



ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Dear Parents,

Spring is just around the corner and it seems like we just started the new school year. You may recall in my September newsletter I outlined four major priorities that the school board would focus on this year. So here is a quick update on where we stand...

- ✓ Assist the school in securing Missouri Non Public accreditation (**NAILED IT!**)
- ✓ Draft a long-term plan for the school (**COMPLETE!**)
- Review and begin to implement pending recommendations for the SW pod (**TBD**)
- Support the succession of leadership (Principal, new board members) (**IN PROGRESS**)

I'll provide some additional context on the second two given they are not yet complete.

The Bishop is still working with a diocesan-wide committee on the long-term planning efforts for all Catholic schools. Again, this is a cross-section of leaders from multiple parishes and their scope is much larger than the southwest pod. The Bishop is currently searching for a new superintendent for the schools, so I expect that has slowed progress to some degree. We should remain patient and continue to pray for the right answer. While no official word has been given to the SW Pod, I do anticipate the Bishop will support our efforts to continue with a titling model, provided we can show it is a viable, long-term approach to funding our school ministry.

Meanwhile the St. Elizabeth school board, parish council and finance committee is appropriately focused on strengthening our parish-wide commitment to stewardship, as it is something within our control. As you all know, our first annual State of the Parish was an important step in providing ALL parishioners a balanced update on the health of our parish. Thank you all for taking the time to join us for that meeting. A lot of effort went into planning and coordinating the meeting and I can't tell you enough how blessed we are to have the dedicated volunteers and staff who helped pull that off...they continue to inspire me every day. If you have not done so, please do what you can to increase your pledge to the parish. As mentioned in the meeting, we are asking everyone to increase their current pledge amount by 6% to address the anticipated budget gaps in our parish.

As for the search for our next principal, the search committee continues to work through an effective multi-step process. We have been really fortunate in receiving several applicants and have narrowed the list to our top three candidates. Some of you may have heard from your children that we had some special visitors tour our school last week. Touring our top three candidates through the school is one important step in the search process. The committee felt this would help the candidates see and feel how special our school is, but also provides us the opportunity to see each of them interact with the staff and students. I know the candidates and the committee found this to be very helpful. We remain on target for completing the process this month and anticipate an announcement in the next several weeks.

Lastly, I will put in a plug in for the school board elections later this spring. We will be electing four new board members to replace the folks whose 2 year term ends in June. One of which must be a parishioner who is a non-school parent. I can honestly say it is one of the most rewarding volunteer positions at St. Elizabeth because you work side by side with diverse members of our community to advise and support the principal and pastor in driving our school forward. Good board members are level-headed, objective and very committed to our parish and school. They should have high integrity

and work well with others in planning and solving problems. They should be discreet and void of personal agendas. I have some names of a few that may be interested in running, but I would really encourage you to contact me if you or someone you know would make a good member of the board. I would welcome any questions you have about the role of the board or the upcoming elections.

God Bless,

Steve McClain
School Board President

P.S. Please add to your calendar that we will have our second open school board meeting on Tuesday April 20, 2010 in Seton Hall at 7:00 PM. Our goal is to have a new principal named by then and we plan to invite him/her to join us so they can meet all of you. Stay tuned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH CHRISTSKILLS – CURIOSITY AND PROBLEM SOLVING

2010-2011 REGISTRATION

If you have not yet turned in your 2010-2011 registration form, deposit and pledge card, please do so ASAP. If you will not be returning to St. Elizabeth next year, please notify the office ASAP. It is important for our planning that we know what your intentions are for next year. If you did not attend one of the State of the Parish meetings, you will need to contact Vicky Kinney, Parish Business Manager @ 816-523-2405 to arrange a meeting - at this meeting you will be given important school/parish information and then you will be given your registration form. The balance of registration fees must be paid by the end of May to avoid the per student late fee.

Check Sycamore for information about the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry on March 26.

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DADS' MASS

Next Wednesday, March 10, we will celebrate St. Joseph's Day with our Dads. Mass begins @ 8:30 a.m. Dads, uncles, significant male figures in your child's life are invited to join the students in the classrooms when the doors open at 7:50 a.m. and then attend Mass with them. This is a dress uniform day.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR INCOMING 8TH GRADERS – FALL, 2010

Effective beginning the 2010-2011 school year, the state of Missouri is implementing the following new requirement: Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine will be required for all incoming eighth (8th) grade students if the child has completed the recommended childhood DtaP/DTP vaccination series and has not received a Td booster within the past two (2) years. **Students must meet this requirement before the first day of school – the law does not allow for “in progress” so make sure to get this scheduled early in the summer. August seems a long way off, but not when trying to schedule summer appointments. The 2010-2011 Health Form is posted under the documents tab on Sycamore. Please download and take with you to the doctor and have them fill in the necessary information and sign the form.**



LUNCH MENU FOR MARCH 8 – MARCH 26

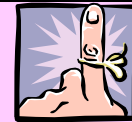
Monday, March 8	Sloppy Joe, smiles, fruit, chocolate chip cookie
Tuesday, March 9	Burrito, rice, fruit, brownie
Wednesday, March 10	Lasagna, salad, garlic toast, fruit
Thursday, March 11	Honey-glazed ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, cinnamon roll
Friday, March 12	Grilled cheese, baby carrots, fruit, sherbet
Week of March 15 – SPRING BREAK	
Monday, March 22	Mini corn dogs, baked beans, fruit, peanut butter cookie
Tuesday, March 23	Chicken patty on a bun, krinkle fries, fruit, ice cream sandwich
Wednesday, March 24	Baked pasta, salad, garlic toast, fruit
Thursday, March 25	Pork patty, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, pineapple upside down cake
Friday, March 26	NO SCHOOL - INSERVICE

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



March 5	Newsletter Posted
March 5	2:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross
March 9	Class Pictures
March 10	St. Joseph's Day Dads' Mass
March 11	Shades of Blue Concert
March 12	End of 3rd Quarter
March 12	2:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross
March 15 – 19	SPRING BREAK
March 24	5th & 6th Grade Spring Concert – 7 p.m. in Seton Hall
March 25	Newsletter Posted
March 25	Report Cards
March 26	NO SCHOOL – INSERVICE DAY
April 1	NOON DISMISSAL – HOLY THURSDAY – NO AFTERCARE
April 2	NO SCHOOL – GOOD FRIDAY
April 23	NOON DISMISSAL – NO AFTERCARE
April 24	Casino Night & Auction
April 30	May Crowning @ 1 p.m. – Dismissal @ 2 p.m.