



Where children of God are welcomed, nurtured, and served,
Guiding souls and growing minds.

1.28.2010

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

We are kicking off our Catholic Schools Week this Sunday with an Open House from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. following the 11:00 Mass in which students will participate. All current and prospective families are invited to attend. Stroll into the classrooms, witness the Smartboards in action, view student work, and meet with other children's parents. Come and see how a Saint Agnes education pays Dividends for Life.

Health News: Attendance rate is improving from last week. Yet, today at the school liturgy, I heard several children coughing repeatedly. Now, I might be slightly oversensitive to coughing, but at this point in the year, if your child has flu-like symptoms, especially coughing or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they should stay home. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they no longer have a fever. They should stay home, even if they are using antiviral drugs as well. If your children are sick, please keep them home. Please know that if children appear sick at school, they will be sent home. Children are encouraged to wash hands frequently, cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Our maintenance staff works diligently to clean areas that students and staff touch often.

Catholic Schools Week: Dividends for Life-Faith, Morals, Discipline, Knowledge
Sat. Jan. 30/Sunday January 31—Students will participate in weekend Masses. An Open House is scheduled on Sunday from noon to 2:00 P.M. for all current families as well as prospective families. There will be Smartboard presentations as well as hospitality rolls and coffee. All families are encouraged to come out and visit. If you know of a family looking for a superb Catholic education, please ask them to attend also.

Monday, Feb. 1-Seminary Day: Fr. Octavio and seminarians from Casa Jesus will visit all the classrooms and talk about vocations and the "Dividends for Life" they have and will receive.

Tuesday, Feb. 2—Student Appreciation Day: Students can wear their spiritwear. A special treat will be prepared for all the students.

Wednesday, Feb. 3—Doorways to Dividends: Door decorating contest. Historical Perspectives presentation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thursday, Feb. 4—Good Steward Day: School Mass with presentation of the Nancy B. Witter Good Steward Scholarships. Several parishioners have accepted an invitation to come and speak with the children as models of good stewards.

Friday: Feb. 5—Teacher Appreciation Day: Teacher luncheon sponsored by the Home and School Association.

Candy Sale Note: Request for candy needs to be brought to school with the student. No one is here to fill orders later in the day. Reminder: only two unpaid boxes out at a time. Request candy before it runs out!

Tax Note: The tax letter and February tuition statements are going home today. Please keep the tax statement in a safe place.

Calendar Note: Parent Teacher Conferences are set for Thursday, February 11 from 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M. Dismissal is at 11:30 A.M. with no Extended Day Services after school. Progress reports will be distributed at conferences.

Parking Lots Reminders: Children need to walk in front of their car. It ensures that the children move to a safe vehicle-free area before cars start moving. Please pull all the way up, even if there are no cars following you into the lot. It only takes a few seconds before the line is spilling out onto McEldowney and beyond. Please smile at our dedicated parking lot volunteer. She braves the cold and elements to help keep all children safe and we thank her for her generosity.

Alumni News: Seton Academy proudly announces that Caitlin Benavides has made the First Honor Roll for the First Semester. Congratulations to Caitlin and all our graduates on their continued accomplishments.

Catholics at the Capitol Day: If we want to see the Textbook Loan Program restored, the School Safety Block Grant increased, the Parent Transportation Program back on line, and the Education Expense Tax Credit increased, all schools are encouraged to send someone to Springfield on March 3. It's an attempt to get our voice heard and to help lobby lawmakers. If you have any questions, please call the Catholic Conference of Illinois at (217) 528-9200 or go to www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org.

St. Agnes Athletics

Basketball games on Saturday at the Parish Center:

10:00 4th grade v. St. Joseph

10:50 5th grade v. St. Michael

11:40 7th grade v. Clissold

12:30 6th grade v. St. Bede

The sports registration form is now available online at the St. Agnes School website under Athletics at www.stagnes-parish.org.

February Calendar:

1-5 Catholic Schools Week continues

3 Historical Perspectives (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

4 Parent Advisory Committee in room 21 at 7:00 P.M.

9 First Reconciliation; January Incentive Dress Down Day

11 11:30 Dismissal due to Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.

12 No School—Staff Development

15 No School—President's Day

17 Ash Wednesday
22 No School—Staff Development

Faith has to do with things that are not seen and hope with things that are not at hand. —
St. Thomas Aquinas (Feast Day January 28)



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1.21.2010

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

Dress Down Day: Tuesday's dress down day netted over \$550 for Catholic Relief Services to aid earthquake victims in Haiti. Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to keep all those affected in your prayers.

Feast of Saint Agnes: Saint Agnes suffered martyrdom during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian around the year 304 at the age of thirteen. Saint Agnes became one of the best known and most highly regarded of the Roman martyrs. Her name is still retained in the First Eucharistic Prayer for the Holy Mass. We will celebrate the feast day of our patroness, Saint Agnes, tonight with Evening Prayer at 7:00 P.M. You are also warmly invited to attend a light reception following evening prayer.

Health News: Please know that this week, we have seen an increase in absenteeism. If your child has flu-like symptoms, especially coughing or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they should stay home. Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they no longer have a fever. They should stay home, even if they are using antiviral drugs as well. If your children are sick, please keep them home. Please know that if children appear sick at school, they will be sent home. Children are encouraged to wash hands frequently, cover nose/mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Our maintenance staff works diligently to clean areas that students and staff touch often.

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Positive Opportunity Program: We are continuing the Positive Opportunity Program this year. The third quarter theme is Faith. The December P.O.P. Students of the Month were chosen today. These children were randomly selected because they received a P.O.P. certificate during the month of December. They received a “Student of the Month” lapel pin, a certificate, and dessert with the principal. The following students were selected: Frank DiGiovanni (primary), Taylor Long (intermediate), and Celina Delgado (junior high). Congratulations to these students on such wonderful accomplishments. These students’ pictures will soon be displayed in the P.O.P. Hall of Fame outside of the Extended Day Program rooms.

Jr. High Cookie Dough Fundraiser: The deadline for ordering the delicious Market Day cookie dough is January 27. If you need more information, please contact the school office. The money raised from this fundraiser will help defray the cost of a field trip scheduled later this year for the fifth through seventh graders. Please help support this worthy cause.

Box Tops for Education News: General Mills is sponsoring a Bonus Box Top drawing. If you would like to enter, please call (888) 280-0257. You need to leave your name, address, and phone number on the recording. Should you be chosen, you will win 50,000 bonus box tops for St. Agnes Catholic School.

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St. Agnes Athletics

Boys basketball games will be held at the Parish Center this Saturday, January 23:

10:00 A.M. 4th grade v. St. Joe’s

10:50 A.M. 5th grade v. Incarnation

11:40 A.M. 7th grade v. St. Al’s/White

January Calendar:

31 Catholic Schools Week Begins

February Calendar:

- 1-5 Catholic Schools Week continues
- 3 Historical Perspectives (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- 4 Parent Advisory Committee in room 21 at 7:00 P.M.
- 9 First Reconciliation; January Incentive Dress Down Day
- 11 11:30 Dismissal due to Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-4:30 and 5:30-8:30 P.M.
- 12 No School—Staff Development
- 15 No School—President's Day
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 22 No School—Staff Development

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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1.14.2010

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

Please keep all the people affected by the tragedy in Haiti in your prayers. We pray that their faith helps them through this disaster.

Feast of Saint Agnes: Saint Agnes suffered martyrdom during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian around the year 304 at the age of thirteen. Saint Agnes became one of the best known and most highly regarded of the Roman martyrs. Her name is still retained in the First Eucharistic Prayer for the Holy Mass. We will celebrate the feast day of our patroness, Saint Agnes, on Thursday, January 21 with Evening Prayer at 7:00 P.M. You are also warmly invited to attend a light reception following evening prayer.

Mrs. Barb Banske: We have a new physical education teacher, Mrs. Barb Banske. She is a veteran Catholic school PE teacher who is very excited to join our talented staff of dedicated teachers.

Report Cards: Second quarter report cards go home tomorrow. Please sign the envelope and return it on Tuesday when we return.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: There is no school this Monday, January 18 to commemorate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Dress Down Day: Next Wednesday, January 20 is a \$1 Dress Down Day. All proceeds will go directly to Catholic Relief Services to help aid the earthquake victims in Haiti.

Campbell Soup Labels: Grades pre-school through fourth grade have brought in over 1400 labels. Parishioner Mr. Bud Newton has also contributed 1431 labels. Please turn in your Campbell Soup labels in order to help purchase merchandise for the classrooms that the teachers have already selected. Labels can be given to your child's classroom teacher.

St. Agnes Athletics Boys Basketball

The fourth grade team has a record of 2-4-1. All nine players have scored and contributed on defense. They are learning the game and looking forward to seeing their hard work pay off in the second half of the season. Next game is Saturday at 9:00 AM at St. Kieran. Good luck!

The 5th grade team boasts a 6 & 0 record and currently lead their division. The Wildcats scores were: SA 33 & St. George 8/SA 15 & E. Seton 6/SA 40 & Cardinal Bernadin 22/SA 16 & St. Christina 14/ SA 27 & St. Kieran 16/ SA 27 & St. Al's 20 (St. Al's defending league champ), The boys play this Saturday vs Liborius @ 10:50 AM at the Parish Center.

The 8th grade team is 1-7. The team looks to rebound this Saturday against St. Patricia.

Games this Saturday at the parish center:

10:00 a.m. - St. Agnes 3rd Gr. vs. St. George/10:50 a.m. - St. Agnes 5th Gr. vs. St. Liborius

11:40 a.m. - St. Agnes 7th Gr. vs. St. Al's/White

All boys basketball teams will have team pictures taken on Wednesday, January 20 at the parish center. Coaches will distribute picture envelopes.

Volleyball

Volleyball practice will begin this month. Please register! Registration forms are in the school office.

Football

The St. Agnes Junior Varsity football team was honored with a proclamation by Mayor Alex Lopez at the December City Council meeting for their championship season. The proclamation is on display in the school office.

January Calendar:

14 Parent Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.

15 Second quarter report cards go home

18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
20 \$1 Dress Down Day
21 Feast of Saint Agnes
31 Catholic Schools Week Begins

Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates love. —Lao Tsu



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1.7.2010

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

Welcome back. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the wonderfully temperate vacation. The Blackhawks are the talk of the town. I hope they can keep up their winning ways.

First Quarter: The end of the first quarter is tomorrow with the first quarter report card going home next Friday. Please keep an eye out for it.

SchoolReach is the emergency phone system that we employ to announce important items. During periods of inclement weather, I will not announce that school is opened. Therefore, if you do not get a SchoolReach phone call, please know that it means that school is open for business for the entire school day. Should we need to close operations during the school day, you will definitely receive a SchoolReach phone call.

New Law: The following was taken directly from www.drivinglaws.org:

No Cell Phones in a School Zone Law

Another law that will take effect on January 1st, 2010 is Senate Bill 72 titled "Vehicular Phone Use in School Zones." According to the new law: "A person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone." There are exceptions for a person engaged in a highway construction or maintenance, emergencies and when the phone is in voice-activated mode. To read the text of the new law please read Public Act 096-0131. Please be sure to abide by this law. It keeps the children safer when drivers are focused on driving.

Parking Lot News: Besides the aforementioned item, please be sure to slow down while driving in the lot. With icy conditions for the next few months, I am asking drivers to slow down. Also, in an effort to be good neighbors, please avoid parking in the Abel Vacuum parking spots across the street at dismissal time. Thank you.

New Uniform Item: We now have long sleeve gym t-shirts that can be worn on gym days or spiritwear days. The cost is \$11 and orders are taken in the office.

Hair Related Items: A couple items to address regarding hair: 1.) I've noticed a couple "faux hawks" a style of hair resembling the mohawk, just on a smaller scale. I've also noticed some razor cuts. These are not allowed. 2.) Hair should not cover half the neck or the ears. If it does, please have it cut. By addressing dress code/uniform/hair issues, I hope to minimize any distractions in the classroom so that more teaching and learning can take place.

Catholic War Veterans: CWV recently conducted a Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. Congratulations to the following students who won awards: Paige Basile-second place; Samantha Powell-third place; and Alex Langbartels-fourth place. Congratulations to these students on such a wonderful achievement.

Lunch Recess Volunteers Needed: We are in need of lunch/recess volunteers. If you can offer an hour or so to volunteer for lunch and recess duty, please contact Mrs. Roesch at (708) 503-0947 in advance. She is in charge of scheduling and it helps when calls are made in advance so that we don't have four parents on one day and none the next.

A Note from our Boxtop Coordinator Mrs. Iurillo: Thank you for your valiant effort in collecting Boxtops. All total, we collected 2,152 box tops. That's another \$215 toward our goal. The class with the highest percentage of box tops was Ms. Sandusky's 2nd grade class with 948 turned in and a class average of 33 per student. Each student will receive a \$1.00 gift card courtesy of Wendy's. Everyone did a really great job. We are on our way to reaching our goal of \$1400.

Enrichment Series: If you are interested in participating in the winter/spring enrichment series, please send a letter with your name and a description of your module, the start/end dates, the class size, and the age group and send it to Mrs. Zerante. If you are interested but are unfamiliar with the Enrichment Program, please contact Mrs. Zerante at (708) 709-2092 for more information.

January Calendar:

8 End of the Second Quarter

14 Parent Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.

15 Second quarter report cards go home

18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School

20 \$1 Dress Down Day

31 Catholic Schools Week Begins

"Having the world's best idea will do you no good unless you act on it.

People who want milk shouldn't sit on a stool in the middle of a field in hopes that a cow will back up to them." —Curtis Grant