

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

# St. Germaine Family Newsletter

September 17, 2007

## Off to a Good Start!

Our "thanks" to all those parents who attended the Back-to-School Night last week. In the general session we discussed several important ideas that bear repeating. The Back-to-School Raffle winners were the Lipinski Family (1<sup>st</sup>), the Hariek Family (2<sup>nd</sup>), the Blake-Hopkins Family (3<sup>rd</sup>) and the Kerwin Family (4<sup>th</sup>).

**Arrival Procedures** The new process seems to be going well. We are grateful to everyone for taking the additional time to insure that our children are safe. It's tempting to slip back into old habits though on the first rainy day! Please be consistent in observing the procedures and informing the office of violations. Remember, too, that the school board has approved a \$50 fine for any substantiated violations.

**Tardiness Procedures** After the third late arrival to school, a parent must accompany the student to the school office before the child will be sent to class.

**Dismissal Procedures** Recently we have had a number of students who have not been picked up promptly at dismissal time. It is extremely difficult to keep these students at the school office until a parent or guardian arrives. Beginning Monday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, students who return to the office after dismissal because their "rides" have not arrived, will be sent to the Extended Day Program. After the first occurrence, parents will be billed by the Extended Day program. After the third occurrence families will need to pay the \$35 registration fee required for those who use the Extended Day Program on a regular basis.

**Personal Hygiene** Mrs. Ephraim and several of the teachers have made comments about personal hygiene issues, especially after gym classes during warm weather. It would probably be appropriate to have a conversation about bathing, washing hair and using deodorant.

**Names!!** Please be sure that your child's name is written in clothing articles so that they can be returned to you if they are misplaced. Also, if your child's surname is different from yours, please include both names on correspondence with the school. This will help insure that items are properly credited.

Please join us in praying that God will bless all of our endeavors throughout this new school year!

### Child Lures Program Materials

Two years ago, the Archdiocese of Chicago provided materials that were designed to introduce children and families to "personal safety skills." The Child Lures Prevention Program outlines important information that will help students to avoid potentially dangerous situations. We still have a number of the Child Lures booklets that were distributed last year. If you are new to our school and would like a copy of the booklet, just drop a note to the office. The program also includes several videotape presentations. If you would like to borrow the tapes, please let us know.

### Regular School Uniforms Begin Monday!

Please remember that students will return to regular school uniforms on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please consult the Family Handbook if you are uncertain of the regulations. Students may wear gym shoes each day. All shoes must have "backs" to prevent them from slipping off as the students move around the building. As the weather gets cooler, remember that students may not wear non-uniform sweatshirts or long sleeved t-shirts under their polo shirts or blouses.

### \$400 Free Books from Market Day

We can earn \$400 worth of Scholastic Books by increasing our Market Day orders during October. Our goal represents a 10% increase over October, 2006 sales. We'll need at least 74 families to order and a total of \$4373 to qualify for the free books. Please consider an order from Market Day this month. If you need additional forms, they are available in the office or Church.

### Merwick Academy at St. Xavier University

The Merwick Academy at St. Xavier University is offering a Catholic High School Placement Preparation class and several other subject areas. For information, call 773-298-3180.

## Manna News

We are looking forward to another successful and profitable year of Manna sales. Again last year, we raised over \$10,000 which was applied to the school budget. If you have not had a chance to use the program, please consider it. Remember that the proceeds are shared with families in the form of tuition rebates each August.

We've added several new vendors to the list of available gift cards. Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Cold Stone Creamery and Chipotle are now available on a regular basis. Stop by the Manna table or the school office for an extensive list of other vendors that are available by special order.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup>. The sooner the forms are submitted the easier our job will be!! The state requires that students who are not in compliance by October 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. The classes will be held at the Oak Lawn Church of the Nazarene, 6343 W. 90<sup>th</sup> Place. Participants must be at least 12 years old and must register for the class before October 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. 95<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org)) has several sample letters and "fact sheets" that can provide you with additional information.

### District 123 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Consultation

District 123 will hold its annual information/consultation meeting at St. Germaine School on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in the Presentation Room. Interested parents are invited to attend this meeting. Please call the school office to register.

#### Looking Ahead. . .

- 9/18 District 123 "Special Services/Inclusion" Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Presentation Rm
- 9/19 Athletic Association Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Faculty Room
- 9/21 Half-Day Faculty Meeting, 11:30 a.m. student dismissal  
Family School Movie Night, "NannyMcPhee" in the Activity Center. Door open at 6:30 p.m.
- 9/22 Boys' Basketball Registration. Details to follow
- 9/28 Sweetheart Ball, 7:00-10:00 p.m. in the Activity Center
- 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