

February 4, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A blessed week it has been. We received grace from the blessing of St. Blaise. We participated in the blessing of candles at Mass. The ground hog promised *only* six more weeks of winter. And we aren't shivering in sub-zero temperatures. What a way to start off the month of February.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: What a wonder-full week we had! Beginning with Mass on Sunday and ending with our family dance Friday evening, there was much to do and much to celebrate. I want to thank all the families who made time to join us. I'd like to thank the Parent Association for their organizational help and financial support. To our "Grandmas" whom we honored this year, Billie Bauer, Evelyn Berglund, Carol Noble, and Marian Qvern, I offer great thanks for their devotion to our students. The school staff, too, deserve thanks for their creativity and willingness to have it all happen. Lastly, I'd like to thank our students for their participation and cooperation during the entire week. Parents, I am so proud of all your children as they supported, cheered, and encouraged one another throughout the various events. Thank you all!

PARENT MEETING: About a hundred families were represented at our annual Parent Meeting on Monday, January 25. After reporting on the success of this year's fund raising events, Fr. Vincent discussed the increase in tuition and the continued need for family involvement in fund raising. Next, Officer Jon Hunt, our DARE officer and ISD #31 police liaison, gave an informative presentation on social networking. Before concluding, I spoke of the importance of getting children to school on time and picking them up promptly and of notifying us of changes in addresses or phone number. As people left, they were able to pick up registration packets. Knowing that not everyone is able to get off of work in the afternoon, I wish to thank all the families who were able to attend for their presence.

REGISTRATION: We opened registration for the 2010-2011 school year during Catholic Schools Week. School families are encouraged to sign their children up by Wednesday, February 10. On this day, parishioners may begin registering. Community registration opens on February 18. At the close of our registration period, February 28, the administration will look at numbers and begin deliberation on class configurations. After March 1, students are accepted on a "first come, first served" basis providing there is space in the class. The registration fee for returning families also increases to \$50 beginning March 1st. Please return your family's registration as soon as possible. Applications for Tuition Support are also due by the end of February. P.S. THERE WAS AN ERROR ON OUR FAMILY REGISTRATION FORM. FAMILIES ARE REQUIRED TO FULFILL 30 (not 40) SERVICE HOURS at the lowest tuition rate.

HEALTH NOTES: Recently we have had a rash of stomach aches as well as quite a few confirmed cases of strep reported to us. Three cases of lice have also been reported, although head checks of students in the specific classes found no traces of the little critters. Just be aware of what's out there.

THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15. It's Presidents' Day! Sleep in.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...our Honor Roll students – ninety fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who earned above a 3.0 grade point average for the second grading period....team 3, "The Threes" (Guy Clay, Greg Spaeth, Ethan Youso, Bruno Cheney, Emily Serratore, Riley Berg, Blake Bergerson, and Chelsey Gilbertson), who won the Knowledge Bowl last week.....the fifteen students who remain in our Spelling Bee. The final competition is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, at 10:45 in the church.....Wanda Baumgartner the first winner of the 52 Club Raffle!

BHS REGISTRATION: Our 8th graders will complete their registration for the high school tomorrow. They are about ready to move on.

ITBS: Next week we will be administering the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills to students in grades 3, 5, 7, and 8. We ask our students to put forth their best effort on this standardized test. Parents, please support your children by following their regular routine: a good night's sleep, fresh air, exercise, and nutritious food. Thanks so much.

LENT: In less than two weeks we will have entered the liturgical season of Lent, the solemn, reflective time of preparing ourselves for Easter. Next Wednesday, February 10, our students will assist Fr. Vincent with burning palm branches. If you have any palm branches at home, please send them with your child on this day. Please join us for our Ash Wednesday Mass, Wednesday, February 17, at 8:40 A.M. We will be offering the Stations of the Cross on Fridays (when school is in session). Watch for more information regarding special Lenten opportunities.

CAA FISH FRYS: Each and every Friday in Lent, Catholic Aid prepares a delicious fish supper open to all. Many helpers are needed to make the Fish Frys flow easily. Watch for the sign-up sheet, so that you can get involved. If you need Service Hours, this event is for you.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS: New month-time to replenish the food accounts. I appreciate all the effort made to keep accounts current. If your economic situation has changed, remember that applications to the Federal Meals Program may occur at any time. The benefits are worth the time it takes to apply.

CONFERENCES: Thursday, February 25th is the date of the next Parent-Teacher Conference day. The sign up form for times will be sent home next week.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: Time to renew your diocesan certification. Pick up hard copies of the forms and training materials in the school, parish, or RF offices, or go to the Safe Environment section at www.crookston.org.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS: 6TH grade Family Night at Bemidji Middle School-this Friday, February 5, from 5:30 to 8:00.....Logging Days-this weekend.....Positive Motion Workshop for children 8 years old and older-Friday, February 19, from 6:30 to 8:00 at First City Dance Studio. Cost is \$8 per person...

MEETINGS: School Council, Tuesday, February 9, at 6:30.....Parent Association, Thursday, February 18, at 3:30Safety Concerns Committee, Thursday, February 18, at 6:30.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Fish Frys; committee members; lunch room helpers;

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS.....the people of Haiti.....those who are ill, injured, or recovering....those who will begin their preparation for 1st Eucharist this weekend.....the unemployed and underemployed....those who have died, including Fr. Dan Noah.

“Everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”
Matthew 7:8

Very truly,

Carol Rettinger
Principal