

November 16th, 2011

Dear Parents:

As Thanksgiving approaches we have much for which we are thankful. It is a time of year when we think of others less fortunate. Your generous response to the Thanksgiving food collection is a wonderful sign of your thoughtfulness and a great example for your children of giving to the local community. We are almost finished filling our second barrel with your donations. This **annual collection of canned goods and other non-perishable items** for the San Francisco Food Bank provides **Thanksgiving meals for those in need**. We will continue the collection through this Friday, November 18th. One other way you can help those in need during this Thanksgiving season is with the **sandwiches-for-the-needy** collection also this Friday. The students and families of the sixth graders are taking the lead that day, but we are looking for widespread support from students in all grades for this pre-Thanksgiving collection.

Next Tuesday, before we dismiss for **Thanksgiving recess**, the 1st graders will prepare a Thanksgiving prayer service in the church at 11:00. We'd love to see you there. Please remember that next Tuesday, November 22nd is a **minimum day** with early dismissal. Extended Care will be available. Just a reminder that next Wednesday, November 23rd is a student holiday. School will resume on Monday, November 28th and being the 4th Monday of the month will be a minimum day. A hot dog lunch will be available for purchase by those attending extended care that day.

We won't be here to do a **Wednesday newsletter next week**, however, we will send home the relevant flyers we receive for distribution on Tuesday.

SCRIP: Start your Christmas shopping now! This week's order is the last one to be received before **Black Friday and Cyber Monday!** Order your scrip by 6am on Friday November 18th and receive it next Tuesday before Thanksgiving break. For your convenience, an order will be placed the day after

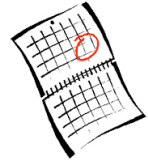
Thanksgiving - remember the 6am deadline!

8TH GRADE RECOMMENDATIONS: This is the time of the



year when 8th graders are busily writing their high school essays and completing their applications. Because of changing demographics many families attend church in Parishes other than where their school is located. Please remember that students will need to have their clergy recommendations signed by the pastor in the parish **where they attend Mass and other church services**. This will ensure that recommendations are written by a pastor who knows your child and who is familiar with your family's involvement in your local church.

ATTENDANCE: Here are a few reminders about parent responsibility regarding absences, tardiness, and medical appointments. If you know your child is going to be absent in advance please send a note or an email to your child's teacher. If your child is ill please call the school office in the morning to let us know. The following are some California State Law regulations regarding attendance.



- If a student is absent or tardy a written excuse from the parent is required at the beginning of the next school day.
- Medical absence: Students are legally credited for attendance when time is spent in medical and dental appointments. Verification of such appointments is required from the medical or dental office.
- Tardiness: A student is tardy if he/she arrives after 8:10. If he/she arrives after morning recess, he/she is marked absent half a day.

FUNDRAISING: Did you receive all the **gift catalog** items you ordered? We received some of the items on backorder and they will be sent home with your oldest child today.



TECH CAMP: Looking for something fun to do over the Winter break? Reserve a spot now for the **Winter Tech Camp**. Always a popular activity here at STM! This year camp attendees will make digital music, create their own 'claymation' movie and experience 3D modeling. Spaces are filling fast – get your reservation in now!

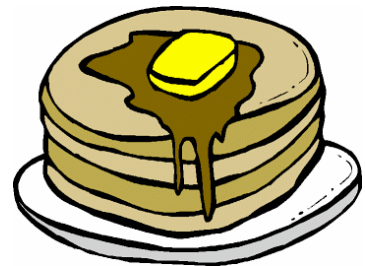
IOWA SCORES: As we mentioned last week, our school showed very healthy IOWA test results. Today you are receiving a flyer with some of the overall scores for our school. Keep up the great work!



SCHOOL TOURS: This year, because of numerous

requests, we decided to offer school tours beginning in November for prospective families as well as our own preschool families. We had 24 families join us for today's tour. Thank you to our 8th grade student ambassadors, Adrian Embry, Samantha Basco, Katie Nori and Mike Santos who shared a wealth of information with those families. We have another three tours scheduled for **November 29th, December 6th, and January 11th**. Please call or email the office to reserve a space. Applications are now available from the office or can be downloaded from our website. Please share this information with your family and friends. Students currently enrolled in grades K-7 need not reapply. You will be receiving re-registration information in the spring.

DECEMBER 4th: Please mark December 4th on your calendar as an exciting day here at STM. We will begin the day with a **10:00am Family Mass** where we will commission our current altar servers and install those who are newly trained. Students in 4th through 8th grade who would like to become altar servers are receiving a flyer in today's envelope. Following the Mass, the Parents' Club will present a **Pancake Breakfast** in the gym. Also in the gym, the Alumni Association and the Parents' Club will present their annual **Winter Faire**. They will also offer activities for the children, a bake sale, pictures with Santa, and great door prizes. Do you know someone who would like to participate? We still have a few tables for quality, hand-made arts and crafts or gourmet food items. Tables are \$35.00 for the day. For questions or to reserve a table, please contact Linda Shah @ 415-218-0401 or email lp1114@aol.com.



中国

CHINESE: Is your child interested in learning Chinese? Afterschool Chinese classes are open to STM K-8 students and will be held on Mondays from 3:15-4:30pm. The class will run for 8 weeks and the cost is \$120 per child. Please check out the registration of interest flyer in today's envelope and respond by Friday, December 9th if you are interested. A minimum of 10 students is needed in order for this class to be offered. **Register early!**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Please save Tuesday night, December 13th, for our school's presentation of **Three Wise Men**. All students, preschool through 8th grade will have a part in this program.

BRONCO SPORTS: The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade volleyball teams gave a very good showing in the playoff games last weekend but did not make it to the championship level. Let's try again next year! Congratulations to the **8th grade volleyball team** as well as the **6th grade soccer players** who both

made it to the championship game this week! The **8th grade volleyball** team plays Good Shepherd in their championship game tonight at 7:30pm at St. Emydius. Not to be outdone by the girls, the **6th grade boys soccer** team will play St. Gabriel's in their championship game this Saturday @ Crocker Amazon at 2:15pm. Come on out to support the teams!

Let's go Broncos, let's go!!

As we come to the day when we recognize all for which we should be thankful, we are especially mindful of you. You continue to support so many of our efforts by your presence and participation. These efforts have continued for years. Our full student enrollment and waiting lists confirm that we are the little Archdiocesan School that could! Thank you, thank you, thank you and enjoy a great holiday with family and friends!

Sincerely,

Marie Fitzpatrick
Principal



*Happy
Thanksgiving!*