



Our Lady of Fatima School

Faith Family Future

News From The Principal *August/September 2011*

Welcome back to a new school year! We welcome all of our new school families, especially those students who have joined us from St. Paul's!

We open our doors this school year with 260 students in grades Pre K through 8th grade, representing 189 families. Our school continues to be a strong and vibrant community, continuing to prepare our children strong in faith and academic excellence.

Technology continues to be a driving force within education. A Smart Board is now available on the first floor for teacher instruction. In addition a new Diocesan Acceptable Use Policy has been sent to all schools for implementation. Teachers and staff have spent time reviewing this policy and will be taking time to work with the students to understand the total implications of the policy. Please take time to carefully read the new policy in the school handbook. It is also currently available on our web-site.

We also welcome the Reading Assist Program to our school. This program supports the reading needs of several of our students. It is a completely volunteer program and we are grateful for the opportunity to have this program in our school.

Sr. Theresa Elitz from St. Paul's has in-serviced our teachers in the Nurtured Heart Approach to classroom discipline. She will be working with the teachers throughout the fall to implement this approach in the classrooms. Our theme will be to find the greatness in each student.

Throughout the school year our parish and home and school will be asking for your help in time, talent and treasure. We hope that we can count on ALL of our families to support the on-going efforts of our parish and school community, especially in their fund raiser programs.

We look forward to a wonderful year! May God continue to bless our families and their children.

For the Sake of God's Children

Once again parents and guardians are reminded of the Diocesan Policy "For the Sake of God's Children." All volunteers who expect to monitor classrooms or go on class trips are required to have a background check completed. Volunteers are also REQUIRED to view the video available on-line at CDOW.ORG A notice will be sent to school upon your completion of the video.

This is not optional nor will exceptions be made.

Applications are available in the school office. More than 400 school and parish parents, guardians, parishioners and coaches have risen to the occasion and have proceeded with the background requirement. We are very grateful for your support in this effort.

Please note that we are continuing the process of the 5 year renewals. The diocese requires that all clearances be renewed every 5 years. Letters are being sent out, however, please check your clearances and make sure that they are current.

Parents and guardians are reminded that Volunteer Covenants are due into the school office immediately.

Religious Education News

Take time to read all communication from the Religious Education Office.

The sacramental programs will be beginning shortly and it is critical that parents/guardians with children who will be preparing for the sacraments attend all the required meetings. Dates will be listed on the school calendar, the parish calendar, and on all communication from the Religious Education Office. With over 200 children expected to be eligible to receive either Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation, you can imagine the organizational work that must go into the programs in order for them to run smoothly. We know that we can depend on our school families for their help, support, and cooperation as we begin the preparation process for these sacraments. Please contact Mrs. Romano in the Religious Education Office at 328-0307 with questions relating to the sacramental programs.

New Arrival/Dismissal Guidelines

Please help make our parking lot safe!!

Morning:

Drop-off in the morning for grades 1-8 is to occur in the convent side/ school entrance parking lot. The McDonough lot is now reserved for the Preschool and Kindergarten children. Only morning care and Kindergarten and Preschool parents are permitted to use the McDonough Hall lot. This is for the overall safety of all the children. Children in grades 1-8 are to enter the school building between 7:30 and 7:50 and report directly to their classrooms. Morning prayers and announcements will take place at 7:55.

AFTERNOON:

All children in grades K-8 will be dismissed from the Convent Side Entrance of School. All cars are to be parked only in the Convent Side/ School Entrance lot. No one will be allowed to park in the McDonough lot at dismissal. This year we will line up the children according to grade and children will be dismissed directly to a parent/guardian. **NO ONE** is to park on Roosevelt Avenue, Seasons, BP Gas Station, or Rush Uniforms. Dismissal is from the school property and we ask that all parents and guardians adhere to these procedures.

Federal Forms

The annual Federal Family Survey will be sent home shortly. This form is due on Friday, September 16. It is **CRITICAL** that we have a response from every family. Please complete and return the form to school as soon as possible. The information generated from the data on the forms is critical to our funding needs. In order for Our Lady of Fatima School to qualify for various federally funded programs such as Title I, we are required to report certain statistics regarding our school population. These statistics and surveys are kept confidential.

Please follow the directions on the survey carefully and return them to school immediately!
THANK YOU!

Annual School Fall Fund Raiser

Our annual School Fund Raiser will begin on August 31. Your help and support is **required** in order for this fund raiser to be a success. **All families are required to participate.** Proceeds from the fund raiser go directly into the general school fund and helps us provide the “extra” curriculum items for the children. For example, “new” curriculum programs on the average costs approximately \$30,000.00 per subject area over and above the normal purchases that occur each year. Our computers are in constant need of upgrading and replenishing at a cost of \$600 to \$800 each depending on specific need. It is therefore, very important that all families support the fund raiser. If each **family** sold at least \$200.00 worth of items, we would make our financial goal for the year!

Everyone: Please do your part and thanks for you support!

SCRIP

Parents, Guardians, Relatives and Friends

Earn tuition credit through the SCRIP Program!!!

Buy SCRIP and earn tuition credit. Every SCRIP card purchased earns between 1.5% and 20%. Half of the profit earned by each family will be directed into a family “Tuition Account”. The remaining half will go directly into the school/parish account. Credits can only be used for Catholic school tuition purposes. A Tuition Credit Form, designating the family who will benefit from their rebate, must be completed through the school office. Tuition Account Credits will occur once a year during the month of March and will be posted for the April tuition credit.

Nurse  Notes

SCRIP is available after all Masses and each day _____ in the school office.

A Note From NURSE BRETT

Please remember that all medical decisions rest with Mrs. Brett. It is critical that all families keep us posted of any health related changes. Any children required to take medicine on a daily basis must receive that medicine in the nurse’s office. Students are not allowed to carry any medicine with them.

A New Twist to our Open House!

This year we are trying something new to give parents more of an opportunity to learn about what exactly is happening in the classroom. There will be four (4) Open House dates this year. Parents and guardians are asked to arrive at school at 6:30 and report to their child's home-room. Teachers from the grade levels will be available to speak to you about a typical day in the life of your child at OLF. Information on the Acceptable Use Policy, The Roman Missal, and For the Sake of God's Children will be reviewed at each session. Please plan to arrive at the scheduled time listed below and spend one hour with your child's teachers.

Open House Dates

August 30	Grades 5-6	6:30-7:30
September 8	Grades 2-3-4	6:30-7:30
September 13	Grades 7-8	6:30-7:30
September 20	Grades PreK, Kindergarten, 1	5:00-6:00



School Arrival and Dismissal Times

A Reminder!

Our arrival and dismissal times have been adjusted. Please have your children to school no later than 7:50. The last class period of the day will end at 2:45. In grades 5-8 the last period of the day is a Language Arts period. Dismissal this year will be at 2:55.

Please make all appointments after school so that students do not lose valuable learning time.