

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Home of **COUGAR PRIDE**

February 11, 2010

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At a Glance:

Feb. 13	Crab Feed--5:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day
Feb. 15	NO SCHOOL-President's Day
Feb. 16	Gr. 4 Field Trip B to Street Theater
Feb. 17	F.I.S.T. Mtg. 7:30 a.m. (changed to <u>EVERY Wed from now on</u>)
	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 19	Kgn "Pages in PJ's"
Feb. 22	Knights of Columbus Hot Dog Lunch

A note from Mrs. Wordelman ...

Thank you to the many families who made Catholic Schools Week such a success! It was a joy to see our students share their accomplishments with the community. The Science Fair is an excellent example of one of the things we do best at St. Joseph School: guiding students in learning by combining the disciplines of language arts, math, and science. Kudos to all of the winners, their parents, and their teachers! A special thank you to Mrs. Holmes who coordinated the fair, worked with the judges, and helped prepare students for their presentations.

This is the time of year when we seem to experience some issues in the area of discipline. Though the school does an excellent job in the beginning of the year at communicating what the expectations for students are, and what consequences could result, I feel this is an area that needs to be revisited.

Academic excellence begins with responsibility, and responsibility is most visibly demonstrated in discipline. Because of this philosophy, the school has developed six expectations for all students at all times on campus, and wherever they go to represent the school. Those expectations are as follows:

1. Be kind.
2. Do my tasks.
3. Have materials.
4. Be where I belong.
5. Control myself.
6. Follow directions the first time I am asked.

The first expectation is clearly the most important. It defines who we are as a school. It is not meaningful if a student can perform well academically, and is not kind. It is this expectation that teaches us all to love God, and love our neighbor. This is the expectation that does not allow bullying types of behavior.

Because of this, we report on our students' ability to meet these expectations. Teachers regularly report to parents

on how well students are meeting those expectations. If improvements are needed, teachers communicate what those improvements need to be. These expectations are so important that they are included on the report card.

Each teacher works hard in helping students make good choices in order to avoid negative consequences, but sometimes a consequence must be given when an undesired action is repeated, significant, hurtful, or not Christ-like. Each teacher has developed a monitoring system or a warning system in class that is age-appropriate for that grade level. Once that threshold has been exceeded, an after-school detention is issued. Detentions are served on the Tuesday or Thursday from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. immediately following the infraction. The location varies and is announced at dismissal. The purpose of detention is to allow the student to reflect on his or her actions and know that all actions have consequences.

In some cases, students seem to incur numerous, continued detentions without learning from their mistakes. In these cases, the following procedures are followed:

When a fourth detention is issued in a given school year, there will be a meeting between student, parent, teacher, and principal followed by a half-day in-school suspension.

When a fifth detention is issued in a given school year, the student will serve a full-day in-school suspension.

Further offenses will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Any work assigned during any suspension(s) will not receive credit, but still must be completed before a student may return to the classroom.

It should be noted that a very serious offense may directly result in the form of suspension or some other action deemed necessary, including expulsion. Students who are involved in the sports program have additional consequences. A student may not represent the school in a game or meet if a consequence has not been served. Additionally, a suspension prevents a student from participating in a sport for the remainder of the season.

Please know that the teachers and the administration take discipline very seriously. We work with each student in helping him or her to make the best choices possible for that student in regards to conduct. While the expectations will be even greater in high school, elementary school is the place to learn and practice good choices. Sometimes it is the child who causes the most trouble that is in need of the most care.

Parents, please support us! When a consequence is earned, allow your child to experience the consequence. Parents, please be kind to other children, especially those who have difficulty meeting expectations. Be kind to their parents, too. All of our children are such precious gifts to us from God. They come in different sizes and shapes, different likes and dislikes, different academic abilities, and even different capacities for compliance. St. Joseph Catholic School strives to be a place where all students can learn and be accepted.

Ten other principals were hired last year with me. As our second year crescendos, only seven of us remain. In an effort to help us grow, the Catholic School Department is offering parents an opportunity to provide feedback on my performance as principal. Tomorrow, Friday, February 12, your oldest student will be coming home with a letter from Mary Kay Bolz, the Associate Superintendent for the Catholic School Department, along with a Parent Assessment that I strongly encourage you to complete. You may wish to complete the assessment online at <http://insightify.com/csd>, or you may complete the paper copy and send it to the address indicated on Mary Kay's letter. In either case, please respond only once, and please respond before February 26, 2010.

In the Peace of Christ,
Mrs. Wordelman

FREE DRESS: Just a reminder ... tomorrow is "Free Dress" for all the students who came to the Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off Mass on January 31st in dress uniform. For those students who attended Mass at St. Joseph Church on January 24th in dress uniform, next Friday, February 19th is another "Free Dress" Day for you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BOOK FAIR WINNERS:
The Guessing Game Winners (86 straws): Justin Kauinana and Nico Bachicha! Crazy Day Winners: Sydney Greene, Luke Lanterman, Gwendolyn Root, Lizzie Artim, Marijah Mullenix, Olivia Sprankle, Anthony Curtis, Shiloh Connors and Abrianna Keller!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH SANDWICH LUNCH:
Next Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday. Sandwich lunch is being cancelled on this day as Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence. **If you purchased hot lunch on this day for your child, hot lunch for this day will be moved to Wednesday, March 10th.** We apologize for any inconvenience.

PALMS FOR ASHES: Parents, please send last year's palms from Palm Sunday with your student on Tuesday, February 16. We will have a short prayer service in the quad after announcements on Tuesday. We will burn the palms and use the ashes for services on Ash Wednesday.

SERVICE CLUB REMINDER: F.I.S.T. is collecting small personal care items for the homeless. The club is challenging each grade to bring in at least 52 items, which will qualify the class for a free dress day.

STRINGS RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER FOR SJS:

Strings is offering our school 15% of all meals sold on March 4 if you mention St. Joseph School. What a deal! Don't forget ... we also have Strings Scrip in \$25 denominations just for these occasions!

SPRING PICTURES: Spring Picture Day is Tuesday, March 9th. Lifetouch will be here first thing in the morning to take pictures. This is a "Non-Uniform Dress Day" so students should be dressed appropriately for both school and pictures.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER EVENT: Saturday, March 13 is the Mother-Daughter Bowl-a-Thon. Invitations will be coming home next week. If you have any questions about this event, please call Julie Smith at (916) 663-3339.

HOURS COMMITMENT REPORT: We are working on the family reports which will be coming home next week. The report will include your total Scrip purchases this year.

GOD'S GARDEN PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT:

St. Joseph Catholic School of Auburn, CA is pleased to announce that "God's Garden" is the new name for the school's garden program and environment. Recently, St. Joseph students from Kindergarten through 8th grade participated in voting for a new program name for their garden environment. The students of St. Joseph Catholic School were given the opportunity to enhance the overall garden program, by providing suggestions and then through an electoral process they voted on the new program name. The voices of the students and their involvement at the garden area will leave a lasting impression at the St. Joseph Catholic School for years to come. God's Garden is an enrichment program that allows every opportunity for the Students of St. Joseph Catholic School to interact with the natural environment, experience processes and gain knowledge within, and discover the affects through hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation has been scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 10: 00 a.m. at St. Teresa of Avila Church. Please mark your calendars.

READING ENRICHMENT/LEARNING SKILLS: Is school a struggle for your child? Learning problems, whether formally diagnosed or just mildly annoying, can cause students to feel unnecessary pain, frustration and embarrassment. Turning learning challenges into learning successes, Susan Smith, M.S., provides assessments and individual tutorials for students of all ages. (530) 878-8789.