

"No one who sets a hand to the plow
and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."

St. Ann Family,

October 6, 2017

We're already through the first week of October and it seems the weeks are moving faster and faster as we make our way toward the end of the first quarter. The official conclusion of the first quarter of school is next Friday, October 13th. The report cards will be going home on Friday the 20th and Parent Teacher Conferences are on October 26th.

In an attempt to make our Parent Teacher Conference sign up more efficient and accessible, we'll be trying out an online sign-up system which will be made available early next week. Families will be invited to log in to an online schedule to choose the PTC time that is most convenient for them. This will cut down on scheduling conflicts, paper use, and missed conferences as the system sends reminders as the conference day/time approaches. If this online system works smoothly, we'll use it again in the spring. If it is a headache, we'll change our approach.

The 4th grade class led our All-School Mass this week celebrating the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi. The class shared with us a brief biography of St. Francis' life and also helped us celebrate a commissioning of our school's adoption and work toward Virtue Based Restorative Discipline. The Wednesday Gospel was about the need to leave behind our earthly concerns, accomplishments, and status in order to fully devote ourselves to following Jesus. St. Francis was an excellent model of this approach as he left behind a comfortable life in order to pursue a most spartan and Christ centered existence. Fr. Nick spoke to us about the need to "practice" virtuous behavior in the same ways we practice spelling, singing, or soccer. The only way to get better at living with virtue is to practice it and develop those holy habits that bring us closer to God.

This evening (Saturday, October 7th) is Soccer Night, an awesome St. Ann tradition. It's an night of BBQ and a series of soccer games between students and their parents/family members. Soccer Night Schedule

6:00 Kindergarten Girls vs parents

6:30 Kindergarten Boys vs parents

7:00 3rd grade boys vs Moms

8:00 8th Grade Girls vs All Star Moms

9:00 8th Grade Boys vs Men's Club

Come and enjoy friendly competition, good food and the company of fellow St. Ann families.

The Knights of Columbus District Level Soccer Challenge is continuing this Sunday, October 8th, at 1:00pm. Roughly a dozen St. Ann students of varying ages have advanced to this district level round. The challenge continues Sunday at 1pm at the St. Ann soccer field.

This Monday, October 9th, St. Ann will be engaging in a school tradition called "Peaceful Shirt Day". This tradition is a 'semi-dress down' opportunity for staff and students to help out a special cause. As October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the St. Ann school community has been directly affected by this, we'll be collecting \$1 donations as staff and students are permitted to wear their peaceful shirts along with their regular uniform bottoms (shorts, pants, skirts, jumpers). 'Peaceful Shirts' include any shirts that express a message of peace or virtue, past St. Ann peaceful shirts, shirts with religious or positive imagery/message, and in this week's case, pink shirts that might help raise awareness and support for our cause.

Our 6th grade class will be headed off to camp this week on October 11th. They're looking forward to two days of team building, personal growth, and outdoor challenges. The students will be riding a bus. Please pray for the class as they prepare and engage in this special experience.

Our 7th and 8th grade classes will be participating in The Federation's annual Confirmation Rally at Trinity Catholic High School this Friday, October 13th. We'll be looking for parent chaperones for this day trip. Chaperones will not need to stay the entire day but we will need the students transported to the event in the morning and back to St. Ann at the end of the day. Contact Mrs. Thompson if you can help!

On Monday, October 16th we will have the Bobo's fundraising items delivered to our school. We will likely need a couple parent volunteers to help us organize and sort through the items to be sure that students are able to receive the right items in an efficient manner. PLEASE make yourself available to pick up the items at the end of the day near dismissal time, if you can. Many students/families have multiple boxes being delivered and it can be difficult for a student to carry all of those items to the car or to the library on their own. Keeping up with those items during after school activities like choir, Girls Inc., or after-care can also be difficult. Additionally, some items are frozen and likely need to remain that way for freshness. Students who are not able to get their

frozen items home in a timely manner risk having them wasted. We do not have room at school to store frozen items that are not picked up.

On Wednesday, October 18th, we will be hosting 8th graders from 3 other Archdiocesan grade schools: St. Cecelia, Our Lady Queen of Peace, and St. Justin the Martyr (Fr. Bill's new parish). The students will join us for a special 9:15 version of the all-school Mass. This visit is a part of the Faith In Action project identified by Fr. Bill while at St. Ann and continued through his new and old parishes to create opportunities for students of varying backgrounds to come together to pray and learn and focus on what they have in common as 8th grade Catholic school students. Please note: Fr. Nick will be celebrating an 8:00 Mass for those regular time attendees, and the 9:15 school Mass for anyone interested in that liturgy. All are welcome and we encourage our friends and family members to join us for this special Mass to help illustrate the St. Ann school and parish community to all of our guests.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-Fright Night is another popular St. Ann tradition and the 8th grade has assured me that this will be the most fun and spooky edition yet. Join us on Friday, October 20th for an evening of tricks, treats, games, and a haunted campus experience provided by our very scary 8th grade class. Look out for more information that was sent home in yesterday's Friday folder.

October 23rd-26th is Red Ribbon Week, a week celebrated by many schools across the nation to help educate students about healthy living practices, diet and exercise, and a drug free lifestyle. The week is highlighted by many fun themes and activities for each day. Look out for a Student Council flyer coming home soon with the details!

Our 2nd grade class will be participating in The Federation's 2nd grade sacramental retreat at the Pallotine Renewal Center on October 25th. We will need parent chaperones for this excursion as well! The students will be riding a bus.

Our 7th and 8th grade students are working to start a school newspaper. The first meeting took place this past Wednesday and they'll be meeting again this Wednesday. If your 7th/8th grade student is interested in becoming a reporter, editor, photographer, writer, cartoonist, or copier for the school paper, let us know!

As the weather forecast appears to be gradually trending toward a more autumn-like feel, the temperatures may be going down. While the midday recess and P.E. classes will likely be quite comfortable, students may need a light jacket or sweater on the way to school and those students in after-care or gardening club will likely be

outside in the early morning and early evening when temperatures are cooler. Please be sure your students have the right attire for the extent of their school day.

•If you still need to complete a Protecting God's Children Workshop, more sessions are available around town. The schedule can be found through this link:

http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=14498&theme=0

Mark Your Calendar

October 7th-Soccer Night 6pm

October 9th-Peaceful Shirt Day

October 9th-School Board 6:30pm

October 11th-13th-6th grade camp

October 13th-Confirmation Rally at TCHS

October 13th-Final day of 1st quarter

October 16th Bobo's items delivery/pickup

October 18th-Faith in Action Mass-9:15

October 20th-Fright Night

October 20th-Report Cards

October 23rd-26th-Red Ribbon Week

October 25th-2nd grade retreat

October 26th-Parent Teacher Conferences 1pm-8pm

Blessings,
Jacob Reft

****SCROLL DOWN FOR A FUN GUESSING GAME!****

This week's close-up guessing game picture:

