

Dear Parents,

Well, the end is almost here! Within this next week, the remodeling taking place should be finished. The kitchen, kitchen area, Harold Washington Assembly Hall have been completely remodeled. Both the boys' and girls' lavatories also have new floors and the girls have new vanity sinks. We are still working on changing the urinals and toilets, in other words, new plumbing and new water fountains. But, one thing at a time. We have a new problem. We have roof work and tuck pointing that need to be done immediately. I am looking for a really big donation/grant to help us with our capital improvements. Will you please pray unceasingly for us that a miracle will happen at 8734 S. Paulina? God said "Ask and you shall receive." Let us all ask for this to happen for the good of all of our students and your children. If your job offers matching funds/donations, please bring me the paperwork. If you work for a contractor or a licensed plumber, please let me know. Together we can make this miracle happen.

### **And the good news is.....**

We are offering SPANISH as part of our curriculum this year. All students from pre kindergarten (4 year olds) to eighth grade will have Spanish taught in their classrooms every Friday. That's right! It is not a pull out class nor are you paying anything extra for it, at least not this year. Senora Rosario Ortega also teaches Spanish at three other Catholic elementary schools. On the Fridays that we are not in school, they will have homework to complete from the previous week. Please make sure they complete it.

NEW BOOK BAGS for everyone in kindergarten through eighth grade are being donated by DENNIS WEBB and TOM HUSHEK, members of our Board of Specified Jurisdiction. The students are going to write thank you letters that will be given to our generous donors.

Many of you have asked about a trip to UniverSoul Circus. Unfortunately we are not going this year due to the economy. The ticket price has gone up and that along with the bus would be \$18.00 per person. Right now I am waiting on a stimulus package, **TUITION**, to meet our debts. I did not want to place an unnecessary financial burden on you at this time.

### **DID YOU KNOW....**

- Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.
- Progress Reports were sent home on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Taffy apple order forms were sent home on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- All Flag football games are played at O'Halloran Park on 84<sup>th</sup> and Wolcott.
- Spanish classes began on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The primary department is walking to Brainerd Library on the 8<sup>th</sup> for "The Very Hungry Caterpillar Story Time." Brainerd Library is located at 1350 W 89<sup>th</sup> Street. Volunteer parents are needed to chaperone the children.
- The girls will play their first volleyball game on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. All games are played at St. Margaret of Scotland. 99<sup>th</sup> and Throop, in the gym.
- EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND FAMILY MASS AT 9:00 ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT ST. KILIAN CHURCH, 87<sup>th</sup> AND MAY STREET. This is the requirement we ask of you, the parent, and your child. We want to pray together as a school family once a month. The seventh graders are the lectors at this month's Mass. All choir members should be in place by 8:45 dressed in black and white.
- Our Annual All School Walk-A-Thon is planned for October 15. Students should wear their St. Ethelreda sweats or tee shirt and blue jeans with a lot of extra blue and gold. We generally walk from here to 87<sup>th</sup> and Western, south to 99<sup>th</sup>, back to 95<sup>th</sup>, east to Ashland and north on Ashland back to the school. The younger children, preschool to grade 2 will take a shorter route, 87<sup>th</sup> to Western and back. VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED. Each student is asked to raise \$25.00 ( 5 people pledging \$5.00) for the walk. The winning class will have dress down day and a pizza party. The student who raises the most money will receive a \$25.00 gift card to Game Stop.
- There is NO SCHOOL on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Both days are Professional Development ones for the teachers. Preschool will be open and all day care available.

- YES, WE ARE IN SCHOOL ON COLUMBUS DAY.
- School pictures will be taken on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Picture notices will be sent home on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Taffy apple money and orders are due on the 21<sup>st</sup> also. They can be picked up on the 28<sup>th</sup> after 3:00.
- Market Day money and orders are due on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is pie month. The more pies we sell, the more our profit will be for this month.
- Our first “ALL CLASSES REUNION” will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 until 8:00. Anyone who ever graduated from St. Ethelreda is invited to attend this gala event. Please spread the word. You can register on line at [www.stethelreda.org](http://www.stethelreda.org) and click on Alum or pick up a registration form in the office.
- The gym uniform (St. Ethelreda tee shirt and shorts) are to be worn under the school uniform every Tuesday and Thursday. The St. Ethelreda sweat suit may be worn to school on gym days from December 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. This means the full St. Ethelreda sweat suit (sweat shirt and sweat pants) not sweat pants and gym tee shirt. Everyone should have the gym uniform by now. Those who are not in compliance are losing points on their gym grade.
- Pink Day! On October 23, students are asked to wear something pink in support of breast cancer awareness. This is sponsored by the Student Council. Those who participate are asked to pay .50 to dress down. All proceeds will be given to the Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation.
- One more dress down day! On October 29, the students can dress in Orange and Black! No costumes, please. Just dress in all black or orange and black. Wear your Halloween shirt, vest, socks, scarf, hair ornaments, etc. Most classrooms will have a party on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a “treat” for the students....no charge to dress down.

### **Prevent backpack injuries to your child.**

Those heavy books and binders that kids carry to school every day can affect their posture and even lead to an injury. When a backpack is too heavy, it can strain muscles and joints and cause back pain and tingling arms. The American Academy of Pediatrics shares these backpack tips:

**Cushion the load.** Shoulder straps should be wide and padded, and kids should wear both of them. A padded back also increases comfort.

**Buckle up.** A waist belt helps support the load kids tote.

**Lighten up.** A packed backpack should weigh no more than 20% of a child’s body weight- but the less it weighs, the better.

**Get plenty of pockets.** Multiple compartments will help to distribute the weight.

**Roll it.** Get your kids a book bag with wheels if lugging around a backpack causes them too much pain. For more information, check out KidsHealth.org.