

# ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## WEEKLY NEWS

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*Help me to be grateful in life,  
Acknowledging my indebtedness to others.  
Let no one who performs good deeds go unnoticed.  
Sometimes generosity is unheralded;  
Men and women go out of their way for another  
And do not receive the recognition they should.  
It takes conscious effort to express gratitude.  
If someone has been kind to me in some way  
I must acknowledge their word or deed  
Even with only the slightest gesture.  
Let this entire day be one of prayerful thanks  
As I enjoy your blessing and bounty  
And favors of others.  
Amen*

~ Joe Sullivan

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

National Children's Book Week is fast approaching. Because the information I have written in previous newsletter during this same week remains pertinent, I again reprint it.

*Thomas Jefferson wrote, "I cannot live without books." Books open our eyes to the wonder of the world: they unlock doors to worlds we did not know existed; they take us to places we may never visit and to by-gone or future times it is not possible for us to visit. They also allow us to share common human experiences."*

National Children's Book Week is a good time to reflect on the growing body of evidence about reading and lifelong learning. In 1985 the U.S. Department of Education Commission on Reading studied the results of over 10,000 research projects and published their findings in *Becoming a Nation of Readers*. Significantly, the report concluded that  
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### IMPORTANT NOTE - THANKSGIVING WEDNESDAY

We are about to start work on the first phase of the remodel of the former convent. Some of the demolition will take place during the Thanksgiving break. To ensure it can be completed before our children return to school on Monday, the set-up must be completed on Wednesday. Consequently, **THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21st**. Because this was scheduled to be a minimum day with NO after school Kids Klub, we are hoping this will not cause undue hardship to families. Thank you for your understanding and your flexibility. More details will follow next week.

### MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Come see the new plans for the Family Ministries Center, tour the convent and the High Street house, and give input about our community garden. You can do all this and more at the All Saints Parish Open House on Saturday, November 3rd, and Sunday, November 4th. Mark your calendars!

### M ISSION STATEMENT . . .

All Saints Catholic School, a parish K-8 school with Dominican roots, provides a faith-filled, safe, and nurturing environment in a community that celebrates its traditions and diversity. All Saints School is dedicated to academic excellence, to fostering every child's scholastic success, and to supporting parents in developing respectful, responsible, socially conscious children who grow in their Catholic faith and their ability to say yes to

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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**the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success is reading aloud to children.**

The commission went on to state that such reading aloud needs to continue well past the primary grades and into adolescence. Even if we fail to recognize the importance of reading and its contribution to the well-being of our human spirit, research tells us that reading—beyond what is required in school—is essential to overall knowledge and success in life.

There remains clear and overwhelming evidence that children who grow up with a love for books and learning are:

- children who are read aloud to frequently;
- children who see others around them (i.e. parents, siblings) reading;
- children who grow up in houses where there are books; and
- children who own some of their own books.

If you are not reading aloud to your children daily, this might be the perfect time to start a new routine. *Book It!*, a reading incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut, maintains an informative website with wonderful read aloud resources for families. A few of their suggestions:

- Set aside a time and place for family read aloud - preferably daily for 15-20 minutes.
- Get everyone in the family in the act.
- Choose age-appropriate materials. This may mean reading different books to each of your children if there are significant age differences between them.
- Vary the topics and types of materials. Choose fiction and non-fiction. Read from magazines and comic books, too!
- Set limits on television. "Studies have shown that too much TV has a deleterious effect on learning. It takes no brainpower to become an avid TV-watcher, but it takes practice to become a good reader or listener."

<http://www.bookitfamilies.com>

For those who would like more information on the values of reading aloud, I continue to recommend a few books:

***Raising Lifelong Learners: A Parent's Guide***  
by Lucy Calkins with Lydia Bellino  
published by Perseus Books  
ISBN 0-7382-0024-7

### ***The New Read-Aloud Handbook***

by Jim Trelease  
published by Penguin Books  
ISBN 0-14-046971-0

### ***Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read***

by Bernice E. Cullinan  
published by Scholastic Books, Inc.  
ISBN 0-590-45206-1

If you are looking for a great guide for selecting books to read to your child, I highly recommend:

### ***The New York Times Parent's Guide to the Best Books for Children***

By Eden Ross Lipson  
published by Times Books/Random House  
ISBN 0-8129-1889-4

Additionally, the American Library Association ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)) maintains listings of children's books that have won prestigious awards, such as the Newbery Medal, the Caldecott Medal, and the Carnegie Medal. Just click to the page for 'Book/Media Awards.'

Maurice Sendak, the award-winning author and illustrator of books like *Where the Wild Things Are* and *In the Night Kitchen*, has remarked, "I think children who are hugged, and children who are held on laps . . . will always associate reading with the bodies of their parents . . . When you not only hear a treasured story, but also are pressed against the most wonderful person in the world, a connection is made that cannot be severed." (from *Getting Kids to Read*) Love and books are a pretty good combination! Why not spend a little extra time this weekend re-reading with your child some of his/her favorite books? Although your junior high child may have outgrown your lap, you might be surprised at just how much s/he enjoys cuddling next to you while you read aloud a childhood favorite like *The Runaway Bunny*, *Make Way for Ducklings*, *Goodnight Moon*, or *The Giving Tree*. Happy reading!!

## REPORTING OF E-SCRIP

In evaluating the reporting of e-scrip accounting, we have determined that we would save time and manpower by having each family print their own e-scrip totals twice annually, once in December and once in early May. You know if your family totals look correct. You also know the names of relatives using e-scrip on your behalf. By printing your own records, you will be able to take care of errors and clarify issues in a timely manner. The Scrip Committee—a small group of volunteers—will still be available to answer questions. Don't forget you'll need your password to access your account records.

## SCRIP NEWS

Great news! Our list of monthly scrip vendors now includes such choices as **Lucky/Savemart/FoodMaxx, Century Theaters, Disney, iTunes, Gymboree** and more. Many denominations have changed as well. New vendors are now available on the monthly scrip order that goes home. Thank you for your support of the scrip program.

## PEACEMAKERS

Please join us in honoring our October Peacemakers in the gym after flagpole and opening prayer on Tuesday, November 6th.

## PIE & COOKIE SALES

Order forms for the Pie & Cookie Sale are being sent home today to all students. All order forms and payments must be turned in to the school office by November 13th. Make checks payable to All Saints School. Orders will be ready for pick up at the school on Tuesday, November 20th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. **It is important that orders are picked up on delivery day since school is closed on Wednesday, November 21st and the school does not have the space to store frozen items.** Please direct any questions to MaryKate Lathrop at 258-9738. Although PTG does earn some money from this sale (approximately \$1000), it is sponsored primarily as a service to families.

Volunteers are needed to accept delivery and sort the orders on Tuesday, November 20th at 12:30. If you can assist please call MaryKate Lathrop at 258-9738 or call the school office. Thank you for your support!

## BLANKET AND COAT DRIVE

The All Saints 2007 Blanket and Coat Drive began the weekend of October 27th. This is the first year that we are asking for donations of both blankets and coats. Please check your closets for coats and blankets that can be given to those in need. Blankets and coats can be brought to the church on weekends during the masses or to the school office. Thank you for your generosity.

## SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN POLICIES

The Oakland Diocesan Safe Environment for Children Project was developed in cooperation with the Oakland Diocesan Presbyteral Council in compliance with the adoption of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* developed at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2002. Adherence to the policy and implementation of the project is a mandate from Bishop Vigneron.

Compliance with the terms of the Safe Environment for Children Mandate requires that **ALL volunteers** be screened yearly through the Megan's Law process\*, complete an **bi-annual training\*\*** (which can be done on-line), and agree to the Diocesan *Policy of Expectations and Guidelines for Ministry to Minors*.

Since all families sign a contract to volunteer a minimum number of hours at the school, in essence, the policy requires that at least one parent in each family comply with the terms detailed above. If grandparents, other relatives, or friends will be completing hours on behalf of any child, they, too, are subject to the above requirements. **NO ONE CAN BE ALLOWED TO CHAPERONE ON A FIELD TRIP OR VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL IN ANY CAPACITY UNTIL HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED THE TRAINING.**

The training can, as mentioned above, be done on-line. The easiest way to access the site is through the Oakland Diocesan website at [www.oakdiocese.org](http://www.oakdiocese.org). Once there, click on "Safe Environment Training" on the menu on the right side of the page. The training can be done in an hour and a half or less. You can do part of it and then return to complete it on another day if you wish. At the end, you will be asked to agree to the Diocesan *Policy of Expectations and Guidelines for Ministry to Minors*. You will then be able to print your certificate of completion. Each volunteer will need to send a copy of his/her certificate and a check for \$5.00 (to cover the cost of the on-line class) to the school office.

As always, I am grateful for your cooperation. Because we are all concerned about child safety, I'm sure that all of us will willingly comply with this mandate from Bishop Vigneron and the US Bishops.

\* Parish and school staff and any parents volunteering on overnight trips are fingerprinted and screened through the FBI and the Department of Justice.

\*\* **Those who were certified last year will NOT have to complete training this year.**

## KINDERGARTEN PARENT CONFERENCES

Kindergarten parent conferences will be held Thursday, November 15th, and Friday, November 16th, beginning at 1:00pm. **Both Thursday and Friday, the 15th and 16th, will be MINIMUM DAYS FOR KINDERGARTEN ONLY.** Kids Klub will be available starting at noon on both days. Conference schedules were sent home this week.

## HOLIDAYS/MINIMUM DAYS

November is always a busy month. We ask that you please mark your calendars:

**Wednesday, November 7th:** Minimum day for Diocesan Teachers Root Share Day

**Monday, November 12th:** Veterans Day school holiday

**Wednesday, November 21st:** Thanksgiving Eve - **NO SCHOOL**

**Thursday, November 22nd, & Friday, November 23rd:** Thanksgiving holidays

## SCRIP RENEWAL DEADLINE

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST RE-NEW YOUR E-SCRIP ANNUALLY** between August 1st and October 31st. This can be done by visiting [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and clicking on the "Renew Now" button.

## PTG CHRISTMAS PARTY

Plans are underway for a fabulous **PTG Christmas party** on **Friday night, November 30th at 7:00 p.m.** This is the only strictly social PTG event of the year. There will be plenty of yummy hors d'oeuvres and desserts, good company, a "winter wonderland" atmosphere and, perhaps, even a bit of Christmas caroling.

If you are interested in helping with the coordination and/or decorations for this event, please contact Maria Wilson.

## MASTER PLAN RAFFLE

Tickets for the car raffle that will benefit the Master Plan Capital Campaign can be turned in no later than **tomorrow, Friday 11/2.** We'd love it if each family sold at least two tickets—so much so that your family will get credit for one parent participation hour for each ticket sold. Please return any unpurchased tickets to the school or church office.

## BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please remember to collect Boxtops for Education. The program has been a great success for the school and we thank you for your support.

## PORTUGUESE PARK LUNCHES

As part of our community outreach, All Saints Catholic School takes part in the parish Tuesday Breakfast in Portuguese Park Program. Seventh and eighth grade students work with parish volunteers to serve a meal to the hungry who gather every Tuesday morning in Portuguese Park for a hot breakfast. The school asks three classes a week to provide a healthy lunch to be handed out to those who gather for breakfast. Lunches should include a sandwich (no mayonnaise, please), a piece of fruit, a dessert, a drink, and a snack item (i.e. chips, carrot sticks). Lunches should be, if possible, placed in a plastic grocery bag. Many thanks for your participation in this important outreach.

Tues 11/6 First, fourth, & seventh grade

Tues 11/13 Kindergarten, third, & sixth grade

Tues 11/20 Second, fifth, & eighth grade

## TRAFFIC DUTY

### Week of 11/2 - 11/

F 11/2	Justice
M 11/5	NEED VOLUNTEER
T 11/6	NEED VOLUNTEER
W 11/7	NEED VOLUNTEER
Th 11/8	NEED VOLUNTEER

Traffic duty is from 7:35 to 8:05 a.m.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN IN IN THE TRAFFIC DUTY BOOK IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

## LUNCH SUPERVISION

### Week of 11/2 - 11/

F 11/2	NEED VOLUNTEER
M 11/5	NEED VOLUNTEER
T 11/6	Burns
W 11/7	MINIMUM DAY
Th 11/8	NEED VOLUNTEER

Lunch supervision is from 12:00 to 1:45.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN IN IN THE YARD DUTY BOOK IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE**