

September 28th, 2011

Dear Parents:

Did you know that St. Francis is one of the patron saints of San Francisco? St. Francis was born at Assisi in 1182. After a carefree youth, he turned his back on inherited wealth and committed himself to God. Like many early saints, he lived a very simple life of poverty, and in so doing, gained a reputation of being the friend of animals. He established the rule of St Francis, which exists today as the Order of St. Francis, or the Franciscans. He died in 1226 at age 44. Please take a moment to read and reflect on the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi, also known as the Prayer for Peace.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



Tuesday, October 4th, is the **Feast of St. Francis**. In honor of his feast day and his love of animals we will have the annual blessing of the animals. Please join us in front of the St. Francis shrine up by the front of the church on Tuesday, October 4th at 3:05pm. You are welcome to bring your pets, pictures of your pet, or anything else that represents your pet that you wish to have blessed.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: A big thank you goes out to our Strategic Planning Retreat participants who gave up eight hours of their Saturday to help plan the future of St. Thomas More School. Thank you to the following parents and staff members: Charo Alonso, Julianne Beach, Monica Bickle, Raquel Cabading, Joan Coffey, John Coffey, Jennifer Conley, Rocel Corrales-Ollivier, Joan Cuddihy, Connie D’Aura, Abbie Gamboa, Natalia Girlich, Norma Sotomayor, Vernon Marcaida, Joyce Ng, Steve Nori, Danny Noriega, Melody Oakley, Nicole Owens, Jessica Ramirez, Anarose Schelstrate, Gina Sheridan, Jerry Sladewski, Sal Torres, Ivon van Mechelen, Theresa Villarosa and Becky Wong. As part of this process, we arrived at 10 goal statements. These goal statements will form the basis for our planning for the next five years. All families will shortly receive an email to participate in a survey regarding these goal statements and giving all families an opportunity to provide feedback.

MORNING ASSEMBLY: Have you noticed some of the changes in morning assembly? This year *Citizens of the Week* are announced during Monday's assembly. At that time, students receive their ribbon, get recognized by their peers, and have their photograph taken with the Principal. Check out this week's citizens on the STM homepage.

SANDWICHES-FOR-THE-NEEDY: Thank you seventh graders and all the families from other grades who contributed to today's collection of *sandwiches-for-the-needy*. It was a very generous collection! Thanks to all. In two weeks, on October 12th, the sixth graders will take the lead in the next collection. These sandwiches will be delivered to the Ozanam Center and will provide a nourishing lunch for someone today.

BLUE STAR MOMS: We continue to support the Blue Star Moms through our personal items collection. The school sponsors this **collection of soaps, shampoos, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes** and all the various supplies for the troops stationed overseas. We are accepting those donations now through Friday. Please send them to the school office at your convenience. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Thank you for the many ways in which you and your children help **make a difference** in the world.

ITBS TESTING: The annual **ITBS testing** concludes this week. Results of this testing will be shared with you at the November conferences. A special thank you to the Sunga family (Krystelle-Chloe, 6th grade and Arabella, 4th grade) who provided an end-of-testing ice-cream treat to all students this past Monday.

CALENDAR: We have included the **October calendar of events** in your Envelopes today as well as the **school lunch menu** for the month. Please keep them handy for reference.

FIELD TRIPS: The preschool and kindergarten students will be receiving a permission slip for their upcoming field trips to **Lemos Pumpkin Patch**. Please return the permission slip along with the fee by the due date. Parent's wishing to chaperone must have completed Shield the Vulnerable training as well as a background check.

HANDBOOK: Again this year, the *K-8 Parent-Student Handbook* can be found on our website. To view, click the handbook link at the top of the STM homepage. The handbook is in pdf format and can be downloaded and viewed on most computers. Once you have viewed the handbook, we ask that you complete and sign the **STM Parent-Student Handbook sign-off form** and return it no later than Friday, October 7th.



FUNDRAISING CATALOGS: We have over 90% of your orders back, but we are still waiting for the stragglers. We need all the orders forms returned before we can

place the school order. The sooner we place that order, the sooner you will have the items back! Please remember that all families are required to participate in the catalog sale unless you paid the buy-out fee before our June 1st deadline.


SCRIP: Nancy Cottura can help you again this Friday, 9/30 in the school conference room from 8:10 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. if you have not yet signed up for our scrip programs. Please bring your Safeway Club Card number (not the same as your phone number) and the credit cards you would like to register for the program. The school has individual laptops so you can personally enter your info and create your own log in account. We look forward to helping you get on your way to achieving your goal of \$200.00. Those who placed an order by last Friday's 6am deadline and paid for it will be receiving their gift cards in today's envelope. **Remember this is a mandatory financial obligation for all school families as stated on the Parent Agreement.** Don't wait until the last minute as it will be very hard to catch up!

OFF TO THE RACES: Off to the Races is this Saturday, October 1st! Flyers for Reservations and Raffle Tickets for *Off to the Races* are in your envelopes again today. Admission is only \$15! Don't forget that childcare is also available for a nominal fee. There will be a great raffle (no need to be present to win) as well as a variety of consolation prizes. This has always been an exciting evening with lots of fun activities, "adult" refreshments and lively entertainment. Please consider joining us for the great event. All proceeds benefit our technology program.

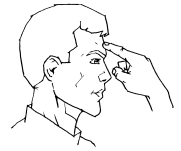
SLUSHEES!: The Student Council will be selling fruit punch flavored slushees for \$1 each at lunch recess and after school (parents can buy them too!) on Friday, September 30th to benefit the STM Technology Program. Thanking you in advance for your support!

WINTER SPORTS SIGN-UPS: Online sign up is available now for boys' basketball (3rd-8th grade) & girls' soccer (3rd-8th grade) and cross country (5th-8th grade). Log on to the STM website and click on the 'Winter Sports Sign Up' link to register. Please remember that registration fees are due by October 14. The Athletic Board has also posted a 'Volleyball Volunteer Snack Shop Sign Up' link on our website. Please consider volunteering and supporting our sports program.

How quickly the first month has passed! Students are well settled into their routines and for the most part, are excited to learn new things and to come to school everyday.

 <p>minute meditations</p>	<p>Begin Again - I don't have to beat myself up over my mistakes. All I need to do is humble myself and ask for God's forgiveness in order to begin again becoming the person God wants me to be.</p>
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Sincerely,



Schoolwide Learning Expectations

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

St. Thomas More School Students **THINK**