

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

St. Germaine Family Newsletter

October 1, 2007

First Trimester Progress Reports

Progress Reports for the first trimester will be distributed to the students on Friday. The reports will come to you in sealed envelopes to minimize the amount of "sharing" between students.

The reports are designed to summarize your child's performance during the first weeks of school. The information should not come as a surprise, either to you or your student. The teachers have been sending work samples home for your signature since the beginning of the year. You have had an opportunity to examine daily work and assessments the teacher is using. During the first weeks of school, we all face significant adjustments. We need to be sure that the patterns and "habits" we are establishing produce positive results. Please pay special attention to the teacher's assessment of your child's effort. It is a key indicator of "how the year is going."

If you have any questions or concerns about the reports, please drop your child's teacher a note asking for clarification or for an appointment to meet and discuss any patterns you or the teacher might be noticing.

Please remember that the criterion charts that teachers are using on significant assignments or assessments give you an idea of whether or not your child is meeting academic expectations. The box contains three sections. The criterion score is the score that students needed to attain in order to demonstrate mastery of the material. If your child scored at or above that criterion score, they were successful in the task. If they did not score at least the criterion level, this indicates that additional work is necessary.

Total # of points	
Acceptable score showing mastery	Your child's score

Sweetheart Ball

Friday night's "Academy Award" themed Sweetheart Ball was a wonderful success. The young "stars" and their escorts were greeted with a traditional red carpet and Hollywood stars in the lobby. Large "Oscar" statues decorated the stage and several actors made an appearance (although in a cardboard version!)

Thanks to Kristen Anderson for coordinating the event. Kristen had quite a few helpers who began transforming the gym early on Friday morning. Thanks to everyone who helped make it an award winning night for the girls.

Look for paparazzi pictures on our school website soon!

Class of 2008 Taffy Apple Sale

You should already have received an orange form for the 8th grade's annual Taffy Apple Sale. The proceeds of the sale help to defray the cost of the 2008 class sweatshirts and other eighth grade activities. Your support is truly appreciated.

Despite a small cost increase, your support last year was overwhelming! Therefore, we shall continue to offer both plain and peanut taffy apples for \$1.25 each. A case of 24 apples will cost \$26.00.

Orders are due by Friday, October 12, 2007. Delivery will be on Friday, October 26th. Thanks for your support!

Congratulations— Southside Catholic Essay Winners!

Congratulations to Bridget Tracy and Steven Buschbach, two of our eighth graders, whose essays were selected as winners in the Southside Catholic Conference essay contest. Bridget and Steven wrote essays on the importance of athletics in developing Christian Leadership. The Christian Leadership Award was presented to them on September 20, 2007 in a ceremony honoring all of the essay winners throughout the Conference.

Arrival and Dismissal

Many parents have commented positively about the new arrival and dismissal procedures. They commented on how well most parents are observing the new procedures. Thanks to all for making the new system work. Please continue to be vigilant about observing the procedures yourself and letting us know about any infractions. Remember, the School Board has approved a \$50 fine added to tuition for a substantiated violations! The real test of the system will come on the first rainy or snowy day. Keep doing your part to protect our students!

Harvest Ball, 2007

Plans are well underway for this year's Harvest Ball on November 10th at the Oak Lawn Hilton. Tickets are \$60/person or \$500 for a complete table of ten. Start to gather your table of 10 now. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Contact the school office for information about ticket sales.

Paper Recycling

The Class of 2008 is continuing to sponsor the Paper Recycling Program at St. Germaine Parish. Last year we recycled 6.14 tons of paper—and the program just began in the Spring!

Look for the yellow and green bin in the parking lot behind the rectory and add your old magazines, newspapers, bulk mail and other papers from home. Please place items in brown paper bags. The company cannot take cardboard or phone books.

From October 16th to November 16th we are making a push to double our recycling efforts. Thanks for your help.

Illinois Board of Education Medical Forms

The state of Illinois mandates physical exams and vaccination records for all pre-school, kindergarten, and fifth grade students. The required forms must be on file in the school office before October 1st. The sooner the forms are submitted the easier our job will be!! The state requires that students who are not in compliance by October 15th be excluded from school.

Dental forms must be submitted by second and sixth grade students. These forms should also be submitted as soon as possible.

Family School Association Howl at the Moon

The Family School Association is sponsoring "Howl-at the Moon" on October 20th. The premise of the evening pits two pianists trying to "outshine" each other as they strive for "crowd approval." It promises to be a great time!

Tickets are \$20 per person in advance and \$25 per person at the door. Tickets are available in the office now and in Church on October 6-7 and October 13-14.

For more information, contact Maeve Fox (229-1929) or Missy Moran (636-7082) Get a group together and join us!

Babysitting Education Program

The Oak Lawn Fire Department is sponsoring a free six-week Babysitter Education Class on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. beginning October 2nd. The classes will be held at the Oak Lawn Church of the Nazarene, 6343 W. 90th Place. Participants must be at least 12 years old and must register for the class before October 1st. To register, please call 499-7700.

Funding for catholic Schools Cut: Help Override Governor's Vetoes

In the first week of October, efforts will be made in the state legislature to override the Governor's recent vetoes of certain items in the state budget. This includes two programs vitally important to Catholic schools: \$10.1 million in the School Safety Block Grant to help our schools pay for state mandated health and safety measures and \$14.1 million to increase the transportation reimbursement for families who drive their children more than 1.5 miles to school.

Please call or write to our state representative (James Brosnahan, 5311 W. 95th St, Oak Lawn, FAX 499-3991) and our state senator (Edward Maloney, 10444 S. Western, Chicago, 60643, FAX 773-881-4243) asking them to vote to override the governor's vetoes. The Catholic Conference of Illinois (www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org) has several sample letters and "fact sheets" that can provide you with additional information.

Target "Take Charge of Education" Donation

We received a check for \$350 from Target as a part of their "Take Charge of Education" Program. This program rebates a portion of your Target REDcard purchases. For information about how to participate visit www.Target.com/tcoe or stop at Customer Service in the store. With Target now one of our close neighbors, we would appreciate your support for this program. Since it costs us(or you) nothing to participate, it's like finding free money for items our school needs. Thanks!

Looking Ahead. . .

- 10/1 High School Recruiters' Presentations for seventh and eighth grade students in the morning
- 10/2 Market Day
School Board, 7:00 p.m. in the Faculty Room
- 10/3 Family School Meeting, 8:05 a.m. in the Church Hall
- 10/5 First Trimester Progress Reports distributed to students
- 10/8 Columbus Day—no student attendance
- 10/11 Confirmation Practice, 7:00 p.m. in the Church
- 10/14 Confirmation, 2:00 p.m. in the Church
- 10/16 Parent Reconciliation Meeting (Second Graders), 7:00 p.m. in the Church
- 10/17 Athletic Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Faculty Room
- 10/19 Half-Day Faculty Meeting, 11:30 a.m. student dismissal
- 10/22 LifeTouch Fall Picture RETAKES. Students must return first packet if planning a re-take
- 10/24 Seventh Grade Retreat—St. Rita High School
- 10/30 Market Day
- 10/31 Halloween. Remember, NO EXTENDED DAY