



*Catholic Elementary & Middle School Education
for the Sonoma Valley*

342 West Napa Street • Sonoma, 95476 • (707) 996-4994

Weekly Newsletter

August 25, 2011

Dates to Remember:

Friday, Aug. 26

11:15 All-School Mass
Full Dress Uniform
3:00 Dismissal

Friday, Sept. 2

No School – Professional
Development Day

Monday, Sept. 5

No School – Labor Day

Thursday, September 8

Back-to-School Night
LD 5:30-6:00
All in FRH 6:05-6:20
UD 6:25-7:45

Friday, September 9

8:10 – 911 Tribute

Tuesday, September 13

First Hot Dog Day

Wednesday, Sept. 14

First Pasta Day

Thursday, Sept. 15

First Pizza Day

Thursday, Sept. 15

Picture Day
Full Dress Uniform

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I am so glad to be back and excited to serve this school community in a new way. Thank you for all of the support I have received this summer; I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you.

I'd like to welcome our new teacher, Ingrid Tuchband. Mrs. Tuchband will be teaching fifth-grade science, seventh-grade social studies, a seventh-grade math class, and extended curriculum. Mrs. Tuchband earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential from Dominican University. She lives in Petaluma with her husband and two children.

Our lower-division students are blessed this year with the addition of classroom aides who also happen to be school parents. Welcome to Meagan Hengehold who will be assisting in first grade and to Jennifer White who will be assisting in third grade. And of course, welcome back to all of the fantastic returning members of our school staff!

I have plenty of people to thank for various contributions made to the school over the summer. Make sure you read the rest of this newsletter, as I know you may want to thank them as well. Continue to stay informed about school activities by reading bulletins weekly.

I leave you with the words of Pope Benedict XVI. "Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals His transforming love and truth."

God bless you and your families,
Debbie Picard

Friday, Sept. 16

11:15 All-School Mass
Full Dress Uniform

Friday, Sept. 16

5:00 Family Carnival

Thursday, Sept. 22

5:00-7:00 Fingerprinting

Sept. 21-30

ITBS Testing

Wednesday, Sept. 28

7:30 – Grade 2 --
Mandatory parent
meeting in Library

Thank You!

Thank you to Sean Walsh of Walsh's ChemDry for cleaning all of the classroom carpets and hallways. We appreciate your generosity and labor!

Our Dads' Club has been at it again. Club members painted Ms. Maurer's classroom, purchased a brand new volleyball net and our school's video license. Thank you dads!

Kathy Lee, Sherrie Grundgeiger and Debbie Giusto were the perfect hostesses of our New Parent Orientation and Buddy Family Picnic. They made the newest members of our school community feel informed, welcomed and at home. Thank you ladies!

Our new sweatshirts have arrived! Thank you Kimberlee Walsh for coordinating "all things uniform" year after year.

Robert Castillo built a beautiful teacher's desk for Mrs. Maurer in third grade. He also built student cubbies for the fifth and seventh grade classrooms. We appreciate Robert sharing his carpentry expertise and generous donation of these needed additions to the classrooms.

The giving of time, talent and treasure never ends with this community...more appreciation to follow next week.

New Students

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new families and to St. Francis:

Ignacio & Eva Aceves – Amelia, K
Vincent & Molly Anibale – Nathan, K
Richard & Joan Beck – Lauren, K
Maria Padilla – Galilea Botello, 5th; Belen, 7th
John & Mary Broderick – Natalie, K
Phil & Piera Cirelli – Daniela, 6th
Matt & Dawn Denkin – Sam, K
Brian & Debra Eagle – Maitland, 7th
Justin & Erin Garrett – Trent & Tyler, 5th
Joe & Georgann Geist – Addison, K
James & Alexa Glockner – Lucas, 1st; James, 3rd
Jay & Hilary Gruendle – Luke, K
Jeffrey & Gia Lloyd – Thalia, K
Russell & Tina Nichelini – Annabelle, K
Jenifer Giudice – Kylee O'Connor, K
Alexa Rosemurgy – Isabella, K
Benjamin & Diana Schafer – Rose, K
Michael & Loree – Dante, 1st
Elan & Janelle Thibert – Ella, K
Christine Thomas – Vivian, 8th
Jeffrey & Karen White – Katherine, K

Welcome also to the siblings of existing school families:

Dean & Heidi Bonfigli – Andrew, K
Timothy & Jennifer Borden – William, K
Roger & Junko Cook – Genevieve, K
Michael & Tina Cox – Lauren, K
Robert & Nicole Della Santina – Pia, K
Paul & Debra Giusto – Luke, K
Brian & Suzanne Hanson – Anna, K
Stephen & Monica Rowland – Blaise, K
Eric & Christie Undercoffler – Riley, K

Parent/Student Handbook

Anyone wondering where the Parent/Student Handbook has gone? It is posted on the school's website: www.saintfrancissolano.org. Parents need to visit the website and thoroughly view all the updated policies and information, especially policy revisions for uniforms, internet postings, detention, just to name a few. As always, **there are forms parents must sign and return to the school office no later than Wednesday, August 31.** They include: the parent verification form, honor code (signed by parents and students), and the computer policy. Download the forms from the website referenced above, sign and return them to the school office.

School Calendar

The school calendar is available on our school's website www.saintfrancissolano.org. Please check it regularly for updates.

Weekly Newsletter

As a courtesy, the first of our weekly newsletters is being sent home with students. However, future newsletters will not be sent home but will be posted on our school's website every Thursday. Parents will need to visit the website at www.saintfrancissolano.org each week. These newsletters will contain students' achievements, as well as important and informative school information.

Parents chairing various school activities who need flyers and information included in the newsletters need to email the information to the administrative secretary on Tuesdays at stf.schooloffice@gmail.com for the principal's approval. Upon approval, the information will be included in the newsletters.

Email Address

The most efficient form of communication between the school and parents is via email. Parents need to include their most current email address on the students' emergency forms. Don't miss out on important notices.

Church Street Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

The drop off and pick up procedures instituted by the Sonoma Police Department works very efficiently as long as all parents observe the following procedures.

Parents enter the drop off lane from 4th Street West and drive towards 3rd Street West. The students should use the time while parents are in the queue (along the playground section of curb) to gather their backpacks, lunches, etc. and be ready to exit the vehicle when it is parallel with Father Roberts Hall.

If a child is dropped off on the north side of Church Street, he/she MUST use the crosswalk to cross Church Street. No "jaywalking."

Remember, the safety of all children is the utmost concern to all involved.

Other regulations and courteous guidelines to observe are:

- Do not block the flow of traffic in the opposing traffic lane (violation of traffic laws).
- Do not double park.
- Do not leave your car unattended unless properly parked.
- Avoid parking in no parking zones.
- Do not block neighbors' driveways, playground entry gate, or park in parking lots of neighboring businesses. Businesses have informed us that cars will be towed.

Before/After School Safety Concerns

Any student left on campus 20 minutes after dismissal (regular or minimum days) will be checked into Children's Center and the parents charged a one-hour minimum of \$3.95 (charges begin at 3:05) if registered child; \$6 non-registered. Your child's safety is our most important concern (refer to Page 40 in the Parent/Student Handbook)

Students may not remain on school property while waiting for sports practice/activities. Parents must make other arrangements for their children.

Students who are being picked up by someone other than their parents/guardians must bring a note to their teacher specifying whom they are going home with. That person must be on the student's emergency card in the office.

Why register at Children's Center?

- Want to set up a play day for your child but you don't have the time? Let Children's Center do it for you! It's easy if you're registered at Children's Center.

- Know your child is well cared for in a fun, safe environment after school for the bargain rate of \$3.95 per hours. Avoid being billed at the unregistered price of \$6.00 per hour (one hour minimum). Children's Center form and registration needs to be received by the end of the month to avoid the non-registered rate.
- Take advantage of the opportunity to get a jump-start on homework assignments by attending Homework Club.

Uniform Donations

The downtown Church Mouse store on the Plaza sells recycled school uniforms. They are especially interested in donations of last year's 4th grade girls' jumpers and last year's 8th grade girls' skirts.

eSCRIP

Remember... You **MUST renew your Safeway card by November 1st**. Otherwise, your purchases will not be credited to your scrip obligation. To go www.escrip.com or use the eSCRIP link on our school's website www.saintfrancissolano.org and click on the renewal icon. **Failure to renew your eSCRIP account will result in you not receiving credit for your purchases.** Also, remember to give eSCRIP any updates on newly received credit cards, including new expiration dates.

New families are encouraged to register with eSCRIP ASAP at the above-mentioned address. St. Francis Solano School's Group ID number is 121540361.

Lucky's store has added a new reward program giving customers a discount on gas, which does not count towards our parents' scrip obligation. If parents want to receive scrip credit, they must use the Save Mart S.H.A.R.E.S. card (available from the school office) – not the new gas discount program card.

Don't forget, extended family members, neighbors and friends can participate in eSCRIP and have their purchases applied to your family commitment. Be sure to submit their names to the school office so we can link their names to yours.

The school office continues to sell scrip cards for the following stores: Baskin Robins, Chevron, CVS, Home Depot, Jamba Juice, Kohl's, Lowe's, Lucky's, Macy's, Payless Shoes, Safeway, Shell, Starbuck's, Subway, and Whole Foods.

Volunteer Requirements

The Diocese of Santa Rosa requires all parents/volunteers to be registered on its website, complete the Safe Environment training and have their fingerprints taken. Individuals who previously registered and have fingerprint results on file do not have to repeat these two requirements.

Individuals may use any authorized LiveScan facility for fingerprinting. For your convenience, a mobile LiveScan agency will be at school Thursday, September 22 from 5:00-7:00 P.M. Contact the school office if you wish to participate. The cost is \$30 (cash or credit card only).

Anyone planning to volunteer at school must be in full compliance by October 1. Feel free to contact the school office for assistance, 996-4994.

Pets on Campus

The Diocese of Santa Rosa has a “no pets on campus” policy. As cute and lovable as some doggies and kitties can be, some people are afraid and/or allergic to them. So, regrettably, we cannot allow anyone to bring his/her pet on campus.

Immunizations

Mrs. Lely is frantically processing the mountain of paperwork submitted by parents. She will be contacting parents if she needs documentation of immunizations for specific grades. She greatly appreciates your prompt response so the school can meet the Health Departments requirements.