



# ST. MONICA SCHOOL

*Where Students Are Loved and Challenged*

## *The Principal's Weekly Newsletter*



*Go Bulldogs!*

2008 - 2009, Number 17  
Mr. Vincent Sweeters, Principal

Wednesday, December 17th  
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### *The Season of Advent Culminates*

I continue to be so very proud of all of our students for displaying such respectful attention to our "Jessie Tree" Advent readings presented during Morning Assembly. I know that we have accomplished our goal of patiently listening to and waiting for the joyful message of Christmas to unfold. We complete our reading cycle and reflection upon the Jesse Tree symbols this Friday, Dec. 19th, but the actual Advent season culminates on Christmas Day. All families are welcome to participate with us for the final Student Body event of 2008 - our advent Prayer service. At our prayer service, one of the great symbols of the Advent Season, the Advent Wreath, will be celebrated by our pastor, Fr. Greene, and members of our Student Council. The event will be from 11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in St. Monica Church. I would also like to give an invitation to all of our community to attend the Christmas Eve Children's Mass, Dec. 24th, 5:00 p.m.

### **Birth Announcement!**

Please join me in welcoming Joaquin Sebastian Ovalle into our community. Joaquin was born at 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 15th, weighing in at 8 lbs. 7 ozs., at a length of 21 inches. Mom, Dad, big brother Diego (Kinder), and baby Joaquin are all doing well at home.

### *Thank You...Thank You...*

My thanks to Vangie McCarthy and family for hosting our Friendship Sunday events. This bi-monthly event occurs whenever our Student Choir sings at the St. Monica Parish 10:30 a.m. Mass and is one of the where the members of the school community and the parish community can socialize. The next Friendship Sunday's in 2009 will be on Jan. 11th and Jan. 25th.

### *Volunteers Needed...Mark Your Calendars...*

#### **Chinese New Year, Jan. 31st 2009**

The annual Chinese New Year Celebration (Year of the Ox) will be celebrated on Saturday, January 31st. This year, as in the past few years, there will be many short performances after dinner, including acts presented by students in the After School Chinese Language Program. Volunteers are needed to set up/decorate the hall, clean up after the event, serve food, pick up food,

cashier, and purchase supplies. Please note the two fliers for the event included in today's envelope.

### *School Community Events...*

#### **Fire Department Christmas Toy Drive**

The annual toy drive sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department continues at St. Monica School until tomorrow, Dec. 18th. Representatives from the fire department have already come several times to collect items. Our collection barrel is in the hallway outside the office. My thanks to all those who are able to give to children in need in our local community this Christmas.

#### **Annual Superbowl Pool**

The grid is up in the school office! Please note the fliers for our annual superbowl pool and get your squares when you can. First come, first served on choices.

#### **"Emerald Ball" Auction Dinner - March 14th 2009**

Launched last Wednesday, Dec. 10th, was a set of fliers announcing our annual auction dinner, which is set for Saturday, March 14th 2009. Beginning this weekend, you may check our website for updated details and access to all of the fliers as downloadable .pdf files.

### *Charitable Giving...Christmas and Beyond...*

For your loved ones whom have all they need and you are still searching to find them a meaningful gift, please consider giving to St. Monica School in the name of a loved one. All donations are tax deductible, as well. My great thanks to those who have responded to our school's charitable giving flier that was distributed earlier - a reprint is included in today's envelope.

### *Upcoming Events...*

- Dec. 17th: Annual School Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m. in St. Monica Church.
- Dec. 19th: Advent Prayer Service, 11:45 a.m. in St. Monica Church - all are welcome.
- **Dec. 19th: 12:30 p.m. Student Dismissal to begin Christmas Vacation. Please note that Extended Care will close at 3:00 p.m.**
- Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Children's Mass, 5:00 p.m. in St. Monica Church. Narrators and Actors/Actresses please arrive by 4:40 p.m.
- Jan. 5th: Class resume! Happy New Year!