



Setting the PACE

Parent's Association for Catholic Education

Fall 2020 Edition



Blessings From Father *Principal Greetings*

Dear Families and Friends of St. Agnes,

I would like to wish each and every Faculty and Families of St. Agnes a wonderful Christmas. We are sure it will be a time for joy, celebration and hope for the New Year to come.

Christmas once again returns. Christmas has become the most joyful season of all humanity without exception, which brings joy, hope, and especially peace, which is becoming increasingly rare in the world.

This year Christmas would be different for all of us. Now we face this pandemic - Covid-19. It has caused much suffering to individuals, families, communities and nations. In the face of this pandemic, our school is closed, we can no longer easily gather as a school community and reach out to one another. Even though our school is closed, God is close to us in our hearts and homes.

Despite all these difficulties, the word "Christmas" underscores for us its profound Christian and spiritual significance: Emmanuel – God in our midst. As Christians, we believe that in good times and in bad, our God is not some distant deity, but one who is with us during every twist and turn of life's journey.

At this season, let each of us commit ourselves to celebrate the 'God-with-us' and become eager to accept God's revelation to us in Christ with a good act of faith. So, let us make a commitment to live the Christian life more effectively so that Child Jesus can be alive in our hearts and homes and help us to experience the joy of salvation with each other.

Once again, I wish you, families and friends, a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year. May Christ Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, come to our hearts and transform each of us to be more Christ-like and create a home for Him in our families and our community.

With God's blessings
Fr. Johnson

Greetings Families-

The school year has begun like no other in our lives. We all thought, when we ended the year in June, that normalcy would return by August. Have you ever heard the phrase: If you want to make God laugh, share your plans with him? This has never been more applicable than now! We all know that God has a plan but sometimes we struggle to understand what he has in mind.

Here's what I know:

Our St. Agnes Community is amazing!

Our children have responded to the challenge and are incredibly resilient;

Our parents have selflessly sacrificed their responsibilities at work, lost sleep and shown wonderful appreciation toward their child's teacher;

Our teachers have shown immense fortitude, professionalism and above all, put their students before themselves and their own families.

The theme this year: "Stronger Together" says it all. Our community has always been strong; however, we are even more connected this year. We have all shown immense courage to take this situation on in full force. Parents have become teachers; students have adjusted to a whole new way of learning and teachers have become extra creative in their deliver of instruction. We have created and recreated a plan to have on-campus learning when many other schools have not been able to accomplish this task. Above all we are taking care of one another to be safe and healthy. I am forever grateful for our community and wish you all continued health, joy and faith!

Blessings,

Jill Lucia

With God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37



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PACE Presidential Address

We at PACE hope this newsletter finds you well, in the year 2021! We understand how difficult the last several months have been for our school community, the state, the country and the world. We pray the year 2021 brings a sense of normalcy to our children and a sense of community back to our school. During the long months of the pandemic, we have worked to continue fundraising for our school. The entire PACE Board would like to thank everyone who bought a pie, a wreath or a ticket to a virtual event! While we haven't exactly put the "fun" in fundraising during 2020, we hope 2021 allows us to eventually gather as a community and celebrate as friends. We will continue to give the families of St. Agnes opportunities to support the school financially and gather (at a distance) for the rest of the school year. Please reach out if you have questions, ideas or are interested in participating more in PACE. All are welcome.

We wish you health, safety and a Happy New Year!

Thank you Mrs. Lucia, Mrs. Kelley, all the staff, faculty, Aides, volunteers, parents and students. We are **STRONGER TOGETHER!!!**

BE WELL, BE SAFE AND STAY STRONG!

Bring on 2021

St. Agnes 2020-2021



As our preschoolers and kinders started this year with distant learning, they were making history. The future of St. Agnes started their journey at home, in front of computer screens, but with the support from their teachers, Ms. Lucia and St. Agnes community, our little ones were able to overcome this challenge and persevere.



Now back on campus, our preschoolers and kinders can slowly start to begin to enjoy all of what St. Agnes has to offer them in a safe and protected environment. Our children had to quickly learn how to adapt and take on a new style of learning, but they did! And did a fabulous job! Once again, being stronger together, we proved that we are St. Agnes strong!





Keep On Riding

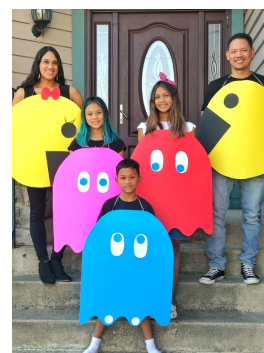
"United Apart". A phrase all too common for 2020. The kids of St. Agnes define it! Instead of the black top, our children took to the streets, trails and parks to participate in the ever so popular Wheel-a-Thon! Well...this year...the "remote" Wheel-a-Thon!

Our children's resiliency was spotlighted as they "rolled on" their bikes, roller blades, skate boards, etc., to earn money to offset the cost of supplies needed to re-open to in-person learning. More importantly, it gave our kids a chance to get out, enjoy the sun and smile. Keep on trucking kids!! Great work!!



Fundraising for \$200

And the answer is! COVID couldn't stop us from raising money for our community and students! By holding a social distancing costume and trivia party, P.A.C.E. found a creative way for St. Agnes families and parishioners to dress up and have fun in a safe way! What a fun night by all!



LET THEM EAT PIE!!

Fundraising has never tasted sooo good! This new St. Agnes holiday tradition exceeded our expectation as pies were ordered by the truck load! Thank you to all who made this event as "sweet as pie"!



Oh Christmas Wreath

Another new event this year was our Christmas Wreath sale. This event was also a success as these beautiful wreaths brought warmth and cheer into our homes for this holiday season.



Yummy Dine Out Partners of 2020

Dine outs played a special role during this unprecedented year. Through virtual dinner parties or a quick hello with a fellow St. Agnes family member while picking up your take out order, these events not only earned us money, but gave us a sense of togetherness. It also helped local businesses through these very trying times. Thank you to each and every restaurant who worked with us this year!



ST. AGNES SCHOOL

DINE AND DONATE
JACK'S
urban eats

All I wanna do is a Zoom Zoom...



Since distant learning started in August, our kids have had the pleasure of being greeted by Mrs. Lucia each morning for prayer. Well this year, P.A.C.E. thought it would be nice if the students could "Gucci" Mrs. Lucia's background for prayer and announcements. We asked the students to submit a drawing that could act as Mrs. Lucia's background. We had eight submissions and each was featured on the morning Zoom meetings. This was a huge success. Thank you to all who participated and keep an eye out for the next opportunity to share your artistic side.



The legacy continues



It is not hard to see why the St. Agnes community is so strong and special. Many of our children's parents were once St. Agnes students themselves! Our alums send their kids to St. Agnes so they too can share in the values, education and memories that the school and church gave them. The support of our alumni is important to us and we thank each and every one of you for what you did, and now, what you do for our community!

St. Agnes School, 3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord, CA 94519 (925) 689-3990 www.stagnesconcord.com



In Loving Memory

To some, the words “family”, “love” and “support” are just every day words, that sometimes lose their definitions. However, sometimes God blesses us with someone who can show us and our children the true meanings of these words. Bring these words to life. Shows us the positive effects these words have on those around us. For our community, that was Ed “Chat” Chatterton.

Natives of New York, Ed and his wife, also his best friend, Mary, moved to California and started a family. They had four children, Jeremy, Trevor, Marie and Cameron, all alums of St. Agnes. Jeremy, Chat’s oldest son, remembers his father as, “Always being there”. “For my dad, it was family first”. “If you needed a ride at two in the morning or just someone to talk to, he was there.” He also noted how his dad, an interior demolitionist, “...would go to work at three in the morning so he could make our meets. He never wanted to miss anything.”

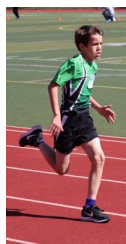
But Chat didn’t just want to watch his children run track for St. Agnes, he wanted to be involved. As a strong athlete himself, Chat became an assistant coach for St. Agnes track and eventually took over the program towards the end of the 1980s. He immediately made an ever lasting impact on the program.

Jeremy recalled the important lessons he learned from playing for and while coaching with his father, “My father made the program fun. The drills he ran taught us how to be better, they were challenging, but in a fun way.” “Kids wanted to be out there working cause it was fun, as it was competitive,” Jeremy remembers, “Whatever event you were doing, you could look over your shoulder and see Coach watching. Cheering you on.” Jeremy explained how important it was for Coach Chatterton to build the self-esteem of a child, “...get them ready for life, as well as, make them an athlete. “ What ever problems you were having, either at home or on the track, Coach Chatterton was there to listen and give advice.

Coach Chatterton built a competitive and winning track program at St. Agnes, but more importantly, he created a program that taught our kids about integrity, accountability, confidence and humility. Current director of St. Agnes Track, Ann Burris-Schultz, said, “From the uniforms he help get to the winning culture he created, we try to uphold the values he instilled into this program. It’s because of his philosophy, beliefs and caring, the program is where it is today, for the school and the children. For this, we will forever be grateful.”

Outside of coaching, Ed was an Eucharistic minister. He also counseled those in trouble. “He loved working ‘gang bangers’, breaking them down and helping them in their journey back”, Jeremy remembered. When Mary passed away from cancer, he started the “Mary Chatterton Memorial Track Meet”. To this day, “MC” is worn on the track uniforms. Oh! And let us not forget that he was also the handyman for the Church. This was the type of man “Chat” was.

This year, St. Agnes lost an influential figure of our community. However, his legacy will never be forgotten. We, along with our kids, can carry it on if we just be “Real with our selves” like Chat believed we should be.



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2020 has been a tough year and we all could use a some cheer. No better way to accomplish this than taking a drive down Candy Cane Lane!! The Christmas spirit was strong at St. Agnes this year with treats, special gifts, spirit wear and the Contra Costa Fire Department!! And of course, who was there to spread the cheer, Santa!! Such a fun and special day that brought warmth to our hearts.



Supporting our St. Agnes family and community

Support St. Agnes Family Owned Businesses

The St. Agnes community and parishioners have always proven that we are "Stronger Together". No better time than now to help support our St. Agnes family owned businesses. Help us support these businesses by letting them assist you with your needs. Visit and shop local businesses today.



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