

January 25, 2010

Dear Parents:

“Catholic Schools Dividends for Life-Faith, Knowledge, Discipline and Morals”. This is the theme of the celebration of Catholic Schools Week throughout the United States. We ask God to bless each of you for your sacrifices and dedication in providing a Catholic education to your children. We are all about the task of spreading the faith and incorporating values into our curriculum.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week begins, Sunday, January 31 with **Mass at 9:00 a.m.** Following Mass, parents and parishioners are welcome to visit the school during **Open House** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. New families may ask for an Open Enrollment Packet in the school office at that time or visit our website at www.st-benedict.com and download the information.

School Activities:

Monday, February 1	Pajama Day!
Tuesday, February 2	Mismatch Day!
Wednesday, February 3	School Mass-Full Uniform!
Thursday, February 4	Crazy Sock Day!
Friday, February 5	Beach Day!

Pajama Day

- Come to school in your pajamas!
- Shoes still required!

Mismatch Day

- Come to school wearing clothes that don't match!
- Different socks, different shoes, wear colors that don't match (green shirt, blue pants etc.)

Crazy Sock Day

- Show off your craziest pair of socks!
- Shoes still required!

Beach Day

- Come to school in beach attire.
- Hawaiian shirts, shirts with a beach theme, and shorts
- No sandals or any other open toed shoes.

SUNDAY MASS

Our Attendance on Sunday Mass has DECREASED. Parents, it is your obligation as primary teachers to take your children to Mass every Sunday!

FAMILY LIFE

Our Family Life Program will begin today, January 25th. This program is an extension of our Religion curriculum. *“Benziger Family Life”* presents Catholic doctrine and tradition and family attitudes in clear, simple language. Each year’s study builds on the previous level. In this way, your child will be learning the concepts and practices of Catholic morals living in age-appropriate ways—all in the context of family life.

The material of the *“Benziger Family Life”* program is organized according to five themes: God’s Gift of Family, God’s Gift of Self, God’s Gift of Life, God’s Gift of Love and God’s Gift of Community.

We encourage you to participate in the program by talking with your child about the lesson material, and by reading the Family Time pages that accompany each of the five themes. The Parent Connection magazine offers you special help for understanding Catholic teaching related to the five themes, and practical tips for good parent-child communication.

SPRING PICTURES

Envelopes regarding Spring Picture Day were sent home last week. Picture Day is tomorrow, Tuesday, January 26th and students are to come appropriately dressed. **(Something that would be worn to Mass on Sunday.)**

HELP!

Community discount cards are on sale in the school office for \$20.00 each. Your purchase is good for deals at your favorite fast food restaurants, including Round Table, Marie Calendars, Taco Bell, Wendy’s and more! There is also a special discount for \$25.00 off your dinner at any of the following restaurants: Alexander’s, Alondra Hot Wings, California Grill, El Patio Fresh Mexican Grill, Krazy Kabob’s, A Mi Hacienda, and more. See the website on your discount card for complete lists of participating restaurants. Help Saint Benedict School with this fun fundraiser.

PARENT MEETING

Our last **Required Parent Meeting** is Tuesday, February 9th for grades K-4th and Thursday, February 11th for grades 5th -8th. Parents may attend either of the two meetings at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Child-care will be provided in room 1B. **See Parent Handbook on page 8.** (Parents not attending required meetings will be fined \$50.00. NO EXCEPTIONS!)

RE-REGISTER (2010-2011)

To reserve a place for next year, re-registration officially ends Friday, January 29th. **This will determine the number of new students for the 2010-2011 school year.**

OPEN ENROLLMENT (2010-2011)

Open Enrollment for grades Kindergarten-Eighth began on January 11th, 2010. Kindergarten – Eighth Grade Testing is Saturday, February 20th. **Testing is by appointment only. All required documents must be submitted by Friday, February 19th.** “Interviews” for new families will be held on Saturday, March 6th and “Acceptance Letters” will be mail during the week of March 22nd.

WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE

All candy money is due on Friday, January 29, 2010! **PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL UNSOLD CANDY!**

EXTENDED DAY CARE – TAX INFORMATION

Parents who have their children enrolled in our Pre and/or After School Care should speak with Mrs. Reza, our Extended Care Director, regarding income tax information.

THANK YOU

Kindergarten Parents for your time and effort at your Bake Sale on Friday, January 15th.
Total Sales: \$639.25.

Second Grade Parents for a delicious Teacher's Appreciation Day on Friday, January 22.

LENT

The Liturgical Season of Lent begins February 17th, **ASH WEDNESDAY**. At 9:00 a.m. we will attend mass and receive ashes.

Just a few reminders: Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday are days of "fast" and "abstinence". According to church regulations, anyone over 14 is to abstain from eating meat on these days. All Fridays of Lent are days of "abstinence" (no meat). The Easter duty is the obligation of all adult Catholics to receive Holy Communion between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. Hopefully, everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to attend Mass frequently and to receive the Sacrament of Penance.

LENTEN DEVOTION

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday, beginning February 19th during Lent at 2:00 p.m. for students in Grades 3-8. Students are required to dress in **FULL UNIFORM**.

FISH FRY

Saint Benedict School Board will continue to sponsor the Annual Fish Fry on Fridays during the Season of Lent. The dates are February 19 and 26 and March 5, 12, and 26 in the parish hall from 6:00-8:00 p.m. **SEE FLYER!**

INTERRUPTIONS/EARLY RELEASE

We thank our parents who are abiding by our school policy on classroom interruptions. Please review the school policy on page 12 in your Parent/Student Handbook. Classes are not to be interrupted at any time. Students will not be allowed to be called out of class for the following: to pick up lunches, lunch money, uniforms, books, supplies and or messages. **Parents must report to the school office. The safety of your child is first priority.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26 Spring Pictures
January 28 Free Dress for January Birthdays
January 29 Report Cards sent home
January 31 Required Mass 9:00 a.m. Open House 10:00-Noon
February 5 Bake Sale –Third Grade
February 7 Required School Mass 9:00 a.m.

“Live Jesus in your hearts”,

Frank Loya Jr.
Principal