



MAY NEWS

ST. AGNES SCHOOL May 21, 2009

Last Newsletter for 2008-2009

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, May 22	Preschool Program – 10:00 a.m. (Last Day for Pre-K) 8 th Grade Graduation Dance – 7:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.
Monday, May 25	NO School – Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 26	All School Liturgy – 8:15 a.m. Fr. Bob's 25 th Anniversary of his Ordination
Wednesday, May 27	K-7 Awards Ceremony – 1:00 p.m. in Church Technology Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, May 29	Last Day of School (K-7) All School Liturgy – 8:15 a.m. Dismissal at 9:30 a.m. Fun Day at Centennial Park – 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ABSENTEES

Each parent/guardian is required to notify the school office by 8:30 a.m. if a child will be absent that day. Homework requests may be made at this time. Parents can always leave a message on the school answering machine if the secretary cannot be reached. The answering machine is checked regularly.

A call should be made each day the student is absent, unless it is known that the child will miss several consecutive days. If such is the case, the school can be informed with the first phone call of the consecutive absence and the reason.

School: 793-1370
School Fax: 793-1238
Athletic Director/Joan Baker: 546-7094
Late Day: 415-1304
Web Site: <http://stagnes.dio.org>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear St. Agnes School Parents,

Last evening 44 eighth graders became our 2009 Graduates. This morning they gathered in the gym for donuts, juice and prayer together before leaving on their Graduation trip to St. Louis.

Yesterday morning an Awards assembly was held for the Graduates. Students receiving the Christian Witness Award voted on by their class and teachers include: **Catie Cappellin, Lauren Frank, Blaine Graves, David Jacob, Jennifer Lucasey, Meredith McClain, Kyle McEvoy and Abbey Pfeiffer.**

The Presidential Award for outstanding *Academic Excellence Award* was presented to: **Lauren Frank, Hannah Mayfield, Glen McClain, Meredith McClain, Connor Sommer and Hannah Winders.** The Presidential Award for outstanding *Academic Achievement* was presented to **Marguerite Ambrose, Catie Cappellin, Amy Giacomini, Ryan Hickman, David Jacob, Nate Megginson, Lauren Schultz, Caitlin Tatarek, and Makinzie Yoho.**

Students receiving scholarships included the following:

Sacred Heart Griffin Alumni Scholarship

Catie Cappellin	\$1,000.00
Kelly Johnston	\$1,000.00
Jenni Lucasey	\$1,000.00

Sacred Heart-Griffin Sr. Mary Blanche Scholarship

Ryan Hickman **\$1,200.00**

Edward Goetz Service Scholarship

Lauren Frank **\$2,500.00**

K of C Scholarship

Jenni Lucasey **\$1,000.00 (4 years)**

Monsignor Patrick Wright Scholarship

David Jacob	\$1,250.00
Meredith McClain	\$1,250.00

St. Agnes Parish Scholarship

Erik Lokaitis	\$1,500.00
Hannah Mayfield	\$1,500.00

Today is the final Thursday Newsletter for this academic year. You will receive the first communications for the 2009-2010 school year with the family packets in the back of the Church the first two weekends in August. These packets will contain your child(ren)'s class listing and all of the information you will need for Orientation/Fee Day on Monday, August 17th. Please watch the bulletin for school announcements during the summer.

If you have not had a chance to do so, please complete the evaluation of the school year that was included in last week's Newsletter. Your feedback will help in setting goals for a new school year. Orders for school yearbooks should also be returned to the office before the end of this school year. The yearbooks will be included in the August Family packet. They will also be available for purchase at the August Orientation/Fee Day.

Friday, tomorrow, will be a dress down day for Anthony Enlow and his family. In June a 2 mile run/walk will be held at Washington Park for the Enlow family. St. Agnes will be making a donation of this dress down money to this event. A flier is attached to today's Newsletter for families to register for this event. Please help as we support the Enlow family. Our children and staff continue to pray for Anthony's recovery.

All FACTS responses are due in the office tomorrow. You should have received the required forms to complete by mail. In order to complete your child's enrollment this

information is now needed. Please contact the office if you chose FACTS as your payment option for next year and you have not heard from us.

Today, your children will be receiving the uniform information from Dennis, Luers, and Lands' End. The Dennis uniform summer sale will be held at SHG west campus on Sunday, July 12, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday, July 13th – 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Luers Uniform 20% sale dates are: July 20 – August 1st or on-line and again from November 30 – December 5th.

The Annual Fund Proof mailing will be coming to you soon. It lists all of the families who have participated in the Annual Fund for the 2008-2009 school year. Those who wish to donate as part of this year's fund may still do so through June 30th.

Thank you for your support of the new "Smart Lab." The work on this lab is already beginning as the new SMART board has been installed. The existing computers are being added to classrooms since we will continue to use I-Macs in the classrooms for next year.

Parents, please be sure to come into the office before the end of the first week in June to sign the Transportation Reimbursement form. We will be transferring this information to the State after Friday, June 5th.

Office hours for the summer will be 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. through the first three weeks of June. The office will be closed most of July and reopen at the beginning of August. We will be checking messages so if you have a need, please leave your name and number and we will be happy to return your call.

Thank you for your participation in SCRIP this year. Hopefully, some of the credit that will be applied to your families will be a help for you. Please continue to use this program during the summer months as the credit for SCRIP purchases for the 2009-2010 school year began in May. SCRIP will be available for purchase after the weekend masses. The \$1200 purchase requirement will be the same.

Thank you to all of our Magic-Match sponsors this year. Your support of our classrooms allows us to provide extra learning experiences and purchase new learning materials for our classrooms.

I have filled the two positions that were open for the 2009-2010 school year. Sr. M. Angelene Biderboast will be teaching Reading to Grade 5 & 6 and Religion to Grade 6. Mrs. Joette Manning who has been in this position will be moving to Grade 3. Mr. Doug Morgan will be assuming the P.E. and Athletic Director position. We look forward to having these two new staff members at St. Agnes.

Wednesday, May 27th, is the Awards ceremony for students in Grades K-7 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church. You are invited to attend this award ceremony. We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of your children.

Parents, thank you for your commitment to Catholic education at St. Agnes. Thank you for partnering with us in educating God's young people. It is an awesome commitment but an honor and privilege to be a part of the lives of your children. May your summer months be blessed and filled with family fun. Don't forget to give God a place in your family moments. May God be with you all.

Gratefully,
Sr. Joan

St. Agnes Catholic School thanks
Dean Rogers & Julie Cardosi Rogers
and
Selvaggio Steel, Inc.
(Mark Selvaggio)
for their generous support through their participation in our
M.A.G.I.C. MATCH Business Education Partnership Program.

GRADE K

Your children were marvelous in their Letter People Shows! We were very proud of them! They have finished all of the letters and sounds. What good readers they have become! Please keep them reading over the summer. Our butterflies hatched and we are having fun watching them in our class butterfly houses! Thanks to all of you for your help this year. You are wonderful parents! Parent readers: KA- Mr. McCart & KB- Mrs. Hulcher and Anna Phalen's grandparents. Happy Summer!

GRADE 4

This week's Stellar Spellers in 4A are Charlie Costa, Olivia Doll, Tommy Drake, Andy Johnson, Elizabeth Mack, Kyra Minder, Sarah Richardson, and Valeria Ruiz. In 4B they are Erica Disco, Cory Tatarek, and Maddie Warrington. This is our last week for Stellar Spellers. Good job fourth grade!

Next Wednesday the 27th, we will be cleaning our classroom in preparation for the summer. Students are asked to bring in one washcloth so that they might assist with this. Thank you.

Thursday, May 28th is the fourth grade end of the year celebration. Please make sure the field trip permission form is signed and returned by Tuesday, May 26th. Parents are invited to spend the day with us also. We will be spending the day at Stuart Park. Students are encouraged to bring games and equipment if they would like. Please remind them that they are responsible for these.

GRADE 5

Fifth grade Science classes studied the various layers of the rainforest and culminated our study by making dioramas which were displayed in our hallway. We have also been observing the growth and development of triops, dwarf frogs, harvester ants, and carnivorous plants. Our room "teams" with life! In social studies we have been studying about sacramentals in Religion and Fr. Bob visited both classes to bless the rosaries we made last fall. As we end the year, we will head to Washington Park for a day of fun and friendship!

GRADE 6

The 6th grade classes are finishing the year reading and writing various types of poetry. We have written Acrostic, Alliteration, Alphabet and Concrete (shapes) poems.

We read and wrote about the classic poem "The Arrow and The Song" by Longfellow. Poetry can be fun!

Math students have come a long way in both 5th and 6th grade. Thank you so much to the 6th graders and their families for the gifts for Teacher Appreciation Day.

LIBRARY

Congratulations to Mrs. Hartman's Class 1B who reached their classroom goal of 10 points for Reading Counts. They celebrated with an ice cream party on Monday. Way to go, kiddos! The students in Mrs. Patton's 5A class all reached their classroom goal of 50 points! WOW!!! They will celebrate this achievement with an ice cream party next week.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

I would like to say **THANK YOU** to ALL LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS for their help this year in the library. I appreciate all that you do. I hope to work with you again next year. Have a nice summer.

TO THE ST. AGNES FAMILIES,

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your lives over the years. Getting to know all of you has enriched my life and given me a sense of purpose. Know that I will think of you often and you will always be in my prayers.

Mrs. Baker

EARTH DAY PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who supported our Rainforest Rescue project by ordering t-shirts and other items. Because of the generous spirit of St. Agnes families, we were able to join schools across the country in saving our greatest source of natural resources- the rainforest. Our school saved 23.8 acres this year. We received a certificate in recognition of our efforts from Earth Foundation and our photo will appear in posters throughout the country praising our efforts. Each person does make a difference in our world!

HEALTH RECORDS

All physical, dental, and eye exams for **next** school year need to be turned in on Orientation/Fee Day, August 17, 2009. Please do not send these to school before then. Thank You!

SPORTS' UNIFORM RETURNS

St. Agnes sports' uniforms for Baseball (jerseys), 7th Grade Girls and Boys Basketball (white and maroon), 6th and 7th, Girls' Volleyball must be returned to Mrs. Baker ASAP. An inventory needs to be taken and supplement uniforms will need to be ordered. Please check to see if your son or daughter has returned their uniforms.

PARENTS' CLUB

Calling all golfers! The Parents' Club Second Annual Golf Outing will be held on Friday, June 19th (what a way to kick-off Fathers' Day weekend). Tee off is at 4:00p.m. \$75 per person includes 9 holes of golf, cart and a delicious steak dinner. There is also a dinner-only option for \$20. We will only have room for 66 players so reserve your spot soon. We will be taking reservations after all Masses at the SCRIP table. We are also looking for hole sponsors. Sponsorships cost \$100 and are a great way to show your support for the Parents' Club. Please contact Stacey Burke at 306-4393 or Michelle Sorenson at 793 -1961 with questions.

Fun Day plans are underway! We will have sack races, water balloon games and softball/ kickball games. It is Friday, May 29th from 11-2 at Centennial Park. Water will be provided by the Parents' Club and there will be \$1 snow cones available as well. Pack a sack lunch and come celebrate the beginning of summer.

SCRIP

SCRIP statements listing family credits for next year will be sent home by the last day of school. Attached to this newsletter are commitment & enrollment forms for next year. These need to be completed and returned to school by May 28th. Remember, you can now start working on meeting your commitment for next year! Texas Roadhouse is now available through SCRIP. It comes in \$25 cards and gives back an 8% rebate. Attached to this newsletter is "Summer SCRIP Tips" to explain to you the ordering process over the summer months. We appreciate everyone's support and patience this year while we "learned" how to be SCRIP coordinators. Amy & Rhonda

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. through the first few weeks of June. The office will be closed most of July and reopen at the beginning of August. We will be checking messages, so if you have a need please leave your name and number. We will return calls as soon as possible.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009

Vacation Bible School for students Preschool to entering 5th Grade will be held Sunday, July 12th-Thursday, July 16th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the St. Agnes Parish Hall. Please see attached flier for registration and volunteer information.

2008-2009 TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT

Parents of St. Agnes students may be eligible for reimbursement of the cost of providing transportation for their children through the State Board of Education. All families **MAY NOW COMPLETE AN APPLICATION** for reimbursement for the 2008-2009 school year. Parents are asked to come to the school office between 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. to complete this form by June 5, 2009. Parents need to know the distance (one way) between home and school.

TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING

Illinois State Board of Education and the Governor have proposed cutting the \$12 million funding for the Parent/Guardian Transportation Reimbursement Program from the education budget. This program provides state reimbursements to parents to whom bus service is not available and therefore must drive their children to school. It is an important benefit that we have been trying to grow for some time and definitely do not want to see go away.

I am asking each school staff and parents to call and/or write your legislator and ask him or her to fight to restore this important funding. A sample letter with all the important details can be found on my web site:

www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org. We need to act! There will be cuts in the budget this year, but we want to prevent this program from being one of the cuts! If you do not know your legislator you can call our offices at 217-528-9200 or 312-368-1066 or visit the General Assembly's web site at www.ilga.gov and click on the Legislator Lookup link in the bottom right-hand portion of the home page.

Zach Wichmann
Catholic Conference of Illinois
Associate Director for Education
217-528-9200

AUCTION - Calling all St. Agnes Globetrotters!

As summer break starts, so too does the family vacation season for many of us. Thanks to your generosity and willingness to participate, we learned last year just how diverse and exciting the destinations are of our St. Agnes Parish and School families.

Although last year was the first year we tried this, it turned out to be fairly successful and also popular at the auction. It also gave everyone a chance to own a little something from one of their favorite vacation spots or maybe from a locale they've never been able to travel themselves.

This year, we've had time to give it some more thought and also had results to review after actually having done it for a year. So we'd like to focus our vacation-related auction requests this year. **First of all**, we'd still love to have your general donations from your travels. Some of the unique items we received last year that proved very popular in the auction were hand-crafted jewelry, bottles of wine and beer, purses, artwork and gift baskets. It was the unique items that you couldn't get unless you actually went to that spot, but that also did not necessarily have the locale's name plastered all over it, that proved most popular. What appealed to buyers were those things that obviously intrigued them – but **especially items they could either consume or wear**.

Second, we'd also like to request that our St. Agnes Globetrotters bring back unique **Christmas ornaments** from where you've visited. Last year we had a beautiful hand-crafted cross ornament from South Africa, a carved Irish marble ornament, a unique ornament crafted from various seashells, etc. These were beautiful ornaments that anyone would be proud to display. What we didn't get, and what we really wouldn't want, is as example a generic metal ornament with a mass-produced picture of the Golden Gate Bridge and "San Francisco" beaming. We'd like to develop an entire section of the Globetrotters auction of worldly Christmas ornaments that look like they were hand-crafted by local artisans.

We'd love to have your help with this...hopefully it's something fun you can do as a family as you're enjoying this summer's vacation. When we get back to School in the Fall, we'll collect the items (just make sure you include a brief note with your name, the approx value, and a brief description) so we can promote it properly and ensure you get properly credited. Questions? Please contact past event chair Tammie Klein at quilterdoc@comcast.net or 725-0994, or Auction Co-Chairs Andy Nichols (andy@proimageil.com or 341-1033) or Joe Khayyat (joekhayyat@yahoo.com or 414-7887). ***Thanks and have a great summer!***

COUNSELING

It would be helpful to hear from parents regarding the (monthly) Home & School CONNECTION insert, which has been in the Newsletter this year. Did you like it? Were the articles relevant, useful, and informative?

Please check YES or NO, and return this portion to the school by the end of next week. Your opinion will help us decide whether or not to renew the subscription to Home & School CONNECTION for next year's school newsletter.

YES _____ NO _____

Comments:

It has been a pleasure to work with you and your children this year. Have a great summer!
Mrs. Park