



Dear Parents,

April 30, 2010

There is **no school** on Friday, May 7th because of a Teacher Workday. Teachers will be working on curriculum writing for next year's accreditation.

Congratulations to Max Pinkerton, a sixth grader, who is the recipient of the 2009-2010 Cole Richardson Memorial award. Max was recognized for his qualities of kindness, service and cooperation. Previous recipients have been Nick Poeschl, Julia Zappa, Killian Brakey, Alyssa Pilney, Seth Moline, Zach Kelliher and Eric Strafelda.

We are putting the final touches on our **school calendar for 2010-2011**. Please make note of these dates: school starts before Labor Day on August 31. Christmas break is December 20 - 31st. Spring break is Monday, March 21 - 25.

Congratulations to Beth Baldus and the **4-6th graders** on a great music concert Monday evening. Students entertained a "standing room only" crowd with the theme of "Musical Show Tunes". Thank you also to Julie Schmid and her 4th grade class for their special treat of a "United States" cake. It was both an educational and delicious social studies activity

This year's **6th & 7th graders** are receiving a letter regarding their **music credit selection** for next fall. Students are required to take a music credit and can select from band, choir or general music. They will also designate which class they will take as their music grade. Registration forms are due back by Monday May 17th. Students and parents are reminded that they are making a commitment for the entire school year.

SAFETY ALERT- This past week we have had two very close calls on the back parking lot at end-of-day dismissal. Since Easter break we have noted a large increase in the number of students who are car riders (possibly 1/3 of our students!). Please be reminded that parents of children in grades K-5 are to get out of the car and meet your child(ren). We have seen many cases of parents standing by the car, talking to another parent or talking on their cell phone and waving their child forward - through traffic! This is a formula for disaster. We will continue to dismiss car riders in groups - A-G, H-R, S-Z. Hopefully this will help with the large numbers. I ask all parents to get out of the car, come forward to escort your child back to your vehicle. Please don't stand and visit with friends - we need cars to exit as soon as possible to alleviate crowded conditions. We ask you to slow down, stay off your cell, and pay attention - Our(Your) child's safety is at stake!

Progress reports for K-7th graders will be mailed next Tuesday. If your child receives a progress report, please take some time with your child to discuss any concerns or comments.

All **8th grade parents** were mailed two letters with details regarding finals, graduation, dinner-dance, etc. A permission slip for Valley Fair was also included. The permission slip and the graduation fee are due back by Friday, May 14th. Important dates to remember: Tuesday, June 1 - Rehearsal, Awards, Dinner-Dance; Wednesday, June 2 - Graduation and Reception (no school for 8th graders); Thursday, June 3 - Valley Fair.

We have **openings in all grade levels**. Please refer St. Joseph's School to family, friends and neighbors.

St. Joseph's Preschool is registering students for next fall. There are several new programs being offered. Contact our director, Annie Broos, at 651-789-8300.

St. Joseph's School will be marching in the **West St Paul Parade** to be held on Saturday, May 15th. This year we will be featuring our St. Joseph's Marching Band! We are also looking for as many students as possible to participate in this fun event that gives great visibility to our school. The parade is at 1:00 pm with a noon line up. Watch for a flyer coming home next week.

The Faith Formation Office will have a **Confirmation Night of Reflection** on Tuesday, May 4 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the church. Any questions, call the Faith Formation Office at 651-457-8841.

The month of May is our **Box Tops contest!** During the month of May, all students are encouraged to bring in Box Tops for Education from General Mills products. Every week we'll add them up and announce which class is in the lead. Local businesses have provided some great prizes. Prizes will go to those classes and teachers bringing in the most Box Tops. Every box top brings in 10 cents for St. Joseph's - what a great deal!! Talk to your family, talk to your neighbors, buy products with Box Tops for Education labels and remember to send them in!!

District lunch monies will carryover for the 2010-2011 school year. Balances may be transferred from one sibling to another. Negative student lunch account balances will not be allowed after May 28th. The last lunch menu sent home goes through May 29th. The last two weeks of lunch will be "Cook's Choice". We will announce the lunch choice the week before.

Upcoming Activities: the 1st graders will be going to Dodge Nature on Wednesday, May 5 and the kindergartners will have their Spring Program on Thursday, May 6 at 9:15 am in the parish Great Room.

A **calendar** for May/June is coming home today. Thank you to Angel Pinkerton for all your work this year.

The office has **flyers** for Univ. of St. Thomas baseball and softball camps (3rd-8th grade), Minn. Lynx Summer Basketball camp (5-8th gr girls), summer camps (basketball, science camp, volleyball, soccer and football) at St. Croix Luther high school (gr. 4-8) and Hill Murray Girls Basketball Camp (gr. 4-8). You may pick one up in the office or have one sent home.

There will be **no mass** next week because of the short week. The next school mass will be on Friday, May 14th at 9:00 am. The 2nd graders will be in their First Communion "finery" as they process into church. They will be congratulated on having just made their First Communion, April 17 and 24.

Jane E. Nordin, Principal