

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

August 22, 2007

Welcome Back!!

Today we begin a new adventure. An adventure we all will share for the next ten months. Like all adventures, it can be exciting—but it can also be a little intimidating—or even frightening. Our fear of the unknown and our desire to please battle for the upper hand.

The faculty spent the summer working on materials to use with their class so that they can continue to differentiate instruction for all students. The goal for classroom instruction is not just for the students to “learn the stuff” but to do it successfully. This requires teachers to be constantly aware of the progress of each student—those who do well and also those who struggle. Toward this end, teachers spent time this summer exploring ways that they can support students who need extra practice, and extend the learning experience of those students who learn the required content easily.

This year we want to continue with last year’s theme: “Nothing Succeeds Like Success.” We want to find ways for all of our students to feel that sense of accomplishment that comes with a job well done. We ask you as parents to join us in helping your student to strive to be the best he or she can possibly be. In this regard, we would especially like to focus on the quality of work students produce both during the school day and on projects or assignments they complete at home. We ask for you to help us in this goal by asking your child, “Are you proud of this work?” or “Did you do your best on this assignment?” Pay special attention to the work teachers send home for you to see. Compliment work that is done with care and insist that work unacceptable to you be improved. We need to share a consistent focus.

Remember, too, that our new reporting system places a great deal of emphasis on the EFFORT grade your student achieves. For many students, doing just enough “to get by” is a well-loved strategy. Help us to extend your child’s learning by asking them what they are doing in class to go “above and beyond” to prove their effort to their teachers.

We always are interested in your impressions of how your child is doing—as we know you are interested in ours. Together, we can maximize your child’s learning this year—and help them to experience successes that will carry them to new heights.

We pray each day for God’s blessing and guidance in the work we do together. Please join us in asking God to bless the work of our new year.

Lunch Menus

Please remember that lunch menus cannot be accepted after the due date. These forms are electronically processed by Food Services so must be completed when they are due. Be sure that your child knows to hand in the menus when you send them! We often find them in bookbags or lockers after the closing deadline.

Menus for September must be completed by FRIDAY, August 24th.

Parent Back-To-School Night Thursday, September 6, 2007

Our annual “Back-to-School Night” will be held on Thursday, September 6th. We will begin with a general information session in the Church at 7:00 p.m. followed by an Open House until 8:00 p.m. to allow parents and teachers to meet briefly. [Please remember that the teachers will need to greet each family that attends, so the Open House will not be a good time for a parent-teacher conference. If you have sensitive information to share with your child’s teacher, please feel free to set up an appointment at another time so that the teacher can devote adequate time and attention to your concerns.]

This year, we will have a “Back to School Raffle” that evening. Each teacher will have a set of raffle tickets. For each of your child’s teachers that you visit, you may complete one ticket (Play fair—only teachers your child has!!) Four prizes will be awarded in a drawing from all of the tickets on Friday morning:

- First prize: \$50 in Jewel or Speedway certificates
- Second prize: \$25 in Jewel or Speedway certificates
- Third prize: Cookie Basket
- Fourth prize: Starbuck’s Basket.

We’re hoping you can join us for this event!

Family Emergency Cards

This year's emergency card is being sent home with the oldest child in your family today. Please be sure to complete it and return it to school **tomorrow**. During the course of the school year, we rely on the information on this card in case we need to contact you in an emergency situation. It is essential, therefore, that you keep the information on your family emergency card current. If you change address, phone number, cell phone or work numbers, please

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

We sent you information on revised arrival and dismissal procedures with the July mailing. You probably noticed that the School Board has authorized a \$50 fine (added to tuition) for those parents who do not comply with the new procedures. We will be asking families to provide the names of parents or students are not following the procedures established to keep all of our children safe.

FootballMania

In the July mailing we wrote to ask for your help in making our FootballMania sweepstakes a success. We still are about 100- tickets behind our sales from last year and the deadline is approaching FAST – first week in September.

If you remember the data from the letter, we were able to raise \$30,000 last year. That amounted to an \$80 tuition savings for each child enrolled in the school. (Tuition was slated to increase \$130, but because of FootballMania, we were able to keep the increase to \$50 per student.)

We hope that we will be able to repeat this performance again this year, but time is very short!! We need to sell almost 1000 tickets in the next few weeks to realize our goal. We are hoping that you can help by asking several family members or co-workers to join in the FUN. Since the FootballMania season is 17 games, the twenty dollar ticket cost represents about \$1 per week. Your odds of winning one of the nine prizes awarded each week are much greater than the LOTTO odds!

We are including another copy of the FootballMania order form with this newsletter. Complete the form and return it to school with your check. We'll fill out the tickets and return them to you within a day or so. You can also stop by the office to request a block of tickets to take with you to work if that will improve our sales!

As an added incentive, for every twenty tickets you are able to sell, we will provide you with a free ticket. It might be the winning one!! Please help us to reach our goal. We can do this if each family would aim to sell at least two or three tickets. It's "do-able" and will really have an impact on the tuition increase we will need to implement when we plan the school budget for 2008-2009. Don't sit back and rely on someone else to help keep your tuition costs down!

Thanks for your support.

Looking Ahead. . .

8/22-24	11:30 dismissal for the first week
8/27	Full Days begin, 8:00-2:30, Extended Day begins
8/29	VIRTUS Training for all parish volunteers who have not already Completed it. 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall
8/30	Kindergarten and Pre-School Parent Information Night, 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall
9/3	Labor Day Holidays
9/4	Market Day School Board, 7:00 p.m. Parent-Student Confirmation Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Church
9/5	LifeTouch Fall Pictures—uniforms not required
9/6	Back to School Night, 7:00 p.m. in the Church
9/8	Confirmation Retreat, Eighth Grade Students. Information to follow
9/10	Archdiocese mandated Teacher In-service, UIC Pavilion, NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE.