

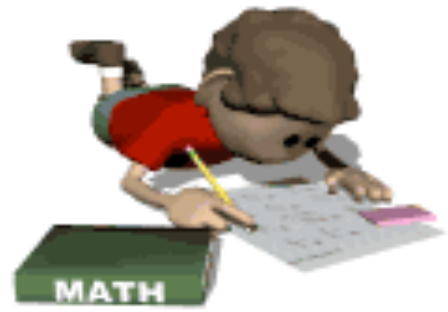
September 21, 2006

Dear Families,

And we thought LAST week's letter was full! Read on...

### ROOF REPAIR

There is a possibility that when you show up tomorrow, a construction crew will be working on an area of church roof directly above the school office. If this is so, you'll notice an area roped off for the students' (and our) protection. Line up for classes will take place on the black top. Your child's teacher will be there to help guide you. There will also be signs directing you to the temporary office entry door. This repair has been a nightmare of scheduling in itself. In a perfect world, it would have happened during the summer. But when have we ever been in a perfect world? Thanks for your understanding.



### EMERGENCY KITS

Every time I think we have it all figured out, one more thing pops up. We should have information about our emergency preparedness procedures and any needed supplies from home out to you shortly. Our first priority is to get a newly revised temporary plan in place so that with our increased size, we'll be sure we have all the major angles covered. After that, a more comprehensive plan that will recognize our location as a parish and neighborhood response site will be developed. Stay tuned.



### 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 those who have

more than one child here can cover an additional class.

### STUDENT INSURANCE

You will find information on voluntary Student Accident and Health Insurance in today's packet. Please read the enclosed letter for more details and return the bottom portion, indicating your interest, to the office. If you wish to purchase insurance, complete the enrollment form and mail directly to the insurance carrier.

### WELCOME

A special welcome to Sophia Nelson and her family. Sophia joined our 7<sup>th</sup> grade class on Wednesday. She and her sisters have just recently returned to the U.S. after a year in Switzerland. Prior to that, she attended Forest Ridge. Glad you are here, Sophia!

### AUCTION

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 important date for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual event: MARCH 24, 2007.

### SCHOOL PICTURES

Just a reminder ... all students will have their picture taken for their student files next Tuesday, September 26. If you wish to purchase a package, please return the picture envelope ASAP.



Tuesday is a **FREE DRESS** day.

### SITE VISIT

Yesterday, we completed the site visit portion of our application to the federal government to be allowed to accept international, non-immigrant students. This past year we have had several inquiries from families temporarily re-located for employment purposes to the U.S. Once we are "cleared" by the Office of Homeland Security, we will be able to help these families find a placement for their school-aged children. We should know the outcome of our application within ninety days.

### PLAYGROUND CHANGE

As we fine-tune our daily operating procedure, we'll keep you up to date. One such area under study by the faculty has been the playground. Since we are more than double the size of last year (which necessitated our move to the upper lot for recess) new issues continue to emerge as to the most safe and efficient way to use the space.

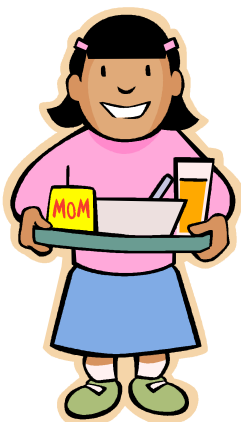
As of Monday, we have decided to try allowing only PK and K students on the "big toy" during the first recess. Grades 1 through 3 will be allowed to join K at lunch on the equipment. This should ensure that all our littlest ones get plenty of access to the structure and help avoid smaller bodies being in the way of some of our bigger students. I really appreciated the understanding of the older boys and girls when I went to their rooms to enlist them in this change. Great kids.

We are still in need of additional volunteer playground aides for both the morning and afternoon recesses. Please call the office if you can give us an hour a week.

### HOT LUNCH

Welcome to the big time! Our little school seemed like a regular place on Tuesday as we had our first hot lunch day up in the parish social hall. While we learned a lot and have some adjustments to make, the kids did pretty well with the whole adventure. Each time we use the space we'll gain some insight on making the program even more efficient.

Thanks SO MUCH to Cara Kloeck, Andrea Arnone, Mary Thomas, and Brenda Bedrosian, for helping set up, distribute lunches and clean up. It really could not have happened without your help!



Also, don't fret, Middle Schoolers. I DID NOT eat your lunches while you were away on the field trip. Your account will be credited for a later date.

### VOLUNTEERS

Some have asked, "Whatever happened to the volunteer opportunity I signed up for last spring?" Not to worry. Holly has been matching your generous offers with opportunities as her absolutely mad schedule allows. In steps the incredible Rose Wisner, who has agreed to be the Volunteer Coordinator for this year. Rose has in hand the sign up forms and after she and I can find a time to meet and review job descriptions, she'll be in touch. Believe me. She'll be in touch! Thanks, Rose. Holly is GREATLY relieved.

### WISH LISTS

We are just days away from getting the last teacher wish lists together. Marie Co has offered to help keep these updated and to get them out to everyone so that as you run across items or want to make a donation to a classroom, you'll be able to do so knowing your are truly fulfilling a real need. Thanks, Marie! As soon as I get the last three lists, I'll get them to you so we can get them out.

### YOU ARE INVITED

People everywhere celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4 by blessing their pets in the spirit of this patron saint of animals and ecology. Please join Fr. Jim for the annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 1 at 2pm in front of the rectory office. Bring your pet, large or small... or just come.

### PARKING SPOTS

Great attention to NOT parking in the auction spots this week. Now, if we could ask that if you do prefer to use our lower drive, please ONLY use the designated spaces available. Squeezing in at the end of the queue may seem OK, but often times it restricts other drivers from passing through. I know the number of spots is limited. Lets try to use them only for very brief periods. If you plan on staying and talking more than a couple of minutes, consider parking up on top and walking down. Think of all the points you'll make toward your health goal for the month!



### DON'T FORGET

We have closed 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 also help prevent balls from escaping and rolling down the hill.) These closures 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.

### UMBRELLAS

We've enjoyed seeing the cute umbrellas your children have brought to school during these rainy days. They've made for some really great photo opportunities. However, as a staff, we've determined that the potential for injury outweighs these darling fashion statements. We need to err on the side of caution ... please do not send your child to school with an umbrella. As my mom always used to say to me ... be careful, you can poke someone's eye out with that!!

### FINALLY ...

These have been very busy weeks. New routines, thousands of questions, unexpected “adventures,” twists and turns. And that has just been with the TEACHERS!

I know well how life at home gets thrown into a tizzy once the new school year starts. No matter how well planned Mary and I thought we were to help our four get off to a good start, something unexpected always happened. But that’s the joy of life, isn’t it?

Please know that the staff and I think you have tremendous kids and we feel honored to be able to share them for part of the day. You have our prayers and respect for the good job you are doing.

Enjoy them this weekend. They grow up way too fast.

Dan