

St. Monica School
The Principal's Weekly Newsletter, 2011 - 2012
#22 – Thursday, February 2nd 2012

School News:

Re-registration for school year 2012-2013

A form inviting re-registration for the school year 2012-2013 is distributed in today's Family Envelope. Form and payment are due back to the School Office by Friday, March 2nd.

Sisters of St. Joseph 100th Anniversary Mass

Yesterday, our 4th – 7th graders attended a special Mass at Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. The celebrant was the Archbishop of San Francisco, George Niederauer, and the celebration was to commemorate the 100th year Jubilee of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. St. Monica School is one of the local Catholic Elementary Schools who participate in the Congregation of St. Joseph (CSJ) Educational Network. The Mass was beautiful and the field trip very worthwhile. Thank you to our chaperones!

“Stomach Flu” Outbreaks at local Schools – Let's Keep Clean & Healthy Hygiene

The Public Health Department has advised that the current strain hitting some schools is viral gastroenteritis. Viral gastroenteritis is an infection caused by a variety of viruses that results in vomiting and diarrhea. This virus comes on quickly, but generally does not last very long. It is often called the “stomach flu,” although the influenza virus does not cause it. Students who are sick must remain home for at least **72 hours** once symptoms have passed. So far, we are fortunate that our student population is healthy, so let's keep it that way. Our students and teachers have been instructed to take precautions by keeping germs away. The most important thing to do is to reduce the chances of passing the virus on to others. In order to accomplish this, please encourage all family members to practice good hygiene: hand washing, using disinfectant to clean common areas, using a bleach solution on contaminated surfaces, and prompt washing of soiled articles. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Tuition Assistance Opportunities for School Year 2012-2013

We offer three forms of tuition Assistance at St. Monica School:

The BASIC Fund

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

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. 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 filling out the on-line form, submit it on line and your application will be processed. The deadline for completing the application for elementary school assistance is April 15th 2012. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

St. Monica Parish and School Tuition Assistance

Applications for St. Monica parish & School Tuition Assistance will be available later this year. Fr. Greene requires that all families applying for St. Monica Tuition Assistance first apply for both the BASIC Fund (if applicable) and the SF Archdiocese Family Grant.

Parent Club News:

Annual Auction Dinner: “Bleu Bayou” Saturday, March 10th 2012

Please note the invitations for the Annual Auction Dinner included in your Family Envelope today. If you are able, please send in your R.S.V.P's early, as this is a tremendous help to

“Early Bird” Raffle Tickets Drawing, Feb. 2nd

Congratulations to the Chan Family, Madison in 2nd grade and Chloe in 4th grade, for winning the drawing for the “Early Birds” who had sent in stubs of raffle tickets sold by Feb. 1st 2012. The energy for the raffle continues now until March 10th! Many thanks to all who have participated so far – all of your tickets will still be included in the big raffle as well as all those collected up until the evening of March 10th.

Parent Service Hours Mid-Year Check-In Letters (follow up message...)

Many apologies are in order for the large volume of error in regard to the letters reporting current service hours recorded. Some of the lists submitted by the chairpersons were not centralized properly, leading to many inaccurate counts. I ask that parents do not email Stephanie Yee, co-chair of the School Support committee, until the entire data recording is sorted out. The various event and activity chairs have submitted their records and we are now working to align all data turned in. When corrections are complete, notifications will be made. I offer my appreciation for your patience in regard to this matter. Thank you.

Parent Club meeting, Thurs. Feb. 9th – General Meeting & “Talking About Touching” Video Night

In addition to the regular business conducted at the next Parent Club General meeting, I would like to invite families of Kindergarten – 3rd grade to attend a screening of the video introducing the Child Safety Curriculum of grades K-3. The video presentation introduces the “Talking About Touching” program that is administered by our teachers in the Kinder – 3rd grade. This program is a child safety program mandated by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. As this video introduction night is an annual event, parents need not attend if they have seen the video before in prior years. Parent of students in grades 4-8 also need not attend as the students of grades 4-8 participate in an online training course for the Safe Environment Curriculum. This night is not for children – please arrange childcare in advance. Please note the flier included in today's envelope.

Upcoming Events & Reminders:

- Feb. 3rd: Student Holiday for the SF Archdiocese Faculty Professional Development Day at Serra High School.
- Feb. 6th: Student Holiday: the member schools of the Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJ) Educational Network attend a faculty ministerial formation workshop at St. Monica.
- Feb. 7th: School Tour for prospective parents.
- Feb. 8th: Kindergarten & 1st grade “Zoomobile” visit.
- Feb. 9th: Parent Club General meeting (7:00 p.m. and Safe Environment Curriculum “Talking About Touching” Video Presentation (8:00 p.m.)
- Feb. 10th: Parent Club Sports Committee Hot Dog Lunch
- Feb. 11th: Feb. 11th: Chinese New Year Celebration, 6:15 p.m. in St. Monica Church Hall
- Feb. 12th: Our Student Choir sings at the 10:30 a.m. Parish Mass followed by Friendship Sunday.

Events on the Horizon:

- Feb. 25th: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment appointments
- Feb. 25th: Sport—Rama Basketball fun day
- Mar. 10th: Annual Auction Dinner, 6:00 p.m. in St. Monica Church Hall