

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

December 2, 2009

www.stagnesconcord.com

## Principal's Corner

Several weeks ago, I announced to all that I would be leaving St. Agnes School at the end of this school year as your principal. Last Tuesday, after our Awards Assembly and Thanksgiving Prayer Service, Father Vince announced his desire for me to continue for one more year. Amid the cheering and chanting of the children, staff, and parents present, I sat stunned and very quiet with Father Vince's announcement.

Yesterday (Tuesday) morning, Father Vince was at my office door wanting my response. We talked and I have agreed to stay **ONE** more year, as this decision will take the burden of finding a replacement for me off his full plate.

It is still my desire and hope that all the prayers, prayer services, speeches etc., I have written could produce a worthwhile book/manual for other Catholic schools and parishes to use. All the money from this endeavor will then be used as funds to endow St. Agnes School. One more year pushes this project out another year.

While I am humbled by all of the support I have received from all of you, I do believe there is someone out there that will continue the good work begun here some 40+ years ago. The goodness of this school is because of the goodness of all of you from kids, to parents, to staff. I am merely a facilitator. And, Father Vince has promised me that he will not seek an extension on this one-year commitment. And, all of you

have another whole year to get used to the idea of a "new principal" for St. Agnes School.

## Important Dates, Information, and Update

### Breakfast with Santa

Our annual Breakfast with Santa takes place this Saturday morning from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. This is a delightful event for children and adults of all ages. I encourage your attendance. It will be held in Cauchi hall. While reservations in advance are strongly encouraged, no one is ever turned away. Your last chance to get tickets in advance is tomorrow. There will be games, crafts, a delicious breakfast, and pictures taken with Santa Claus. Come have fun and get into the spirit of the season.

### December 8<sup>th</sup>

On Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a holy day for all Catholics and we, as a school community, will be attending Mass at 9:00AM. All children need to be in their formal uniform attire—no shorts. We will not be wearing jeans and our spirit shirts either on next Tuesday.

### Free Dress

The \$2.00 free dress day scheduled for next Tuesday, has been moved to the following Tuesday (December 15<sup>th</sup>) because of the observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

### Accelerated Reading

Week Eleven of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that since our Thanksgiving break we increased our score by 1,142 points. Our total is now 10,747 points earned towards our goal of 25000 points by year's end. We are slightly better than 40% of our goal. Please continue to monitor the bulletin board outside the school office. It is being updated weekly. Stay tuned and watch us read!

### Stocking Stuffers

Are you looking for a perfect stocking stuffer for Christmas? Well then, look no further because St. Agnes is selling Free Dress Pass Stocking Stuffers. These free dress passes are for five Wednesdays beginning with January 20<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Stocking Stuffers will be sold through Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. The price for the Free Dress Pass is \$2.50 each or 5 monthly passes, which will take you through the end of the school year, for \$10.00. There is a flyer enclosed with all the details.

### Lice Head Check

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Tomorrow, Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is our monthly head check for lice. All students need to refrain from using gels, sprays etc. The girls also need to not braid their hair as well. Please help us by insisting that your child not put gels etc. on their heads tomorrow.

## **Morning Drop Off**

Several concerns have been expressed by parents and staff regarding morning drop off in the front parking lot of the school. The procedures for drop off are as follows:

Anyone wishing to drop off their children in the school's front lot are to stay in the car and drive forward until the car is parallel to the flagpole before allowing the children to exit the vehicle. Children should not be allowed to leave the car next to the walkway because that impedes the flow of traffic and is not safe for the children.

The front parking lot may not be used by families to park while dropping off students because it is impossible to walk across the moving traffic in safety and this foot traffic impedes the necessary flow of traffic.

When exiting the front parking lot you may only turn to the right. In the morning, there is absolutely no turning to the left as that creates a danger to those who are trying to enter the lot. If you want to exit to the left in the morning, you need to use the lot by the Church. In the AM and PM, you

may turn either to the right or to the left when exiting that lot only.

## **Play Tickets**

Tickets for the annual Christmas Concert are now on sale. Look at the flyer in the family envelope that has all the details. Pre-order your play tickets by this Friday and they will be sent home in the family envelope next Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Any orders after the 9<sup>th</sup> of December must be picked up at the school office or at the will call desk on the day of the play. Tickets will also be available for purchase on the afternoon or evening of the play as well.

## **Concert Costumes**

Please check the family envelope for the Christmas Concert costume schedule. The kinds of attire the children will wear are listed by class. Mr. Hamerson does not want anyone to go out and buy things. If your child does not have anything that complies with their class's attire, please contact Mr. Hamerson.

## **Christmas Boutique**

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scout troop is sponsoring a Boutique in which children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade can purchase simple gifts for Christmas giving. There is a flyer in the family envelope with the details. The Boutique will take place on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and will include a Bake Sale after school in front of the Ministry Center too. Please send

cash with any student who is planning to visit the Boutique or Bake Sale.

## **Sister Rita**

Sister Rita will be selling her beautiful stained glass and jewelry items on the weekend of December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday she will be available after the 5:00PM Mass and on Sunday after all of the morning Masses (7:00AM, 9:00AM and 10:45AM). All the proceeds from her work will go to support the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Shop early for Christmas gifts at Sister Rita's boutique.

## **Author's Day**

Next Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> the children will be entertained by a young author named Alyson Byrd. She has published a book entitled "A Tree's Wish". She will be going into the classrooms and reading her book to the children. In the family envelope, you will find an order form that can be used to purchase her book that she will also autograph. That could also make a nice Christmas gift from a published author to a budding author.

## **E-Rate**

A very important survey is in the family envelope that we ask all of you to complete and return to school ASAP. The survey is accompanied by a letter stating the purpose of the survey which is part of the telecommunication Act of 1996. The School Department of the Diocese of Oakland has asked that

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all schools apply for this special educational rate. This application cannot be processed without the surveys being completed. Therefore, we need your help. Please complete the simple survey and return it to the school office no later than Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## **Prayers Please**

Please pray for the Seck family. Keegan graduated from here and is now a sophomore at DLS and Kelly is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Their paternal grandfather died suddenly this week. Also remember the Benavente family whose new baby niece/cousin was born dead yesterday. Keep the parents of this baby in your thoughts and prayers as well. And finally, Mrs. Fitzpatrick is grateful for your continued prayers as she gets stronger in recovering from her surgery. She is at home now and everyday is getting stronger.

## **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 November, Nancy Wentworth will be the PACE Representative. She can be reached at 676-3365. Eileen DeMaria will be the School Board Representative and she can be reached at 408-8321. Please give either of them a call if you would

like something to be shared. Thanks!

## **Be Inspired**

Rose Kennedy said this: "Early in life, I decided that I would not be overcome by events. My philosophy has been that regardless of the circumstances, I shall not be vanquished, but will try to be happy. Life is not easy for any of us. But it is a continual challenge and it is up to us to be cheerful and strong, so that those who depend on us may draw strength from our example."

Kahlil Gibran, the author of the book "The Prophet" wrote these words, which are good to remember during this season. "You give little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

Albert Schweitzer wrote these words, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

May all of us be inspired by these people and the wisdom of their words and choose to live our lives in such a way that others want to follow.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Stations to the Crib  
2:00PM in the Church

### **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Stations to the Crib  
2:00PM in the Church

### **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Lice Head Check  
No gels or hair sprays  
Stations to the Crib  
2:00PM in the Church

### **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Breakfast with Santa  
9:00AM to 1:00PM  
in Cauchi Hall

### **Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Mass at 9:00AM in the Church  
Formal Uniform – no shorts