



Thank you for your patience waiting for this newsletter. It's been a busy two weeks preparing for tuition nights, attending required meetings, working with unplanned events, etc. I take full responsibility for the delay.

Walking with the Lord

What a moving experience it was to have our student body walk the Way of the Cross on Holy Thursday at St. John Church in St. John, Indiana.

Our students seemed to really feel part of each scene. They were so prayerful and reverent that guides and other visitors commented on their wonderful behavior.

Even now we hear reports of people going there to experience this and hearing about what great students we have.

Making up the cold/snow days—mark your calendar

We cancelled school on January 15 and 16 due to severe cold, so we need to replace that instructional time. The following is now a student attendance day:

- ▶ **Friday, May 22** (formerly a planning day)



Student Safety in a Wired World

Please monitor and talk to your children about what they are doing on the Internet and with their other means of electronic communication.

Would you allow a porn movie maker in your house or someone encouraging your child to try drugs or get involved with sexual behavior at an early age or experiment with harming themselves or get involved with gangs or meet an older stranger or bully someone?

If not, you need to ensure that your child is not approached this way over the Internet or through text messaging or other electronic media either.

It's not spying—it's being a parent/ guardian who cares about keeping children safe in an increasingly connected world.

Coming to the office

Sometimes you may feel like you have to wait for attention from office personnel when you come to the office.

Our children are our top priority, and we do try to give each person our full attention. Much of the time we are doing several things at once—answering the phone and door, running the copier, dealing with a sick or injured child, taking messages for homework, change of plans, etc. Trying to assist more than one person at once can result in missing a critical piece of information.

Please realize that when it is your turn we will also give you our full attention, too.

Wanted! More preschool students!

Right now we are in need of several more preschool students for the 2009-2010 school year. We have an outstanding program and staff, and our students really soak up knowledge at this age.

We need your help! We will need 18 students to break even on costs, so please help us find those students by May 25. Contact Ms. Gard with the names and phones of parents who may be interested.

Please keep Miss Garrison in prayer

Our junior high math teacher, Miss Garrison, is scheduled for triple bypass surgery on Monday, May 11. Please keep her in your prayers. Mrs. Chris McHale will sub for her for the remainder of the school year.

Raffle tickets available for pickup

Did you sign up for raffle tickets on the May 4 tuition night? They're available now for you to sign out at school. We do need an adult to pick them up. If you leave them here, the assumption is you are keeping all the chances for yourself. Stubs need to be in by the last day of the month before your ticket month.

Good Neighbor parade—thanks

What a great day! What great spirit! I was proud to see our scout leaders, Mr. Scheppe and Mr. Castillo, leading the parade with the Abe Lincoln silhouette. Thanks, too, to all who marched with us.

Special thanks to those who set up and ran the St. Ann Food Tent: Ellen Horn-Jaworowski, Tony Jaworowski, Judy Brann, Lisa Hajdych, Jackie Kuipers, Kelly Olsen, Connie Ryczek, Tom Lynch, Laura Bailey, and Mike Churilla.

Dollars and Sense



Thank you for the tremendous efforts you have made to pay your tuition in these difficult economic times. We still have about \$30,000 to collect for the current year.

Tuition Nights—still need to sign?

Many thanks to all who helped with tuition nights. We had a great turnout!

What if you couldn't make it? We will be happy to help you between 9:00 am—2:00 pm and 2:45 pm—3:30 pm on weekdays. We would appreciate a call ahead of time so we can have your family's materials ready for you. As usual, there's a lot of updating of paperwork, so please plan on a good half hour.

H1N1 virus update

Thank you for carefully reading your flyer about the H1N1 virus. Please continue to remind your children to:

- Wash their hands often
- Sneeze into their elbows if no tissue is available
- Dispose of used tissue immediately in a lined garbage can

In keeping with the Health Department guidelines, we are requesting that :

- Children who have a fever plus cough or stuffy nose or sore throat stay home for a week
- Adults who are ill not enter the building

Reminders

- If there are cones in the entrance on 181st Street, please do not try to enter until they are removed; students may be in PE class there
- Please do not bring dogs on the playground at arrival, lunch, or dismissal—some of our students are allergic and/or frightened

New clarification of school dress code—please keep fingernails natural

Effective immediately, we are modifying our dress code to state that fingernails must be natural—students' own and uncolored, unpolished, etc

BSJ update

An orientation meeting was held in April for a initial group of members of the Board of Specified Jurisdiction. We are still seeking more members with expertise in areas such as institutional advancement (grants, annual fund, major donors—sources of major, predictable income), enrollment management, and marketing/communications.

Members need not be parents, so if you know someone interested in this type of activity and willing to serve at least on a committee, please contact me at 708-895-1661. We welcome alumni, community members, parishioners, etc.

Protecting Children Audit

The archdiocese now requires we submit an annual list of all employees and volunteers along with the date of completion of each of the requirements. We know that over the years, some of you may have turned in forms to the parish office or us but these forms may not have been recorded in our current record-keeping. We may have to contact you regarding getting another copy. Mrs. Summerrise has looked through each binder for the following:

- Application for employment or volunteer service
- Virtus training certificate
- Signed acknowledgement of the code of conduct
- DCFS release for background check

In addition, you need to have completed the online background check and been approved through the archdiocese and through the parish/school in your current status as employee or volunteer.

Finally, you need to keep reading the Virtus training bulletins that you are notified about through the email address you used when you registered for Virtus training. These come about once a month, so keep watching.

Mandated reporter training For all staff—April 24

All current regularly scheduled employees as well as Fr. Fred, Mrs. Antoskiewicz and I attended a required workshop on our status as mandated reporters.

Topics included our responsibility to report **any reasonable suspicion** of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect to DCFS. We are not to investigate ourselves once there is a suspicion.

They also walked us through what each of these are, how to report them, what to expect to happen once a report is made.

No one likes to make these reports, but law obliges us to when we suspect abuse or neglect.

One surprising piece of information was that a child as young as 10 could be considered an abuser.

We were also directed to ensure that any reports of bullying behavior be dealt with immediately and firmly.

Our goal is to keep each child safe.