

November 2nd, 2011

Dear Parents:

Yesterday, November 1st, the student body attended Mass to commemorate All Saints' Day. **All Saints' Day** is a festival on which the church remembers and honors all the Christian saints. It was very moving to hear the 6th, 7th and 8th graders proclaim a litany of saints. Thank you to all who joined us for this special mass. Today we celebrate the feast of **All Souls**, also known as **Dia de los Muertos**. During the month of November, we pray especially for our own family members who are no longer with us. May they rest in peace.

Ghosts and goblins, monsters and fairies – they were all here this past Monday. It was wonderful to see the many parents and family members who joined us for the **Halloween Parade**. Check out the great pictures on our website. Unfortunately, the unavailability of adequate parking caused some serious problems. Cars blocked entrances to the golf club and the freeway and another car had its side mirror torn off. Please **be considerate** when parking at school events and at dismissal. It is a major safety concern if emergency vehicles cannot get in or out because of cars parked inappropriately.

Tomorrow evening, in Carroll Hall at 7:00pm, all are invited to the **Parents' Club** first-Thursday-of-the-month meeting. Come with your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. See you there!

HELPING THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY/GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Sandwiches-for-the-needy days have now moved to Fridays. Our first collection will be November 18th with 6th grade taking the lead. Thanks to Anarose Schelstrate, for putting us in contact with the **Martin de Porres House of Hospitality** on Potrero Ave. Their mission is to serve in the spirit of compassion, understanding and love and they provide breakfast and lunch during the week and brunch on Sunday to those in need in the community. We encourage all of you to consider making an extra sandwich and/or lunch and sending it to the office on November 18th. This organization is always in need of volunteers. Please visit their website, martindeporres.org for more information. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1579 and is the patron saint of social justice. Go make a difference just like Martin did. Are you available to **deliver sandwiches** to the Martin de Porres House of Hospitality? We have two more dates in December and two in January. Please contact the school office if you can help.

FOOD DRIVE: This being November, we are starting our annual collection of canned goods and other non-perishable items for the **San Francisco Food Bank** to provide Thanksgiving meals for those in need. We have barrels here at school for your donations. We will continue the collection through November 18th.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: The next meeting for the Strategic Planning Committee is scheduled for Saturday, November 12th from 8:15-10:30am. Parents and faculty members who attended the **Strategic Planning Retreat** in September will shortly be receiving more information regarding this meeting.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES/REPORT CARDS: Just a reminder that Monday through Friday next week are all **minimum days** with 12:15/12:30 dismissal. We will have parent-teacher conferences during that time. Yes, there is extended care each of those days. Students not signed in to extended care will not be allowed to remain in the yard during your

conference. If you have not yet received a **conference form**, please check with the office to ensure your accounts are up to date.

MY STUDENTS PROGRESS: MyStudentsProgress.com is a web based school management software solution similar to PowerSchool that was designed exclusively for private schools. We now subscribe to this service in order to streamline and improve communication with teachers and parents. Currently, we are using the software to track attendance, as well as using the report card module. You will notice your child's **report card** you will receive next week has been computer generated through My Students Progress. The faculty has attended several in-service sessions as we learn the ins and outs of this new system. There are many more modules to this software management system that we will roll out over the next few years such as lunch ordering, electronic cumulative folders, and alumni and donor tracking.

MARIA'S AWESOME RIDE: Thank you for your overwhelming response to the 'Maria's Awesome Ride' fundraiser. With your help, the students raised **\$2,707.66**. I would like to extend a special note of gratitude to the families who sent in additional donations. We are sure that with these funds Maria will be able to purchase a reliable vehicle for her family's needs. Please continue to keep Maria and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

2012-2013 APPLICATION FORMS: Just a reminder that the 2012-2013 K-8 application forms will be available online and from the school office beginning next **Monday, November 7th**. We will send home application packets to all families who have requested one on that day. The following are the **four dates** for prospective families. Please call the school office at [415-337-0100](tel:415-337-0100) if you wish to attend.

8:45-10:15am Wednesday, November 16

8:45-10:15am Tuesday, November 29

8:45-10:15am Tuesday, December 6

8:45-10:15am Wednesday, January 11

YARD DUTY: Thank you to the many who signed up for yard duty through **sign-up genius**. The teachers definitely appreciate your help. If you have never volunteered before, please consider doing so even if you don't need the parent hours. It is for the benefit of all our children.

CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP: Looking for something fun to do over the Christmas break? Reserve a spot early for the **Christmas Young Animators Technology Camp**. Always a popular activity here at STM! Camp attendees will have fun making a Stop Motion movie with Playdough characters, create digital music, and make computer-generated animations. You are receiving a registration flyer today. Check it out!

PARISH REGISTRATION: Thank you to those who returned a St. Thomas More Church registration form. A reminder to 8th grade families that when applying to Catholic high schools, a pastor recommendation will be required from the Catholic church with which the family is registered.

Sincerely,
Marie Fitzpatrick
Principal