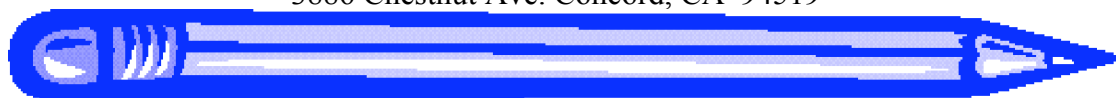


St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

January 13, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner

On Monday, we will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King. On Friday, January 15th, the actual date of his birth, we will have a prayer service in Dr. King's honor as a reminder that all of us are called to be builders of peace and champions of justice.

Dr. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1929. He was an excellent student entering college at age 15 and actually graduating from college with a B.A. degree in sociology at age 19. He was ordained a Baptist Minister in 1948 at the age of 19. In 1955, he completed his education and earned a doctoral degree in Systematic Theology from Boston College. From 1957 until his death in 1968 he was co-pastor with his father at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and also President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. King was an important personality of this modern era. His remarks rallied concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. His movement and marches brought numerous changes to the fabric of American life. And, his charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old throughout the world.

I have chosen several notable quotes of Dr. King to share. I think they are true for us today as they were when he uttered them over 45 years ago. He said, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom." He

also advised, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." And finally, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" In the end, love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

While we have come a long way on the road to moral justice, in reality we still, as a Christian country, have many hurdles yet to overcome.

Important Dates, Information, and Update

Accelerated Reading

Week Fifteen of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that we increased our score by 1,077 points. Our total is now 13,526 points earned towards our goal of 25,000 points by year's end. We are slightly better than 54.1% 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!

Six Flags

For the past several weeks we have been announcing that St. Agnes School will again participate in the Six Flags Reading program. This program is for children in

grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. All the children have to do is read a total of six hours between now and February 23rd. Children who accomplish this task will receive a free ticket / admission to the Six Flags theme parks. Please encourage your children to read books. It's a wonderful activity for healthy brains.

Science Fair

The annual Art and Science Fair will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. All students, Kindergarten through 8th grade, are invited to participate and show off their talent in art and /or their curiosity in science. Kinder through 5th grade students must request information or an application packet in order to help us plan the set-up for the projects that will be coming into the Fair. A flyer with all the necessary information will be forthcoming. Please contact Deborah Macy at 798-1739 with any questions.

Book Fair

A Book Fair always accompanies our observance of Catholic School's week. The library will be open on the day of our Open House with all sorts of wonderful books and activities to purchase. It will be open after school until 4:00PM throughout that week as well. Please read the flyer that is in this week's family envelope for more detail.

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Crab Feed

For all the crab lovers in our reading audience, two opportunities await you. On Saturday, January 23rd you can attend the Crab Feed hosted here at St. Agnes Parish or on Saturday, February 6th you can attend the Crab Feed at St. Bonaventure. You will find a flyer with all the details for the St. Agnes Bash in this week's family envelope. Come and enjoy a fun evening with good food. A flyer for St. Bonaventure's Crab feed will be forthcoming. No tickets will be sold at the door for either event.

Men's Retreat

There is a wonderful opportunity awaiting the men of our school community—a men's retreat at San Damiano in Danville. All of us need peaceful quiet and solitude in order to hear our God speak. This is a terrific time for you to sneak away from all the bustle and noise that often fills your waking moments and give yourself over to God. Often, a retreat experience helps bring beautiful things into your family relationships as well. There will be a flyer in a future family envelope with all the details. I encourage you to read it with an open heart. The retreat takes place on the weekend of March 5th – 7th, so this gives you time enough to mark it on your calendar so there won't be any conflicts.

FYI

This Thursday is our monthly early Mass day. Children need to be here by 7:45AM in formal dress. Mass begins at 8:00AM. The 5th grade is leading us in prayer this month.

Spread the Word

Our Open House takes place on Sunday, January 31st. It starts with the 9:00AM Mass followed by hospitality in Cauchi Hall and Open House. 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 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.

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!

Mexican Dinner

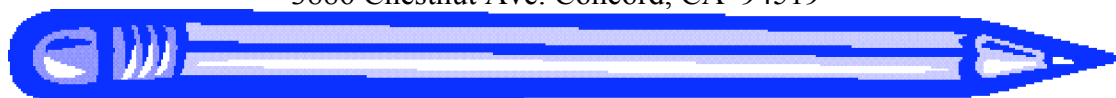
Every Easter the Catholic youth of St. Agnes, Queen of all Saints, and St. Bonaventure travel to Mexico to build housing for the poor. They bring with them all the supplies needed to accomplish this task. This is an expensive proposition as you can well imagine. This dinner is hosted by them and is intended to help defray some of the expenses of building these simple homes of about four rooms—nothing fancy but sturdy structures that provide warmth and shelter. Please consider either attending this function or giving a free will donation for the work that will be done in your name. Read the small salmon colored announcement in your family envelope for more information.

CYO Track

The CYO Track season begins on February 2, 2010. Children at every grade level (Kindergarten through 8th grade) are encouraged to participate in this sport. Signups for participation in this program will be held on Friday January 22nd and Friday, January 29th at St. Agnes School at 7:00PM in the 7th grade classroom. If you have any questions regarding track, please contact Annette Anderson at either 925-525-9633 or email her at 4anderson@comcast.net. All children who participate in track are winners every time they run.

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Prayers Please

Please remember in your prayers the DeGraca family. Mrs. DeGraca is the office assistant on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Her father passed away from cancer. Please hold her and her family in your prayers.

We also need to hold in prayer all those living in Haiti and their family members here who live in fear for them in the aftermath of the recent 7.0 earthquake. I have visited Haiti and it is a very poor country. 70% of the population lives on less than \$2.00 a day. From the few pictures we were able to see, the island lies in ruin and it is anticipated that thousands of people are dead, trapped, and injured. We live in "earthquake country" too. What has happened there could happen anywhere even here. So, pray in gratitude that we have had better fortune and pray in petition that worldwide assistance will come to the Haitian people.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, January 14th

Monthly School Mass at 8:00AM
Formal dress- no shorts
Children need to arrive early to school

Friday, January 15th

Martin Luther King Prayer Service at 9:00AM in the Church
Formal Dress – no shorts
7th grade lead us in prayer

Monday, January 18th

National holiday in observance of MLK Birthday
No school

Tuesday, January 19th

School resumes, regular schedule

Thursday, January 21st

Feast of St. Agnes our patron saint
In her honor, a special surprise for the kids awaits them.