

February 8th, 2012

Dear Parents:

The Family Mass, Book Fair, the school-wide open house and the general spirit of goodwill were a fitting conclusion to ***National Catholic Schools Week*** at St. Thomas More School. We have accomplished so much here by working together. Thank you for all the positive comments made to the teachers and staff this past weekend. It is great to be recognized for a job well done. A special thank you to our kindergarten teachers, ***Heidi Haas and Megan Kennedy***, for preparing a beautiful ***Family Mass*** with the kindergartners and their families. We are so proud of our wonderful kindergarten students. This is a good time to reflect on the benefit of being part of a Catholic school. The strong school community, grounded in a shared faith and the support and high expectations of parents, teachers and the larger community, offers your children a foundation for facing the rapidly changing world around them. By sharing this belief in God's goodness and living out their faith every day, your children are blessed with a clear advantage. Faith provides an anchor that will serve your children well into the future.

A ***HUGE*** thank you once again this year to ***Joan Cuddihy***, our Book Fair moderator, and her competent committee of booksellers for the great job they did all last week with this year's ***Book Fair***. Thanks to all of you who bought books to enrich your children's lives and to donate to the classroom libraries.

Cioppino 2012 + FREE DRESS: Work continues in preparation for our BIG fundraiser 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! Ticket sales have really picked up for the event. ***Reservation forms*** are included in your envelopes again today – tell your friends! This event is a lot of fun. Remember, childcare is available for \$25 and includes a pizza dinner and snacks. Please respond as soon as possible so that we can begin work on our seating plan. As an added bonus, every school parent who buys a ticket for Cioppino will receive a ***FREE DRESS PASS*** for their child/ren to be used on Monday, February 27th.

Friday is a busy day at STM!

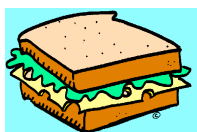


Museum
of
Craft
and
Folk Art

MOCFA: Members from the Museum of Craft and Folk Art (MOCFA) have their annual visit with the Kindergarten and 1st graders on Friday, February 10th. They will learn about how to use items we consider “trash” to design some fantastic pieces of art.

Museo Italo Americano: The Museo Italo Americano (Italian American Museum) of San Francisco preserves the heritage of Italian Americans for future generations through art exhibitions, language classes, cultural programs, and films. We are lucky to have representatives from the Museo visit with our 7th and 8th graders this Friday to talk about Ghiberti Doors and produce fabulous art projects.

MUSEO
ITALO AMERICANO



Sandwiches-for-the-needy: Thank you to the 2nd graders and their families for their outstanding support of our previous collection of **sandwiches-for-the-needy**. The next collection is this Friday, February 10th with the **first graders** taking the lead that day. Please remember to individually wrap the sandwiches (ziplock sandwich bags) and label what is included. This helps people with allergies and dietary restrictions.

2012-2013 Kindergarten: We thank you for all the referrals of new families who have now applied to the school. Kindergarten screening is well underway for the more than 70 applicants for our 2012-2013 kindergarten class. The first round of **kindergarten acceptance letters** will be going home shortly.

Books-to-Bravo: The 6th graders have begun their Books-to-Bravo program with members of the S.F. Opera Guild. This 10-week program will culminate with a performance of their student-written opera in April.

Strategic Planning Committee: This Saturday, February 11th, our Strategic Planning Committee will meet in the STM Library from 12:00pm-2:00pm. During this meeting they will plan the formation of a School Advisory Board and the various committee's associated with this. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with this task.



Candy Grams: A reminder to all who wish to purchase candy grams from the STM Student Council: orders must be received by this Friday, February 10th. Once you have filled out all the information on your candy grams, please send it back to the office by dismissal on Monday, February 13th. The Student Council will then attach candy to the cards and deliver them on Valentine's Day.

Yo-yo assembly: This past Monday, students were treated to a yo-yo assembly called 'The **NED Show**' which promotes academic achievement through character development. Three important messages the students learned were:

Never Give Up

Encourage Others

Do Your Best

To reinforce the **NED** message which was presented through the use of yo-yo's a NED play zone has been established in the school yard where students can safely work on their yo-yoing skills. If your child wishes to purchase a yo-yo, check out the flyer in today's envelope.



Field Trips: Taking a **field trip** next Monday, February 13th, are the **fourth graders**. They will be traveling to Pacifica where they will experience life on a *Californio* rancho at Sanchez Adobe. Permission slips for this trip went home last week. On Friday, February 24th, the **second grade** students will visit the Academy of Sciences. Permission slips for this trip are in second grade students' envelopes today.



Cyber-Bullying Workshop + FREE DRESS: Please remember to save the evening of Thursday, February 16th at 6:30pm for a **mandatory** cyber-bullying workshop for **all** families of 1st through 8th grade. Free babysitting will be offered in Carroll Hall. To combat the bullying epidemic for our children, let's all work together to

create an environment where harrasment is not tolerated. **SAVE THE DATE!** Pick up your child's **FREE DRESS** pass for Friday, February 17th from your child's teacher at this workshop.

Talk about Touching Workshop + FREE DRESS: A reminder that a parent workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd at 6:00pm and is mandatory for all preschool and kindergarten parents to attend. Parents of students in 1st through 3rd grade are also encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided if needed. **SAVE THE DATE! FREE DRESS** passes for kindergarten students to be used on Friday, February 24th will be available from Mrs. Kennedy and Ms. Haas on this night.

First Reconciliation/Communion Meeting: A mandatory meeting for **all** second grade parents has been scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00pm in the second grade classroom. Further information will be available in next week's envelope.





Tuition Assistance Program: Please let Mrs. Fitzpatrick know *in writing* if you are interested in receiving an application form for our TAP (Tuition Assistance Program). We will continue to accept requests through the month of February.

From the Athletic Board: Congratulations to all our athletes who represented STM in Boys' Basketball this year. Five of our teams made it to the playoffs. Check out the schedule of playoff games this week and come on out to support the teams! Go Broncos!

Team	Opponent	Date & Time	Where
8 th grade A	St. Peter Pacifica	Wednesday, Feb 8 th - 5:30pm	St. Emydius
8 th grade B	St. Paul	Friday, Feb 10 th - 7:00pm	St. Emydius
3 rd grade A	OLV	Saturday, Feb 11 th - 10:00am	St. Thomas More
6 th grade A	St. Monica	Saturday, Feb 11 th - 11:00am	St. Thomas More
7 th grade	West Portal	Saturday, Feb 11 th - 12:00pm	St. Thomas More

May God continue to bless you and your family each day.

Sincerely,

Marie Fitzpatrick
Principal

Schoolwide Learning Expectations

St. Thomas More School Students are...**T**houghtful, Spiritual Individuals
Highly Effective Communicators
Involvement Citizens
Nurturing Individuals
Knowledge Seekers

St. Thomas More School Students **THINK**