

Let Us Do Everything with Great Love

Friday, August 26, 2011

Hi, all –

Last Friday, August 19, we celebrated our first all-school mass together, marking the beginning of our 2011 – 2012 school year. More importantly, though, the mass was the starting point for living our theme, “*Let us do everything with great love*” – a blessing and a call to action.

Our theme must serve as more than a banner at our school entrance; it has to be the center of our every action, every word, and every decision. With that as our goal, we have put some very important, very special pieces in place for the year:

- **Pledge poster.** Each classroom has a large poster on which is written: “We, the students of St. Ann Catholic School, commit to a year based on respect, inclusion, service, and spirit.” Below these words each class is writing six commitment statements that will guide them in living the theme. The first two are the same in each room: 1. We will help each other feel included and liked. 2. We will not exclude or bully anyone.
- **Commitment bracelets.** Each student, teacher, and staff member at St. Ann is wearing a green band around his or her wrist this year. The band, which is stamped with Give > Take, is a simple, constant reminder for us of what the words of our theme ask us to do.
- **Celebration of service.** Our four bulletin boards in the breezeway are full of great pictures and paragraphs of students and staff being of service to others over the past summer. It’s heartwarming to see how many different ways our kids have given their time and talent, and how good it makes them feel to do something with great love for another person!
- **Thoughtful Thursdays.** Each Thursday morning during announcements, I’ll recognize students who someone has seen being thoughtful and kind. This week, I thanked Brooks Rixson, Lillian Robinson, Barrett Brewer, and Sheldon Scheiffer; each was nominated by another person who saw their simple but memorable thoughtfulness!
- **Beatitudes.** As a school, we will focus on one Beatitude each month, live according to its positive message of love, and complete a project that serves as its symbol. September’s is “Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” We’ll share more about our very special project as the time nears.
- **Blessed are we...** Our “Saint of the Week” is becoming “Blessed are We...” Beginning second quarter, students will honor a classmate whom they see living the theme every day. We will recognize one student every Friday during morning announcements, and we’ll publish the student’s name in that week’s bulletin.

We will always strive to excel academically and challenge our children to think, but helping them grow as good people is the core of why we’re here. I think we’re off to a great start!!

See you next week! - Becky

In the Know with PTO

Know What's Coming Up:

- Make sure to show off your school pride with your St. Ann spirit wear next Friday, September 2 for the first ***Spirit Day!***
- ***Donut Day*** update: Donut Day has been rescheduled. Please celebrate MAP testing being over and stop by the cafeteria for a donut on Friday, September 16 from 7:30-7:45.

Know How You Can Get Involved:

Helping Hands volunteers organize meals, rides, prayers, etc., for families in need within a grade level. Contact these ladies if you or another family needs a hand:

- K-Jodie Gittemeier, jodie.gittemeier@gmail.com
- 1st-Dana Hlobik, mhlobik@sbcglobal.net
- 2nd-Heather London, heatherlondon@yahoo.com
- 3rd-Stephanie Strick, stephstrick4@gmail.com
- 4th-Teresa Deering, deering3@att.net
- 5th-Stephanie Freeman, pfreeman1@kc.rr.com
- 6th-April Rider, april.rider@halo.com
- 7th-Peggy Donica, peggydonica@gmail.com
- 8th-Kris Mantel, krismantel@msn.com

Want to help run games at the St. Ann Carnival on Sunday, September 11? Contact the ***Fundraising Committee***, Karla Maisch (k.maisch@sbcglobal.net) or Dawn Macke. (dawn.macke@gmail.com).

Did You Know?

St. Ann has teamed up with ***CharitableCoupons.com***, which offers deeply discounted deals in the form of discounted coupons available for purchase online... up to 80% off from local merchants! Each time you choose to purchase a coupon, just designate St. Ann as the donation recipient. Some current and upcoming merchants that will offer discounts include Inspired Fitness in Waldo, Euston Hardware, Glace Artisan Ice Cream, Great Harvest Bread Company, Coffee Girls in Waldo, Premier Protection, Perfect Scents along with many restaurants, entertainment, spas, sports, services, health, beauty and more. Sign up at <http://charitablecoupons.com/kansas-city>. You save money and St. Ann makes money at the same time!

The ***Men's Club*** picked up the tab for all the teachers' spirit wear this year. Thanks for helping our teachers show their St. Ann pride!

Trash bags are available for purchase! Contact Karla Maisch (k.maisch@sbcglobal.net) to stock up on bags in all sizes. Don't forget- the leaves will be falling soon!

Know What PTO Has Been Up To:

- Thanks to the **Volunteers Committee**, Gina Bertrand and Megan Schumm for organizing and decorating an amazing **Back to School Night**. If you didn't get a chance to sign up be a room mom, serve milk during lunch, help out in the library, etc., there's still time! Just contact Gina (ginabertrand@hotmail.com) or Megan (mcschumm@att.net).

Sign-In, Sign-Out

If you need to pick up your child during the school day, you must come into the school and sign him / her out, then return with your son or daughter to sign back in. This is for your child's protection, and our documentation; we will not allow your child to leave the building otherwise. Thank you!

School Reach

When you get a call via our School Reach system, follow one of two procedures: 1. Pick up your phone before the message begins, and WAIT; there is a short period of silence before the message begins, or 2. Let your phone go to voicemail and listen to the message after it's complete.

If you pick up your phone in the middle of the School Reach message, it will cut off. We call your home and your cell phones, however, so if you miss it one place, you can get it another way. We respectfully ask that you use one of the methods here, and not call the school to have the message repeated. Thanks, thanks!

Chess Club



Mr. Bob Spies will be mentoring the Chess Club again this year. The club will meet each Monday for 10 weeks starting September 12- December 5. St. Ann does not have class on 9/19/11 or 10/10/11, and there will not be a club meeting on Halloween, 10/31. Students will meet in the Science Room from 3:00-4:20. The fee is \$20 per student. There are 28 spots available for students, 1st- 8th grade. Please send in the attached updated registration form and fees if you are interested in participating.

UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL FAIRS

7-8:30 P.M. on the following dates:
Holy Trinity - Tuesday, Sept. 20th
St. Joseph - Wednesday, Sept. 28th
St. Michael the Archangel – Thurs., Sept. 29th

UPCOMING OPEN HOUSES

Bishop Miege: Sun., Oct. 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas: Sun., Oct. 30, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
St. James Academy: Sun., Nov. 6, 3-6 p.m.

Visit with staff and students from each high school. For **ALL** middle school students and their families.

