

August 6, 2010

Dear Parents,

It does not seem possible that in five weeks we will be reopening our doors to begin another new school year.

The school has just received a grant of \$9,700.00 to purchase a new server and a \$1,000 grant to assist in the purchase of a New Jersey Social Studies book for Grade 4. We also received another grant for 30 new Dell stand alone computers for the computer lab. We hope to have them up in running by September if they are delivered on time. We certainly have all the cutting edge technology in our school.

I would like to welcome to our faculty Mrs. Deborah Alexander, Miss Theresa Lyp, and Miss Emily Kuspiel. Mrs. Alexander has been hired as a sixth grade homeroom teacher and will be teaching Religious Studies to grades 6-8, as well as vocabulary to grades 6 and 7. Mrs. Alexander is a graduate of Rutgers University with a degree in English and Elementary Education and a certification in Elementary Education. She has just completed her certification for a Teacher of Religion through the University of Dayton. Miss Lyp is a graduate of Kean University with a degree in Health and Physical Education and a K-12 certification. Miss Kuspiel is a graduate of Caldwell College with a degree in Elementary Ed and English and has served as a long term substitute on several occasions. She has an Elementary Education certification. Ms. Harrigan's class will be using a team teaching model from September to December. Ms. Harrigan will be teaching Language Arts and Math. Miss Kuspiel will be teaching Social Studies, Science and Religion in the afternoon. Ms. Harrigan will be teaching the afternoon Pre-K until Mrs. Rodrigues returns. Ms. Harrigan came to us with Pre-K experience and I believe this team teaching approach will work well for everyone.

For the 2010-2011 school year we have adopted a new Hartcourt Brace, c2011, Social Studies for grades K-6 and McGraw Hill Social Studies, c2009, for grades 7 – 8.

The summer crew has been working very hard painting and cleaning all classrooms. You can't help but be impressed each September with the cleanliness of our buildings and the beautiful floors.

School will open for students in grades 1-8 on September 9th at 8:00 AM with a 12:00 PM dismissal for the first two days. Summer Uniforms may be worn from the opening of school until October 15th. Please remember that boys in grades K-5 may only wear **black tie dress rubber soled shoes**. Any shoe resembling a sneaker or boot is unacceptable. Girls in grades K-5 must wear black and white saddle shoes. Students in grades 6-8 have the choice of wearing the regular uniform shoe or cordovan penny loafer with rubber soles and heels. Boy's hair must not be **bleached or dyed** and can not touch the shirt collar. Girls must wear white cuffed anklets (**no sneaker socks**) with summer uniforms.

We welcome all new parents, Pre-K through grade 8 to St. Johns and look forward to meeting you again at the new parents meeting on September 15th at 8:00 PM.

Opening Dates

September 9 -10 Grades 1-8 half days- 12:00 PM Dismissal
New students in grades 1-7 report to the Library
All other students report outside for the first day only. All other days students in K-5 report to the gym, grades 6-8 report to their classrooms. No parents beyond the school doors.

September 9 Opening Liturgy – 10:00 – *All are invited to attend*
13 Kindergarten Opens – Sept. 13, 14 & 15 will be ½ days – dismissal 11:30 AM
15 PK-4 Three day program opens – 12:05 PM-2:35 PM
16 PK-3 Year program opens 12:35 PM – 2:25 PM

Before Care/After Care will begin on September 13

Before Care 7:15 AM – 7:45 AM in Room 9

After Care 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM in Room 9

Tuition- Monthly Plan – at least **seven** payments must be made before your child returns in September.

Three Payment Plan - two payments due by September

Please make sure your tuition payments are current. Your child may not enter school in September unless your tuition is up to date and your \$250 fund raiser fee paid.

Parishioner Status:

A parishioner is one who attends Mass at our parish with their child and who uses their envelopes 75% of the year for a minimum annual contribution of \$400.00 **from January 2010 thru December 2010.**

Emergency Paper During the first week of school your child will receive an emergency paper for our office and it will also be used for classmothers' information paper and School Reach ***It is very important that you fill out both sides of the paper, (front and back) and return it with the information and your signature to school on the day after you receive it.***

Brown Envelopes The brown envelope system is used for communication from school to home It is given to the oldest child in the family. Please check the contents very carefully and return the envelope with the information requested to school on the day after you receive it.

Uniforms All students K-8 must be in complete uniform on the first day of school. ***Be sure to label all uniform clothing-it only takes a few minutes!*** If your child does misplace an item be sure to stop in the school office to check the lost and found.

School Handbook The school handbook will be distributed via the brown envelope. Please review it and adhere to the policies of the school. **There is a form enclosed with the handbook to be signed and returned to school.**

The school office will be open beginning August 30th from 9:00 AM. to 2:00 PM. each day. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely in St. Dominic,

Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, O.P.
Principal

SDM/dgp