



ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Dear Parents,

Our year is off to a wonderful start! There are so many reasons for this that I will use bullets and try to condense.

- The Holy Spirit sent us a wonderful Assistant Principal, Mrs. Joann Aubuchon, aka Jo. Jo comes to us with outstanding teaching skills, she formerly taught at Presentation in Lee's Summit and St. James in New Jersey. For the last ten years she has served as the Director of Customer Service at Starlight Theater. Her warm personality, outstanding communication skills and desire to do whatever needs to be done to make our school the best it can be have endeared her to all. Three fabulous new teachers have also joined us and added new talents and positive energy to our school. Mrs. Tara O'Sullivan is teaching first grade. Ms. Vicki DeBlase is teaching 7th & 8th Grade Language Arts and Mrs. Sue Mannebach is teaching 7th grade Science.
- A teaching staff dedicated to lifelong learning went the extra mile this summer. Twelve teachers attended the "Professional Learning Communities At Work", presentations in St. Charles, MO. from June 13th – 15th. It was a pleasure to see their enthusiasm grow as they learned how the use of common assessments of important standards could increase the learning for all students. Jen Moreland presented the same materials to the rest of the staff in June with the same result, a commitment to moving quickly to incorporate this research-based approach to learning for all students. Fifteen teachers attended a two day institute at St. James School Aug. 4 & 5, titled "The Secrets to Creating a Positive School Climate". This fabulous workshop was a reinforcement of the brain compatible strategies we currently use with lots of new info about using movement in learning, community circles and the importance of emotion in learning. August 11th we hosted Robi Kronberg who spent the day with us on "Collaboration in Inclusive Classrooms." Robi gave excellent strategies for working with children with disabilities. She gave great strategies and tips to classroom aides and provided support for teachers and aides in establishing an effective classroom. Finally, on Aug. 14, Kim Bailey from the PLC (Professional Learning Community) Institute worked with the teachers on creating pre-assessments and common assessments.
- The School Board and many faithful parents recruited by them spent the summer gathering information needed for our accreditation. They have investigated the areas of Catholicity, Mission Statement, Philosophy, Climate, Leadership, Professional Staff, Curriculum, Instruction, Safety, Facilities and Finance. Currently, the School Board and the school administration are collaborating on a Long Range Plan which will assist in organizing and prioritizing the needs of the school. We are blessed with a hard working and exceptionally talented school board!
- The St. Elizabeth Parent Community, as always, supports our efforts and works to supply our needs. Best of all, we teach students who mirror their parents' values of care, service and hard work. We are issuing a call to all parents to save a spot on the calendar for the weekend of October 24th either from 9-11 or 1-3 and October 25th from 1-3 to assist the staff in putting the finishing touches on our buildings and grounds for the accreditation visit.
- Finally, this year will be a bittersweet one for me as I watch all of the beauty of our community for the last time. As many of you are already aware, I will be retiring at the end of this school year. It has been my privilege to serve as principal of St. Elizabeth School for the last seventeen years. I'm hoping that this year will be the best of all!

Sandy Nickel

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Dear Parents,

As you may know, flu is spreading easily from person to person and school age children are among the groups most affected. We are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu at St. Elizabeth School. We want to keep the school open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. **But, we need your help to do this.**

We are working closely with the Diocesan School Office and the Health Department to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

If the flu becomes more severe, we may take additional steps to prevent the spread such as:

- Conducting active fever and flu symptom screening of students and staff as they arrive at school
- Making changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks farther apart and postponing class trips
- Dismissing students from school for at least 7 days if they become sick

For now, we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help.

- **Teach your children to wash their hands often** with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or un-washed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. When a tissue is not available, teach them to cover their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

For more information, visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.

Sincerely,

Sandy Nickel
Joann Aubuchon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Our school has an asbestos management plan, which is monitored by the Diocesan Office of Property Management. The plan for St. Elizabeth School is on file in the school office and is available to be examined in the office if anyone wishes to do so.

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OVER THE UNIFORM POLICY
PLEASE HELP US BY MAKING SURE YOUR CHILDREN LEAVE
HOME IN APPROPRIATE UNIFORM. THANKS SO MUCH.**

PROCEDURE REMINDERS

TARDIES – The doors open @ 7:50 a.m. at the first bell. **Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classroom when the 8:00 bell rings.** If a student in grades 1 – 8 is tardy, they will need to stop by the office to sign in and get a tardy slip to give to their teacher. Students in K must sign in with their teacher.

VISITOR PASSES – ALL PARENTS must sign in and sign out at the school office when going to any part of the building other than the office. This would include going to your child's classroom in the morning before the 8:00 bell rings, as well as during/after dismissal. Make sure you take a visitor's pass when signing in and return it upon signing out.

If you need to meet/talk with a teacher, please make arrangements for a time when the teacher is not responsible for students. Once the 7:50 bell rings in the morning, a teacher's responsibility is to the students until AFTER ALL OF THEIR students are dismissed at the end of the day. Leave a voicemail or send a Pass-a-Note on Sycamore if you need to convey information to the teacher or to arrange for a meeting.

DROP OFF BASKET –There is a tan colored plastic container just inside the main door for the items that you drop off for your student(s) in grades 1 thru 8. This would include forgotten lunches, homework, clothing for after school activities, etc. Please label items clearly with the student's name and teacher. It is the student's responsibility to check this basket. **We will put a message in the teacher's voicemail or send a PAN, but items will not be delivered to the classroom.**

ABSENTEES – Please call the school absentee line at 816-523-7101 before 9:00 a.m. if your child will be absent from school on that day. **PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CHILD'S NAME, HOMEROOM TEACHER AND A REASON FOR THE ABSENCE. HOMEWORK REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME ALSO.** The message will then be forwarded to the child's teacher. Homework can be picked up in the office after 3:00 p.m. Requests for homework to be picked up before 3 p.m. cannot be guaranteed. If homework requests are not made by 9 a.m., we cannot guarantee that the work will be in the office by the end of the day, as the teachers may use part of their plan time to get the work together. Parents will not be able to go to the classroom while classes are still in session to ask the teacher for homework. When you inform the teachers in advance of a planned absence, please make sure you also send the message to the school office. With all the activity in the classroom, the teacher may forget to pass this information along to the office. **IF YOU CALL THE OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ABSENTEE LINE AND LEAVE THE HOMEROOM TEACHER'S NAME THE MESSAGE WILL BE FORWARDED TO THEM AND ALL BASES WILL BE COVERED.**

WEST OF MAIN PLAYGROUND RULES

Parents: We appreciate your help in keeping the children safe when using the playground outside of school time.

- 1) Only Grades 5-8 are allowed to climb to the top of the Matrix.**
- 2) Only Grades 1-4 may use the teeter-totter.**
- 3) You must be seated at all times on the teeter-totter.**
- 4) Climbing up the slide is not allowed.**
- 5) Jumping off the slide is not allowed.**
- 6) You must go down the slide feet first.**
- 7) Jumping from the second level of the playground is not allowed.**
- 8) One person at a time on the monkey bars.**

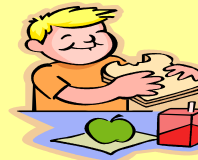
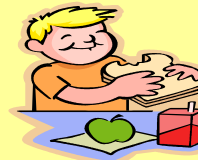
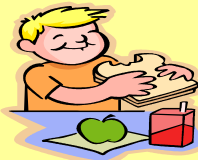
Students you know what activities are safe and not safe. We will continue to assess playground procedures to ensure safety for all students.

HANDBOOK SIGN-OFF SHEETS NEED TO BE RETURNED ASAP

Each family in grades K-8 received a Parent/Student Handbook at Packet Day. Once the handbook has been read, the hot pink signature sheet attached to the front of the Handbook needs to be signed and returned to the school. These should have been turned in on Conference Day. If you have not yet read the handbook, we would ask that you do so this weekend and return the signed slip on Monday. We know that this is a very busy time for our families, but it is important that everyone read the handbook so that we are all on the same page as we begin the 2009-2010 school year. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete your "homework".

YOUTH MINISTRY FLYER

Margaret Haik, Confirmation Coordinator @ St. Elizabeth Parish and Youth Director @ St. Peter's Parish is sending each school family a "need2know" newsletter. The bright green flyer will be coming home in your child's backpack and gives information about St. Elizabeth high school youth ministry activities. If you have a high school aged student in your home, or you know a high schooler, please share this information with them. Margaret wants all parishioners to know what is going on with your high school age youth. Please take a minute to read the flyer when it comes home.



LUNCH MENU FOR AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 11

Monday, August 31	Hot dog, baked beans, fruit, chocolate chip cookie
Tuesday, September 1	Taco salad, corn, fruit, frosted graham cracker
Wednesday, September 2	Egg w/sausage on English muffin, smiles, juice, strawberries
Thursday, September 3	Chicken fingers, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, gingerbread
Friday, September 4	Deli sub, baby carrots, fruit, jello
Monday, September 7	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
Tuesday, September 8	BBQ chicken on a bun, potato wedges, fruit, oatmeal cookie
Wednesday, September 9	Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad garlic toast, fruit
Thursday, September 10	Honey-glazed ham, mashed potatoes and Gravy, green beans, cinnamon roll
Friday, September 11	Fish shapes, baby carrots, fruit

Hot lunch with milk - \$2.00. (Grilled cheese sandwich or chef salad can be substituted for the main entrée)

Milk - \$.30 Water - \$1.00

Extras: Hamburger, burrito, French fries, chicken nuggets, etc. \$1.00

Cinnamon roll, ice cream, chips, yogurt, granola bar - \$.50 Garlic toast, cookie, cake - \$.30

CAFETERIA NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT BRING A LUNCH FROM HOME OR DO NOT PURCHASE A HOT LUNCH, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PURCHASE EXTRAS.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 4	NO AFTERCARE
September 7	LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
September 11	Dress Down for Disabilities - 50¢
September 19	Waldo Fall Festival
September 24	Fall CPTA Meeting - 7 p.m. in Seton Hall
September 25	Trash Bag Pick-Up