

April 6, 2006

Dear Families,

I'd just as soon skip the April showers, but given what they are getting in the Bay Area and the fact we need the May flowers... we can endure!



BIG TOY

One more plea for any additional donations to the Fund-an-Item new playground structure is included in today's packet. Whatever amount we have in commitments by the time we leave here next Friday will be what we contract for. We are only \$7,000 away from installing the whole shebang. Credit cards are also accepted. Give the flyer to grandma and grandpa, too. This new feature will be a lasting legacy for the kids of the school and parish. With luck, we'll see it ready to use before Memorial Day.

UNIFORMS

Spring has arrived. The kids have grown. The wear is starting to show. All this adds up to questions about what is - and isn't - part of the uniform policy. We've included a duplicate copy in the packet today as a reminder. Most of our students are way too young to figure this out for themselves, so if Mom or Dad forget to make sure the appropriate dress is arriving at school, it makes our job that much harder. Believe me, after having four go through this over a 16-year span at my house, forgetting is easy to do. I know things tend to get ragged toward the end of the year and I certainly am not suggesting purchasing new items for just these last two months, but please make every effort to send the kids to school in the approved style and colors. Any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call.

KINDERGARTEN BUDDIES

As everyone knows, our most excellent Kindergarten teacher, Abby Nestvold, will be returning to work her magic with one of the two new Kindergarten classes next year. I'm happy to announce that Ashley Conrad, our current PK co-instructor, will join Abby next year to head the other K class! Ashley holds a Masters degree in education and state teaching certification. She will be a great complement to Abby. Already, the two have begun to discuss (scheme?) how to best use their unique gifts in creating the ultimate K program. It will be fun to watch it grow.

After we secure our new teacher for next year's new Intermediate (3-5) class, we'll set our sights on finding the perfect addition to work with Kassie Ledwon in PK and cover Ashley's previous assignments. I'll continue to keep you updated.

AUCTION

Had fun at our auction? Heard it was the best thing going in town? Don't want to be left out next year? Make sure to save Saturday, March 24, 2007 for our fourth annual event. A chance to talk about what went right and what can be better is being planned. We'll get you

that date as soon as it is set. It's never too early to sign on as chairs for next year, too. Let's get started on making 2007 the best yet!

LOGO WEAR

You've probably seen a few families sporting our St. Madeleine Seraph logo wear. If you are interested in seeing the wide selection, check out our web site at www.smsbellevue.org. The Logo Wear link is a pull down under both Student Life and Parents.

SAFETY ASSEMBLY

After we return from Easter Break, we've scheduled an assembly for April 27 to re-enforce safe habits with the students. Topics will cover everything from playground manners to what to do if approached by a stranger. While we will not touch specifically on sexual assault, the assembly will give families an excellent opportunity to cover all the bases during a home discussion. Next week, you will be receiving an age-appropriate publication that will be a wonderful resource to jump start this discussion at home so that when we have the assembly, our role will be to support you as parents and primary educators. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to take your call. Details on the program will also be included in that packet.

ACTIVITY LINKS

Some have asked about access to the drill and practice activity links in Math and Reading that we have been using on the classroom computers. We have been able to link a resource page for these activities on our web site so students can use them from home. The pages for second and third grade can be found on their class pages. Go to our web site and you will find the class pages in the drop down under Student Life. The other grades will be added as soon as they are completed. FYI – the classroom pages are also a good place to find info about the class, including links to recent teacher newsletters.

TALENT SHOW

Rumor has it that a talent show is being planned for May 25 here at school to highlight some (not so, or possibly, better left) hidden student talents. Plans are for this event to be the showcase presentation during our Volunteer Appreciation Morning. Starting with the Feast of St. Madeleine Sophie Mass at 9:00 a.m., then a coffee gathering while the students have recess and prepare, the show should be a good place for picture taking – if nothing else. Mark your calendars now and bring your flashbulbs and earplugs! Details to follow.

COFFEE

Seraph Blend arrives next Wednesday. More than 10 of the 25 first order packs have been spoken for. See the order form to reserve yours in time for Easter. First come, first served. Subsequent deliveries will be on a pre-order basis.

CLIP AND SUPPORT

Enclosed is a fundraising flyer highlighting the "Box Tops for Education" and "Campbell's Labels for Education" programs. Please remember to clip labels from the products listed on the flyer and bring them to the school office. This is an easy way to help the school get FREE education merchandise and it doesn't involve a lot of time, energy or money.

JUBILEE

You may want to also make a note of the special celebration of the diocese's 150th Year of Catholic Schools. A fun day is planned for May 6th at the Fisher Pavilion at the Seattle Center. Details are included in today's packet.

We hope this Lent has been a time for you to take a step along your spiritual journey. Next week, Holy Week, is a prime teaching time for Catholic Schools, and thus, the reason we wait until after for our break. We have appropriate activities planned for Good Friday, including attending Stations of the Cross with the parish at noon (PK will not attend) and an afternoon religious art project. We will dismiss at regular time.

Our break runs from Easter Monday, April 17 through that Friday, April 21. The last blast to June begins at regular time, Monday, April 24.

May this Palm Sunday weekend be a time of great blessing for your family.

Dan