

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

February 3, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

## **Principal's Corner**

This week is Catholic School's Week. It is a week filled with many activities for the students to enjoy, as well as, a time to reflect upon the many gifts and graces those who are a part of our religious tradition can experience as Catholic School students, parents, and teachers.

Catholic Schools have a rich heritage. We were the first school system that served the needs of the immigrant population of America whose children were not being treated well in the then established school system. Catholic School's were the first "faith-based" school system in the United States. For those who like statistics – Catholic schools have provided more vocations to religious life than any other system of education. And on the national news last week was announced these staggering statistics – the public educational system of the United States has a national Math proficiency of 31%, a Science proficiency of 29%, a Reading proficiency of 39%, and a graduation rate from high school of 69.2%. Statistically we have, on the average, a 2.5 times higher proficiency rating with 99% of our students graduating from high school and 92.4% graduating from college. As a whole, Catholic Schools have a remarkable track record, a record built on academic excellence, sound moral development, exemplary community service, outstanding work ethic, and contributions both

nationally and globally to numerous to name.

As Catholics, we have much to celebrate and much to be proud of. We have a wonderful story to share and a future to create. May all who want a Catholic education be fortunate enough to receive one. And, may all of us who have been given one live out the Gospel call to graciously give back to others of that which we have received.

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

### **You're Invited**

Calling all parents, grandparents, adopted priests, and parish staff – you are respectfully requested to join us for the closing prayer service for Catholic School's Week this Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM in the Church. Come pray with us as we lift to God our gratitude for all who journey with us and make Catholic School education a reality. We want to pray and thank God for the likes of all of you, so please come! Thanks!

### **Ground Hog**

Yesterday was Ground Hog Day and when that little creature stuck his head out, he saw his shadow, which means we will have another six weeks of winter. Stay dry and dress warmly!

## **Book Fair**

Last Chance! Our annual Book Fair will conclude tomorrow, Thursday afternoon at 4:00PM. No books will be sold on Friday because Scholastic will be here to pick the remaining books up. Don't miss this final opportunity to get those good books to read.

## **Auction**

Our annual Auction takes place on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope that everyone will attend the auction as it is our biggest fundraiser and from it the school receives \$125,000.00 for our operating budget that benefits everyone. In the family envelope, you will find two flyers. Please read them over carefully. As a reminder, family donation deadlines are Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> (free dress pass deadline) or final deadline of Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Please go on the school's webpage for more updates!

## **Read, Relax and Earn**

If your son or daughter read over the summer in the Read, Relax and Earn program, they are entitled to a voucher to purchase a book. This needs to be done by tomorrow, Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. No exceptions will be made so get that voucher in so you can select your book.

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

February 3, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

## **Golf Anyone**

Attention Junior High boys and girls. Are you interested in being a part of the first ever St. Agnes golf team? We are excited to announce that golf has arrived. The Golf season will be from mid-February through March 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 after school on weekdays. 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 Michael and Alexis' dad, Harry Anicama at 673-8933 or [harrya77@yahoo.com](mailto:harrya77@yahoo.com).

## **Summer School**

If you would like your child/children to attend summer school and/or a summer enrichment camp, please consider contacting Queen of All Saints School. They will have two sessions, beginning June 14<sup>th</sup> and ending July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Since public schools will probably not be offering summer school, this program is likely to fill quickly. I advise anyone interested in Summer School to contact QAS at 685-8700 ASAP.

## **Safe Environment**

As you are aware, a parent accompanying children for any overnight activity must be fingerprinted. This includes scouting, retreat work, school-sponsored activities etc. In order to assist in complying with this regulation, we are attempting to secure the fingerprinting on site here at St. Agnes. We are looking at the last week of February on either the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. We will probably begin @ 3:30PM. If you need to get your fingerprinting done, this will assist you in accomplishing that. The fee is \$25.00 (which is cheap as it usually costs \$80.00). We are not sure to whom the check must be written, so stay tuned for more information.

## **Father Daughter Dance**

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 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.

## **Joel Fundraiser**

The Joel Dawson fundraiser sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Concord was a great success. The total proceeds from this fundraiser go towards defraying the expenses of Joel's medical care that has not been covered by his family's insurance. On behalf of the Dawson family, I

want to thank everyone who participated in this event by helping with the cooking and serving, your presence at the dinner or through a monetary donation. We raised almost \$9,000.00 for Joel's care.

## **Scouts**

As was announced in previous newsletters, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #31456 will be visiting the Contra Costa Food Bank on February 24<sup>th</sup> and will learn how this agency functions. In order to help the lessons be more valuable, we have been asked to have every child bring in at least one can of food. Baskets will be outside the classroom doors to receive the cans and the Girl Scouts will then take these cans with them to the Food Bank and help process them for delivery to the poor. All food items need to be brought into school before their visit on February 24<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the poor, thank you for making a difference.

## **Lice Check**

Head lice will be checked next Thursday morning (February 4<sup>th</sup>). Please remind your children that gels and sprays should not be put on their hair on Lice Check Day. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated by the Lice Patrol. And speaking of Lice Patrol, they need help too. If you could give us an hour of your time on the first Thursday of each month we can get the job done and maintain a lice free zone here. Contact Michelle Daly if you can help at 673-9240.

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

February 3, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

## **Tuition Assistance**

If you will need Tuition Assistance for the next school year, please contact the school office and pick up an application for either Basic Funds, or FACE grants. Each of these organizations has a small window of opportunity for application and granting of assistance. If you have received help from any of these organizations, you need to re-apply as well so you will need to get the application from Mrs. Fitzpatrick, complete it and return it to the school office so it can be signed and mailed off. These organizations will no longer accept late applications, so please be diligent about getting the completed forms turned in ASAP.

## **Prayers Please**

Please hold in your thoughts and prayers the Dawson family as they keep vigil over their young son Joel who is dying from Cancer. We also ask your prayerful support for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children and their families as they prepare for the reception of their First Eucharist.

## **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!

## **Parking Lot**

This morning, someone counted 37 people turning to the left when exiting the front parking lot. In the morning, you cannot turn to the left when exiting because that impedes the flow of traffic out of the lot and it also creates a danger for those attempting to enter the premises. In the afternoon, you may exit either turning to the left or turning to the right, but that is only in the afternoon.

I would like to think that the individuals who are doing this are those who are not reading our newsletter. Unfortunately, I think we just decide that if no one sees you, its all right to do. My question to that line of thinking is this – is that the message you want to communicate to your children? Do we want them to learn to be sneaky and follow the old adage, “do as I say and not as I do”?

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

Lice head check no gels or sprays  
In the hair

### **Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Special Person Prayer Service  
2:00PM in the Church

### **Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

First Eucharist Parent meeting  
9:30 to 12:30 in Cauchi Hall

### **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

PACE Free Dress Day \$2.00  
PACE meeting at 6:30PM in  
Cauchi Hall

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

Development meeting at 6:30PM in  
Room 8

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

School Board Meeting at 6:30PM  
in the Ministry Center