



Principal's Thoughts

California has a compulsory education law which requires that children between the ages of six and eighteen attend school. We are required to abide by this law as a private, accredited educational institution. This law stipulates the criteria for attendance and is also reflected in our Family Handbook: "Excessive absence" is defined as being absent from school for six (6) absences per trimester or a total of eighteen (18) days per school year." Missing this many days is considered excessive as it equates to essentially missing a month of school. Why does this matter? According to the Brookings Institute:

"A 2008 study of graduation patterns in Chicago Public Schools, for example, found that the number of days students were absent in eighth grade was eight times more predictive of freshman year course failure than eighth grade test scores. For younger students, research has shown that chronic absenteeism in kindergarten is associated with lower achievement in reading and math in later grades, even when controlling for a child's family income, race, disability status, attitudes toward school, socioemotional development, age at kindergarten entry, type of kindergarten program, and preschool experience."

Given the date of this study, this is obviously not a new problem, however scheduling family vacations during the school year, outside the regularly scheduled school vacations is on the rise. While there are no definitive statistics showing a direct correlation, only patterns, it makes sense that if instruction is missed that builds a foundation for future lessons, there will be learning loss. Studies have shown that children who are not reading at grade level by third grade will continue to struggle and rarely catch up to their peers. Having children in class for instruction is especially important now coming out of the pandemic, where we need as much time with our students as we can to make sure to minimize any learning loss that may have occurred. We do ask that children stay home when not feeling well, but if at all possible, please minimize scheduling vacations and get-aways as much as you can. This is not to state that we do not value family time and having fun, there are huge benefits for this too; however we do worry about the stress that children experience of coming back from these absences and feeling lost or behind. Thank you in advance for taking this all into consideration.

With this being stated, on behalf of the entire staff, we hope your Thanksgiving vacation is filled with gratitude, great food and good company. If you are traveling, please do so in safety and we look forward to seeing you on Monday, November 27th!

St. Agnes School Mission Statement

St. Agnes School, in partnership with the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Oakland educate children in the Catholic faith and nurture their minds, bodies, and souls, inspiring them to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, achieve their highest academic and creative potential, and actively serve and enrich the community.

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- **Thank you!**

- Mr. Latteri is providing a Thanksgiving lunch for all the children K-8 tomorrow! We wish him many Thanksgiving blessings!
- Parma Deli is adding a cookie to the menu for a special treat! We so love our alumni families!

- **Volunteer Statements**

- Your family volunteer statement is being sent home today in your family envelope.
- This statement is provided to you so you can monitor the progress of your 30 hour commitment.
- Please review this for accuracy and contact the PACE volunteer coordinators for any questions or concerns: pace-volunteer-hours@stagnesconcord.com

- **Kendra Scott TONIGHT**

- Join us tonight Wednesday, November 16th from 5:30-7:30 for a St. Agnes Night of shopping at Kendra Scott in Walnut Creek.
- If you prefer to shop online visit: www.kendrascott.com and use the code: GIVEBACK-CMXSI.
- A flyer with all the details has been posted on our website.
- We will receive 20% back on the purchases!!!

- **Survey Results**

- Thank you to the 99 families responding to the scrip survey! Here are the results:
 - 32.3% use both methods (office and RaiseRight app.) to purchase scrip.
 - 24.2% only purchase through the office.
 - 22.2% choose to opt out and pay the \$500 fee.
 - 20.2% use the RaiseRight app. exclusively.
- No changes will be taking place at this time as 50% of the families were in favor of keeping the options open. Thank you!!!!

- **Test Kits**

- Another COVID test kit is being sent home today for each child for you to tuck away.
- Please remember that testing results will need to be sent to the teachers on Sunday, November 27th, before we return from Thanksgiving vacation in order for your child to return to class.

PACE NEWS

- **See's Candy**

- The St. Agnes Online Shop is now open for business! Visit: https://www.yumraising.com/secure/stas_st_agnes_school_christmas_fundraiser5/RacDac5573 for your holiday candy!
- Credit cards are the only method of payment, unfortunately you cannot use gift/scrip cards.

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Weekly Student Learning Expectation:

3.4 A life-long learner who is able to work to his/her ability.



TIME SENSITIVE

- **Scrip Statements**

- Your statement was sent home last week.
- We are half-way through the scrip year and your **profit** should reflect 50% of the \$300 goal.
- The holidays are coming so don't forget to buy scrip.

- **Labels Needed**

- There are many lost jackets and sweatshirts on the tables outside the office and faculty room doors.
- Please label all clothing items with your child's last name so we can return items found.

	IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS
11/16	• St. Agnes School Kendra Scott Night 5:30-7:30
11/17	• School Board Meeting 6:30 – 8 th Gr. Classroom
11/18	• Stone Soup – 10am • Thanksgiving Prayer Service 1:30 – Church (Formal) • Report Cards Go Home
11/19	• Thanksgiving Vacation Begins
11/20	• Feast of Christ the King Lk 23:35-43
11/24	• Happy Thanksgiving!
11/27	• First Sunday of Advent Mt 24:37-44
11/28	• School Resumes-Welcome Back!
11/29	• Spiritwear Tuesday!
12/3	• Work Party 9-1



<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/726933.htm>