

October 31, 2007

Dear Parents,

**“All you holy men and women, pray for us.”**

During the month of November, our Church celebrates the **Feast of All Saints** and the **Feast of All Souls**. These feasts have taken on special significance to me as I remember my **parents** who during the last four years have both joined the **Communion of Saints** in heaven. I pray in a special way for each of you who mourn the loss of a family member or friend and I thank God for the presence of the Saints that surround me everyday at St. Michael School. These two feast days present us with a wonderful opportunity to introduce our children to **real heroes** who have made a difference by the way that they have lived their lives. I encourage you to discuss with your children **their patron saints**. As a school faith community, we will attend an **All Saints Liturgy on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM** and the **Feast of All Souls on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> also at 10:00 AM**. As always, you are invited to join us.

The **Grade 8 students** were involved in a **Day of Service on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** as a part of their **Light the World project**. This was the first time that we had been involved in such an endeavor here at St. Michael School. The students went to **Raleigh Rescue Mission, Stop Hunger Now, Cary Rest Home, Western Wake Crisis Ministries, and New Horizons Christmas Program**. The day concluded with an opportunity for the students to share their experiences and to pray together. I was extremely **impressed by these students** who are **making a difference in our world**.

The **Grade 8 sweatshirts** have arrived. If you see students wearing **dark green** hooded sweatshirts, it doesn't signal a change to the uniform. It is a **right of passage**. During the last four years, our eighth graders have chosen the color and the stitching for their class sweatshirts. They are looking good.

**Report cards** are included in today's Wednesday folder. If your child's report card was not included, it may be due to the fact that your financial accounts for tuition, after school care, debit cards, etc. are in arrears. I read each report card and said a prayer for each child as I wrote a note of affirmation and encouragement on each report card.

The **Request for Conference** form is included in today's Wednesday folder. Please **complete the form and return it to school no later than Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The **conference schedule will be made on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please remember to **write a name on the form**. You will receive a **confirmation** of your conference time on **Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>**. **Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 AM to 4:45 PM. Students with scheduled conferences must attend the conferences with their parents. School will not be in session on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> or Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The school office will be closed on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.**

The **entry security system** has been **installed** in the **Blue and Gold Room**. Parents who are coming to pick up their children from **After School Care** need only **ring the doorbell**. The teachers in the After School Care Program will then buzz you in.

**Basketball tryouts** will begin next **Monday, November 5th**. Please review the schedule for tryouts included below. The game, weekly practice schedules, and a look to the week ahead are posted on a basketball bulletin board located in the Blue and Gold Room. Please encourage your child to visit the bulletin board should any scheduling questions arise.

**Monday: Tryouts – Girls 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM, Boys 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM**  
**Tuesday: Tryouts – Girls 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Boys 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM**  
**Wednesday: Tryouts/Practice - Girls 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Boys 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**  
**Thursday: Practice – Varsity Boys – 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**  
**Friday: No School – Practice – Varsity Girls – 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

In addition, a "**Practice Page**" will be added to the **St. Michael School Sports website** under the "basketball" links. Stay tuned for the teams' weekly practice schedules as well as a look to the week ahead. This should prove a more efficient way to communicate the schedule to parents and help all plan for when and where practices will take place.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Michael Christmas Tree Sale** is coming up soon. This year, you can **pre-order and pre-pay your Christmas tree and wreaths** and receive **discounted prices**. Please find a form and sale information in your Wednesday folder. We are also organizing a Christmas spirit contest. The classroom with the most pre-orders will host a drawing for a free Christmas tree (only families pre-ordering are eligible entered in the drawing.) The second classroom with the most pre-orders will host a drawing for a free wreath. We still need volunteers, please contact Jim Wood ([jrwood7@earthlink.net](mailto:jrwood7@earthlink.net)) or Dominique Latour ([Dominique.Latour@sas.com](mailto:Dominique.Latour@sas.com), [domlatour@mindspring.com](mailto:domlatour@mindspring.com)). Pre-order forms are available will be website.

Just a reminder that we are still accepting sponsors for the **Jingle Bell Trail Run** to be held on **Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. For only **\$100**, you can have your **family name** on the **race t-shirt!** Forms are available in the front office or just send in your check marked, "Snowflake Sponsor". **Other levels of sponsorship are available** as well if you would like to showcase your business. Please contact **Colleen Ueland** [cueland@nc.rr.com](mailto:cueland@nc.rr.com) for more information.

**Cardinal Gibbons High School** will hold an **Open House** for prospective students on **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**. The Open House will include tours and presentations. More information can be found at **WWW.CGHSNC.ORG**.

Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Dermott Allen** on the birth of their son, **Niall Gerard Allen**, born on **Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**. Niall weighed in at 8 pounds 13 ounces and

was 20  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. Niall is welcomed by **Gavin in Grade 1 and Colette in Kindergarten.**

**Grade 8 will attend Mass at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.** You are welcome to join us.

All **band** activities will run on their **normal schedule** for the week of **November 5th - 9th.**

Our **first and second grade** classes did a wonderful job with their fall **Light the World** projects. The **first grade Gently Used Book Drive** collected **1,497 books!** The children counted all of the books and had them delivered to children at the Raleigh Rescue Mission, Step-Up Ministries, the Caring Place, Catholic Parish Outreach, the children with whom Mrs. Bennett's daughter works, and the St. Michael ECC. Our first graders helped to Light the World with the gift of reading for other children.

The **second grade Warm Hearts and Soles drive** collected over **300 pairs of shoes and boots, and almost 300 coats!** The coats and shoes for children and maternity coats went to the Catholic Parish Outreach. The Hispanic community received both adult and children's items, and the DORCAS shop in Cary received the adult shoes. The second grade classes helped to Light the World by keeping our brothers and sisters in the community warm just in time for this colder weather.

In order to prepare for our **SACS accreditation** visit, an **additional Late Opening Day** has been planned for **Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.** Please mark your calendars now. The Before School Care Program will be in session if you need this service.

The **total sales for Angel Bucks** this week sales were: **\$25,547.99.** Our **total profit was \$1,297.08!** **Thanks to all of you!**

The Science Olympiad will meet **every Thursday** from **3:00-4:00** in the science lab. Students should report to Mrs. Davey's room immediately after announcements. Please plan to pickup your child at 4:00 on the **office side.** We are very excited to begin preparing for competition, but still need some parent volunteers to serve as coaches for the events listed below. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Davey or Mrs. Reed as soon as possible. Thank you again for all your support!

**Egg-O-Naut** – Teams will design, construct, and launch rockets to stay aloft the greatest amount of time, which will carry an Egg-O-Naut (raw Grade A large chicken egg). The winning egg will remain aloft for the greatest amount of time, then return to Earth without breaking.

**Robo-Cross** – Students will design and build a robot capable of performing certain tasks.

**Scrambler** – Students will design and build a mechanical device that uses energy from a falling mass to transport a Grade A uncooked chicken egg along a straight track.

**Tower Building**-Teams will design and build the lightest tower, with the highest structural efficiency, capable of supporting a load of up to 15 kg.

**Trajectory** – Teams will design, construct, calibrate and operate a device capable of launching a projectile into a target using energy provided by nonmetallic elastic solids.

**Amphibians and Reptiles** – This event will test knowledge of amphibians, turtles, crocodiles and reptiles.

**Crave the Wave** – Teams will demonstrate their understanding of waves and wave motion.

**Food Science**-Teams will answer questions and perform experiments pertaining to food chemistry, for example -identifying carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins in foods.

**Metric Mastery** -Teams will estimate the mass, volume, area, force, distance, time, and temperature of different objects and then measure the objects using the metric system.

**Reach for the Stars** – Teams will identify stars, constellations, and deep sky objects and demonstrate knowledge of their evolutionary stages.

**Rocks and Minerals**-Teams will identify rock/mineral samples, perform tests, and answer questions about the different rocks and minerals.

**Thanks to everyone who participated in our Great Pumpkin Patch!** A special thank you to our Student Council for organizing this activity. The winners are:

*The Most Imaginative: Ann Tally-Usher – Ice Cream*  
*Best Jack-O-Lantern: Oonagh Stevens – Proud Penguins*  
*and The Wood Family – Haunted House*  
*The Most Creative: Camryn Cullen - Krispy Kreme Donuts*  
*and Jaden Wagner - Pirate Ship*  
*The Spookiest: Ciera Spangler – Mummy*  
*and The Fitzgerald Family – Spider Witch*  
*The Funniest: Lauren French – Geiko*  
*The Cutest: The Lips Family – Yellow Bird*  
*The Most Original: The Latour Family – Turtle*  
*The Most Glamorous: The Leuth Family – Princess*  
*The Happiest: The Lutz Family – Clown*  
*and The Hodge Family – Sponge Bob*  
*The St. Michael School Spirit: The Danuck Family - Cheerleaders*

Peace,  
Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler