

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord, CA 94519



(925) 689-3990

2/1/12

www.stagnesconcord.com

## Principal's Corner

This past weekend marked the beginning of our annual Development Drive. I'm sure you have heard about the Development Committee particularly in connection to the golf tournament, but do you really know the purpose of Development?

The Development Committee is a component of the School Board whose purpose is to plan for the future viability of the school. The main areas of focus are endowment/tuition assistance, capital improvements and alumni relations.

The committee is comprised of parents, parishioners, Fr. Vince, myself and ideally alumni and community members who meet on the second Wednesday each month at 6:30pm.

Currently the committee is directing all its energy in fulfilling the goal of \$1 million by 2015 for the Endowment Fund, thus the purpose of the Annual Development Drive. Ideally an endowment fund uses only the interest generated from the

principle (\$1 million) to fund tuition assistance.

We at St. Agnes support the Diocesan vision that "a Catholic education should be affordable and accessible by all those who wish such an education." We would like to be in a position to offer this assistance to our current families and those who have yet to arrive. A brochure has been included in this week's envelope so you may take time to learn about this important endeavor.

We welcome those interested in joining this committee and all meetings are open for you to attend. Maybe you have grant writing experience or a gift for fundraising? Perhaps connecting with alumni interests you, don't be shy a wonderful group awaits your arrival.

### **THANK YOU**

A heartfelt thank you to Lisa Bellew for her creativity and expertise in designing, most recently, our Development Drive brochures and the Auction Invitations. We truly appreciate her talent and gift of time.

### **OPEN HOUSE MEMORIES**

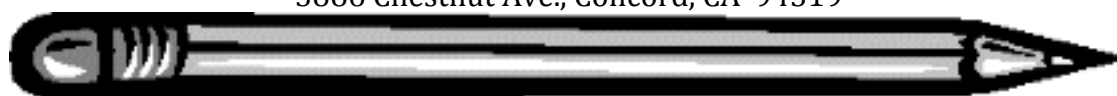
Thank you to all who visited our Open House this past Sunday. What a wonderful experience it was to celebrate the Liturgy with Bishop Cummins who is such a supporter of Catholic schools and witness the dedication of the altar. Thank you to Fr. Vincent for allowing us to coordinate this special parish moment with the beginning of our Catholic Schools Week celebrations. I hope you found your visit rewarding as you explored each classroom. The children were thrilled and the smiles on all the faces, young and old, warmed the heart. Thank you again to all the teachers for their undying dedication to our school. Each day I marvel how lucky we are to have these particular individuals gifted to our community. A special thank you to our PACE Hospitality chairs: Mrs. Brunal and Mrs. Brandt for the wonderful reception and welcome they provided.

### **WE WANT YOU!**

Do you know of any families with children who will be 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>? We are accepting applications for incoming students K-5.

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New student testing will take place this Saturday, beginning at 8:00am. An application must be on file in order to test. If you are a current family with a child who is eligible for Kindergarten this also applies to you; we need your application as well. Pass the word!!

## **DOLLARS FOR STROLLERS**

Once again the 6<sup>th</sup> grade is on a mission. We are only in day three of our Winter Nights service project and they have gathered over \$120.00! In case you are unaware, as our service component of CSW, we are having a dollar drive in order to buy three strollers for expectant mothers who are guests of the Winter Nights program. Any spare dollars are welcome; each class has a diaper box for a collection box. Feel free to participate!!

## **SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES**

### **GOLF**

Attention Junior High Students! Are you interested in playing on the St. Agnes golf team? We are excited to announce that the golf season begins mid-February and ends in May. Official matches begin in March. We will compete against neighboring schools

and play matches at different golf courses in the Contra Costa area. Most matches will be 9 holes and played after school on weekdays and Saturdays. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Harry Anicama at (925) 673-8933

### **VOLLEYBALL**

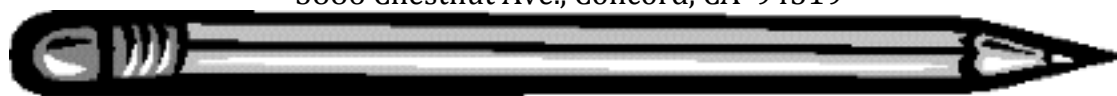
The local Catholic schools have created a girl's volleyball league and we have been invited to participate. The league is open to girls in grades 6-8, one team for each grade. Practices and games are held Tuesday and Thursday. The season begins mid-February and games begin in March. The season ends with a tournament in May. In order for this to occur we need coaches and a minimum of 8 girls per team. A gym is not a necessity but if anyone has access to a gym that would be helpful. If you are interested, even if you do not have a junior high student please contact me. An organizational meeting will be held in the next two weeks so time is of the essence! The girls were very excited about the possibility of fielding a team or multiple teams!

## **BUDDY GIFTS**

We take pride in the strength of our Buddy Program. The friendships created can last a lifetime. The memories created from this experience are shared frequently among current students and alums. Noticed I mentioned memories not the gifts given? The teachers are dedicated to creating time in our calendar for buddy class and school-wide activities. With this in mind we need you to partner with us to maintain the purity of our program centered on relationship and time spent together, a program based on equity. When gifts are given the balance is interrupted. Some children receive lavish gifts, other receive no gifts. Feelings are hurt and families feel pressured to keep up. Handmade cards are a wonderful way to express gratitude and appreciation. The Student Council offers a Candy Gram fundraiser to allow a special, inexpensive holiday activity for buddies to participate. While I know it will be difficult to not exchange gifts, I know you will be supportive.

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## **LEFT BRAINED OR RIGHT?**

Just a reminder that the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Agnes Art & Science Fair will soon be here on February 28, 2012 at 6:30 pm. Applications are now available on the school website and are required for student in Grades K-5. Please submit completed applications via email (see application) or send to the school office by February 17<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Please call Jennifer De Freitas at (925) 680-8712 or Margaret Bettencourt at (925) 680-0449.

## **MEMORIES**

The yearbook deadline is quickly approaching. Order forms were sent home and are due Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEN'S RETREAT**

Each year the St. Bonaventure Men's Spiritual Network hosts a retreat for men at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. This year the retreat will be held March 2-4. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. This is a wonderful way to spiritually gift yourself or a man in your family.

## **SCHOLARSHIP ANYONE?**

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is accepting

applications from 7<sup>th</sup> graders who exhibit excellent academic ability and extracurricular accomplishment. Fifty to seventy students whose families are experiencing financial hardship will be awarded scholarships for tuition or extracurricular activities. For further information log onto: <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/how-to-apply/>.

## **GOOGLE SCIENCE FAIR**

Anybody ages 13+ can enter the Google Science Fair. Prizes include a trip to the Galapagos Islands, scholarships etc. For further information log onto: [www.google.com/events/sciencefair](http://www.google.com/events/sciencefair).

## **WE PRAY**

We joyfully offer prayers of thanksgiving for the healthy arrival of Coralie Senquis' (7<sup>th</sup>) new brother, William Nicolas who was born January 30<sup>th</sup>. Mom and baby are doing well.

## **COMMENTS OR CONCERNS?**

If you have any comments or concerns please contact: Lisa Karmann, School Board President at 673-1635 or

Cristina Pauline, PACE President at 672-6808.

## **Important Dates, Information, and Updates**

- 2/3
  - School Mass (5<sup>th</sup>) formal dress
- 2/4
  - First Eucharist Parent Meeting 9:30-12:30
  - New Student Testing Gr. 1-7 8:00am
  - Kinder Testing 9:00am
- 2/7
  - \$2.00 PACE Non-uniform dress
- 2/8
  - Joint Boards Meeting 6:30 Cauchi Hall
    - School Bd
    - PACE
    - Development