yet. Watch here for continuing details on how you can meet your commitment to help.

#### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

It is already conference time. There will be NO SCHOOL on Thursday, Oct. 19 and Friday, Oct. 20. Those days will be devoted to updating you on how the beginning of the year has gone for your child. In today's packet you will find a form asking you to state your preference for the day and time(s) to meet. Conferences will be twenty minutes in length. In the upper grades, we're asking students to attend the conference with their parents. Just a reminder ... the primary conference is with the homeroom teacher. If you would like to meet with another teacher, please indicate on the form.

Please return your request form tomorrow, as we'll begin to put the schedule together then and intend to notify you of the time slot in next Thursday's packet.

#### FUNDRAISING

You'll also find in the packet a sample listing of many of our fundraising opportunities. Some are as simple as collecting Campbell's Soup labels. Others are more complex, like making a vehicle donation. The information is preceded with an overview of the parent commitment agreement each family signed during the registration process. Note that we have no established minimums on your participation – or limits for that matter. We have always considered that when everyone does their best, then each is doing the same – and we all win.

Additional materials will come home in the next months highlighting a few of the items listed, such as the ongoing capital campaign and the annual fund drive. I'm sure you'll eagerly await those mailings!

Don't ignore the page listing many of the matching gift employers in our region. Last year, our friends helped us realized over \$26,000 in additional revenue just by filling out these forms at work. Already in this fiscal year, we've netted another \$22,000 on our way to a budgeted \$40K. This is probably the easiest way to help stretch your personal contribution. Check it out.

#### CHANGES

Two possible changes are in the offing, necessitated by sharing space with a number of other important ministries.

Since our lunch falls after the workday ends for the parish staff doing setup for the weekend, Pizza Friday may be moving to Pizza Thursday. We will let you know if this change is finalized. Thank you to the many great volunteers who help with Friday lunch.

Also, Before and After Care will be moving from the youth room to rooms B and C on the opposite side of the church. For those of you using the program, we'll get you more specific details as the day for moving draws near.

#### FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION

It is looking more and more like some of our larger and more distant field trips will be done on busses as the year progresses. Finding drivers, working with boosters and car seats, and paying for parking is beginning to take its toll. I know this adds an expense to the trip, but it also relieves a MAJOR headache. We promise to keep such instances to a minimum. If you have any questions, be sure to ask your child's teacher. Information on each trip should arrive home well in advance of the trek, giving everyone time to sort through alternatives.

Notes...

The Blessing of the Animals has been rescheduled for THIS Sunday at 2pm. Same location. The parish apologizes for last week's cancellation.



Reminder ... the preferred shoe for school is a tennis shoe. White or black tennis shoes are absolutely acceptable. They are safer for the wet ground and for PE classes. As it begins to get slicker, students without proper footwear will be excluded from our more vigorous participation activities.

If you are noticing an extra sweater or uniform item at home, please check for names. This time of year many clothes find their way to new homes. If you have an item that doesn't fit, chances are its owner is looking for it. Simply send it to the office. We'll find a place for it. And it ALWAYS helps to your child's name in every garment. You never know.

Still some issues with traffic backing up at pick up time. If at all possible, if you can park above and walk down to meet your student, it would be a BIG help. Let's try to leave the drive through for those with infants or passengers making it difficult to transport. Thank you so much.

Remember ... conferences 10/19 and 10/20. NO SCHOOL. Please return your request form tomorrow.

Hey, the sun just popped out. It is going to be a great day! Enjoy your weekend.