

Principal's Weekly Bulletin

November 20, 2009

Dear Parents,

What a week! I just returned from the beautiful Pt. Reyes National Seashore with the 5th graders who took their annual trek out to the coast and were treated to unbelievable weather! The rain only started on the drive home this morning. Small miracles are sometimes the best... Mrs. Momsen and Mr. Monga were at their best out in the elements, guiding and teaching and herding! They deserve some big props for a job well done!! Yesterday, we hiked a couple miles down to the beach and were treated to the most spectacular day you could ever ask for. Still air, bright fall sunshine, and smooth water with 3-4 foot waves breaking all day. Football games, foot races, throwing accuracy contests and Sea Otter spotting highlighted the day. The science program piqued the kids' interests and the evening bonfires, with a storyteller and some skits were great as well. The parents who chaperoned and cooked (Dennis, Mike, Larry, Scott, April, Joyce, Sara, Lara, Heidi, Phylis, and Perrin) all are to be complimented and commended for their work on all of their tasks out on this field trip. It is not easy to be "on" for so long each day and they performed wonderfully. Thank you all! The kids really were the beneficiaries... What a great experience.

I want to let all of the parents know of an experiment we pulled off today. We had Sushi (California Roll) and Teriyaki Chicken brought in for 72 upper division students today from Shiso Restaurant on Broadway. It cost them \$4.00 each. The kids all said they loved it and would like to continue on Fridays with this menu. So, unless I get some major complaints from parents, I will take orders each Wednesday and call in the orders. The kids who order will have to bring cash on Fridays. We have change! This is not a moneymaker, but just a service and a change of pace for Fridays. Completely optional on a week-by-week basis. We will start again on the week after Thanksgiving.

Please check out Johanna Maaghul's book, "The Prodigal Family" available for sale in the school office for \$15 each.

About the Author (from the book cover)

After undergoing treatment for breast cancer at forty-two, Johanna Maaghul's path was permanently altered. As an important part of her healing process she began to look closely at her own family story and ask the question, why do so many family relationships break down and how can they be reconciled? The Prodigal Family provides her own unique perspective on this ancient question. Johanna is a St Francis parent and lives in Sonoma with her husband and three children.

Happy Thanksgiving From Father Mike

The celebration of Thanksgiving is certainly one of my favorite holidays of the year. It is a national day of gratitude for family and country, for hearts at home and spirits abroad. Thanksgiving Day/Weekend is a holiday, which is truly a holy day in spirit. Someone once said, "God has two dwellings – one in heaven and the other in a thankful heart." I give thanks for the parishioners and friends of St. Francis Solano School, for our school children and parents, for our school staff and administration. I am grateful

to be your Pastor, and I pray daily for you and your families. God bless America and especially all our military service people at home and in far away lands. God bless and protect all our travelers who will gather at the tables of homes and churches to thank the Lord for the precious gifts of life and love. I invite you to attend the Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9:00 a.m. at St. Francis Church. Do bring an item from your Thanksgiving table (i.e. bread, wine, etc.) to be blessed. But most especially, bring yourselves, come and give thanks to God for all our blessings. I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving Day. Hip! Hip! Hooray!

Christmas Pageant News

Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Pageant on **Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 P.M.** We will be narrating and singing the Christmas Story. Bring your best singing voices for our audience sing-along! More details in regards to dress and drop-off time to follow.

Grandparents/Special Persons' Day

Tuesday, November 24th

Grandparents and Special Persons' Day is quickly approaching. Please join us for this special tribute. Father Roberts Hall will open at 9:15 for our guests to view the displays of student work, and to enjoy light refreshments, and to visit their grandchildren's classes.

A special Mass celebration will begin at 10:30 followed class presentations at 11:30.

School will be dismissed following the show so families will have time to spend together and Thanksgiving vacation officially begins.

Scholastic Book Fair Results

The results are in and I am pleased to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair raised enough money to purchase \$4,000.00 worth of books for our school library!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped work at the fair and who made baked goods for the bake sale. And thank you to all the parents, students and teachers for attending and promoting the book fair.

And, **special thank you to Diane Klauber** for once again organizing and administering the Book Fair, **and also to Lara Shoop** for being her more than able assistant!

Children's Center News

There is no Children's Center November 24th. (Grandparent's Day) Dismissal is at 12:30 that day.

Looking ahead, on December 15th, the Children's Center will close at 4:30 due to the faculty and staff Christmas party.

A quick reminder to parents not to block driveways of the school's neighbors. We have had a few complaints.... No big deal, just a heads up. I don't want to have a fight any of our neighbors...

Reminder # 2..... Parents should remember to come to the office to sign in and sign out when **volunteering** at school. This serves two purposes: 1) we know who's on campus and where we can find them if necessary, 2) in case of a fire or emergency, we know who to account or if we need to send emergency responders back into the building to search for people.

There will be no Principal Email over the Thanksgiving Holiday. Enjoy the Family time and May God Bless your family and grant safe passage to all who are traveling this Holiday season.

Matt

--

Matt Vukicevich
Principal
St. Francis Solano School

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