

St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

January 27, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner

Hopefully you have heard the story or read the article about the young rising athlete, Grant Desme, who had signed a lucrative contract with the Oakland A's and then made a life changing decision to leave a wonderful career behind and follow God's call to work in the vineyard as a Catholic priest. The story made the front pages of the paper and did inspire a renewed sense of hope among its readers.

You and I are part of a "Sacramental" Church and, as such, need the presence of a priest in order to receive the sacraments. For centuries, hundreds of thousands of men have been ordained to carry on the work of the Lord, as ordained ministers, in the Catholic Church. If the Church is to continue, more young people need to listen for and respond to the Lord's call to witness through ministry and service the presence of God to the world. So much in our world muffles, if not silences, the voice of God making it almost impossible to hear what God wants to offer.

Grant Desme made a decision that has forever altered his future and his decision was very unselfish. He could have had a career that made millions of dollars for him to spend but instead he traded it in for the possibility of a career that could save millions of souls.

Faith is caught not taught. The call to serve as an ordained or vowed religious happens when it is fostered and nurtured in the home

and in the school. I have spoken with and encouraged numerous young men to seriously look at priesthood. Grant Desme's parents planted that seed in his heart too. Are you, are we, willing to plant the same kind of seed in the heart of our children too? Start with that conversation today and keep walking the walk and who knows, your son's story could make the front page too.

Important Dates, Information, and Update

Father Daughter Dance

Our third annual Father/Daughter Dance needs volunteer dads. 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 (689-3990) if you can help. Call ASAP!

Spread the Word

Our Open House takes place this Sunday, January 31st. It starts with the 9:00AM Mass followed by hospitality in Cauchi Hall and Open House. We hope all of you are planning to attend.

Applications for enrollment will be available for the next school year. Please spread the word about our school and encourage your friends to come take a look at us and

at our programs. All the classrooms will be open, the Book Fair will be in full swing, and Student Council will be our tour guides. If you will be anticipating another child/sibling coming into the school as a Kinder, you need to get an application and fill it out as well.

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 on Friday, February 5th 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!

Help Needed

Mrs. Cesca needs help to set up the library for the book fair and to take it down after it concludes. Set up is needed tomorrow, Thursday, January 27th and take down will occur on Friday, February 5th. Since "many hands make light work", could we borrow your pair of hands for a short time. If so, contact Melissa Carofanello at 303-2524.

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Book Fair begins this Sunday, during Open House, from 10:00AM to noon in the library. It will continue through the week that follows too. We hope you will be able to visit the fair at that time.

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“**ONE FOR STUDENTS**” is a program that we encourage all to participate in. There is a flyer attached with all the details. All you do is donate \$1.00 and sign the slip returning it to the office. All the money collected goes towards the purchase of new books for the library and the children to enjoy.

Joel Fundraiser

Joel Dawson is a young boy of 7 who is dying of cancer. Many of our children know him from baseball and swimming. He was supposed to be coming here, as a student to St. Agnes School but that never happened because of his disease. Tomorrow there is a fundraiser being sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Concord. The total proceeds from this fundraiser are going towards defraying the expenses of Joel’s medical care that has not been covered by his family’s insurance. Please read the flyer that is in the family envelope for all the details and come to dinner at Westwood Elementary tomorrow evening (5:30 – 8:00PM). You can buy your tickets here at school in our office too.

Accelerated Reading

Week Seventeen of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that we increased our score to 14,680 points earned towards our goal of 25000 points by year’s end. We are at almost 59% 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!

Progress Reports

We are at the half way mark for this 2nd trimester. Your child’s progress report was given to him/her today. Please go over your son and or daughter’s report of student progress carefully and make arrangements to speak with the classroom teacher/s if that appears to be necessary.

Scouts

Our 4th grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #31456 will be visiting the Contra Costa Food Bank on February 24th 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. Please read the flyer that is in the family envelope with all the details. All food needs to be turned in before February 24th.

Coin Drive

We are having a coin drive to send relief to the people of Haiti. The drive ends on next Tuesday, February 2nd. We encourage all students to participate in this worthwhile cause. It will take billions of dollars to rebuild this country and all those people who are displaced need our assistance. Join

us by sending in your coins and bills. All money collected will be sent to Catholic Relief Services who will in turn make sure that all funds get directly to the people.

Catholic School’s Week Activities

I think its important for each of you to know the extra activities that have been planned for the children to experience as we celebrate Catholic School’s Week.

Sunday: Open House from 9:00AM
Mass to noon

Monday: Rally at 8:05AM
Career Day (Students dress for a particular career – no athletic attire)

Tuesday: Jump Rope Assembly
1:30PM in the Church

Wednesday: Blessing of the
Throats at 9:00AM
Buddy Art at 2:00PM

Thursday: Spelling Bee at
10:45AM in the Church
Buddy Dress Alike Day

Friday: Special Person Prayer
Service at 2:00PM in the Church
followed by reception
Formal Dress for students

In addition, we will gather at the flagpole daily for prayer at 8:00AM. The Book Fair runs for the week and will be open between 8:0AM and 4:00PM daily. The Coin Drive will conclude at the end of the day on Tuesday, February 2nd. All proceeds from the drive will be sent to Catholic Relief Services for the people of Haiti.

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Lice Check

Head lice will be checked next Thursday morning (February 4th). 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.

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 have a small window of opportunity for application and granting of assistance. If you have received help from any of these organization, you need to re-apply as well so you will need to get the application, complete it and return it to the school office so it can be signed and mailed off. They will no longer accept late applications, so please be diligent about getting the completed forms turned in ASAP.

Contacts

Each month, a representative from PACE and School Board will make themselves available to speak with you regarding any concerns, compliments, ideas, suggestions etc. you might have. For the month of January, Angie Blackmon will be the PACE Representative. She can be reached at 639-0814. Tom Hand will be the School Board Representative and he can be reached at 776-5740. Please give either of them a call if you would like something to be shared. Thanks!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, February 2nd

Groundhog Day

Wednesday, February 3rd

Blessing of the Throats
9:00AM in the Church
Formal dress day

Thursday, February 4th

Lice head check no gels or sprays