



Dear Parents,

April 23, 2010

The faculty and staff give thanks to the 4th grade parents and the Home and School Association for Tuesday night's **Teacher Appreciation Dinner**. This wonderful tradition is one of the few times that teacher/staff and spouses are able to visit together and the recognition and hospitality is really appreciated!! A thank you to all the parents who decorated, served and cleaned up and to Jeanne Dolinsky and Kathy Schneider who coordinated this event. My special thanks to Maria Gans who was responsible for the delicious food!

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.

The **Spring Music Concert for grades 4-6** is set for Monday, April 26 at 7:00 pm in the gym. We know there are many sport's games and practices this time of the year, but hope, out of respect for Miss Baldus and their classmates, that students will make this once a year event their priority.

As part of their study of the fifty states, the fourth graders will create a **United States cake**. It will be on display from 6:00-7:00 pm before Monday's concert. Stop down after the concert for a piece of cake! My thanks to Ms. Schmid for planning this fun event.

**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. Beginning Monday, we will be dismissing car riders in groups - K-2, 3-5, 6-8. 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, slow down, stay off you cell and pay attention!!  
Your own child's safety may be at stake!

**Progress reports** for 8th graders will be mailed next Wednesday along with a letter about dates/deadlines and a permission form for **graduation activities**. Progress reports for grades K-7 will go out the first week in May.

All **8th grade parents** will receive 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.

**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 again be marching in the **West St Paul Parade** to be held on Saturday, May 15th. We are looking for as many students as possible to participate in this fun event. The parade is at 1:00 pm with a noon line-up. Watch for details.

The month of May is our **Box Tops contest!** It's just around the corner! Kindergarten through grade 6 will be competing for some great prizes. Talk to your friends, rifle through your family's cupboards, buy those products with the Box Tops. You may turn them in for your classroom to receive credit beginning May 3rd. Let's see how much we can raise for our school!

The **1st grades** will be going to Mill City Museum on April 27 (Mrs. Schuster & Mrs. Milos) and April 28 (Mrs Day). The **3rd graders** will be going to the Mn. History Center on April 28, the **4th graders** will be going to MN. Center for Book Arts on April 30, and the **6th graders** will be going to the Festival of Nations on Friday. COMPAS/Artist in Residence, Julia Singer, will be in the building working with **1st and 2nd** graders next week. We thank the Home and School Association for their support of all these field trips/programs.

St. Joseph's Parish and School staffs are sponsoring "**Hearts to Love, Hands To Serve**". This Evening of Appreciation for all adults who volunteer in the school/parish is being held on Thursday, April 29th. Dinner and fellowship will begin after the 5:30 pm mass. Reservations are required. Call Jeri at the Parish center, 651-457-2781.

Our **spring sports** schedule is in full swing. Parents are reminded that teams leaving early are dismissed through Jackie Van Diver, our Athletic Director. Siblings who are also leaving early must bring in a note from home in the morning to be excused.

St. Joseph's Parish is sponsoring its **Second Annual Health Fair** on Sunday, April 25 after all masses in the Great Room. There will be many informational booths and information on community resources to improve your health. See the flyers in the kiosk.

Please join us for **mass** next week, Friday, April 30 at 9:00 am in the church.

Jane E. Nordin, Principal