



St. Joseph School, Fullerton

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Monthly Newsletter

February, 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

*Train up a child in the way he should go, and
When he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I recently read that Louis Armstrong, the well know virtuoso trumpet player, had a rather painful early childhood. He was abandoned by his father as an infant and sent to reform school by the time he was 12. Fortunately, a music professor routinely visited the school and provided musical training for the boys. Little Louis excelled and became the leader of the band. The rest is history.

While we have all heard stories like this one, I personally have a tale to tell. My father-in-law, Louis V. Karko, passed away a year ago with a song on his heart. He too, was abandoned by his father and, as a young child, was placed in St. Vincent's Home for boys. There the nuns trained the boys to play in a band: Louie learned to play the harmonica! He proved to be gifted playing any tune with harmony and backbeat. The CD that he recorded at age 83 was testament to the lasting power of his training and continued practice.

It is important for parents and teachers to understand their role in developing the talents and habits of the mind in their children. Research has proven that children function most effectively as adults when they have had guided exposure to a large variety of experiences. Parents should encourage skills and good habits by allowing time for practice through established routines.

It is equally, if not more important, to train your children in faith behaviors. Pray for them and with them. Encourage them to talk with God. Read and teach them the Bible. Lead them to faith by telling them about Jesus. Show them how to be of service to others by demonstrating your service to others. Set a good example by living your faith in front of them.

We believe that all children have unique gifts and talents. By allowing your child to explore his potential, encouraging perseverance, and demonstrating that God is primary in their lives, they will make a positive mark on our world.

Peace,

Mrs. Phyllis Karko

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

1	Teacher Appreciation Day – Performance by US Army Field Band
2	Visiting Day – Open House Hospitality begins at 7:50 in Parish Center
3	CSW Liturgy 8:15 – Blessing of Throats - All Welcome, Catholic Challenge 1:00 in Parish Center
4	Students Appreciation Day Activities, Noon Dismissal followed by HASA Bowling at Perry Hall Lanes beginning at 12:30
10	Registration for new siblings 8:00 to 11:00 PC Lower Level
11	HASA Family Movie Night in Parish Center (evening)
14	Jump Rope for Heart Begins and continues until Feb. 25 th .
15	Market Day delivery
16	Lenten Seafood #1 order forms sent home
21	School Closed – President’s Day Holiday
22	School Closed for Students – AOB Administrators & Faculty Professional Day
23	In School Field Trip – Franklin Institute – Grades K -2 and 3-5
24	New Student Registration (K & Pre-K) 8:30 to 11:30 PC Lower Level

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Catholic Schools Week

Sunday, January 30st marked the official beginning of Catholic School Week. We began with our annual **Open House** on that day from 1:15 to 2:45. Guests toured our school, met with teachers and other parents, listened to our award winning band and attended the Book Fair. Pre-registration applications were accepted for the 2011-2012 school year.

We show appreciation for our nation and the world community when the 6th Graders present **Biography Day**. This event was postponed from Monday January 31st because the weather prevented the children from practicing. However, we were honored by a visit from **State Senator Kathy Klausmeier and Delegate Joe Boteler** who toured our school, visited a few classes and watched the 6th graders rehearse. We thank them for their support of Catholic Schools.

On **Tuesday, February 1st**, we honor our teachers and staff as part of **Teacher Appreciation Day**. Each hour several teachers and staff members will be announced as the ‘Teacher of the Hour’ and presented with gifts. The US Army Field Band will present a concert in the afternoon. Other surprises are also in store.

On **Wednesday, February 2nd**, we again open our doors for parents and visitors to enjoy **Visiting Day**. After morning hospitality in the Parish Center beginning at 7:50, guests are welcome to sit in on classes as follows:

Grades 1 to 8	8:30 – 11:30 and	1:00 – 2:30
Kindergarten	8:30 – 10:30 and	1:30 – 2:30
Pre- K	8:15 – 9:30 and	12:15 – 1:30

On **Thursday February 3rd**, we will celebrate our Catholic School Weeks Special **Liturgy** at 8:15 which includes the Blessing of Throats and compete in the **Catholic Challenge** at 1:00 in the Parish Center.

Then on **Friday, February 4th**, we all get to enjoy **Student Appreciation Day**. Students will participate in a variety of classroom and grade level activities, sometimes with their grade partner ‘Buddies’. Following noon dismissal, all are encouraged to attend HASA Bowling at Perry Hall Lanes from 1:00 to 3:00.

Wrapped around all the festivities, several of our families have volunteered to represent the school at Mass during the weekend of January 29-30 and February 5-6. As a family, they will be taking up the offertory gifts.

HASA Family Movie Night

Please get your tickets for an evening of family fun as the Home and School Association sponsor our annual Family Movie Night on **Friday, February 11th**. Prepare to get comfortable with your loved ones as you pretend you are outdoors under the stars.

Presidents’ Day Holiday and Extended Weekend

School is closed on **Monday, February 21st** for the Presidents’ Day Holiday. School is also **closed on Tuesday, February 22nd** as required by the Division of Schools so that all administrators can attend a very important seminar. Teachers have Professional activities planned for that day. Enjoy the four day weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Sympathy

On behalf of the faculty and family of Kathy Van Stone, we would like to express our appreciation for the heartfelt outpouring of support offered to us. As parents you did a remarkable job in breaking the news to your children. It was evident when they returned from Christmas break that, while they were sad that Mrs. Van Stone had passed away, they continued to pray and to be the good students that she wanted them to be. The faculty continues to gather

donation of gift cards and cash for Mrs. Van Stone's children. We welcome your donations and will pass them along to Katie and Jack.

Alert Now

As you know, you can find out about a change in our schedule by listening to WBAL Radio, WBAL TV, or listening to the recording on our phone. This winter, however, nothing has been foolproof. WBAL Radio sometimes is difficult to reach (phones are busy and 'looped'), our school phone system did not accept the message change before our regular phone hours and, on Tuesday of last week, Alert Now could not handle the volume and failed. As a result, I ask that you continue to check all the media regularly to see what the day will bring. Technology is great (actually it is killing me at 5:30 in the morning) but it is not without its glitches.

Jump Rope for Heart

For the last 12 years or so, our children show their support of the American Heart Association by participating in the Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser. Our PE Teacher, Mrs. Goldbeck, coordinates the event as children gather sponsors who encourage them as they jump away. This fundraiser took on new importance a few years ago when one of our graduates, then a 5th grader received a new heart after a year of waiting.

Jump Rope for Heart for grades 1 thru 8 starts on February 14th and continues until February 25th. The donation envelope, with permission slips attached, has been sent home with all students. Again, you may donate on- line. Thank you for your support.

Book Fair

Our annual scholastic Book Fair will take place during Catholic School Week. All classes will have the opportunity to purchase books during their regular Library period. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to help and to those parents who shopped during our Open House on Sunday, January 30th.

Grandparents' Day

I just want to give a heads up that the date for Grandparents Day has been changed. Grandparents' Day will be held on Thursday, March 31st instead of March 10th as indicated on the School Calendar. The change is required because the Parish Center will not be ready following the Chicken Dinner the previous weekend. Please let the grandparents know and we apologize for any inconvenience.

CLASS NEWS

Grade 8

Many 8th grade students participated in the Anthology of Poetry Contest. The students were asked to write a poem using any poetic form. We are proud to announce the following students who were selected to have their poem published:

Noelle Acaso	Erin Cadden	Timothy Coffman
Khrystelle Estrella	David Fultz	Lauren Jenkins
Olivia Kaiss	Matthew Linz	Nicholas Maggio
Christian Mananghaya	Emily Meyerl	Ezinwa Nwakama
Mark Padilla	Megan Posko	Steve Richards
Allison Sevidal	Kevin Soellner	Monica Stenski
Jamie Teramani	Jenna Thomas	Casey Turner
William Villamayor	Victoria Wolford	

CONGRATULATIONS

Champions of Courage

Again this year the 8th grade participated in the Champions of Courage Black History Month Essay Competition. This competition salutes community heroes who inspire youth to be the best they can be. We are proud to announce William Villamayor as a finalist in this competition. William was invited to FOX 45 Studios for a taping session of his winning essay saluting Melinda Gates. William will also attend an Awards Luncheon on January 29th at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore. Congratulations William!

THANKS TO...

Our Families

To mark Catholic Schools Week, the following families will be bringing up the Offertory Gifts at the indicated masses at St Joseph's Church:

Saturday January 29, 2011

4:30pm The DeVera Family

Saturday Feb. 5, 2011

4:30pm The Ong Chiu Family

Sunday January 30, 2011

7:00am The Karko Family

8:30 am The Long Family

10:30am The Beck Family

12:30pm The Santos Family

Sunday February 6, 2011

7:00 am The Coffman Family

8:30 am The Kemper Family

10:30 am The Garcia Family

12:30 pm The Mbagwu Family

We thank them for representing our school and for their support of Catholic education.

TO EVERYONE

As always we are deeply appreciative to everyone who helped to collect Boxtops for Education. Thanks to your time and patience we collected a total of 18,929 in points. This translates into more than \$1,892.90! Our individual winner who brought in 1,058 points was Dylan Coster (6). Our class winner crown has been passed to Mrs Arczynski and 1B who brought in 2,277 in points. Congratulations to our winners and a big thanks to all.

BITS AND PIECES

Parking Lot

Please, please do not exit the parking lot by heading south behind the church and school. This is absolutely the wrong way to leave our campus during arrival, dismissal and school hours. We have seen families leaving this way in an attempt to avoid waiting at the light. It is very unsafe and simply not allowed. Please help us to enforce this rule by asking the violator to turn around. (They can do this by heading up the lower cemetery road, driving all around the cemetery and exiting behind the chapel toward the front— where they should have exited in the first place.)

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Please continue to look for the latest from the HASA via Constant Contact. If you do not receive this weekly update, please call the school office.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

Mix It Up Day is a program that was initiated in 2002 by Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. It is held on a designated day each year at lunch time. Students are asked to sit with a person(s) they do not normally have lunch with in their school cafeteria.

We piloted this program in our eighth grade over the past two years and made adaptations to best meet the needs of our school and insure a positive, successful experience for our students.

Students were assigned a lunch partner by their teacher in advance and were given an ice breaker activity to help alleviate the awkwardness that can occur when you are getting to know someone. The teachers and I were pleased to see students smiling and chatting away with their partners. The follow up questionnaires were overwhelmingly positive as they had been last year and students felt this should continue for eighth graders next year. Our hope is to expand to include more grades over time.

In conjunction with this activity, students were assigned different partners and were asked to do something to help “Make Their Day” every day for one week. Students generated ideas of ways they could do this for their partner such as: say hi to them, help them out, give them a compliment, include them at lunch/recess, show an interest in them etc. Seventh graders also participated in this activity which is derived from the “Fish” program, introduced to students by Mrs. Radziminski.

We are always looking for avenues to promote inclusion and help students stretch and expand their social circles. Follow up discussions/ activities in class can build on these experiences and deepen students understanding and appreciation of differences in others.

I welcome any feedback, questions, suggestions and ideas you may have on this or any other topic. As you know, I can be reached by either phone or e-mail. If you prefer to call, you can now leave me a voicemail at x137.

Stay warm and enjoy the snow!

Gail Vernick, LCSW-C