

September 14, 2006

Dear Families,

Holy Toledo! So much to say and so little time...

NO SCHOOL TOMORROW

Originally a day reserved for diocesan religious updating for the faculty, we will be spending the day with teacher Karen Pasqualetto, taking advantage of a break in her cancer treatment to update many of the programs which she oversees for us. It will be a very fruitful day. Classes resume on Monday at the regular time.



MORNING DROP OFF

We're getting the routine down. When students arrive at 8:10am or later, they are being asked to play on the blacktop area north of the buildings. If the weather is bad, they are free to line up near the office. Please avoid delivering them directly to the rooms, as there is a good chance there will be no supervision there. The line-up whistle is now being blown at 8:25am and the students are in the room by 8:30am. If you are held up and make it here after that time, please bring them directly to the office for an admit slip.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Make sure to attend our Back-to School Night on Tuesday, Sept. 26. We'll begin the evening at 7:00pm in the Koinonia Room, left of the main entrance to the church. After a brief presentation and some announcements, we'll head off to the classrooms for time with the teachers and an overview of the year. We hope to offer a repeat period so that those who have more than one child here can cover an additional class.

AUCTION

Yep. Never too early to plan. Join us for our "Get the Party Started" lunch meeting at 12 Noon in the Social Hall on Monday, October 2. We'll supply the pizza. You bring your ideas and volunteer expertise. What worked last year? What do you want to see more of this year? Ideas for a theme? Sign up for committees. From this meeting will spring the auction committee. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled at hours convenient to most volunteers. We are especially in need of work on acquisitions and corporate sponsors right now, but ALL areas are open. Don't forget, a portion of your volunteer pledge hours must be spent on this event each year. Plenty to do at home or here, and during the day or in the evenings or weekends. And save the date: MARCH 24, 2007.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

There are still quite a few emergency contact forms not yet returned. These are vital for Mrs. Cole and the teachers if we need to get in touch. Don't wait for us to call you. If you still have it at home, please return it first thing!

WAMOOLA

Note the chance in this packet to make our Washington Mutual plan work three times as hard. Sign up today, if you haven't already. We also have many other sign-up opportunities that reward the school from your purchases. A packet will be available at Back-to-School Night or you can check our web site at www.smsbellevue.org/fundraising. We have been adding programs weekly. If you know of something you see or a place you shop that offers

something back to your child's school, check to make sure we are listed. Most should have us there. A few have been very difficult to access (Office Max) but we'll keep trying.

GENEROUS DONATIONS

Thank to the many who have made recent donations of books and other materials to our school. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Since we are nearing the limit on our available storage spaces at this point, please check with the teachers first before bringing in anything more. Faculty members are working to produce a wish list that we can post and update for the more specific needs as the year goes by. We couldn't do it without you. Let's do it together.

SPECIAL PARKING

At last year's auction, three lucky bidders won the right to a primo parking place in our lower lot. These spaces (the northern-most three) have signs posted. Please respect their effort and leave the spots free during school days.

Additionally, everyone is doing a great job at pick up and drop off. Just a reminder... please ONLY travel northbound in the lower level, and DO NOT use the angle parking lines. Parallel park only. The angles were left for the Sunday crowd and using them limits the flow of traffic on busy days.

LANE CLOSURE

By next week, we expect that we will close off car traffic up and down the south driveway during recess times. This will help make sure the kids have fewer things to think about as they cross the drive on their way to the playground. (The barricades will also help prevent balls from escaping and rolling down the hill.) These closures should happen daily but only from 10:00-10:30am and from 12:00-1:00pm. If you are in the upper lot and need to exit during that time, please use the north drive.

HOW SOUND TRAVELS!

We've noticed that with the larger enrollment and accompanying adults, the sound from talking near the classrooms and even in lower parking area is very noticeable in the classrooms. Many visitors in the office can clearly understand some conversations. Not a bad thing when talking about how young the principal looks, but to be sure your words are for the ears intended, you may want to consider a very limited, reserved conversation. Just FYI...

PACKET RETURNS

Please remember to return this packet envelope each Friday. It is needed each week to keep information dry, confidential forms secure, forms and payments contained. It is our main communication vehicle to your home. Having said that, with no school tomorrow, make an extra special effort not to lose it over the weekend and help it find its happy place back here in the office next Monday!

DON'T FORGET TO CALL

The attendance report taken in the classroom is locked in by 8:45am. If your child is unable to make it by 8:30am (or especially if absent) please call the office at extension 201. We want to make sure all is well and if we don't have a message, it means we need to call you to find out. All absences require a written note needed upon return.

PICK UPS

Occasionally parents may be late due to unforeseen circumstances. We really appreciate a phone call if you find yourself in this situation. We can accommodate a limited number of students in the office until 3:15pm in these cases. However after that time, staff and faculty members can be involved in meetings or have appointments with other parents. This leaves your child potentially unsupervised. Therefore, students who have not been picked up by 3:15pm will be sent to our After Care Program, located in the Youth Room. There is a charge for this service.



SHOES

Safety comes first. In the parent packets and Handbook it is continually stressed that the best shoe is a tennis shoe. We have many varied surfaces and many are wet most of the year. Shoes with thick soles and/or heels can be very dangerous. At no time should a student be in sandals or have exposed heels or toes. These are a recipe for disaster and injury. Any questions, just ask.

THE SCHOOL DATA BASE

Included in today's packet is "Demographic Information" for each student from the Power School Student Information System. Some families have moved over the summer or there may be a typo so please double-check this information. If corrections are needed, please make the changes and return the form to the office. If the information is correct, please do NOT send back this form. Note: e-mail addresses are not included with this information. If you have been receiving the St. Madeleine Sophie update, we have your correct e-mail information. Only return e-mail information if you have a new e-mail address or you have not been receiving the SMS updates. (Neat trick... if you are getting the newsletter at the wrong address, it is MUCH quicker if you first use the links to add your new address and then opt out the old one. If you wait for me to get it done, it could take weeks!)

BACKGROUND CHECKS

We are required to perform background checks for all NEW volunteers. Information is included in today's packet. If you will be volunteering or driving this year, please complete and return the appropriate forms.

HELP NEEDED:

- Volunteer Coordinator Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out this year. Now we need someone to coordinate who's signed up for what and get the right names to the right places. Can you help? Contact Holly.
- Hot Lunch Helpers ... Thank you to Holly Marks (Taco Tuesdays) and Cara Kloeck (Pizza Fridays) for overseeing the distribution of food, fruit and milk. Tim Brady will be helping on Fridays but we could use another helper or two on both days. Any takers?
- Hot Lunch Coordinator ... In addition, we need someone who can oversee the bookkeeping aspects of the Hot Lunch program. We need a spreadsheet (or two) detailing lunch orders and payments for each student when lunch order forms are returned. This will involve an hour or so, every other month. Based on the spreadsheet information, this person would then place the orders each week with Taco Time or Dominos ... approximately 15 minutes/week.

- Parish Office Assistance ... Diana in the parish office is seeking some additional help in their office on Thursdays and Fridays. Love to stuff bulletins? Answer phones? Run copies? Call her for details at extension 101.

LUNCH MILK

We're still not big enough to make it cost effective to apply for the federally subsidized milk program, but some have asked about ordering milk for all five days in the week and not just on hot lunch days. We're will to do it if enough request. Please let Holly know at extension 201.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TECH

Make sure to get back your forms and insurance fee as soon as possible. When they are returned, we can assign the new laptops. I KNOW the kids are eager! So are the teachers.

GREAT GIFTS

Speaking of technology, each of the laptops is loaded with the newest version of Microsoft Office. Students will be well versed in these applications by the time they leave us for high school. A generous gift from Bill and Cathy Palmer has made this a reality. With their donation through the company, Microsoft has gifted us with site licenses worth over \$19,000. We can't thank you enough. No way could we have bought those at cost - even through educational discounts.

Also, we just received our most recent Boeing matching gift check – just a tad under \$20,000 this period. Thank you to all Boeing employees who took the time to fill out the forms to match your donations. With friends like you, we are building a great school.

Check our web site for a list of other companies who also match to a religiously affiliated K-12 school. It makes each dollar go farther. Click on www.smsbellevue.org/fundraising.

Finally...

I knew we had grown. Being out at recess, one can easily see. But at our first school Mass on Wednesday, it was overwhelming to see that we are really beginning to fill up the pews and look like a "grown up" school. The kids were amazing for it being the first time together at a sit-down event. You should be proud of the wonderful children you have raised. And we are proud to work with you on their behalf.

Enjoy a great, long weekend!

Dan