

St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

October 7, 2009

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner

On Monday, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis is the patron saint of peace and we look to his example to teach us respect for creation. Those who share his respect for God's creatures choose his feast day to ask for God's blessing upon our pets and all animals. A noisy crowd of creatures came seeking God's peace and blessing. The first grade class led us in prayer and Father Vince walked among the crowd blessing tiny crabs to large horses and every creature in between. We thank God for the special love of our pets and for our special first graders who very lovingly called us to pray and be happy!

In honor of St. Francis, this week, let's pray his prayer as part of our family's prayer before the evening meal.

"Lord make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, unity; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy, and where there is darkness light.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is giving that we receive; it is pardoning, that we are pardoned and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal life." May this week be one of blessing for you and those you love.

Important Dates, Information, and Update

SCRIP

In your family envelope you will find a new SCRIP order form with directions on how to make SCRIP purchases with credit cards. Today we have included three hard copies – the order form, the credit card authorization form and the directions when using a credit card to make your purchases. Next week the only hard copy you will find in your envelope will be the actual order form. All three forms will always be available on the Website through the SCRIP link.

Spirit Shirts

The Tuesday spirit t-shirts are here and ready to wear. The cost of each shirt is \$15.00 with all the proceeds going towards PACE's subsidy to the school. Please thank and support our shirt sponsors, without them this fundraiser would not be a success. Stop by Cauchi Hall this Thursday October 8th between 12:30PM and 1:30PM to purchase your shirts or, just return the order form in the family envelope and the shirts will be delivered to your kids as well. You can wear one of these shirts too and don't forget to support our sponsors when you can.

Gift Wrap

Our annual gift-wrap and cookie/dessert sale begins today. You will find brochures in the family envelope as well as an order form. Stock up for the holidays! Take the brochures with you to work too. The paper is of very high quality and the cookies and desserts are delicious! This fundraiser ends on Wednesday, October 21st. You or a friend must pick up all orders on Wednesday, November 18th after school in front of the Church Hall. If your child will be in Kid's Club, please make a note on your order form and we will send your items there. Please contact either Jennifer Groth at 672-8462 or Nancy Wentworth at 676-3365 with any questions. Thank you in advance for supporting this important fundraiser.

School Mass

Tomorrow, Thursday, October 8th is our monthly school Mass. Children need to be dressed in formal attire—boys need to wear their belts everyday and no shorts are allowed on formal dress days.

All the students need to be in the classroom when the bell rings at 7:45AM and are considered tardy by 7:50 when the second bell rings. Please make sure that the children are ready to go early tomorrow morning.

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Conferences

Our parent/teacher conferences begin today at 1:30PM. For the past several years, we have chosen progress report time instead of report card time because the year is new, expectations that have not been met can be remediated, and it provides a good snapshot of progress to date. Please come prepared and on time as we want to honor you and your time by keeping as closely to the published schedule as humanly possible. Conference schedules are posted on the classroom teacher's doors.

Mary's Pizza Shack

Mark your calendars now! Wednesday, October 21st is St. Agnes' pizza day at Mary's Pizza Shack in Walnut Creek. Go with friends to lunch and / or the family to dinner. Take-out and delivery orders benefit us as well. Just present the flyer you will receive in next week's family envelope with your order and the school will receive 20% of the profit. Please contact Jennifer Groth at 672-8462 or Nancy Wentworth at 676-3365 with any questions.

Flu Info

We have included in the family envelope lots of information on the upcoming flu season and its possible impact. The information is about the H1N1 virus as well as other strains of flu. The *"Guide for Parents"*, published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is very informative. The Pandemic Preparedness pages are meant to provide website links that could also prove helpful. It also provides information about workplace safety as well as general tips that should assist in helping us stay healthier.

Thanksgiving Drive

While you might think that thanksgiving is just a distant thought, it will be here before we know it. Our school community always takes care of people in need. We are able to accomplish this because of the goodness of each of you. In an attempt to be more organized, we thought it would be helpful if you were aware of what we will be collecting and when it is due. You will find a flyer in this week's envelope that lists the food items we want to collect. The perishable items will be purchased by the money collected when each child brings in a dollar (\$1.00). This money augments the non-perishable food items we collected before hand.

Paperless Newsletter

At last week's School Board meeting it was suggested that the newsletter be sent via your e-mail. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter through e-mail we will need that e-mail address. We propose that it be done the following way:

Subject: newsletter

To: akelley@csdo.org

From: list your e-mail address where you want the newsletter sent.

We will then populate a database with your personal email address. This will probably take a couple of weeks to accomplish. We are targeting the first week of November for this to happen. We thank you for your patience in this matter.

Thoughts for the Week

Some food for thought! Two prominent statesmen of the last century spoke these words. I think they ring true for us today as well. Winston Churchill said, "It is much easier to be critical than to be correct." And Ghandi said, "He climbs highest who helps another up."

Box Tops

Just a reminder, the school still collects the box tops. We ask you to cut them out and send them in either a plastic baggie or envelope to school. Redeeming these box tops is an easy fundraiser for the school. I

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encourage your participation in this project. There are thousands of manufacturers who participate in this program.

Used Crocs

Don't forget to support the School's 6th grade Girl Scout Cadets who are collecting used Croc shoes. Please check your closets and bring them to school placing them into the decorated buckets located on each side of the main school building. All used Crocs will be sent to "Soles United". The shoes will be melted down and made into new Crocs that will be given to children who have no shoes to wear. Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of other people that you will probably never meet.

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 October, Annette Anderson will be the PACE Representative. She can be reached at 525-9633. 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!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, October 7th

Minimum Day 12:30 dismissal
Conferences begin at 1:30PM and end at 8:00 PM
Be prompt

Thursday, October 8th

8:00AM School Mass
Early arrival at 7:45AM
Minimum Day 12:30 dismissal
Conferences begin at 1:30PM and end at 8:00PM
Be prompt

Friday, October 9th

Minimum Day
Early dismissal at 12:30PM

Monday, October 12th

Columbus' Day
No school

Tuesday, October 13th

PACE \$2.00 Free Dress Day
6:30 PACE meeting

Wednesday, October 14th

6:30 Development meeting
6th grade classroom