

February 1st, 2012

Dear Parents:

National Catholic Schools Week is well underway. We have many visitors for which we are very grateful. We are hoping that all of you will join us for Sunday's concluding activities. We'll begin with the **10:00 Mass** planned by the kindergarten students and their families. Candidates preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will be presented to the community during the Mass. Immediately afterwards, please join us in the gym for hospitality provided by the Parents' Club. Don't forget to visit the **Book Fair** in the library. Following that, be sure to visit the classrooms, as the teachers will be in their rooms welcoming one and all.

Today is **Grandparents and Special Friends Day!** Thank you to the 150 special guests who were able to join us for this fun event. The children were really, really excited to have you come and visit their school. They are so lucky to have such special people in their lives. A HUGE thank you goes out to Maria Sweileh, Maravic Vila, Nancy Londero, Anarose Schelstrate and Linda Shah for their help in preparing **over 400 hot dog lunches** for all to enjoy.

Tomorrow is **Groundhog Day**. It is said that if the groundhog sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of bad weather, and if he doesn't, that spring will be here soon. We are crossing our fingers that Punxsutawney Phil does not see his shadow and we can look forward to an early spring!

Also tomorrow, at 7:00 p.m., in Carroll Hall, the **Parents Club** and all interested parents will come together to evaluate what they have accomplished and plan for upcoming activities.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY: Be prepared! **Friday, February 3rd is a school holiday** for the students. Teachers and administrators from all the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese will be attending an all day in-service at Serra High School.

ACTS OF KINDNESS: Last Friday, Peter Johnson, son of our own Father Johnson, spoke to students in K-5 about acts of kindness. Please read the letter enclosed and help your child use the chart to record the many ways they have shown kindness to others throughout the month. February is official National Heart Health Month and the best way to celebrate this is with a whole month of kindness. Our goal at STM this month is 6000 acts of kindness.

SANDWICHES-FOR-THE-NEEDY: Thank you to all who provided sandwiches last Friday. An extra special thank you to the 2nd graders who brought in a tremendous amount of sandwiches. Our next collection is scheduled for February 10th when our 1st graders take the lead. Volunteers from the Martin de Porres House have let us know that the clients love the sandwiches provided by our school and look forward to receiving them. We've been given a few guidelines to help with the distribution of sandwiches - Please individually wrap the sandwiches (ziplock sandwich bags) and label what is included. This helps people with allergies and dietary

restrictions.

SPELLING BEE: Well done to the participants of this year's *school spelling bee!*

4th Grade: Dylan Limjoco, Kailey Solorzano, Kevin Sarmiento

5th Grade: Kevin Dunn, Chloe David, Lemar Deguzman

6th Grade: Tony D'Aura, Nikki Binza, Ricardo Vila

7th Grade: Sydnie Gamboa, Daniela Londero, Nizar Sweileh

8th Grade: Luca Trumbull, Peter Kolokotronos, Anderson Nguyen

Special congratulations to school champion, **Tony D'Aura**, first runner-up,

Nizar Sweileh, and second runner up, Nikki Binza! Tony won the bee on the word **psychoanalysis**.



CIOPPINO 2012: Work continues in preparation for the 20th annual Cioppino Dinner Dance on **Saturday, February 25th**. Thank you for the many donations that have come through the school office for our Cioppino baskets and auction items – keep them coming!

Reservations are trickling in. This event is a lot of fun. Remember, childcare is available for a nominal fee. Please respond as soon as possible as we believe this will be

a sell out event again this year.

USF PROGRAM: There are still 2 spaces available in the **Digital Media and Learning program at USF**. We have decided to offer spaces to 6th grade students. Please send a letter to Mrs. Fitzpatrick if you are interested in applying.

YARD DUTY: **We need your help!** Thank you to those who regularly volunteer for **yard duty**. The teachers definitely appreciate your help. If you have never volunteered before, please consider doing so. It is for the benefit of all our children.

RE-REGISTRATION: Re-registration for current students will be online again this year. More information on how to re-register will be available towards the end of March.

STOMACH FLU: St. Ignatius Prep has recently experienced a high number of cases of gastroenteritis (stomach flu). Over 150 students either called in sick or were sent home yesterday after suddenly becoming ill with the stomach flu at school. They have been in contact with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and were advised to thoroughly sanitize and deeply clean the entire building. Please remember that if your child is experiencing any symptoms related to an upset stomach, fever, diarrhea, or vomiting, please keep your child home for at least seventy-hours after vomiting has ceased or after his or her fever has abated. Most gastroenteritis improves with rest and fluids. We also ask that you encourage your child to adopt healthy habits to prevent all types of infection, especially washing hands often and refraining from touching eyes, nose, or mouth and not sharing personal items.

Finally, last Monday, January 23rd marked the beginning of Chinese New Year. This holiday celebrates the beginning of a new year according to the lunar calendar. It is considered to be one of the most important holidays for Chinese families. Chinese New Year is celebrated with big family gatherings, gift giving, the eating of symbolic foods and display of festive decorations--all focused on bringing good luck for the new year and celebrating the coming of spring. **Gung Hey Fat Choy!**

We ask you to please check out and thoughtfully respond to all the other information you are receiving in today's Envelope.

See you Sunday!

Marie Fitzpatrick
Principal

新年快乐

