

## Principal's Weekly Bulletin

### October 23, 2009

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Dear Parents of St Francis School,

If you like sports drama and comebacks in an away gym, you had to like the 8th grade volleyball team's come from behind win over St Helena at St Apollinaris last Tuesday night! It was the first Middle school volleyball game my dad had ever seen and he was jacked! It was a great game. Melissa serving out the last 6 points was stellar! Not to be out done, the 7th graders squeaked out their own win and joined the 8th graders in the CHAMPIONSHIP game on Saturday!! Great job 7th graders! The 7th graders play at 11:00 and the 8th graders play at 1:00. Both games are at St Rose in Santa Rosa. Come on out and support the teams. Good luck to both teams this weekend, may the net be low on your side...

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In case you were driving by the school this Thursday and saw a guy on top of a 12 foot ladder in the middle of Napa Rd. and 240 kids in different color shirts standing on tables and benches on the front lawn, calling for all truck drivers to honk their horns, I hope you weren't alarmed. It was just the all-school panoramic picture day! Did you order yours? Speaking of pictures, we will be taking team pictures of all volleyball and basketball teams on November 4th at 2:15 in the Gym. We will have order forms next week for anyone wanting pictures of their own.

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This past week, we saw a great example of service with our students as the 8th grade class went to Merrill Gardens and read for the senior citizens who live there. It was a great experience for our kids and for the seniors who were so happy for the company and gave them a good chance to show the kids around their home. The 8th graders now can put a face to the name of the their "pen-pals" that they have been writing to. Too often in our society, we tend to shun our elders as being in the way and not useful contributors. These kids have now seen that real people with colorful lives and much wisdom to share live in retirement homes, and they have the ability to improve the quality of those people's lives. Good job 8th graders, keep it going !

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There is a family Mass on Sunday at 9:00. Bring the kids, go get breakfast afterwards and then go for a bike ride. It should be a great weather weekend!!!

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Next Friday is the deadline for ordering fleece, jackets and vests with the new school logo at the discount rate. Size samples and forms are in the office.

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I will leave you with this thought: We are on the verge here at St Francis of creating the ideal place for our kids to go to school and for all of us to be part of a fantastic community that strives for a common purpose. I see it happening all the time, each day, and in all areas. It is so gratifying and downright fun! I see wheels turning in parent's minds of the possibilities that exist for us. The floodgates have been opened and barriers are broken down and dreaming can commence. The nice thing is that I see realistic dreaming and practical application of talent. Here is the caveat: Can we sustain that enthusiasm to some kind of conclusion and really make a difference here? Can we see those dreams through and continue to develop a school that we all can look at and be proud of? From what I have seen, I can only

say, Yes! I see tireless parent volunteers at every event, teachers working hard and doing their best for their students, parents coming in at all times to do thankless tasks, secretaries taking care of skinned knees and bloody noses, students recycling and riding their bikes to school, artists painting doorways, Children's Center gals staying late for that one kid who still needs to be picked up, kids studying hard for tests, and then acing the test! Importantly, I see kids trying to do things they never have done before. A fearless leap into the unknown...They can do that because they know that St Francis is a safe place to take that fearful first step and if they fall, we will be there to catch them and tell them it's alright, and to get up and try again....

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Peace be with you all this weekend. Go Volleyballers !!!!!!!

Matt

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Matt Vukicevich  
Principal  
St. Francis Solano School

"Your future is only as bright as your mind is open"