

September 14, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Well, we have just about completed the second week of school. The children have settled in to the routine and the wearing of uniforms, shorter hair, and early morning wake-up times. Your children are wonderful—kind, enthusiastic, and happy. Thanks for sending them to us each day.

Make sure that you mark your calendars for:

- September 18 – First School Mass at 9:00 AM. The students should be in uniform.
- September 20- Back to School Night for all grades except Pre-K 3 and 4.
- September 20- Meeting for Band students current and perspective 6:30 PM
- September 29 – Individual school pictures (K-8) and Field hockey pictures

Emergency forms were posted on line today. Please make sure that you fill them out accurately and return them immediately. Make sure that the numbers you provide are good working numbers. **We must be able to get in touch with you at all times.** Since we frequently use the automated emergency notification system, it is necessary for you to **have your answering machine set for no more than three rings so that you can get these important messages.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

**No student is permitted to have a phone in school. If you have any questions concerning this, please, give me a call.**

The lines for drop off and dismissal seem to be working well so far. However, keep in mind that your speed must be slow as you drop the students off in the morning. Try to pass stopped cars cautiously. **Parents you should not be letting students exit your vehicle on the driver's side of the car. This is definitely a safety hazard.**

The After School Care program is up and running. The fees quoted are monthly fees. Remember that we do have a Before School Care program with quite reasonable rates. Contact Donna Catrino if you are interested in participating in the program.

Passwords for Churchwerks for **new families** will be sent out by the office at the end of the week. For those of you who have been using Churchwerks your old password should work for you. If you encounter problems contact Mrs. Mattera.

As all of you are fully aware the purpose for our being as a school is to instill in our students strong Catholic Christian values. We work hand in hand with you to do that. With that in mind it is important that your children, if they are Catholic, attend Mass weekly. Their faith formation is a joint effort on our parts and something that they need to witness. Father Rocco is anxious to see all of you at Mass.

Since we all know that reading is the foundation for success in school and in life, I wanted to remind you of the important role you play in helping your child become a better reader. Here are some parent-tested ideas you can use to reinforce your child's reading skills at home.

- Encourage your child to spend time reading everyday.
- Make reading easy by having books available for them.
- Read aloud to your child.
- Use tried and true teacher tips such stopping before the end of the story and having your child predict what will happen next. Have your child relate the story to a personal experience, or ask your child how he might have changed the story.
- Give your child a wide range of experiences, which are the foundation for understanding what she reads.
- Look for unusual places for your daily reading time with your child.
- Drop everything and read.
- Start a family library.
- Choose the proper reading level for your child.
- Limit your child's TV time.
- Give your child practice reading directions.
- Try a newspaper scavenger hunt.
- Play "alphabet concentration".
- Promote reading even if you're not a good reader yourself.
- Don't make an issue if your child seems to lose interest in reading.

Promoting your child's love of reading is one of the most important things you can do to put your child on the road to school success.

Hopefully, I will see all of you at one of the "Back to School Night."

God Bless,

Mrs. Patricia Higgins

