

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MEMO "SAM"
Everything You Wanted To Know
Week of November 16, 2009

Next Tuesday and Wednesday are our annual conferences. We look forward to this valuable time as parents and teachers come together to discuss the most valuable assets at St. John Fisher School...your children! Conference times are:

Tuesday, 11/24 from 7:30-10:30, 12:00-2:00 and 5:00-8:00

Wednesday, 11/25 from 7:30-10:30

If you have a student in grades Kindergarten through Second: When you arrive for your conference, please come to the main doors where Mrs. Vancil or I will give you your child(rens) report card(s). Then you will proceed to the teacher's classroom at your designated time. After you have met with the homeroom teacher, feel free to stop by the gym and talk to our specialist teachers to find out how PE, music, library and computers are going!

If you have a student in grades Three through Eight: When you arrive for your conference, please come to the main doors where Mrs. Vancil or I will give you your child(rens) report card(s). Then you will proceed to the gym where our teachers will be available to talk to you regarding your child's progress. There are no scheduled meeting times and we ask that you please keep conferences with each teacher to 5-10 minutes in length. If you feel you will need more than that amount of time with an individual teacher, please contact them directly to schedule a meeting outside our conference days.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday. Enjoy the extra time with family, friends and football!

CALENDAR REMINDERS:

Thu. Nov. 19th – Men's Club Mtg/7:00 p.m. (cafeteria)

Fri. Nov. 20th – Free Dress – Gr. K,2,5 only

Fri. Nov. 20th – End of 1st Trimester

Fri. Nov. 20th – Gr. K-8 End of Month Assembly/2:30 p.m. (cafeteria)

Fri. Nov. 20th – December Hot Lunch Orders Due to www.orderlunches.com

Tue. Nov. 24th – No School – Conferences 7:30-10:30 a.m. 12:00-2:00 p.m. 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Wed. Nov. 25th – No School – Conferences 7:30-10:30 a.m. only

Thu. Nov. 26th – No School – Thanksgiving Day

Fri. Nov. 27th – No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

Sat. Nov. 28th – Happy Birthday, Brian!

Mon. Nov. 30th – Gr. K-8 Advent Prayer Service/8:20 a.m. (cafeteria)

Mon. Nov. 30th – SVDP Christmas Food Drive begins

Mon. Nov. 30th – Scholastic Book Fair begins!

Mon. Nov. 30th – SJF Choral Ensemble performs @ Grotto/6:00 p.m.

Tue. Dec. 1st – Gr. 5 Confession/10:15 a.m.

Wed. Dec. 2nd – Gr. K-8 Children's Liturgy/9:00 a.m. (led by Gr. 7)

Wed. Dec. 2nd – FT/Gr. 5 – OMSI/9:50 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thur. Dec. 3rd – Gr. 6 Confession/10:15 a.m.

Thur. Dec. 3rd – "Civil War" Oregon State Beavers vs. University of Oregon Ducks @ Eugene

PLAYGROUND DUTY SCHEDULE/11:30 a.m.-12:40 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 23rd Satalich

Tue. Nov. 24th – No School

Wed. Nov. 25th – No School

Thur. Nov. 26th – No School

Fri. Nov. 27th – No School

If you have a conflict with your scheduled duty, please contact Renee Huglin @ 503-244-2258.

FATHER FORBES UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that Father Forbes has received wonderful news that his most recent CT Scan showed him clear of any cancer. Father would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes during the past months. He still will be receiving additional tests during the upcoming year and welcomes our continued prayers. Father also wanted to take this time to wish everyone a truly happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

SJF PARISH CHRISTMAS FEST

Mark your calendar for December 5th & 6th and plan on attending the Altar Guild's holiday gathering. The annual Christmas Fest will be held in the parish hall and everyone is welcome to stop by. You can help by donating gifts for the Granny Table and sweets for the bake sale. Suggestions for the Granny Table include; homemade items, craft and new or gently used Christmas items. Items can be left in the back of the church any weekend during November. For more information, please contact Barbara Trinchero @ 503-245-0800.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD DRIVE

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Drive will begin on Monday, Nov. 30th – Friday, Dec. 11th. Boxes will be packed on Friday, Dec. 18th @ 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Blessing and Food Delivery starts @ 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19th. Students will be asked to participate by bringing their donations to their classroom before placing in the boxes provided in the main lobby.

LOST & FOUND NEWS

Please take a moment to visit the Lost & Found closet located in the main lobby. Many items are waiting to be reunited with their owners. During conferences, scheduled for Nov. 24th-25th, items will be displayed on tables in the lobby but, anything remaining after Nov. 25th will be donated.

BOOK FAIR 2009 IS COMING SOON!

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair scheduled for Nov. 30th-Dec. 4th. Here are the top 7 reasons to be excited about the Book Fair;

- The Book Fair is a great way for families to connect by reading together and sharing a love of books.
- I enjoy getting kids to associate books and reading with fun, not just homework.
- Our community gains an opportunity to be involved in our school.
- Book Fair profits allow us to add to our library and classroom libraries.
- We offer exclusive editions of popular books and with special low prices.
- Scholastic brings us hundreds of quality books, suitable for every interest and reading level.
- Families shop together in a fun-filled, safe environment.

Parent Teacher Club News - Initial Survey Results

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the PTC-sponsored survey at the end of October. We had over 150 responses and are thrilled that you have many good ideas about how to raise money for our school and cut PTC expenses! If you completed the survey, you earned 1 Family Volunteer Hour toward your family's annual 30 hour requirement.

Dinners at PTC General Meetings - This was a fairly unanimous decision. The overwhelming majority of you said that it is okay to no longer offer dinner at the general meetings. Instead, we will offer simple drinks and snacks (pretzels, cookies, etc.).

Funding Field Trips - We had very mixed feedback with no clear consensus. In the end, the PTC board made the decision to fully fund field trips this year because we recognize their importance and educational value. Also, we do not want to overburden teachers with the additional administrative task of collecting field trip fees, and we want to avoid putting families that cannot afford field trip fees in an awkward and uncomfortable position.

To help keep costs down, Merrit Holub has asked teachers to limit field trips to three per year. Also, SJF will judiciously use buses for field trips. In the coming months, we will reexamine this issue and determine whether we will need to raise the annual PTC fee for next year to fully fund field trips.

Handouts at the PTC meeting - Many of you questioned why the PTC was spending money on copies for the PowerPoint presentation and budget handouts at the 10/20 meeting. We usually do NOT give handouts at these meetings. In this case, all copies were paid for and provided by Minuteman Press (Lori & Walter Sofko) and Fisher & Phillips (Rich Meneghello).

Babysitting at PTC meetings - Some of you also suggested that we stop paying for Vermont Hills to provide childcare and instead have the 7th & 8th grade students babysit like last year in order to save money. However, the cost of providing professional childcare at the PTC general meetings costs the same as hiring 7th & 8th graders. Also, we found that last year some of the younger students were not listening to the middle school babysitters, who were doing their best but are no substitute for professionally trained childcare providers. At the October 20th meeting, we found the childcare situation was a much safer and enjoyable experience. We will continue to provide this service for our families because it is the only way that some parents are able to attend our general meetings. It costs \$96 to pay for 4 professional childcare providers for 2 hours each.

Our PTC board will be reviewing ALL of your survey comments and suggestions at our upcoming December meeting. After that meeting, look for more responses and information coming to you through the SAM. Also, if you have questions or suggestions, feel free to call or email Rich & Kirsten Meneghello - 503-247-3427 or meneghello@comcast.net. We welcome your thoughts!

MEN'S CLUB THANKSGIVING MEETING

Come join the St. John Fisher Men's Club, Thursday, November 19th! @ 7:00 p.m. We're making this a Thanksgiving celebration with turkey and all the trimmings to help recognize the great community of St. John Fisher. This is a great opportunity to build our SJF community and get to know the dads of your children's friends. We want to extend an open invitation to all men who are interested in facilitating fellowship and camaraderie at St. John Fisher School and Parish. Our involvement covers a wide spectrum;

- Fundraising
- Volunteer support
- Facility upkeep
- Community involvement events
- Speakers on current events/topic

Please access our webpage @ www.sjfmensclub.com/rsvp and plan to attend!

STUDENT BOARD UPDATE

Everywhere you can see it! Christmas is just around the corner. During the month of December the Class of the Month theme will be the St. Vincent de Paul Food Collection. Please bring in your canned food items, toiletries, paper products. Also, the current Class of the Month theme, Pennies for Patients, ended on Thursday, Nov. 19th. Thank you to everyone for their contributions.

CYO FOOTBALL CHAMPS AGAIN!

Congratulations to the Region 5 Saints 7th/8th football team on their second consecutive CYO Football Championship. The team capped their streak with a come from behind 26-20 win at the Kiggins Bowl last Sunday afternoon for their second straight Championship Game was against the Region 4 Eagles team representing the Clackamas area. Of special note is the fact that this year's 8th graders have won four straight CYO league football championships, dating back to their participation as 5th graders. We wish these young men the best as they move on to the high school level.

Our special thanks go out to the moms, dads and coaches who have provided the guidance and leadership that enabled these young men to achieve such success. Graduating with the boys after this season are coaches, Brian Martinek (SJF) and Martin Alvey (St. Clare). Coaches with boys returning to the program are Tim Fogarty (SJF) and Troy Werner (St. Clare). We also extend our thanks to coach Joey O'Donnell (SJF alum and parishioner) and to Mark Martinek, father of Brian and grandfather of Christian, who has loyally served the team as trainer for several seasons.

Please look for the following information that is included in today's electronic email:

SAM – Week of November 16th
Personal Safety Education Class for Students information letter
Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule information flyer