

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

February 10, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

## **Principal's Corner**

The season of Lent will begin next Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the time set aside by the Church to make peace with God and with one another. In ancient times, Christians would wear humble clothes made of sackcloth and put ashes on their heads as well. Prior to Vatican II, as ashes were placed upon our foreheads, the priest would say these words, "Remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return". Today, when we are marked with the ashes, the priest or lay minister will say words that are more inviting and forgiving.

In some ways, Lent is probably one of the most famous of all the seasons of the Church. It is a six-week season of preparation in which numerous traditions are remembered. During Lent, the "Alleluia" is put away, the Stations of the Cross are prayed, and fasting and days of abstinence from meat are practiced. All of these things are meant to remind us that Lent is a serious time, an opportunity to think about how much the Gospel means to us and how well we are living up to God's law of love.

This Lent, I invite you to pray this prayer with your family as this holy season unfolds. Perhaps it will help you and your family draw even closer to God. It is attached to this newsletter and is entitled, "Clothed With The Qualities of Christ". If your children are little people, pray this prayer for them that they may stay always close to God.

## **Important Dates, Information, and Update**

### **Statements**

In this week's family envelope you will find your most current tuition statement. Everyone has bills to pay and so does the school. If tuition is not paid promptly, we cannot meet our obligations either. So, read your statement carefully and then bring yourself current by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Last Chance**

Next Tuesday is Mardi Gras, the last day before the beginning of Lent. We have all our special activities for the children to enjoy, even lunch – have you ordered lunch for your children for Mardi Gras yet? This is your last chance – the order form is in the family envelope so get it in tomorrow, as we need to buy all the food. Thanks!

### **Accelerated Reading**

Week Eighteen of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that we increased our score to 15,759 points earned towards our goal of 25000 points by year's end. We are at almost 63% of our total goal. Please continue to monitor the bulletin board outside the school office. It is being updated weekly. Stay tuned and watch us read!

## **Book Fair**

Our Book Fair was a wonderful success. The library was rewarded with 258 new books that were free. Your generosity netted \$220.00 for the "One for Books" program, which means Scholastic Books, will match that amount and Toys for Tots, National Center for Family Literacy or Kids in Distressed Situations will receive those funds. \$615.00 was given to the children who participated in the Read, Relax and Earn program over the summer. They were able to buy a \$5.95 book for their efforts. (Thanks to the Molyneaux family). And finally, Mrs. Cesca wants to acknowledge the families who participated and all the volunteers without whom the fair would not have been successful. Thank you everyone!

## **School Mass**

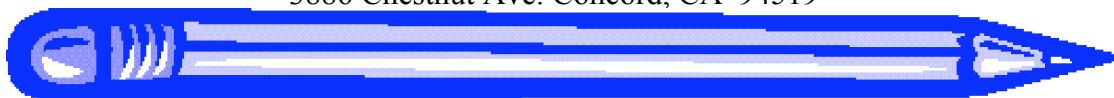
Tomorrow is our monthly School Mass. Children need to be here by 7:45AM and should be in formal dress (no shorts). Mass begins at 8:00AM in the Church.

## **Six Flags**

Just a reminder – the deadline for those wishing to earn free admittance into Six Flags in Vallejo is fast approaching. February 23<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline. Students in grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to participate. All they have to do is read a total of six hours before February 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

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## **Golf for Kids**

In last week's family envelope we announced the opportunity for after school golf. If you have a son or daughter interested in playing golf on the first ever St. Agnes golf team, contact Harry Anicama at 673-8933 or [harrya77@yahoo.com](mailto:harrya77@yahoo.com). The Golf season will be from mid-February through May with official matches beginning 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 on weekdays after school. Since golf is new to our school, we need to confirm that enough boys and girls will participate. If you are interested in joining the team, or for more information, please contact Harry Anicama.

## **Lice Patrol**

The Lice Patrol does a wonderful service for all of us. Their efforts help us maintain a lice free environment for everyone. But help is needed. We need more volunteers, so in order to entice you, we will be giving double hours for anyone who helps us. Contact the school office if you can help. Thanks!

## **Job Opportunity**

We have been contacted by the Diocese and would like to announce an opportunity for employment. You would be working for the Federal Government as a Census taker. If you are

interested in a possible job, please contact Penny Pendola at [ppendola@oakdiocese.org](mailto:ppendola@oakdiocese.org) the pay is \$22.00 per hour.

## **Summer School/Camp**

Queen of All Saints is offering a wonderful summer school program. They will run sessions that last 6 weeks. The times are from 9:00AM to noon and noon to 3:00PM. The AM sessions are for academic skill development and enrichment and the PM sessions are for Music, Dance, Tech, Sports, Science, Art and field trips. Extended care will be available from 7 to 9 in the morning and from 3 to 5:45 in the afternoon. There is a flyer attached with all the details. Please read it over carefully and call QAS as soon as possible as space will fill up quickly.

## **After School Dance**

We have the opportunity to offer creative dance/movement after school on Tuesdays here at St. Agnes to Kindergarteners and first graders. A flyer has been sent home in the Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom folders with more details. If you are interested in allowing your children to experience this, please contact Susan Pugh at 672-3681 (home) 381-7840 (cell) or via email at [suzepugh@comcast.net](mailto:suzepugh@comcast.net). I know her personally and she has been doing this for years at other places so I thought it might be good for us to do too.

## **PACE**

If you are looking for a way of becoming more involved, or have been tossing around ideas on how you can make a difference but don't know how to go about it—consider joining PACE. PACE is a team of parents and educators whose primary goal is to make our school fun and successful. Every year, various positions open and every year we look forward to welcoming new members. Keep an eye out for upcoming newsletters to find out which possible opportunities are waiting for you next year!

## **Safe Environment**

Don't forget that all parents accompanying children for any overnight activity must be finger printed. This includes scouting, retreat work, school-sponsored activities etc. As was announced, in order to assist in complying with this regulation, we have secured finger printing on site here at St. Agnes on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We will begin @ 3:30PM. If you need to get your fingerprinting done, this will help you accomplish that. The fee is \$25.00 (which is cheap as it usually costs \$80.00). You will write the check to the Diocese of Oakland we think.

## **Father Daughter Dance**

Dads where are you? Our third annual Father/Daughter Dance still needs volunteers. Please consider giving of your time and talent to make this dance a fun event for both you and your daughter/s. If

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we can't get the volunteers, the dance will need to be canceled, so please contact the school office ASAP (689-3990) if you can help in any way.

## **Contacts**

Each month, a representative from PACE and School Board make themselves available to speak with you regarding any concerns, ideas, compliments, suggestions etc., you might have. For the month of February, Christina Pauline will be the PACE Representative. She can be reached at 672-7781. Lorie Johnson will be the School Board Representative and she can be reached at 787-4450. Please give either of them a call if you would like something to be shared. Thanks!

## **Scouts**

Don't forget about our 4<sup>th</sup> grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #31456 who will be visiting the Contra Costa Food Bank on February 24<sup>th</sup>. They want to be able to help the food bank help others and would like you to donate canned foods. Get those canned foods in because they go on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The Girl Scouts will take all the food with them to the Food Bank and help process it for delivery to the poor. All food items need to be brought into school before their visit. On behalf of the poor, thank you for making a difference.

## **Mardi Gras**

When we return to school after the presidents holiday the children will have free dress but the colors of the day are to be Mardi Gras colors -- purple, yellow, and green. The spirit shirts should not be worn on that day. So find the festive colors of purple, yellow and green. These colors can be work with jeans as well. The children will be reminded of this on Friday before dismissal.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

Development meeting in Room 8 6:30PM

### **Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**

School Mass at 8:00AM  
Early arrival at 7:45AM  
Formal dress  
School Board Meeting at 6:30PM in the Ministry Center

### **Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

Work party from 9:00 AM to 1:00PM

### **Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Presidents Holiday  
No school

### **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**

"Fat Tuesday" Mardi Gras  
Hot lunch will be served to all who have their orders in.

### **Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent  
9:00AM Mass in the Church  
Formal dress for all