

February 6, 2008

Dear Parents,

*“Meet at my house on Sunday before the game.”*

*God*

On Sunday afternoon as we were awaiting the beginning of the **Super Bowl** broadcast, I thought about all of the **preparation** that had gone into this event. Earlier in the week, I heard on the news that **food consumption on Super Bowl Sunday now exceeds food consumption on Thanksgiving!** (I find that hard to believe.) In addition, I thought about the amount of money that people paid for a ticket to attend the Super Bowl. In contrast, how much energy have we put into our **preparation for Lent** which begins today? Perhaps you and your family have committed to more time for prayer, a family service project, or a temporal sacrifice. Fortunately, it is not too late and **this game is open to all who have their eye focused on the Goal.**

**Catholic Schools Week** was a great celebration. **Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Dries, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Rudiger, Mr. Davey, and Mrs. Carlin** organized a week filled with something special each day. I was especially moved by the Eucharistic celebration on Friday. This was a week that truly affirmed the theme: **“Catholic Schools Light The Way.”**

The **Family Bingo** on Saturday night was great. I want to **thank the wonderful committee** who worked to make it such a great night for our families. Thanks to **Donna Kocur, Karen Andrews, Sharon Sands, Patricia Karpus** and all of you for making the evening a sellout event. The Deep Sea Bingo committee would like to **thank Susan Ferrari** from the **Party Corner** for her assistance with the **decorations, concessions, and supplies**, and for donating her time to provide us with delicious **popcorn** during the bingo games.

Our first **Mardi Gras celebration and parade** was a great success. I think that this will also become a **St. Michael tradition**. Special thanks to **Mrs. Bergman** for helping the students create the floats and the masks.

Our total **Angel Bucks sales: \$10,855 and total profit was \$641.70. Thank you!** You were notified about a special promotion in a separate e-mail from the Angel Bucks Team.

The entire school will be attending **Mass on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM** for **Ash Wednesday**. Students in **Grade 2** will attend **Mass on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM** in the **Church**. Students in **Grade 5** will attend **Mass on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Students in **Grade 3** will attend **Mass on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. You are invited to join us during this Lent.

**Grades 6, 7, and 8** will pray the **Stations of the Cross** on **Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.**

**Thanks** to everyone for **returning their Data-Base form and the Book/Seat Fee by 3:00 PM on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**. The re-enrollment process is a **two-month venture** intended to give everyone plenty of time to complete the necessary paperwork to return to St. Michael School. Included in your Wednesday folder today, you will find the application form to enroll in the **FACTS® Tuition Management program** and the **yellow** Parent Commitment Form (one per family). There needs to be a separate form completed for each school where you have a child enrolled using the FACTS® program. For example, if you have a child at Cardinal Gibbons or the ECC, you will need a separate form and fee for each school. I made the decision to move from SMART® to **FACTS® for the 2008-2009 school year** due to the disappointing service that was rendered by SMART® during the 2007-2008 school year. The **cost per family** enrolled at St. Michael School is **\$38.00**. The **FACTS® Automatic Tuition Payment Agreement** form is due into the office by **Wednesday, February 20, 2008**. This is an automatic draft system with monthly payments beginning in May, 2008. Please refer to the Financial Obligation section of Admissions on the school website for single payment or the two payment tuition option. Please contact me if you have any questions.

An **unexpected fire drill** on Monday afternoon presented an issue that we have not encountered in the past. **Cars were parked in the fire lane** and at the **entrance to the school** with no drivers in the car. In the event of a real fire or emergency, the fire trucks and emergency vehicles would need access to those parking spots and the cars would need to be moved. The drivers were not in their cars on Monday and could not be located. If you are going to come to school and park your car in the carpool line, you must **remain in your car** so that it can be moved in the event of an emergency.

**Bishop Michael Burbidge** has designated **St. Michael Church** as the site for the **Chrism Mass** which will be held on **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**. In order to accommodate the number of cars that will be in the parking lot, Msgr. Tim has asked us to dismiss early on that day. **Please mark your calendars: Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, dismissal at 11:30 AM.** There will be **no After School Care on this date**. I apologize for any inconvenience that this may create.

The dates for **Spring Pictures Days** have **changed**. The new dates are as follows: **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Grades 4 through 8, Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Pre-K through Grade 3.**

The **Wall of Wine** for this year's "**An Evening to Build On**" auction and gala is currently accepting **wine donations**. We will have a morning and afternoon carpool pick up **Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. You may donate a bottle you already have, or you may purchase a bottle at "The Wine Merchant" and receive a 15% discount (inform them you are buying for the STMS auction). Remember – bottles must retail for **\$15 or more**. Monetary donations accepted as well. **Wall of Wine sponsorships are also available**. Contact **Diane McClellan at 461-0930** or

[dianeandtim@earthlink.net](mailto:dianeandtim@earthlink.net) with questions or bottles to donate. The success of the Wall depends on your generous contributions, which we greatly appreciate!

We are looking for a few **volunteers** who would be willing to volunteer 4 or more hours during this year's **Auction**. These **volunteers will not have to purchase a ticket**. They will receive a bidder number and a small meal. If you are interested, please contact Christie Corcoran ([ccorcoran@nc.rr.com](mailto:ccorcoran@nc.rr.com)) or Sandy Lyons ([Sandy.Lyons@kingpharm.com](mailto:Sandy.Lyons@kingpharm.com)).

**St. Michael Annual Women's Communion Breakfast** will be held on **Saturday, February 9th**, with **Mass beginning at 8:30 AM** in the church and breakfast following in the Parish Center. The guest speaker this year is **Barbara Pegg**. She is an Associate Campus Minister at the UNC Newman Center. She received her Masters in Theology from Duke University. Come and join in a morning of fun and fellowship. **Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased in the Parish Office.**

**Important Dates 2008-2009:**

**Wed., August 20: Orientation and Ice Cream Social**

**Thurs., August 21: First day of school: Pre-K, K (1/2 of alphabet) through Grade 8.**

**Fri., August 22: First day of school: Pre-K and K (1/2 of alphabet)**

**Dec. 20, 2008 – Jan. 4, 2009 – Christmas Break**

**June 4, 2009 – Last day of school**

**Spring sports** are right around the corner! **Girls' soccer and boys' baseball** will hold informational meetings on **Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> student** interested in playing. These meetings will take place immediately after school from **3:10-3:30**. Place TBD. Practice/try-out schedules will be distributed at each meeting.

We are very excited about this year's **St. Michael School Auction & Gala, "An Evening to Build On"**. Invitations will be mailed to St. Michael School families on February 8th. The **first 50 RSVPs** will be entered to win one of our **beautiful auction baskets** so plan to purchase your tickets early. Also, **the auction committee is still accepting tax-deductible sponsorships and donations**. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Phase II building project. We are looking forward to another successful auction this year!

Come see America's favorite orphan in the **Cardinal Gibbons High School Drama** department's production of "Annie!" The show will be performed on **February 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16 at 7:30 pm and on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm** in the theater of the school, across from the **RBC Center on Edwards Mill Road**. **Tickets are \$5** and may be purchased at the door. Check our web site, [www.cghsnc.org](http://www.cghsnc.org), for additional information.

Our **third-grade Light the World Vitamin Drive** was a huge success! Our generous families donated 237 bottles of vitamins to the children of **Honduras** who so desperately need them. Thank you to our third grade and parent volunteers for their early morning carpool efforts in collecting vitamins and surpassing last year's total of 225 bottles!

In support of our parish delegation preparing for its annual trip to our sister parish in Honduras, our **second-graders** and parent volunteers were busy this week with their Light the World rosary-making project. They lovingly made **52 new rosaries** to give to the children as gifts of prayer and of union in our Catholic faith. When the delegation returns, Sister Joan Jurski and a member of the St. Michael Rosary group will visit the second graders to share the experience of giving the rosaries to our Catholic schoolmates in Honduras.

When we found out less than two weeks ago that the Raleigh Rescue Mission was in dire need of blankets, our boys' varsity basketball team jumped to the call of duty and executed an impromptu Light the World project to collect blankets for the needy. In just four days, we collected an amazing **114 blankets**. The blankets were delivered last Friday and the RRM was thrilled and overwhelmed at the large donation. The very next night, two members of our basketball team were having a family dinner in downtown Raleigh. When they left the restaurant, they caught sight of two men walking along the downtown street carrying blankets that they had just received from the RRM. Thanks to all who opened their hearts and closets. What a powerful reminder of the good we can all do and the impact we can make with such a small gesture of goodwill.

Lenten peace,  
Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler