

St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

January 6, 2010

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner

Today's newsletter is the first one of this New Year --2010. It seems impossible to grasp, that we have already lived through one decade of the new millennium. Time really is fleeting! We need to make sure that we live it well so that we do not live with regrets.

I thought one good way to begin the year might be with some good quotes, good food for thought as we enter this new year of life. G. K. Chesterton, in speaking of a new year said, "The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is rather that we should have a new soul, and a new nose, new feet, and a new backbone, new ears and a new heart, new eyes and a new attitude of hope."

Charles Lamb said, "New Year's Day is every person's birthday." I think that's a nice way to envision a new year of life – the slate is grace-filled and wiped clean. We are getting another chance to get it right.

In the first letter of St. Paul to the people of Corinth, he writes, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of people, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." So take the time to look for the surprises that come your way and try to find God hidden in them.

And finally, from the mouth of St. Jude, come these words of profound wisdom, "Stay always within the boundaries where God's love can reach out and bless you."

Important Dates, Information, and Update

Epiphany

Today is the feast of the Epiphany. This day is often referred to as "Little Christmas". It is also the 12th day of Christmas (another symbolism for the song we sing). In European countries this day is observed with much festivity. This feast ends the Christmas season and its importance lies in the fact that this is when Jesus is revealed to the non-Jewish (gentile) world through the visitation of the three Kings. I wish you all a very happy Epiphany!

Lice Head Check

Tomorrow, Thursday, January 7th is our monthly head lice check. Everyone's head needs to be free of all gels, hair sprays etc., so that they can be easily checked. Coming off vacations, where we have traveled to many places, brings with it all sorts of things. Since we are a lice free zone, we do not want to be visited by these little bugs.

Volunteer Hours

In the family envelope this week, each family will find a statement containing all the volunteer hours you have served for which vouchers have been turned in/received. If you find this accounting inaccurate or have questions, please contact Mrs. Annette Anderson at 525-9633. If

you have volunteer hour vouchers that you have not turned in, please do that ASAP so they can be credited to your account. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in this matter.

Accelerated Reading

Week fourteen of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that we increased our score by 500+ points. Our total is now 12449 points earned towards our goal of 25000 points by year's end. We are slightly better than 49.9% 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!

Six Flags

As was announced prior to Christmas vacation, 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. There is a flyer in the family envelope with all the information. Please encourage your children to read books. It's a good activity for healthy brains.

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Fair Trade

Are you aware of the injustices heaped upon the laborers and small farmers who grow and harvest coffee bean? We don't notice 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 guarantee a more just wage to those who grow the coffee crops that we consume. I hope you will consider supporting, by your purchases, a more just world for all people.

Thanks

Mrs. Fitzpatrick is back to work. She is walking ever so slowly but is becoming more mobile. She has asked that I extend to all of you her heartfelt thanks for your prayers, flowers, food and cards of encouragement. Mrs. Fitzpatrick attributes her quick recovery to all of your warm wishes.

Christmas DVD

The Christmas DVD of our recent concert is complete and ready for distribution. Many of you paid, in advance, for a copy of this year's Christmas Concert. If you ordered one and paid for it, you will find your copy in this family envelope. I hope you enjoy watching it over and over again. And, if you did not order one in advance but would like to purchase one now, we have a limited number of DVD's in the school office. Contact Ana in the

office if you wish to buy one, it on a first come first serve basis.

Auction Packets

The annual Auction will be here in a very short time. Saturday, March 27th is the date. The place is Carondelet's Garaventa Center and the theme is "Viva Las Vegas". You will find the Auction packets in this week's family envelope. I encourage each of you to take it out of the envelope, look things over and ultimately support the Auction by your attendance. So, mark your calendars now. This is our biggest fundraiser and the proceeds of this event benefits every single family with about a \$400.00 tuition assistance credit (\$125,000.00 donation to the operation of the school.)

Auction Raffle

The raffle that benefits the Auction took place at the evening performance of the Christmas Concert. There were four winners of \$500.00 each. I am happy to announce each of them to you. We hope they enjoyed the extra holiday money. And the winners were:

Ruth Thompson, Bobby and Emily Groth's grandmother
Bob Sheffield, father of Courtney, Ryan, and Kaitlyn
Jack Chiarelli a good friend of Robby Cole's family in Kindergarten
Feliza Cruz a friend of Aubrey Newton's family in Kindergarten

CYO basketball

Next Tuesday, January 12th our CYO Basketball teams are having a pizza night at Rocco's in Walnut Creek. It is a dine in or take out event that benefits the basketball program here. Rocco's will donate 20% of purchased food back to the CYO program. When you go, you need to specify that you are there to support St. Agnes CYO in order for them to receive the donation. Your support is appreciated.

Testing

This Saturday, January 9th is the testing date for all students wishing to attend any Catholic High School in our Diocese. Our St. Agnes students wishing to attend Carondelet High School, must be there prior to 8:30AM. The boys wishing to attend DeLaSalle High School must arrive prior to 9:15AM. Tests will conclude at noon at Carondelet and at 12:30PM at DeLaSalle. There are no makeup test dates.

Special Thanks

For Christmas we were able to help 13 families have something to celebrate. Our staff owes a debt of gratitude to each of you who either donated gift cards or who gave the money with which to purchase gift cards for the trees that we decorated and gave away. We are reminded by Sacred Scripture, "it is better to give than to receive". I want to thank all of you for being Gospel people willing to share.

Scoliosis

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Annually, students are tested in an attempt to provide important information to parents regarding Scoliosis. All 5th grade students will be tested and all 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys will also be tested. If any issues are discovered, parents will be notified.

Prayers Please

Over the holidays several families experienced the death of family members. We ask your prayers for the following people who mourn the deaths of loved ones; the Brandt family (Angelina in 6th and Isabella in Kindergarten) on the sudden death of their uncle, the Dolan family (Fiona in 5th grade and graduate siblings Patrick, Mairead, and Rogan) who mourn the death of their paternal grandfather and the Munden family (Allison) on the death of her paternal great grandmother.

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.

Thank You

When I opened all of my many Christmas gift, there were some without names. So, I am at a loss as to who they were from. If you do not find a thank-you letter in your family envelope from me, one of the nameless packages was from you. I would like to acknowledge all of my gifts, so get in touch with me so I can share my letter of thanks with you.

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!

REMEMBER

January 7th

Lice Head Check
No gels, sprays etc., in hair

Saturday, January 9th

Work Party
9:00AM to 1:00PM

Tuesday, January 12th

Pace Free Dress \$2.00
8th grade Graduation picture day
PACE Meeting at 6:30PM in
Cauchi Hall

Wednesday, January 13th

Minimum Day 12:30 dismissal
Teacher Catechist In-Service in
Castro Valley
Scoliosis Testing
Development meeting
6:30PM in 8th grade classroom

Thursday, January 14th

Monthly School Mass at 8:00AM
Early arrival at 7:45AM
Formal Dress – no shorts

DATES TO