

Dear St. Ethelreda Parents,

So much has happened within the last month that we are all happy to see the sun and feel its warmth spreading over us, like God's love. We have told ourselves that "God will make a way, even in our darkest hour." Your prayers, concern and outpouring of sympathy for all of us who have endured the loss of a loved one has been overwhelming. And, when you think that this too shall pass, sadness has touched another member of our staff. Mrs. Rubie Stepney, sister of Mrs. Shirley Horton (hot lunch facilitator), passed on April 1, after a lengthy illness. Please keep Mrs. Horton and Kayla Haywood in your prayers.

SAVE \$100.00...REGISTER FOR '08-'09 BY FRIDAY, APRIL 11...SAVE \$100.00

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Please support the Book Fair. Funds raised help to purchase library materials.
- Spring picture money and/or returned pictures are due on Tuesday, April 8.
- The second and third grade classes are going to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on May 2. The tickets must be paid for three weeks in advance. The students have been given permission slips. This is their end of the school year trip.
- Classes for kindergarten through grade eight will be dismissed at 12:00 on Friday, April 11. Parents, the teachers will be available from 1:00 until 6:00 to meet with you and your child to discuss his/her academic achievement. We are not giving out conference times, however, the teachers will see you in the order in which you sign in. The Booster Club is going to sell refreshments in the Harold Washington Assembly Hall during conference time. After school care will be available and the preschool will keep regular hours.
- The 7th and 8th graders are going to Springfield, Illinois on the 15th. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to see our state government in action. I am so happy to be able to reward them with this FREE trip for passing the Federal and State Constitution tests. All of the 8th graders passed last year and all of the present 7th graders passed last month. Management Planning Institute, the agency that provides counseling to our students, is sponsoring the trip.
- The Eagle Explosion Science Club submitted a proposal to the First Robotics and First Lego League to share their experience as an inner city rookie team that made it to State. Their proposal was accepted and they have been invited to the First Robotics World Festival in Atlanta, GA. They will also discuss STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and its affect on developing their critical thinking and problem solving skills while working on the mission for the First Lego League competition. We are leaving on the 16th and returning on the 20th. Presently, the students are looking for sponsors to help pay for this trip. We are so very proud of the Science Club. This is our first year of formation and we have accomplished more than I ever imagined. I know that this neophyte group has set the standards for the students yet to follow in their footsteps. This will not only be an experience of a life time for our students, but also great publicity for our school.

- We are forming a special school choir for students in grades 3-8 to sing for the “Justice Day Program” at Cristo Rey High School on April 19. This event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago. People of all races and backgrounds come together to discuss the necessity for people to overcome racial problems and work for justice for all. Our students have been asked to sing at the Mass. They will leave school at 9:30 and return at 12:30. They will wear their school uniforms. There is no charge for this outing. I know they will lift their voices in praise and make all of us proud of them.
- First graders are reading at Family Mass on the 20th. First graders and their parents especially are required to be in attendance.
- DONUTS FOR DADS AND GRANDDADS... This is an invitation for all Dads and Granddads to come out for a light breakfast and conversation with other St. Ethelreda Men. Then, you are welcome to visit your child’s/grandchild’s classroom.
- All parents are invited to attend a Parent Involvement Workshop on the 23rd from 6:00 until 7:30. Look for a flier later this month.
- The Student Council is sponsoring “Pink Day.” All students can wear something pink to school for a .50 fee. The money will be given to the Cancer Awareness Society. The students are raising money for a good cause.
- The last all school skating party will be on the 25th. If you have not attended a St. Ethelreda skating party, you are really missing a good time. Come out and join us.
- Do you have your tickets for the ‘70’s Party sponsored by the Booster Club? Tickets are available in the school office. See Ms. Doucet (Nathan’s Mom, gr. 2) after school any day. The event is planned for April 26. All parents of athletes were given 2 tickets in an envelope on March 20 to sell by April 16. Proceeds benefit our student athletes’ uniforms, trophies, banquet, etc.
- OPEN HOUSE... APRIL 27... 2:00-4:00... SPECIAL FLIERS ARE COMING!
- GRANDPARENTS DAY PROGRAM! All Grandparents are invited to our annual program and luncheon given to show our love and appreciation for you. Your grandchild will give you an invitation two weeks in advance. Please RSVP.
- Track season begins on Saturday, April 12. All meets will be held at Thornton Fractional North High School from 9:00 until 2:00. Parent volunteers are always needed at the track meets.
- Save your Campbell Soup Labels and Box Tops for Education for the PTO.

Thank you for working with your child on the African American Scientist/Inventor Project! The project was given to inform our students of our history and the legacy set before them. Our ancestors are passing the torch on to the next generation. We pray that they keep hope alive and never forget that they are descendants of great kings and queens. The projects will be on display in the classrooms for report card pickup.

Again I remind you that you can contact your child’s teacher by phone, fax or email. Our doors are always open to visit with you and our ears are open to your suggestions for making our school one of the best.

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