

St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

December 9, 2009

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner

Joyce Rupp is a wonderful author and spiritual writer. She is a religious woman and member of the Servite community (Servants of Mary). In a book entitled, "Out of the Ordinary" she has written several selections about Advent, one of which I want to share with you as we continue our Advent journey.

She writes, "God sent a present into the world, the gift was named Jesus. The gospel stories indicate that Jesus gave few material things to people. What he gave most was his personal presence, gifts that were treasures of the heart: belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity, and justice. Sharing the gift of personal presence means that we see ourselves as a gift holding the goodness of Jesus who is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Like Jesus, we should give from our inner abundance, gifts from the heart." Here are some suggestions for giving the present of presence.

Be with someone who needs you.

Be with a person who gives you hope.

Be with those who live in terror and fear.

Be with an older person.

Be with someone in pain.

Be with yourself.

Be with a child.

Be with an enemy or someone you dislike.

Be with a refugee who is fleeing from harm or homeland.

Be with the homeless.

Be with those whose hope is faint.

Be with a hungry person.

Be with someone who has helped you to grow.

Be with a farmer losing his or her land.

Be with someone who has a terminal illness.

Be with a co-worker.

Be with those who suffer from substance abuse.

Be with men and/or women in prison.

Be with someone working for justice.

Be with those who are abused and neglected.

Be with your loved ones.

Your presence is a gift.

Remember that being is just as important as doing. Let go of the busyness and hurriedness of your day so that you can be with others in a loving way. It will be time well spent and time you will not regret.

Important Dates, Information, and Update

Christmas Concert DVD

This year we have retained a professional to produce a DVD of our Christmas Concert. The DVD will cost \$15.00 each. The DVD will be edited so that the sound is good, the audience noise is deleted and the actual recording will be of good quality. We need to guarantee the company a minimum purchase of

50 DVD's so we need to pre-order them. In the family envelope you will find a yellow order form for the DVD. Please fill it out and return it with a check for the number of DVD's you are purchasing. The order forms need to be in by Monday, December 15th. Your DVD will be sent home in the family envelope on Wednesday, January 6th.

Volunteer Hours

Just want to remind everyone that we are almost at the half way mark for the school year and there are many who have not completed any or are at less than 1/2 of their necessary 40 hours. There are only three events left for which hours can be earned. Upon our return from Christmas vacation, you will receive an updated accounting of all hours for which vouchers have been turned in. If you have signed vouchers for hours served, please get them turned in ASAP.

Thank You

On behalf of the several hundreds of us who came to the Breakfast with Santa event, I want to thank Michelle Martinez and Annette Anderson for their wonderful leadership. We thank also their wonderful committee and the student elves who assisted the children in the completion of their crafts. It was a enjoyable day and the spirit of the season was definitely in the air. Thank you one and all for joining in the festivities.

Stocking Stuffers

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Tomorrow (Thursday) and Friday are your last chances to purchase stocking stuffers for your child/children for Christmas. Go on the website, download the form that you can order your stuffers from. Attach the check with your form and your stuffers will be sent in the family envelope next week.

Author's Day

Today, December 9th the children were entertained by a young author named Allyson Byrd, who published a book entitled "A Tree's Wish". Ms. Byrd read to all of the children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Last week's family envelope, had the order form that could be used for the purchase of her book that she also autographed. This book would make a nice Christmas gift. If you didn't order the book ahead of time, you can still do by going to the website, downloading the pre-order form, fill it out and mail it to her and she in turn will mail the book out to you.

E-Rate

A very important survey is again in your family envelope that we ask all to complete and return to school ASAP. The survey is accompanied by a letter stating e-rate's purpose, and is a part of the telecommunication Act of 1996. The School Department of the Diocese of Oakland has asked that all schools apply for this special educational rate. Our school's 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 16th. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

One Warm Coat

I hope you have noticed the large banner that is hanging on the Church side of the school. It is a thank you to everyone who helped our Girl Scout Cadet troop 429 exceed their goal of 300 warm coats. In total, 307 coats were collected, folded, boxed, and brought to Pittsburg where they were given to the poor. Someone is wearing a nice warm jacket, sweater, or coat because you put them first. The girls earned their bronze award and enjoyed helping others at the same time. They want to say "thanks" to all of you for your support.

Fair Trade

Few of us are aware of the injustices heaped upon the laborers and small farmers who grow and harvest coffee beans. We don't pay attention to how much effort it takes before our latte or cappuccino is ever brewed. Both St Agnes and St. Bonaventure parishes are selling what is termed, "fair trade" coffees. They are delicious blends of coffee that guarantees a more just wage to those who grow the coffee crops that we so enjoy consuming. In the name of justice, we all should be purchasing "fair trade" coffees. Look for the "fair trade" logo on the side of the package. I believe that

Peet's and Starbuck's sell "fair trade" blends too. Fair Trade coffee is supported and sponsored by Catholic Relief Services.

Accelerated Reading

Week Twelve of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that since our Thanksgiving break we increased our score by 811 points. Our total is now 11,558 points earned towards our goal of 25000 points by year's end. We are slightly better than 46% 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!

Sister Rita

Sister Rita will be selling her beautiful stained glass and jewelry items this weekend, December 12th and 13th. 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 Sister Rita's work will go to support the many wonderful ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Shop early for some of your Christmas gifts at Sister Rita's boutique.

Contacts

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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!

REMEMBER

Wednesday, December 9th

Author Day

Allyson Byrd comes to St. Agnes

Development Board meets at
6:30PM in the 6th grade classroom

Thursday, December 10th

Reconciliation for students in 3rd
through 8th grade

10:30AM Grades 3 – 5

1:30PM grades 6 – 8

Formal dress—no shorts

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

Saturday, December 12th

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

First Reconciliation for our 2nd grade
students

10:00AM in St. Agnes Church

DATES TO