

# St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

November 18, 2009

www.stagnesconcord.com

## Principal's Corner

Last Monday evening we held an evening of introduction for our Kindergarten program. While it is only November, we had a good crowd of people who are interested in providing a Catholic education for their children. Why Catholic Schools? One tremendous benefit, that is so much a part of the fabric of a Catholic school is community support. Because we share a common belief in Catholic, Christian values, the children are educated in a Christ-filled environment.

Parenting children is an awesome responsibility. Parents who choose a Catholic school align themselves with a powerful network of people who share common beliefs and faith experiences. Researchers call this value-added benefit of community "Social Capital". There is growing data to support the fact that children achieve greater academic and social gains when they spend their school days in an environment where they are supported by the greater Catholic School community.

For those of you who have selected Catholic education for your children, I encourage you to get involved, become an active member in our school community. If you are actively involved, great. If you can contribute more time and energy, please consider doing that. In the end, your child/children, you, and the entire community benefit.

## Important Dates, Information, and Update

### Breakfast with Santa

Christmas will be here before we know it. I shutter to think of how many shopping days are left until Christmas. Our Breakfast with Santa celebration is just a few weeks away. You will find the form on the school's webpage.

### Save the Date:

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
9:00AM to 1:00PM  
Cauchi Hall

### 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.

### Accelerated Reading

Week Ten of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that this week we increased our score by 933 points. Our total is now 9,605 points

earned towards our goal of 25000 points by year's end. Please continue to monitor the bulletin board outside the school office. It is being updated weekly. Stay tuned and watch us read! Way to go kids!

### SCRIP

In order to accommodate your shopping needs, our SCRIP Coordinator will be available next week to sell/fill any orders you may have on Monday and Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving. Please take the form off the web page, fill it out and give it to the office and all orders will go home as they come in. Hope you find this added service helpful.

### Thanksgiving Week

Next week is Thanksgiving and it is a short week. Children will come to school all day Monday and ½ day Tuesday. Because of that schedule there will be no newsletter next week. On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you safe travel if you are leaving town to enjoy the time off with family and friends. And, if you are staying home, I wish you a wonderful day of counting blessings with those who will share your table.

### End of Trimester

The first trimester ends today, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be issued and sent home next Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Included in the report card envelope will also be a letter from the Diocese regarding the standardized testing and your child's test results (2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade only). We ask that

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you look all the testing information over carefully and address any questions or concerns you might have to the appropriate teacher/s. When considering your child's test results it is important to remember that these tests are given as the year begins to assist us in developing our curricular goals to address areas of weakness. The report cards are, perhaps, a better gauge of progress over time. Both are measurement tools that can be used to evaluate, monitor, and celebrate performance.

## **Thanksgiving Prayer Service**

I am unsure how many of you will be able to join us for our Thanksgiving prayer service. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class prepares the service. It will begin in the Church at 11:30AM next Tuesday. School is dismissed at 12:30PM from the classroom. We end our school day and began our time away with God's blessing, which is important to have.

## **Thanksgiving Prayer**

I share this possible thanksgiving grace before you begin your evening meal.

Loving God, in celebration of Thanksgiving, we pray for the needs of others and hope for the day when all your wonderful gifts are shared fairly in our world. We thank you God for your care of the earth and the rain that helps grow all kinds of crops. The rivers never run dry as you prepare the earth to produce much food. Wherever your footsteps touch the earth, a rich harvest is gathered. As this time of

thanksgiving we pray that you, our gracious God, the giver of the harvest, will bless and protect us. Amen.

## **Thanksgiving Liturgies**

It would be a nice beginning to your Thanksgiving tradition to start with Mass. St. Agnes will have a special liturgy at 10:00AM and St. Bonaventure will have a special multi-cultural liturgy also at 9:00AM. Hopefully, you will elect to join other American Catholics at the Eucharistic table first.

## **Christmas Concert**

Camel Lot is the name of our Christmas Concert. The opening song is the only one I have heard and the kids seem to love it. The ticket order form will be available on the website. There is a flyer in the family envelope with all the details. Get your tickets in advance.

## **Hot Lunch**

The hot lunch order form is posted on the website for the week we return from our Thanksgiving break. Please return that form by this Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> as we need to have the numbers for the week we return. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## **Save the Date**

We have just confirmed our Golf Tournament date. The tournament date will be Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will include a family event after the golfing is complete. The tournament will take place at Boundary Oaks off of Ygnacio Valley Road. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Prayers Please**

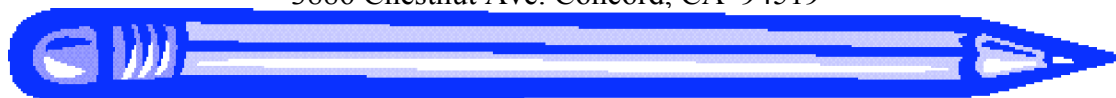
Please pray for the Cappa family who will bury their grandfather Robert this Friday and the Capriulo family (an alum family) whose dad died suddenly this past weekend. I would also ask that you keep Mrs. Fitzpatrick in your prayers. On Monday she had a complete hip replacement. The surgery went well but healing, rehab and her complete recovery will take time.

## **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!

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## **Thank You**

I would like to thank Theresa Castle and Stuart Fong for the wonderful job they did with our recent Bingo Night. Everyone seemed to have a great time even those of us who didn't win anything. Lots of work goes into planning such an event and we are grateful for their wonderful leadership.

## **New Puppy**

As a welcoming gift for our new pastor, Father Vince, the children purchased a darling chocolate Lab puppy for him. We were told he wanted a puppy and we found the cutest little eight-week old pup on the Internet. Father has named her "DOVE" (after the chocolate bar).

## **Be Inspired**

I found a few quotes that I thought were appropriate for the season of gratitude that is upon us. Be grateful, "a successful marriage requires falling in love many times with the same person." Be grateful, "Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Charlemagne and Napoleon founded great empires; but upon what did the creation of their genius depend? Upon Force! Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love; and to this very day billions would die for Him." Be grateful, "the aim is not more goods for people to buy, but more opportunities for them to live."

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

8<sup>th</sup> grade dance @ St. Mary's Walnut Creek

### **Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

12:30 Dismissal

Reports go home today

Prayer Service/Awards

11:30 AM in

Church

Stone Soup with Kindergarten and

First Grade in the hall

### **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>**

Thanksgiving Break

### **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

School resumes

Regular schedule