



Saint Joseph School, Fullerton
Monthly Newsletter *August/September, 2005*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*“And so, trusting in Your mercy,
I walk through life like a little child,
Offering You each day this heart
Burning with love for Your greater glory”
(St. Faustina’s Diary,2)*

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Each year as our children begin the new academic year, they are filled with emotions - excitement and apprehension. Like a journey without an itinerary, children walk through each school day as if it were a new adventure with experiences and surprises behind every door. They take on new responsibility and more independence than the previous year. Little by little they make the passage from total life with the family to emersion in a larger community. For children it is this transition that is more stressful than the anticipation of the difficulty of schoolwork.

We at St. Joseph School take the responsibility and privilege of leading the journey and traveling with your child seriously. We are committed to helping your child grow and learn in a secure environment in partnership with you, the parents. We encourage you to stay in contact with us so that we will know why your child is having a ‘good day’ or a ‘bad one’. Together we can fulfill our mission to develop each child academically, spiritually, and morally.

Children learn best when they feel secure and security also comes from routines. The beginning of the school year is an opportunity to set the routines that will make a big difference in your child’s life. A regular schedule – such as going to sleep, waking and studying at the same time each day- can make all these tasks easier. Hopefully, it can mean fewer power struggles with your child.

I wish you and your family every blessing as we begin this school year. Know that you can call, write or email me with your questions, concerns or just to say hello. I look forward to seeing you at Back to School Night on September 8th.

Peace,

Mrs. Phyllis Karko

READ MORE!!! READ MORE!!! READ MORE!!!

You have received my newsletter as hard copy this month. There is much more important information, news and updates on the website. Please go to www.stjoeschool.org to read the rest of this newsletter.

As in the past, because the entire copy is so long, you must go on line at www.stjoeschool.org to view the newsletter at the beginning of each month during the school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar of Events

- Thurs. Aug. 25 - New Student Orientation
Mon. Aug. 29 - School opens for grades 1-8 – Noon dismissal
Tues. Aug. 30 - Grades 1 to 8, noon dismissal
Kindergarten by appointment
Wed. Aug. 31 - Full day Gr. 1 to 8, HSA Innisbrook Sale begins
Kindergarten dismisses at 11:30
- Thurs. Sept. 1 - Opening Liturgy 8:15, All Welcome
Kindergarten dismisses at 11:30
Fri. Sept. 2 - School closed
Mon. Sept. 5 - School Closed Labor Day Holiday
Tues. Sept. 6 - Milk Begins, Hot Spot Sale begins,
Kindergarten dismisses at 12:45, Pre-K by appointment
Wed. Sept. 7 - Kindergarten dismisses at 12:45, Pre-K by appointment
Thurs. Sept. 8 - 8:15 Liturgy, K dismisses at 12:45, Pre-K by appointment
HSA General Meeting 6:45- Back to School Night
Fri. Sept. 9 - School Closed, Archdiocesan Professional Activities
Wed. Sept. 14 - Band Demo, 8:30 am, Grades 4 to 8, Parents Welcome
Thurs. Sept. 15 - 8:15 Liturgy, NJHS Induction, 2:00 in church
Sat. Sept. 17 - 600 Club Raffle Party
Tues. Sept. 20 - Race for Education Kick off Assembly 2:15
Wed. Sept. 21 - Innisbrook Sale ends.
Thurs. Sept. 22 - 8:15 Liturgy, Hot Spot Raffle ends
Fri. Sept. 23 - 8th Grade Mini Retreat (Gr. 8 only dismisses at 11:30)
Mon. Sept. 26 - Hot Spot Drawing – Parent Access Opens
Tues. Sept. 27 - STAND Training, Parish Center 7 pm
Wed. Sept. 28 - PowerSchool Parent Access Training 7pm in Parish Hall (or lab)
Thurs. Sept. 29 - 8:15 Liturgy
Fri. Sept. 30 - HSA Basket Bingo 7:00 in Parish Hall
Safety Patrol Spirit Day – Pep Rally

September Highlights

I would like to invite everyone who is available to attend **8:15 Mass** with the children on Thursdays throughout the school year. What a wonderful way to begin your day and what better way to show you are sharing and interested in your child's formation.

Our Home School Association gets an early start this year with their first **General Meeting on September 8**. Please note the earlier arrival time – 6:45. By beginning a little earlier, we hope to finish with general announcements and introductions earlier and then proceed to the classrooms for Back to School Night. Teachers in Grades Pre –K to 6 have prepared a summary of the procedures, content, and grading for their class. A schedule of times for these presentations will be announced at the meeting in hope that you will be able to listen to the teachers that most impact your child.

This year we have combined the **Meet the Teacher** and **The High School Process Night** for **parents of our 7th and 8th graders**. Parents will receive information about shadow day, the application process, testing and interviews. We will begin in the Parish Hall at 7:00 and then proceed to the Classroom for Back to school Night for 7th and 8th grade. Parents are still encouraged to attend the General HSA Meeting on September 8th.

Home School **Innisbrook Sale** begins on August 31st. This is the biggest fundraiser of our school year and we hope for 100% participation. The products are of excellent quality and the money raised goes directly to keep tuition affordable here at St. Joe's. (We are one of the most reasonably priced Catholic Schools thanks to the support of the HSA).

Do you hate that long wait on the Parking Lot at the end of the day? The HSA **Hot Spot Raffle** could be the answer to your prayers. You could win a spot at the front door that allows you to top beat the rush. Look for details on September 6th.

Mark your calendars for the annual **Home School Basket Bingo** on Friday, September 30th at 7:00PM. This is a great night out filled with friendship, food and fun. The Parish Center is filled with lucky bingo players all trying to win a Longaberger's Basket filled with goodies. Get your table together now.

Speaking of a fun night out, don't miss the **600 Club Raffle Party**. By purchasing a ticket for the raffle, two people will be admitted to the party on September 19th. Tickets are \$100 and can be shared between as many as five people. This is a wonderful way to support our school!

Here at St. Joseph School we are blessed to have so many volunteers who want to help in a wide variety of ways. Anyone who wants to work with school children in or out of the building must be trained and cleared in the **STAND** process. To begin the process, you must obtain paperwork from the office. All volunteers must also participate in the viewing of the STAND video. I will conduct a session here on Tuesday, September 27th

at 7:00 in the Parish Center. Anyone is welcome, so please call the office to pre-register so that we can plan for seating.

Parent Access opens on Monday, September 26th. Anyone who has lost his or her password must notify Miss Biggerman by emailing her at powerschool@stjoefullerton.org. You will not be charged the \$10.00 lost fee if you notify her by Friday September 30th.

PowerSchool allows parent to access their child's grades through Parent Access. On Wednesday, September 28th, at 7:00 PM, we will offer training to parents of 3rd to 8th graders who have not yet received a password. **Parent Access Training** will also be offered at 8:00 AM on October 12th and at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 2nd if you cannot attend the first training. *All Parents of students in grades 3-8 must be trained to keep up with their child's progress through PowerSchool, as no Interim Reports will be sent home on paper.* Grades K-2 will still receive Interim Reports on papers each trimester.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Staff

Language Arts – Grade 7 We are so happy to welcome **Mrs. Peggy Radziminski** to our Middle School staff. Mrs. Radziminski comes to us after having served as principal, assistant principal and Language Arts teacher at St. Anthony School. She holds a Master's degree in Reading.

Pre Kindergarten A warm welcome to **Mrs. Brenda Albright** as teacher in our new Pre Kindergarten. 'Miss Brenda' has experience as teacher and director of the Pre K program at St. Dominic School where she began the program for 3 and 4 year olds. Her Master's Degree is in elementary education and in Physical education.

Kindergarten Because kindergarten is full day, we have hired another teacher for our second class. **Mrs. Nancy Vogtman** also hails from St. Dominic School where she has taught Kindergarten for the last 6 years. She also has experience teaching 1st and 2nd grade. Her degree is in Early Childhood Education.

Instructional Assistant – Grade 1 **Mrs. Jill McWilliams** began working as substitute Instructional Assistant for Mrs. Berkheimer last spring. She joins us officially this year work with Mrs. Arczynski. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Towson University.

Instructional Assistant – Kindergarten **Mrs. Robin Isom** will be working with Mrs. Vogtman in Kindergarten. Mrs. Isom is perusing her degree in Early Childhood Education and holds her 90 Hours Certificate from Villa Julie College

School Consultant – Welcome to **Gail Vernick** out new School Counselor. Catholic Charities assigned Gail to St. Joe’s when Theresa Smith announced that she could not return because of personal reasons. Gail is warm, very personable, and has experience working in educational settings with a variety of children. She is fully credentialed.

Back Again

Development Coordinator **Mrs. Ellen Tacie** returns to our school family after retiring from the classroom to work on the Development team with Mrs. Primrose. Her skills as a writer and knowledge of our school will greatly assist her in the variety of tasks in her new position

Instructional Assistant – Pre Kindergarten Returning as Instructional Assistant this year, **Mrs. Donna Coster** will be working with Mrs. Albright in Pre Kindergarten. Her experience as an aide at St. Joe’s and her warm and caring interest in children will be an asset to our new program.

Building Improvements

By far the most striking change to our facility this summer was the transformation of the Supper Room to the Early Childhood Center. The entire area was painted and walls separating the new classroom were added. Shelving, carpeting, lighting, wiring, murals, decorations, and lots and lots of equipment converted the area into an incredible learning space for our 4 year olds in the **Pre Kindergarten**.

Along with this change, a portion of the Supper Room is now set aside for the two Kindergarten classes to rotate to **learning centers**. Another section of the room contains the lunch tables and chairs for our little people to use.

To **add another Kindergarten classroom**, we had to make more space in the lower level. To accomplish this, Mrs. Sklar and the **Art Room return to Room 15** on the second floor. Mrs. Watts moved her third grade class to that room (which had formerly been the kitchen). This freed up the area next to the Supper Room for the other Kindergarten class, which was carpeted, furnished and altered for very young children.

All these now areas were wired for Internet access and accessibility to the intercom and bell system. Rooms have been named and classrooms numbered. New procedures for fire and safety drills, entrance and exit, times for lunch and recess, and schedules for classes have been put in place as a result.

In addition to these very demanding special projects our summer maintenance crew steam cleaned the carpets, stripped and waxed the floors, made classroom repairs, addressed the

teachers' 'wish list' classroom modifications, extended internal wiring networks, transported furnishings obtained from other schools, and assisted in the set up the classrooms for the teachers. I can't thank Mr. John Berg and his staff enough for their dedicated efforts in getting these monumental tasks completed before the opening of school. Summer is never long enough to get all the work done but they worked unceasingly to finish the job.

Longer Math Periods & New Late Bell

In an effort to conform to the National Standards in Mathematics, we have attempted to increase our Math learning time. To do this required some very creative scheduling. One of the modifications made in order to add learning time was to start first period earlier. Therefore, the late bell will ring at 8:00 this year. Homeroom periods will be a little shorter, but primarily the time spent sitting in the Gym in the morning has decreased. We hope the added time in Math class will prove beneficial. *Please note that the doors open at 7:40 AM. There is no supervision for students arriving prior to that time, so please refrain from dropping students off early.*

New Religion Series

Students in Grade K to 8 will be using new Religion Books this year. Sadlier Publishing Company has been praised by many of our schools for its accuracy, as well as for its child friendly and culturally diverse approach to the Catholic Faith.

From Our School Nurse

Parents are reminded that they must call into school to report the reason their child will be out that day. The nurse is available for phone calls between 7:40 and 9:00. A note from the parents or the doctor is still required when the child returns to school.

New students are reminded that they must have immunization records and physical and dental forms completed. Please list the school previously attended (Including previous pre-school or daycare.)

ONGRATULATIONS

We are so happy to announce the birth of Brendan Christopher Brooks on July 20th, 2005. Weighing in at 10 lbs. .4 oz., Brendan is the fifth child of Mary Kay Brooks, our school secretary and STAND Coordinator. She and her husband Rick, who serves on our Technology Committee, are doing a great job juggling a new baby with the very active schedules of the other four children. Congratulations to all!

BITS AND PIECES

If your child is getting or might need any services allowed under the *IDEA Improvement Act of 2004* you are reminded to call *Childfind* at (410) 887-3017. Services that you had last year might be changing in the way they are delivered.

Error – Oops!!! Please note that a line is missing from page 5 of the Student/Parent Handbook under THE SCHOOL DAY. Please add to the first sentence after 7:40 AM and dismisses at 2:50. Also note that on page 7 & 8, our Kindergarten students will be wearing the same uniform as grades 1 to 5. Finally, the School Year Calendar indicates K and PreK begin regular classes on September 10th – the correct date should be September 12th.

THANKS TO...

Special thanks to **John Berg, Bill K, Brian P. and Rob**, our summer work crew for their hard work in getting the building ready. On behalf of the faculty and staff I want to publicly commend you for completing the “Pre Kindergarten Project” on time for our children. Thanks also to our Pre Kindergarten Teacher, **Mrs. Brenda Albright** for working with the staff to put the finishing touches on the room. The entire project is spectacular!