

The Cardinal Flyer

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BJ's Corner

Dear Families,

"We become what we choose to become, whether or not we realize it."

Last week four young women were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Numerous students will represent our school on May 11th at the Faith Challenge Bowl. An eighth grader achieved Young Catholic of the Year Award and several students were recognized by the Veteran's of Foreign Wars for their essays.

Eight students shadowed me everywhere as Principal for the day. This was a reward for high sales in cookie dough. Numerous students won civilian clothes for the month, or jeans every Wednesday. The cookie sales brought in over \$13,000.00 and proved a tremendous help to St. Charles financially.

Last Thursday, I delivered 22 packets to St. Pius for admission to their High School. While on campus, I visited with five seniors. Four out of five intend on going to Pharmacy School and one will be getting a degree in Engineering.

All of these successes can be attributed to the opening quote plus supportive families and Catholic Education. WOW- Kudos to everyone!!

Have a wonderful 3 ½ day weekend and Happy Valentine's Day.

B.J.

NEWS: Registration for currently enrolled students will officially end February 12, 2010 at 12:00 noon. I am doing this in order to work our budget for 2010-2011. **If for any reason you need an extension, please call Nancy at 243-5788. I hope to be able to help you.**

Food Drive for the Storehouse

Next week to coincide with Lent, we will begin our annual food drive for the Storehouse. Please start collecting non-perishable items to donate. During Lent, we must challenge ourselves to show our deep love for God by serving others. Please be generous to our food drive!

Choir at St. Pius

Come and see our fabulous choir perform at the Varsity Boy's Basketball game at St. Pius X. The game is on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 7:00p.m. They will sing the National Anthem.

Calendar Update

**February 12th –
Early Dismissal
12:30p.m.**

**February 15th –
President's Day
No school**

**February 17th - Ash
Wednesday-Mass at
9:00a.m. Our
Tuesday Mass for
next week has been
cancelled.**

Financial Aid Scholarships

All financial aid applications for the school year 2010-2011 will be done online through FACTS. The web address is www.factstuitionaid.com. There is a \$25.00 fee to FACTS for this service. The deadline is April 15, 2010. We do not have any applications in the finance office due to "Going Green." This applies to the Maloof Scholarship, which is given in August and the Archbishop's Scholarship, which is given at the end of October or the first of November. If you wish to apply for any of these scholarships, this is the only way to do it.

Yearbook Final Offer!

There is still time to order your 2010 Yearbook. Don't miss out on our first full color book with all your classmates and events of the year. The yearbook is available for \$40. Reserve your copy online today at jostensyearbooks.com. This is your last chance, don't delay!

First Reconciliation

A mandatory parent meeting for 2nd grade parents and other students receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion will be held in our cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. on February 11, 2010. Father Mueller will discuss parent responsibilities regarding the sacraments and I will discuss location, clothing, and behaviors and am open to all questions. See you February 11th.

B.J.

A Message from St. Charles School Advisory Council

Dear Parents and Friends,

Earlier in this column, we were asked to ponder how each of us is "lighting the path" for our children in their educational journey. This reflective exercise is so important in today's world because, unlike generations past, so many distracters exist today that compromise children's educational journey. In a sense, parents need to provide a "buffer zone" from certain realities of society in order to protect children from harm. At the same time, we must also realize the powerful consequences that result from placing school at the center of family life. We know that when children's school life is embedded in their family life, good things happen. Therefore, the concept of "parent involvement" in today's schools is so important to understand as something that transcends the common notions of simply helping at school or selling items to raise school funds.

Now, we all know how important it is that we do all we can to help keep St. Charles financially secure (remember to buy scrip cards!). We also know the value of assisting teachers when called upon to serve as a guide or aide for some activity or project. Heaven knows we all have to do our share to support the functioning of our school. However, we must also be keenly aware of how essential parental involvement is for children's academic successes in school and how important it is that our child be the main beneficiary of our involvement in their educational journey. Families need to be "into" school so that children are more apt to be engaged, enthusiastic, and effective learners.

We know from decades of research that parental involvement is

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causally linked to higher test scores on standardized assessments, higher grades, higher success levels in academic programs, more positive attitudes toward school and learning, more self directed learning, good behavior in school, learning outcomes, and achievement motivation. Parental encouragement, guidance, structure and support are the foundation of all competencies achieved in classrooms. Even the best and most enthusiastic classroom teacher cannot fully compensate for an uninvolved or unsupportive parent. In a nutshell, parents are best able to light that path for children's academic journey by their constant, active, and loving engagement in their children's education. Below are some suggestions for developing one's own creed of parental involvement:

- Participate in parent – teacher conferences
- Regularly discuss with your child their classroom activities and listen carefully to their explanations of what they have learned
- Listen to what children share implicitly as well as explicitly about their educative experience each day
- Encourage children to persist when work becomes difficult, encourage children to ask questions and pursue answers on their own
- Provide an optimal learning environment, time and space for successfully completing homework assignments
- Prioritize school in the family system as the main activity for children each day
- Take advantage of every opportunity to participate at school, to visit children's classroom and to be a resource for your child's teacher
- Help children appropriate, adopt, and value the purpose of education and the rules of behavior at school
- Help children form meaningful connections between the "here and now" of school and their future goals and dreams
- Support children's cultivation of interest and motivation that follows the successful completion of academic tasks
- Relinquish control and sensitively withdraw direction as children take on their own responsibilities for learning and accomplishments
- Assure that children are progressing and forming healthy patterns of behavior that will serve them throughout their academic journey.

