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Principal's Thoughts

This year we have been reflecting on a scripture passage from the gospel of Matthew 28:20: *"Know that I am with you always."* I hold these words near and dear to my heart, especially when things get tough and/or I need perspective; this is especially true at this time of year when we are preparing for the upcoming school year. An integral part of the planning involves staffing. I always hold my breath worrying what changes lay ahead and then I remember, God's got this!

With mixed emotions I share with you some staffing changes for next year. After 25 years of service to St. Agnes School, Ms. Van Heel has decided it's time to retire. She began as a long-term substitute in 7th grade and became the 3rd teacher the year after. She brought a whole-new dimension to the 3rd grade camp experience and has been an important and much loved teacher in our St. Agnes Community. We are excited for her as she plans to move to Colorado to be with family. I am also informing you that Senora Reyes will not return next year and will be moving to the East Coast to be closer to her family as well. As a staff we will dearly miss her sense of humor, wonderful stories and are grateful to her for expanding our Spanish program. The children have learned so much in such a short time. We will miss her!

In keeping with tradition, we will honor both of these wonderful teachers at our end of the year prayer service in June. Please plan to join us so we can send them off with fanfare to the next chapter of their life journey. Blessings upon them as they close the school year with their students, it will be a bitter sweet time for them and us! I will keep you posted on who will be joining us next year! Pray that the Holy Spirit will send us teachers as wonderful as those who joined us this current year. We will leave this in God's hands.



<https://clipart-library.com/clipart/farewell-cliparts-7.htm>



As the Lenten Season Begins

Resources for you:

• Daily reflections:

- Matthew Kelley - <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html>
- Mark Wahlberg - <https://hallow.com/>
 - Trailer for a Lenten Journey:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RXg4BO8_fU

• You Don't Want to Miss This! "COME AND SEE"

- This Lent, the Altar Server Ministry is inviting parents to do something special this year. They will host a viewing of "The Catholicism Series" every Wednesday @ 630pm in the Ministry Center from Feb 21st - March 20th. One episode per session.
- View the trailer (link below) and join us! Rsvp to StAgnesAltarServerMinistry@gmail.com.
- <https://www.wofdigital.org/videos/catholicism-trailer-short>

• Family Resources:

- https://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/NCEA1//attach/21_NCEA_Family_News_FEB.pdf
- https://www.dmdiocese.org/filesimages/Catechetical_Services/Lent_2022/My_Lenten_Plan.pdf

• 40 Cans for 40 Days

- We will be supporting the Knights of Columbus Lenten Food Drive and ask that children bring one can a day to their classroom during Lent.
- Have your children shop with you, buy the cans in advance and make it part of your morning routine to have your child include a can in their backpack.

• Rice Bowls

- Each year we partner with Catholic Relief Services and provide a rice bowl to each student. A rice bowl for each of your children are in your envelope.
- The goal is to have your child do service projects (chores) and fill the bowl with coins.
- Once the bowl has been filled, you can count the money and then donate the amount directly to CRS. The donation information will be sent in a newsletter at a later date.

• Thursday Soup Suppers

- Delicious soup will be served in the church hall each Thursday during Lent. A guest speaker

Newsletter-2/14/24



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will follow at 6:30pm.

- A flyer with additional details and topics for the presentations has been included in your envelope.



• **How You Doing?**

- Scrip statements through January have been included in your family envelope today.
- Two and a half months remain for you to reach the goal to generate \$300 in profit for the school. Please see the Family Handbook regarding the fee for not reaching the goal.

• **Dads Unite**

- The dads group will be meeting in the Ministry Center Office on Saturday, February 17th from 8:30-1030AM! Weather permitting, some will be heading out for a family hike in Clayton afterwards.
- Join us as we bring together like minded men who just want to work on being better dads, husbands, etc. through growing in understanding of their Faith. Some of us are very much a work in progress in our Faith. No need to be perfect. All are welcome!
- Bring your kids, let your wife sleep in!"



TIME  SENSITIVE

• **Fees Added**

- The first installment of the registration fee for the 2024-2025 school year has been posted to your FACTS account. You should have received an email from FACTS notifying you.
- If you are a 3rd grade parent, the camp fees have also been charged.
- Gentle reminder: Please regularly check your service agreement account for charges.

• **Runners, Get Set!**

- CYO track registration is currently open and will be until 3/1/24. If you would like to register your child, please do so at: www.Stagnescyo.com

Weekly Schoolwide Learning Expectation: 2.2 – A conscientious student individual in a diverse society who is able to demonstrate self-discipline.

Newsletter-2/14/24



www.stagnesconcord.com



• **Special Dine Out**

- Take your special someone out to celebrate at Vanessa's Bistro 2 in Walnut Creek on Saturday, February 17th or Sunday, February 18th and St. Agnes will receive 20%!
- A flyer with all the details is in your envelope today.
- Thank you Nguyen Family (Paisley 3rd) for giving us such a special date night!



• **Congratulations**

- The Student Council members and their moderators did a wonderful job planning a memorable Catholic Schools Week. The children had a great time in free dress each day and enjoyed attending so many activities.
- Congratulations to Sofia Pou and Matthew Levy who will represent St. Agnes School in the preliminary round of the County Spelling Bee. We are proud of you!

• **Thank you Mrs. Burke for a fun evening of Bingo.**

- The evening was a huge success with over 100 people attending. We appreciate the hard work of the Knights who prepared the pasta dinner and the parent volunteers that gave great service and cleaned up after. Mr. Webb did a great job calling all those numbers!

• **In gratitude**

- Saturday we were blessed to have Madeleine Zywicki, Sophie's grandma, give a presentation on the Eucharist for the 2nd grade parents. Her stories and interactive presentation were appreciated by all! It was so nice to have her visit!

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,

Newsletter-2/14/24



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inspiring them to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, achieve their highest academic and creative potential, and actively serve and enrich the community.

 IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS	
2/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ash Wednesday• Day of Abstinence & Fasting (meatless menus)
2/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrip Day 9-11
2/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrip Day 9-11
2/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dads Group Gathering: 8:30am-10:30am Ministry Center• Date Night Dine Out Vanessa's Bistro2
2/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Sunday of Lent Mark 1:12-15• Date Night Dine Out Vanessa's Bistro2
2/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presidents Holiday-No School
2/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spirit T-Shirt Tuesday• STAR Testing Window Begins
2/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catholicism Series Begins 6:30pm – Ministry Center
2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lenten Soup Supper 6pm-Church Hall
2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stations of the Cross 2:15 (Formal)