



# ST. MONICA SCHOOL

*Where Students Are Loved and Challenged*

## *The Principal's Weekly Newsletter*



*Go Bulldogs!*

2008 - 2009, Number 21  
Mr. Vincent Sweeters, Principal

Wednesday, January 28th  
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### *Celebrating St. Monica School* **St. Monica School ITS Report**

As we join together with all Catholic Schools across the United States this week in celebrating Catholic Schools Week, I want to take the time to make sure we celebrate the success of our very own - St. Monica School. I am happy to give a report on the fine scores earned from our participation in the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) last September 2008. The report (enclosed in today's envelope) highlights our upcoming graduating class, which acts as the benchmark for measuring the effectiveness of our overall program. Two areas of the ITS battery have been selected for the report: NPR and GE. National Percentile Rank (NPR) is the indicator as to where a particular class and/or student is performing currently within a national average. Grade Equivalent (GE) describes how well a student and/or class is performing across a continuum. When evaluating a school's complete program, an important factor to consider is how students show growth by increasing their personal/class performance over time. This type of progress is best reflected in the Grade Equivalent Scores and is what truly measures how our academic program supports our students during their entire K-8 school experience.

In regard to program at St. Monica School, I would like to point to three specific areas where our effort helps to support our students' success:

1. Students gain experience, skills, and improved work ethic in our schoolwide program over time.
2. The teamwork and attention to detail of the teachers sets the tone for the overall environment.
3. Students develop maturity and confidence in their test taking skills through experience over time.

### *Student Life Highlights...*

On Monday, January, 26th, Chantal Nguyen of the 8th grade captured the honor of top speller in the school in our Annual Spelling Bee. This was the first event of many this week to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Yesterday, January 27th, all of the students in the school accepted my challenge to Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) for a 45 minute period. As I walked around to supervise, I was so impressed with the focus and determination of all the classes. Great job to all.

### *School & Community Events...*

#### **Chinese New Year Celebration, Jan. 31st Happy Lunar New Year to all!**

To celebrate the ushering in of the Year of the Ox, all are invited to attend our annual Chinese New Year Dinner and Celebration in the Large Hall this Saturday. Please get your tickets in advance as this tremendously helps those who are planning and preparing the event.

#### **Jr. Achievement - Parent Training, Feb. 4th**

Junior Achievement, the organization that introduces business and economics to elementary, middle, and high school students, will be holding their volunteer teacher training evening in the St. Monica School library next Wednesday, February 4th, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jamison O'Toole, director of Junior Achievement for San Francisco and Marin, will be present to train the Junior Achievement teacher volunteers and to answer any questions from parents. All St. Monica's parents, whether or not they are able to be Junior Achievement volunteer teachers this year, are most welcome to attend the teacher training evening. Please contact David Walker, St. Monica School Junior Achievement volunteer coordinator, at 415-928-5375 or [davwalker@mac.com](mailto:davwalker@mac.com) for further information.

#### **Annual Auction Dinner, March 14th**

Planning has begun in earnest for our biggest event of the year. We are in need of help in the following areas:

1. Items for gift baskets
2. Wine donations for the wine chest
3. Silent auction items
4. Program ads

Please note that it takes time to put the baskets and program together. It is helpful that we receive the items early so that we can properly prepare and organize. Please do not wait until last minute. All donations can be dropped off at the school office c/o the fundraising committee. Check the website for all of the complete information regarding the Auction Dinner.

### *Upcoming Events...*

- **Jan. 29th: 2nd Quarter Academic Award Ceremony, 2:00 p.m. in St. Monica Church.**
- **Jan. 29th: School Finance Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory dining room.**