

August 22, 2007

Dear Parents,

Prayer for parents from a student...

*Loving God, I thank you for my mother in whom I lived,
and moved, and had my being.
I thank you for my father who loves me enough to let me go, but to never leave me.
From their love, my life began; with their support,
this new school year at St. Michael begins.
Watch over them, God, in this time of change.
Help me to respect my Mom's and Dad's concerns and to be open to their counsel.
Remind me that ours is a partnership based on love and support.
Thank you for all of the blessings you have bestowed upon me,
Especially my mother and father, in whose love I have abundant gifts and everything I
need to succeed in this new year.
Amen.*

As we begin this new school year, we often think of our students and remember to pray for them. Today, I would like for each of us to take a moment to pray for the important role that we have as parents. Our students learn how to love God by the way they see us love one another.

It was great to see so many of you at the **Ice Cream Social and Orientation** on Monday evening. There was a great **atmosphere of energy and excitement**. Thanks to **Kilwins®** for the delicious ice cream. I know that many of you observed some of the **physical changes** to our school environment including the **painted classrooms on the second floor, the new cafeteria space, and the security system**. I am so grateful to **The Solution Service®** for cleaning the interior of the building and for their work in painting over the summer.

The installation of the **ADT security system** means that the doors of the school will be locked at all times with the exception of during arrival and dismissal. The system will require you to ring the doorbell and communicate with someone in the office before being allowed to enter the building. Keep in mind that security cameras have also been installed at the entrance as an additional security measure.

I am grateful to everyone who came to volunteer for our **Third Annual School Clean-Up Day** on Saturday. I would like to extend a special thank you to **Mrs. Peggy Thompson and Mr. Bernie vonLehmden** for their help in coordinating the clean-up. The weather cooperated and the many volunteers allowed the work to all be completed within the scheduled timeframe. The grounds look wonderful. We still have some **tools** from Saturday. If you left a shovel or a rake, please stop by the office to claim them.

There will be a **Parent Meeting** for all students in **Grades 3 – 8** who are interested in joining **Band** this year on **Wednesday, August 29th at 6:15 PM**. The meeting will take place in the **Music Room**. **Mrs. Judy Okamoto, our band director**, will be able to answer all of your questions. There will be **no fee** for students who are interested in participating in Band this year. Mr. Burt from Burt's Music will be there to answer band questions.

The **Grade 3 teachers** would like to meet with the **parents of Grade 3 students** on **Wednesday, August 29th at 6:30 PM in the After School Care Room**. This meeting is in addition to the regular Open House rotations.

You are invited to join us for **Open House** on **Wednesday, August 29th**. The Open House will **begin at 7:00 PM** in the school. During the Open House **teachers will be in their classrooms** prepared to give a **brief 15-minute overview** of their **teaching/learning goals** for the year. There will be **six rotations** so that you will be able to see multiple teachers. The **rotations will begin at 7:00 PM**. A bell will sound every 15 minutes signaling the time to move. Please note that **out of respect for your child, there will be no opportunity for individual conferences during this time**. If you would like to **schedule an appointment** to talk with your child's teacher, you may e-mail or call him/her on the telephone.

Our **Opening School Liturgy** will occur on **Friday, September 7th at 10:00 AM**. This is also First Friday. The Liturgy will be planned by the faculty. You are invited to attend.

Our **After School Care Program** will once again be coordinated by Mrs. Rosemarie Roberts. I have also hired another adult to assist her in this program. **Mrs. Debbie Thompson** is a parishioner who brings to this position a former career in the medical field.

Mrs. Denise Dworznicki recently resigned her position as permanent substitute at St. Michael School. We wish her success and happiness in her future endeavors.

Remember to save your **Box Tops** and **Campbell Soup Labels** turning trash into cash for our school. Box tops can be sent to the school office.

Please be advised that the handbook states on page 31 that "lockers may not be decorated inside or out." **Lockers** should be free of dry erase boards, magnets, stickers, pictures, and other decorations this year. Students should not bring these materials to school this year.

Please remember to **hang up your cell phone** when picking your child up in carpool each day. In order to expedite the process, I ask that you **attach your carpool number to the rear view mirror or to the visor on the driver's side of the car**. The first few

weeks of afternoon carpool moves slowly, but then we return to our usual 15-18 minute dismissal timeframe. Please be patient!

Our new school year is off to a great start. The energy and enthusiasm your child brings to school makes each day a joy. I pray that our students will know this same joy and that it will continue all throughout **the next 179 school days**.

God bless you,
Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler