

Dear Parents,

March is ending on a sad note for us. Mr. Michael Clair, husband of Mrs. Vicki Clair (pre-4 teacher) died Sunday evening. Mr. Clair had recently become ill, but was expected to recover. He was the grandfather of Ashley, Porsha, Jocelyn, DeShawn (all of whom have graduated) and Kendyl, who is presently in third grade. Details about the services will be sent home as soon as we receive them. You can always send cards to the school.

April Showers bring May flowers and exciting events at St. Ethelreda School. Check your calendar for all the extracurricular meeting dates and times.

Students should begin wearing gym tee shirts and shorts under their school uniforms beginning April 1st.

Seven graders are taking the Federal Constitution Test on April 1st; the State Test will be given on April 6th. Students are required to pass both tests as a requirement for passing to eighth grade. A culminating activity is a trip to Springfield on Monday, April 20th. Students will be given more information later.

Parent-Teacher Conference notices have been sent home. You will receive a time confirmation notice on Thursday, April 2nd. Keep in mind that your tuition must be current through March in order to meet with your child's teacher. Also, all tuition and all fees must be paid in full by May 15th. Personal checks are not accepted for payments for the 2008-2009 school year after May 1st.

There is a special parent meeting for all Title I students on April 9th at 1:00. Dr. George Smith, noted child psychologist is the guest speaker, Refreshments will be served and parents will be given grade level materials to work with their child/children at home. The meeting will take place in the Harold Washington Assembly Hall.

Due to Spring Break, Family Mass has been moved to April 26th and the Food Pantry will be open on April 25th. First graders will read at Mass.

Grandparents Day, that very special day, will be celebrated on Friday, April 24th. We just love our Grandparents and want to express our love for all of you. Come to our program on the 24th from 10:00 until 12:00. A delicious lunch will be served to our special guests.

The Booster Club will meet on April 8th. The next meeting for the PTO is April 22nd. Notices were sent home asking for new PTO officers. If you are interested in becoming an officer for the 2009-2010 school year, please send your application back to school.

Something special is happening on Sunday, April 26th, from 2:00 until 4:00. Look for VIP (very important papers) throughout this month.

Many, many thanks to the following:

- Parents and students who marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Parents and students who attend Family Mass.
- Parents who helped the cheerleaders with Spirit Day.
- Parents and students who help with the Food Pantry.
- The O'Ambassador Eagles Club and Mrs. Woods for sponsoring Dr. Percy Crawford, this month's guest speaker.
- Parents and students who participated in the Family Olympics.
- Parents who sold refreshments, set up and cleaned up for the Family Olympics.
- Parents and students who attended and participated in the Black History Program.
- Parents who coach our children FOR FREE! Coach Moore, Coach Wimberley, Coach Howard, Coach Murray, Couch Doucet and Coach Nash.

And finally, mere thanks is not enough for all the extra time given by the Faculty and Staff to make St. Ethelreda a GREAT SCHOOL!

Speaking of a GREAT SCHOOL, parents, have you visited Study Island.com yet? This is a web based curriculum that is aligned with the state standards. Each student in kindergarten through eighth grade has a user ID and a password. The students can work on math and reading every day, including weekends. Information was sent home three weeks ago about this program. If you need more information, just email or call your child's teacher.

The Administration, Faculty and Staff of St. Ethelreda wishes all of our students and families a blessed Easter and a relaxing spring break.

PS. Cardinal Francis George is going to spend the day with us on Wednesday, May 27th. You are invited to join us.