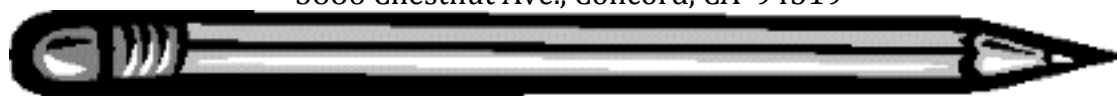


# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord, CA 94519



(925) 689-3990

1/18/12

www.stagnesconcord.com

## Principal's Corner

Upon our return from Christmas vacation many conversations among the children revolved around who received what gift. I was amazed how many younger students (11 and below) received electronic equipment namely cell phones, but also iPads, Nooks etc. I guess I'm more "old school" than I thought, but as an educator I have concerns about this trend. This past Monday the Contra Costa Times printed an article ("Safeguard teen's phone from offensive material") from the New York Times titled "Guarding a Child's Mobile Device From Pornography." You can access this article online. Apparently there is an app that allows free texting called textPlus.

According to the article this app does not provide sufficient filters thus permitting inappropriate material to be accessed and allows unsolicited contact from strangers. Anyone can join as long as they "say" they are 13+ and "members" can be contacted privately by anyone. The younger the child the more susceptible (naïve) they are about navigating the cyber

world and the more concerned we should be about protecting them. The article is informative as to how one can safeguard their child but more importantly it does give us cause to wonder: Is this worth it? Do these children under the age of let's say 12 really need a phone or Internet access on their electronic devices? In this busy world, do we have time to adequately monitor these devices? I'm just putting this out there for reflection.

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Friday you will be receiving your child's Progress Report. Just a reminder, due to our grading program, the attendance is not the official report, and the correct number will be reflected on the Report Card.

### RUN! FOREST! RUN!

The 2012 CYO Track season is here! If your child is interested in participating on the St. Agnes CYO Track team, you can go to: <http://track.stagnescyo.com/registration.html> to register online. You can also register in person on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00pm in Cauchi Hall. Practices will begin in February. If you have

any questions, please contact Rex or Francine Speer at [stagnetrack@comcast.net](mailto:stagnetrack@comcast.net).

### TRACK COACHES NEEDED

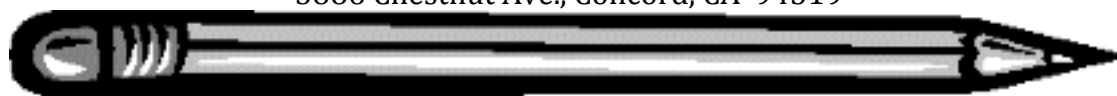
The St. Agnes CYO Track program is seeking coaches for the 2012 track season. Are you a recreational runner? Maybe you were a track athlete back in high school? Here is your chance to give back, not only to St. Agnes but to your community as well. We have a great group of track athletes that are motivated and eager to learn. Coaches are also eligible for up to 15 hours towards their volunteer commitment. If you are interested, please contact Rex Speer at: [stagnetrack@comcast.net](mailto:stagnetrack@comcast.net).

### FEAST OF ST. AGNES

This Saturday the Church celebrates the Feast of our patron saint, St. Agnes. Her name is associated with the Latin word for "lamb" (agnus) and therefore a lamb often accompanies her in many artistic renditions. Agnes was a member of Roman nobility. Due to her love and devotion to God, at the age of 12-13 she was put to death for her refusal to marry the Prefect's

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son. She is the patron saint of young girls. What a wonderful role model she is for our students to be so devoted to God that she would not be persuaded to deny her faith.

## **ONE FOR BOOKS**

Included in this family envelope is a flyer explaining the program One for Books. For \$1.00 not only will our St. Agnes library benefit but one of three other nonprofit programs devoted to helping children and families in need will receive books.

## **WHERE'S THE FLOCK?**

If you see our Mardi Gras flamingo's throwing a party on someone's lawn (even your own) snap a quick picture and post it on our Auction Facebook page. Keep an eye out for the Flocks, which have taken flight and keep us updated on their travel. You can post pictures and keep us updated on all things Auction, by searching for St. Agnes School Auction on Facebook or go to:

[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Agnes-School-Auction/182619481812339](http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Agnes-School-Auction/182619481812339).

Don't forget you can send the flock to a friend! All you need to do is download the order

form in the Auction section of the St. Agnes Website.

## **YEARBOOKS FOR SALE**

Yes, it is true the time has come to order the 2011-2012 Yearbook. An order form has been enclosed so don't delay. Order forms are due February 8<sup>th</sup>! This is a wonderful way to encapsulate all the friendships and the year's wonderful events your children experienced this year. Don't miss out!

## **ART & SCIENCE FAIR**

Help us celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Science Fair in grand fashion. Students K-5 can enter a science project by submitting their application for approval by February 17<sup>th</sup>. All Students who would like to showcase their artistic talent can also submit an application by February 17<sup>th</sup> as well to have their project approved. A flyer has been included in this envelope but if you need more you will find a copy on our website

## **NEED A TILE?**

If you were unable to participate in the tile wall event you have another opportunity. Save the date for the afternoon of March 25<sup>th</sup> or

the evening of March 26<sup>th</sup>. Details will be coming soon!

## **PARISH VOLUNTEER HOURS**

If you have completed volunteer hours for the Parish that are not part of CYO, please be sure to turn them in so you can get credit. Statements will be going out at the end of January. If you have any questions about your volunteer hours, please contact Francine Speer at [speercasa@comcast.net](mailto:speercasa@comcast.net) or (925) 349-5336.

## **COMMENTS OR CONCERNS?**

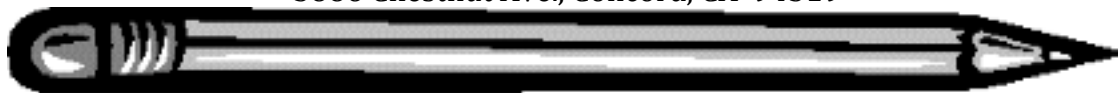
If you have any comments or concerns please contact: Lisa Karmann, School Board President at 673-1635 or Cristina Pauline, PACE President at 672-6808.

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

- 1/20
  - Progress Reports go home
- 1/21
  - Feast of St. Agnes

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- **1/23**
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> grade**  
**Monte Toyon**  
**Camp parent**  
**meeting**  
**5:00pm**
- **1/24**
  - **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Graduation**  
**Pictures**
- **1/25**
  - **Minimum Day**  
**12:30**  
**dismissal**