

St. Monica School
The Principal's Weekly Newsletter, 2011 - 2012
#24 – Wednesday, February 15th 2012

Message from Our Pastor:

As this is Fr. Greene's final year as the pastor of St. Monica, the Archdiocese of San Francisco is preparing to provide a new pastor. Fr. Greene has asked me to announce that all school personnel and families are invited to attend a "Consultation for a New Pastor" meeting hosted by Auxiliary Bishop William Justice. This meeting will take place Thursday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Small Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Let's greet Bishop Justice with the vibrancy of the St. Monica School community!

School News:

Re-registration for school year 2012-2013

Forms inviting re-registration for the school year 2012-2013 are again distributed in today's Family Envelope. Forms were also distributed on Feb. 2nd. As we are beginning to shape our school enrollment for next school year, I ask that all forms and payments be presented to the School Office by Friday, March 2nd. For questions or replacement forms, don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd

Next Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent. For Catholics, the season of Lent is a time to practice personal reflection to prepare for the joy of the Easter season. It is also a traditional time of prayer, sacrificing, fasting, and almsgiving. Many of us "give up" items during the Lenten period as a reminder of sacrifice, but another option is to add something new and positive to our daily routines. The teachers and I propose a general theme of acting upon "Good Deeds and Service" for our students during Lent 2012. All families are welcome to attend our Ash Wednesday Mass, next Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

Safe Environment Curriculum – Presented from mid February through end of March.

The Archbishop of San Francisco has mandated that all Catholic Schools present the chosen Safe Environment Curriculum to our students with the purpose of educating and preparing our students for healthy self-esteem and self-protection. Last week, parents of the Kindergarten – 3rd grade were invited to attend a video introduction to the "Talking About Touching" program, which is administered to our students of grades K-3. If you were not able to attend the screening, a DVD copy of the video, "What Should I Say Now" is available for "check out" from the school office. Please contact Mrs. Dillon if you are interested. Reminder: the video is for parents only. Our students of grades 4-8 participate in the SF Archdiocese Safe Environment Curriculum by participating in online courses presented by "Shield the vulnerable." Their classroom teachers to complete their respective programs guide all students.

Outline of the curriculum programs:

Child Safety: "Talking About Touching" classroom instruction program.

- o Grades Kinder – 3rd grade

Kid Safety: Online courses - www.shieldthevulnerable.org

- o Gr. 4: Safety Smarts for Kids
- o Grade 5: Block the Bully
- o Grade 6: Be Safe, Stay Safe
- o Grades 7 & 8: Bullying, Not Cool

Thank You, Thank You...

A very special thanks to our Chairperson of the Annual Chinese New year Celebration, Any Leung, for a marvelous effort. The dinner and entertainment were superb! Another special thanks to Amy for arranging the Shan Yee Poon Ballet performance this year as a new feature of our program. Thank you also to all of the parents who volunteered to assist in the production of the event. The director of the Shan Yee Poon Ballet School was pleased to be invited to join our event. She would like to offer a 50% discount for enrollment in their spring 2012 classes to St. Monica School students. For info about her program, go to: <http://poonballet.com>, 415-387-2695.

Annual Sport-O-Rama

Our popular Basketball Fun-Day, Sport-O-Rama, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25th. In addition to all of the basketball games, there are also fun contests. Snacks and BBQ lunch items are available all day in the Small Hall. Leading up to the big day, we will conduct St. Monica Spirit Week next week. The purpose of spirit week is to promote school spirit as well as to promote participation in sport activities and fitness. Our Student Council will publish a flier this Friday outlining all of the activities and “special dress days.” Please see the flier included in today’s envelope advertising the event.

Upcoming Events & Reminders:

- Feb. 15th: School Finance Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.
- Feb. 16th: 3rd, 4th, & 7th grade Field Trip to the SF Zoo.
- Feb. 16th: mandatory parent meeting for 2nd grade students receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, 7:00 p.m. in the School Library.
- Feb. 17th: Progress Reports distributed to all students.
- Feb. 20th: School Holiday: Observance of Presidents’ Day.
- Feb. 21st: School Tour for prospective parents, 9:00 a.m.
- Feb. 21st: 2nd & 3rd Grade Field Trip to the Aquarium of the Bay
- Feb. 22nd: Ash Wednesday Mass presented by the 3rd grade, 11:00 a.m. in St. Monica Church

Events on the Horizon:

- Feb. 25th: Kindergarten Readiness Assessments, scheduled by appointment
- Feb. 25th: Sport-O-Rama Basketball fun day (please see the flier included in today’s envelope)
- Mar. 10th: Annual Auction Dinner, 6:00 p.m. in St. Monica Church Hall

Tuition Assistance Opportunities for School Year 2012-2013

(An on-going reminder...)

I would like to encourage families to pursue Tuition Assistance - if applicable for your family’s financial situation. As we require families to first apply to outside sources prior to applying for St. Monica Parish & School tuition Assistance, don’t delay to make your financial plans for next year - the external source deadlines are set for April 15th. I invite all families to contact the school office for assistance in making applications. We offer three forms of tuition Assistance at St. Monica School:

1. The BASIC Fund

The BASIC Fund is an excellent source of tuition assistance. **New applications are only applicable to students entering St. Monica School for the first time.** For renewing families, the renewal form will be sent to St. Monica School and we will then forward them to you for your completion. Please go to: www.basicfund.org for complete info. The priority deadline for completing BASIC Fund applications is April 15th 2012.

2. SF Archdiocese Family Tuition Grants – “TADS”

The Archdiocese has chosen a new company this year, “TADS,” to process all applications for the Archdiocesan Family Grant tuition assistance program. In the past, parents filled out a paper application and then mailed it to the PSAS Company for processing. This year, all families will now fill out applications on-line with “TADS.” To apply for an Archdiocesan Family Grant, parents should go to the TADS website, www.tads.com. Once on their homepage click the link “Apply for Financial Aid” on the right side of the page, which is under the “Parents & Families” heading. Once you have completed the on-line form and submit all required information your application will be processed. The deadline for completing the application for elementary school assistance is April 15th 2012. This format is new to us this year - if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

3. St. Monica Parish and School Tuition Assistance

Applications for St. Monica parish & School Tuition Assistance will be available at the end of April. Please note: Fr. Greene requires that all families applying for St. Monica Tuition Assistance first apply for and the SF Archdiocese Family Grant Program (TADS). If applicable, families are also required to apply to and/or renew with the BASIC Fund.



**BOX TOPS CONTEST – WINNERS GET
FREE DRESS and COOKIES!!**

CONTEST RUNS FROM Feb 16th thru Feb 24th

Kinder thru 3rd Grades

vs.

4th thru 7th Grades

Here is your chance to raise funds for your school in 2012.

**Box Tops can be found on several items; just check the
products you purchase for the BOX TOP label.**

SO START SUBMITTING BOX TOPS NOW!!

Info: Sylvia/John Arguello, 415-686-9208, e-mail sjaarguello@sbcglobal.net



St. Monica Parish Elementary School
 Parents' Association Sports Committee
Celebrating 56 Years!

Annual Sport-O-Rama
 at St. Monica School Gym
 Saturday, February 25, 2012, starting at 9:00 a.m.
 (Mark your Calendar!)

1956 THE TRADITION CONTINUES! 2012

On Saturday, February 25, 2012, St. Monica School will continue its decades-long tradition of basketball competition with neighboring schools in the annual:

Sport-O-Rama Tournament.

Boys and girls from 3rd through 8th grade will compete as a team and as individuals for special awards in this all-day event to support the St. Monica School Sports Program. *This is a fund-raising event for St. Monica School Sports.*

In addition to basketball competition, a full (hot and cold food) Snack Bar will be available through 3:00 p.m. in Foudy Hall, in the Church Basement.

Volunteer hours are available for assistance at the Tournament. If you are interested in helping at this event and want to fulfill your parent hours, please contact Ben Jayme at 650-991-1019 (e-mail: bkjjayme@earthlink.net)

Please note that this is a fundraising event but *only donations are requested*. Suggested donation (ticket) amounts are listed below.

Advance ticket *donations* will be accepted by completing the form below and returning the form, with your payment, to the School Office.

For Advance Ticket Donation, please make checks payable to: **St. Monica School**
Recommended Donation Is:

Number of Adult Tickets: _____ @ \$2.00 = \$ _____
 Number of Child Tickets: _____ @ \$1.00 = \$ _____
 Number of Family Tickets: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____
 Other Donation to St. Monica Sports Program: \$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____
 Oldest Child's Name: _____ Child's Grade: _____

Parents Name: _____ Phone # _____

ST. MONICA SCHOOL

Where Students Are Loved and Challenged

5950 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94121
415-751-9564
Fax: 415-751-0781
www.stmonicasf.org

Student Re-registration for School Year 2012 - 2013

Due: Completed form and a \$400.00 fee (per student) and \$50 Parent Club Fee (per family). All fees are non-refundable.

Due Date: By Friday, March 2nd 2012

(Please send in earlier, if possible)

___ **Yes, my child/children will return to St. Monica in Fall 2012!**

My child _____ Gr. _____ \$400 X 1= _____

My child _____ Gr. _____ \$400 X 1= _____

My child _____ Gr. _____ \$400 X 1= _____

Total amount enclosed=\$400 X ___ =\$ _____ +\$50 Parent Club Fee=Total\$ _____

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___ My child/children will not return to St. Monica for the 2012-2012 School Year.

Reason: _____

We ask that your family participate in a school exit interview and/or survey.

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BILLING INFORMATION

For billing purposes, please complete for person responsible for tuition payments.

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Ms. ___ _____
First Name Last Name

Home address _____
Street City Zip Home Phone

Occupation Employed by (Name of Company) Work Phone

Relationship to student _____.

Parent's signature _____ Date _____

Note: Registration forms and fees for next school year cannot be accepted until all financial responsibilities are met for the current school year.

JOIN US
FOR THE....

**Featuring
Live Music By
The Gerry Grosz
Jazz Kitchen**

**Door Prize!!!
Chance to Win an
Apple iPad!**



ST. MONICA SCHOOL

Annual Fundraiser Auction Dinner

Saturday, March 10, 2012

6:00 pm

**St. Monica Church Hall
5950 Geary Boulevard**

\$50 per Person

Ticket Information

www.stmonicasf.org