



ST. MONICA SCHOOL

Where Students Are Loved and Challenged

The Principal's Weekly Newsletter



Go Bulldogs!

2008 - 2009, Number 23
Mr. Vincent Sweeters, Principal

Wednesday, February 11th
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After School Enrichment Programs

Included in today's envelope are a number of fliers offering afterschool enrichment opportunities for our students. I realize that many of us will need to think twice about extra cost activities during these tough economic times, but I have pledged to give our students these opportunities and will continue to do so. Please note, however, that some of the contractors will need to achieve a critical mass of enrollment in order to operate. For the Science Adventures Program, that number is 12 students per session. The session, "Anatomy Academy" was pushed back one week to begin on Feb. 17th in order for us to reach that number. As of this morning, I believe that we are there. Students have until Thursday, Feb. 12th at midnight to enroll. Go to www.scienceadventures.com for all of the sign-up info.

Also included in your envelope are invitation fliers for the 2nd of the two annual sessions of the popular Group Guitar and Dance for Fitness programs, both of which are offered on Friday afternoons.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our newest enrichment program will be Spanish Language class(es) offered on Wednesday afternoons. I found a budding community of interest in learning Spanish that has stemmed from conversations with parents and from my survey of afterschool programs conducted at the end of last school year. This program is to be administered by the IES Language Foundation. Please note the pamphlet included in today's envelope for information on how to sign up. Although the flier outlines plans for a K-2 level class and a 3-5 level class, the sessions will be customized based upon the enrollment interest of our community.

It is my hope that all of these programs thrive here at St. Monica School - and will continue for years to come. I also realize that offering such a variety may cause students to have to choose between conflicting schedules and pick which activity to join. Please know that I offer this panoply of programs to families for two main reasons: I want to offer enrichment opportunities to our younger students who are often not yet eligible for the CYO Sports leagues and free-teacher moderated clubs like our older students are. Most importantly, I want to honor our philosophy and Schoolwide Learning Expectations, which encourage our students to become Well-Rounded Individuals.

Thank You...Thank You...

Some massive thank you's are in order - much activity was needed to create all of the events for Catholic Schools Week. First off, a big thanks to Mr. Todd Kessler for organizing and implementing the Annual Superbowl Pool. At every level, it was very well done. I am please to announce the winners for this year:

- 1st Quarter, \$250: Fr. Greene (St. Monica Rectory)
- 2nd Quarter, \$250: Margaret Schultz (parishioner)
- 3rd Quarter, \$250: Ernest Melton (parishioner)
- Final Score, \$500: Amy Leung (Kinder mom)

A special thanks to Fr. Greene for donating his winnings back to the school!

I also want to thank the captains of the Jr. High Service Club, Wesly Lim and Vince Ngai, for coordinating our St. vincent dePaul Clothing Drive during Catholic Schools Week. We collected 25 bags of clothing! A great thanks to all within our community who were able to participate as well as to Mr. Mullen for coordinating the delivery of the items.

My great thanks to Mr. Stephen Chan for hosting the Annual Chinese New Year Celebration on Jan. 31st. The evening was wonderful. A special thanks to Mrs. Helen Ting, director of our After School Chinese Language Program, for guiding the students to prepare and perform for all of the guests. She and her staff of teachers, Judy Keo, Jian, Lin, Lesley Zhang, and Daisy Huey, have been consistently loving and supportive to all the the students enrolled in the program. The culminating performance and Lion Dance by the Jing Mo Martial Arts School was enjoyed by all.

Finally, I would like to thanks all of our students who participated in the "Celebrate Service" poster contest sponsored by the Student Council. All entries were used to create a wonderful display outside of the Kindergarten classroom. Check it out in the lower hall.

Upcoming Events...

- Feb. 12th: The monthly Parent Club meeting is held in the School Library, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 16th: School Holiday, Observance of President's Day.
- Feb. 18th: 7th grade Pot Luck dinner, 6:30 p.m. in the Small Hall.
- Feb. 19th: School Finance Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Dining Room.