

St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519



925-689-3990

October 28, 2009

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner

In the book of Ecclesiastes is the often-heard words from Sacred Scripture, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens."

It is with much thought and prayerful reflection that I formally announce my desire to resign my position as Principal of St. Agnes School. I have been here for the past 20 years and I can attest to the love and acceptance I have felt and to the wonder and awe I have enjoyed in working with each of you and your children. But the Scripture passage says it best and it is time.

As I look back on my time here, I do so with great affection for the past and present memories that I shall hold forever in my heart. I leave with a sense of deep respect and reverence for all those who have walked in and out of my life and I go with the satisfaction of knowing that I have done what God asks of each of us—to walk humbly, to love tenderly and live justly.

It had been my plan to first inform my boards of my decision and then to draft a letter to each of you. I was going to do that next month at our regular meetings but rumors, not started by me, are running rampant and I believe you deserve to hear this news from me and not from others.

What does the future hold? I want to take all the prayers, services, liturgies etc., which I have written over these past 20 years and create a book that could be used to Catholic schools and parishes in praise. Any

money earned by this endeavor will be given directly to our Endowment Fund for the purposes of making sure that St. Agnes School continues its rich tradition of quality Catholic education for generations to come.

The less familiar words of Ecclesiastes tell the rest of the story. "God has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into our hearts, without us ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. I recognize that there is nothing better than to be glad and to do well during life. Whatever God does well endure forever; there is no adding to it, or taking from it. Thus has God done that He may be revered." May the rest of our year together be a memorable one.

Important Dates, Information, and Update

H1N1 Update

This past week we have had lots of absences. Most of the children are experiencing upper respiratory symptoms. And everyone is frustrated because the medical professionals are reluctant to give a diagnosis of the illness. So, again the few reminders that I hope are helpful:

1.) Practice good hand hygiene. Wash hands often with soap and water especially after coughing or sneezing. Clean hands are the best

way of keeping the virus from spreading.

2.) The main way the flu spreads is from person to person in the droplets produced by coughs and sneezes. It is important to cover the mouth and nose with a tissue. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into the elbow or shoulder area is better than the hands.

3.) Stay home if you are sick.

Keeping sick children at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.

4.) A sick child or adult can return to school or work after being 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications. Continue to monitor temperature (98.6) until the temperature has been normal for 24 hours.

Yearbooks

The Yearbook editorial staff has been busy since the very first day of the school year taking and gathering pictures and stories for this year's book of memories. A very popular way of personalizing the Yearbook is the "Love Lines". Your children look forward to reading your words of encouragement too. In this week's family envelope you will find the Love Lines sheet. Directions for their completion are very simple. All "Love Lines" need to be turned into the school office no later than November 19th. Adhering to that deadline assists the editorial staff in their work. As always, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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Student Council

The Student Council is sponsoring a candy guess for Halloween and a lollipop sale for Red Ribbon Week. There are only two days left for these treats, which the children enjoy at recess and lunch. The lollipops cost 25 cents and so does each candy guess. The Student council would appreciate the support of these two projects so I encourage your child's participation in these two events.

Bingo Update

As was announced in last week's newsletter, the first St. Agnes Bingo night takes place on Friday, November 13th. If you've joined our Bingo evenings before you know they are always lots of fun, and for many of us, quite profitable. Today, you will find three flyers (one is double sided) in the family envelope. The double-sided flyer is asking for your help by seeking donations for our raffle prizes. The other side of that flyer is requesting donations of food and drink for the actual event. The second flyer is a reservation form. And the third flyer is a menu form should you desire to have dinner prior to or during the Bingo night. If you are bringing your children for baby sitting you can also order dinner for them. If you are planning to attend, you are asked to reserve a spot in advance of the Bingo evening. Fill out the form and return it to the office. The flyers have all the information.

Picture Retake

Last week you received information regarding the school pictures that were taken earlier in the year. Tomorrow, retakes are available if you so choose. Read the flyer in the family envelope as it contains all the information you will need in order to either have a retake or a make up if your child was absent when pictures were taken. Children need to be in their uniform for pictures. Again, picture re-take day is tomorrow, Thursday, October 29th. If you are having re-takes, please bring the form that is in the family envelope.

Accelerated Reading

Week Six of our Accelerated Reading reporting is here. I am pleased to announce that this week alone, we increased our score by 1,507 points. Our total is now 7,520 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!

Change

Every year at the time we return to standard time. That means that this weekend we must turn our clocks back one hour. On Saturday evening switch all you clocks and watches back an hour so you won't be late for Sunday's activities. Don't forget!

Extra Hours

If you need extra hours, Mr. Amaya can use your time and talent to do extra work around the plant on weekdays. Father Vince has some jobs that he would like completed that are over and above what our work parties do. You can receive hours for your time. Please contact Carlos Amaya if you can be of service. His number is in the directory on the first page.

Thanksgiving Drive

Again, I want to remind you that we need to collect all our food items for those in need. This can only be accomplished because of the goodness of each of you. Desiring 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 the envelope listing the food items we are collecting. We will purchase the perishable items with the money collected when each child brings in a dollar (\$1.00). Everything we do makes a difference so we thank you for your generosity.

Winter Raffle

Your first \$50.00 of raffle tickets came home in the family envelope. These tickets can be taken to work, sold to family and friends etc. As was announced in last week's newsletter, this is the Auction raffle with a new twist. We want to help with your Christmas shopping expenses. There will be four lucky winners of \$500.00 each.

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The drawing takes place on the evening of our Christmas Concert. I encourage your support of this important fundraiser.

Thank you

I want to thank Mary's Shack and our Fundraiser Chairs Nancy Wentworth and Jennifer Groth for all they did to make this event fun and profitable. Special thanks to all who came out and participated by dining out or dropping by and taking out. Both were win wins for the school.

Prayers Please

Over the past two weeks we have lost many members of our school community to illness and death. I would ask that you hold in prayer the following families who are mourning the loss of a loved one. In addition to our intentions of last week we add, the O'Brien family (Jacob in 4th) on the death of grandpa Tom and the Guyette family (Steven in Kindergarten) on the death of his young aunt Angela.

School Mass

Next Monday, November 2nd our school community will join with the entire Catholic Church to remember the Saints and Souls of the just who have died. The 3rd grade class is preparing our Mass celebration and we would like each of you to attend if possible. We would also like to encourage you to write down the names of people you would like us to remember and pray for as the month of November unfolds. Send in those names by this

Friday and we will place them in our basket of remembrance. We will then pray for them each morning during the entire month of November.

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!

In context

This weekend we celebrate two very important events of faith. Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Day in which we celebrate and recall our destiny to become saints by living lives rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The day before, commonly referred to as Halloween is a word derived from two words Hallow meaning Holy and ween meaning *eve of or day before* the holy day. Halloween has become very commercialized. Today children dress up as ghosts and goblins, witches and monsters and we sometimes lose the real meaning of the day. I would encourage you to talk to your children and put the day in its proper

context. It is the eve of a holy day (All Saints Day). In keeping with today's theme, treat your family to Mass on Sunday.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, October 28th

Halloween Bowling Night
6:00PM at Clayton Valley Bowl

Thursday, October 29th

Picture Retake Day
Formal Uniform dress

Friday, October 30th

PeaceBuilders and Wheel-a-thon
Assembly in the Church

Saturday, October 31st

Halloween (Eve of All Hallows or All Saints Day eve)
Happy Trick or treat

Sunday, November 1st

All Saints Day

Monday, November 2nd

All Souls Day
9:00AM Mass
Formal Dress for all students
No shorts!