

October 26th, 2011

Dear Parents,

When you think of Halloween, what comes to mind? For a lot of people, Halloween has become synonymous with candy, costumes, scary stuff, and pumpkins. But do you know the religious connection to the holiday? The word Halloween itself is a contraction of "Hallowed evening". Hallowed is an old English word for "holy" – as in "Hallowed be Thy Name", in the Lord's Prayer. All Saints Day, celebrated on November 1st, is the day on which Catholics celebrate all the saints, known and unknown. The vigil or eve of this feast, October 31, is **Halloween**. The purpose of Halloween is to prepare us for All Saints Day by remembering and celebrating those saints. This year, **All Saints Day** is a holy day of obligation. Celebrating this special feast day by attending Mass is a wonderful way to honor the saints. Please consider joining us at 8:30am on Tuesday, November 1st for our student body mass honoring saints. Also, please review the flyer Monsignor Labib has included about a **special Healing Mass and Procession with the Relics** that evening at 8pm.

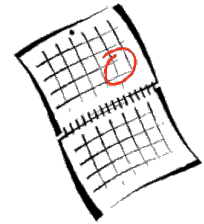
We will celebrate Halloween next Monday, October 31st. Just a reminder that when purchasing **costumes** for wearing to school on Monday, October 31st, please consider the following: age appropriate, bathroom accessible, make up must be applied at home, shoes must be comfortable for walking, and no weapons of any kind. The **Halloween costume parade** will be after lunch recess, about 1:05. The students will parade around the homestead for thirty to forty-five minutes. You should have plenty of time to capture your child's Kodak moment. After the parade, students will return to class to party until they drop. Parents are not permitted in classrooms unless specifically arranged in advance with the classroom teacher. At dismissal we will be thrilled to return your child to you complete with a sugar high!



PARENT CONFERENCES: This Friday, October 28th

marks the end of the first quarter of the school year. Report cards and academic test scores (second through eighth graders) will all be available to you at your **parent-teacher conference**. We are sending home scheduled appointments today. If you do not receive an appointment, please check with the office to ensure your accounts are up to date.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: We are thrilled to have so many families respond to our Strategic Planning Goals survey. To allow the remaining families to provide input, we have decided to extend the deadline to this **Friday, October 28th**. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/stmgoals> to agree or disagree with each goal statement and provide any comments you may have. Thank you for your support as together we plan for the next five years.



MARIA'S AWESOME RIDE: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our **weeklong bake sale** last week. We are still counting the money raised (over \$2,000 so far) and will bring you a grand total next week. If you still wish to send in personal donations, please do so by Friday, October 28th. Please continue to keep Maria and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



2012-2013 APPLICATION FORMS: Please check out the flyer in today's envelope for more information on **Kindergarten** tours and application forms for the next school year.

SCRIP: If you have not yet signed up, please check out the Parents' Club link on the STM homepage for further information or stop by the school office to get help with signing up. We are now carrying **Guerra Meats** gift certificates!

shopwithscrip.com

FUNDRAISING CATALOG: Today you are receiving the items ordered through our catalog sales. **Please check your order thoroughly and notify us immediately if you are missing anything.** There are still a few items on backorder. Call the office and check with Melody if you have questions. She has a complete list of those items.

CHEERLEADING: We are hoping to resurrect our **cheerleading program** this year. Students in 8th grade will receive an email shortly on how to sign up. Let's go Broncos, let's go!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS: Permission slips for the below mentioned field trip are in your envelopes today. Please pay attention to the due date to return the form and payment.

- Students from 5th, 7th, and 8th grades will attend Mercy SF's production of ***The Tempest*** on November 3rd .
- Riordan High School will perform ***Dracula*** for the 7th and 8th graders on November 15th.
- The 7th graders will begin Confirmation preparation by visiting the ***SF Food Bank*** on November 17th.
- The 2nd grade will take their first field trip of the year to ***Elkus Ranch*** in Half Moon Bay on November 17th.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR: In your Envelope today you are receiving the **Hot Lunch Menu** and **Calendar of Events for the month of November**. With all the minimum days for conferences, etc., it will be a helpful reminder throughout the month. Please also take special note of some changes in days leading up to Thanksgiving. Last May, to celebrate the solemnity of the 40th Anniversary of the Dedication of the mother church of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Archbishop George H. Niederauer declared that students be given an additional school holiday. We have chosen to take Wednesday, November 23rd. Tuesday November 22nd will be a minimum day and yes, extended care will be available that evening until 6pm.

And finally, congratulations to all who helped with or worked on last weekend's **Halloween Carnival!** What a great effort and great success. One student was heard to declare that Saturday was 'the best day of his life!' More information will come from the Parents' Club, but a big thank you to all for a job well done!



Happy Halloween! Happy All Saints Day!

Marie Fitzpatrick

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