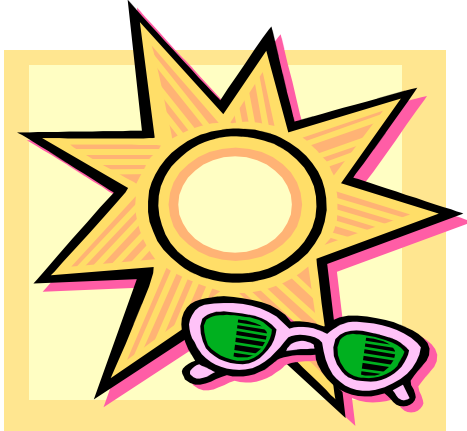


May 4, 2006

Dear Families,

During my meetings this past week with some prospective new families, I've mentioned that at this time last year, the view out the office window was onto a blacktopped parking lot. They usually respond with a look that says, "You've got to be kidding! How could all of this happen in such a short time?" I feel that way myself. What a journey we've had!



On this glorious sunny spring day, know how grateful we are to have you with us and how honored we are to have served you in this, our inaugural year. Next year, our school will be double the size and have a story all its own, but nothing will ever take away the memories of beginning this whole adventure with you and your children. Thank you for putting your faith in this new little school.

#### YOUR PREFERENCE

We are close to finalizing the calendar for next year. There aren't any substantive changes from the draft you received last month. I am interested in your preference, however. Many schools dismiss at noon on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and on the day before the Christmas break. We have tried to stay away from having half days in the schedule to help with child care, but some families have asked, as it makes it easier for them right before a vacation. (We would still go until 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday as it fits into our curriculum.) Let me know ([dsherman@stmadsophie.org](mailto:dsherman@stmadsophie.org) or Ext. 202) by the end of next week what you think. I'll adjust, if the majority feels the need. Know that, because of staffing, we would not be able to offer an extended after care program on the early dismissal days.

#### BABYSITTING

We are starting to build a list of middle school students connected to the parish who are available for short or long term babysitting/nanny jobs this summer. Rather than publish them all, Mrs. Cole will collect the listings in the office. Should you need the service, give her a call at Ext. 201 and she'll give you the referrals.

#### SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring the first annual School Scholarship Pancake Breakfast after the Masses on Sunday, June 4. Net proceeds will be donated to help make up the difference between tuition collected and the actual cost of attending St. Madeleine's. More details will follow. This will be the culminating activity of our yearlong appeal for funds to bridge the gap in these first few years of our school program. Even if you can't attend, I hope you will consider a gift (large or small) to the effort. It is a wonderful sign to our major donors when I can say that 100% of our families have taken the extra step and participated in the campaign. I'll be sending out information in the next few weeks.

#### THANK YOU

Thank you for the wonderful gifts you've given our teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. The flowers, candles, plants, lotion, food, drink cards, etc. mean a lot and are really appreciated. Thank you to Carrie Krueger for overseeing this effort and to the many parents who participated. We are blessed to have such a wonderful faculty.

## MAY CROWNING

The students warmed up the congregation yesterday with their first attempt at the Marian hymn, Immaculate Mary. Next week, we'll process in with flowers and crown her statue before the beginning of Mass. I hope you'll have the chance to attend. All statues and icons sent to help with the altar environment should be identified in some way so we can make sure they are returned to the correct family. We'll keep as many as possible in place through the weekend's Masses.

## STILL ON THE FENCE

Only a very few families have indicated that they will be leaving us next year. We understand there are numerous reasons. Please don't let finances be one of them. Give me a call and let's talk. Even if you have tentatively made enrollment plans for another school, I'd like to talk with you to see if there is anything we can do.

## 150<sup>th</sup> JUBILEE

This Saturday at the Seattle Center is the big day for Catholic Schools in Western Washington. The enclosed flyer gives you all the details. I hope some of you will be able to join our sister school families in recognizing the anniversary. A late e-mail message regarding one of the many discounts is included below.

*In honor of the 150th Jubilee Celebration of the Seattle Archdioceses, Experience Music Project will be extending our school group admission rates (\$5 per person to EMP and \$3 per person to SFM and \$5 per person to the DoubleTake exhibit) to individuals and families celebrating at the Seattle Center on May 6th. This offer is good only during business hours: 10:00am to 6:00pm on May 6th, 2006. All you need to do is tell the Admissions Representative you are celebrating the 150th Jubilee at the Seattle Center. Children 6 and under are always free. Please contact EMP Education for more information at (206) 770-2766.*

Our May mailing to 2006-07 registered families regarding summer details and items for next fall should be headed out in the next few weeks. Included will be a sign-up list for helping coordinate events such as the August BBQ, hot lunch and the uniform exchange. Give some thought to how you'll want to be part of the excitement for Year II.

Enjoy this fabulous weather and your family this weekend!

Dan