



# NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## October 2011

### Faith Family Future

October celebrates many traditions within our faith. In early October, our school community will continue their catechesis about the rosary and its importance in the prayer life of so many people. Our teachers and students will focus on the Mysteries of the Rosary and how they tell the story of the critical moments of our Catholic faith traditions.

On October 7, 2011, our Third and Fourth Grade class will join Bishop Malooly and other students from around the Diocese at the Our Lady of Queen Peace Statue at Holy Spirit Parish in Garfield Park to recite the rosary in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at 10:00am. During that hour of prayer, the remaining Fatima school community will assemble in church to also pray the rosary, celebrating this wonderful tradition of our Church.

Our children will also be focusing on the many topics surrounding the dignity and respect for all life. Tolerance, understanding and compassion for the life that surrounds us in all forms is a focus for the Respect Life Month.

During October we will also begin catechesis of the new translation of the Roman Missal. Slowly but surely the students will begin to learn several of the new responses that will begin on the first Sunday of Advent.

## PICTURE DAY is Friday, September 30

**Dress Code for Picture Day is SCHOOL UNIFORM.**

Every student will have their picture taken for use on the Yearbook class picture page. Order forms for pictures and group composite prints have gone home and must be returned on Friday, September 30 .

Remember: Dress Code is School Uniform



## **A Few Gentle Reminders**

**School uniforms** are a visible sign of who we are as a Catholic school. They identify our children as members of the Our Lady of Fatima Community. It is very important that every effort be made to ensure that the school uniforms are worn with pride. This includes making sure the uniform is the correct uniform (purchased at Rush Uniform) and making sure that the uniform is kept neat and clean. **We expect our parents and guardians to ensure that students are properly dressed upon leaving their home. Please be aware of the hair length, jewelry, shoes, and length of skirt/jumper. Please do not force this issue into disciplinary action.**

### **Communications**

**School Reach:** Periodically we will be sending messages and reminders through the School Reach Program. These messages will usually be sent between 5:00-7:00pm or 6:00-8:00am. Upon answering your phone there will be a few seconds of delay and then the message. The message will identify itself as being from Our Lady of Fatima School. Please listen to the entire message carefully.

**Power School Parent Access:** Parents and guardians should be aware that Power School Parent access is now open. Parents are encouraged to use Power School to access their child's grades. Any parent and guardian who does not yet have a log-in or password, is encouraged to contact the school office immediately.

### **Fund Raising Opportunities**

**The Purpose of Fund Raising:** Fundraising activities are done for the purpose of providing additional funds into the school program. The Home and School has been very generous over the years in providing furniture and equipment for the school. Technology is very costly and constant updating is needed in order to stay on top of educational trends within the industry. All fundraising events are chosen carefully with the family in mind. We ask for your support in our efforts.

#### **Easy Ways to Help Our School**

Please see the attached flyer that highlights easy and inexpensive ways to help Our Lady of Fatima School earn funds.

Also don't forget that we sell SCRIP CARDS in the school office each day. We have many of the food stores and local businesses cards in stock and we are able to get virtually any gift card that you might like to give. The cost of the card is the face value and amounts vary. Purchase a gift card to do your food shopping or gas purchase and help our school in the meantime.

## Parking Lot

**Arrival:** Please make sure that you allot yourself enough travel time in the morning, taking into consideration potential traffic issues. Children are marked late if they are not inside the school building and in their classrooms at the 7:55am bell.

**Dismissal:** Once the students are dismissed from the building, we ask that everyone please move immediately to their cars so that we can efficiently move the traffic out of the parking lot.

***The guidelines sent to you in the August mailing are once again attached to this newsletter.***

***NO ONE is to park on Roosevelt Avenue or Harrison Avenue...this is for the safety of all the children and their families. Please line up in the parking lot for dismissal. We have had several complaints from the surrounding businesses and residences about the traffic situation. In an effort to evoke good relationships with our surrounding community, please follow the directions given to you. Our rules are again meant to protect the entire school population and to create the safe environment that you as parents and guardians demand. Our Lady of Fatima School is not responsible and will not be held liable for any injuries occurred due to a parent or guardian inability to follow the dismissal and arrival procedures.***

## Attention Parents, Guardians.....Volunteer Help is Needed

We would like to begin some of our after school clubs, however, we are in need of volunteers to help run these clubs. Below is a description of some of the activities and time commitment.

**CHESS CLUB:** Day of meeting can be arranged to fit the volunteer schedule. Time commitment is 3:00-4:00 one day a week starting in November. Depending on the interest of the students, there may be several weekend Chess tournaments that information will need to be dispersed. Grade level: 1-8

**Knightly News:** This is the school newspaper for grades 7-8. Day of the meeting is flexible to fit the volunteer schedule. Time commitment 3:00-4:00 one day a week. Students work on articles about the happenings throughout the school community. Mrs. Morgan is willing to help with the computer aspect of the process.

**Science Olympiad:** Grade 4-5-6 This competition is usually held in the winter at St. Mark's High School. It is important that students begin to practice the activities. We would like to begin this process in October, having teams meet once a week from 3:00-4:00. We need parents to help monitor the practice activities.

These are just a few of the activities we would like to start within the next few weeks. Volunteers who are interested in helping are asked to contact Mrs. Lundstrom at 328-2803.

## Save the Dates

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for Thursday, October 27 (5:00-7:00) and Friday, October 28, (1:00-3:00). Each family will receive a **“Request for Conference Form”** . Please fill this form out and your conference will be scheduled. A confirmation of the scheduled conference time will be sent home to you prior to the conference date.

### **Our Lady of Fatima Christmas Festival      November 18-19-20**

This is a major event in our parish. Please plan on attending and supporting this fun-filled event. Notices will be going out soon to ask for your help and support.

**OLF Barnes and Noble Christmas Book Fair** December 8 All Day at the Christiana Mall Store

## Religious Education Dates to Remember

### Reconciliation Meetings

Sunday, October 16 Meeting #1 at 9:00in Dwyer Hall (English)

Sunday, October 23 Meeting #1 at 9:00 in Dwyer Hall (Spanish)

Sunday, October 30 Meeting #2 at 9:00 in Dwyer Hall (English)

Sunday, November 13 Meeting #2 at 9:00 n Dwyer Hall (Spanish)

### Confirmation (9th Grade)

Confirmation Retreat (9th)                      Saturday, October 22 9:00am

Confirmation Celebration (9th)              Saturday, November 5 11:00am

## Reminder to 8th Grade Parents and Guardians

Information regarding the **High School Placement Test and Application Process** will be sent home on Monday, October 3. Please read the cover sheet carefully as the process for applying to the Diocesan Catholic School has changed slightly. I will be offering a Parent Meeting to review the new process on Tuesday October 4 at 2:00pm , 4:00pm and at 6:30pm. Any parent or guardian who would like to discuss the process with me is invited to attend one of these meeting in Room 101 on the first floor of school.