

February Newsletter

Dear Parents,

February is the month for love, Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Catholic Schools Week, Presidents' Day, the month before the Terra Nova testing and the 100th day of school for St. Ethelreda. Yes, on Thursday, February 11, we are celebrating our 100th day of school. Each classroom is eagerly working on special 100 day projects. Your child's teacher has sent this information home. You are asked to "assist" with the project. However, make sure you don't "do" it. Sometimes parents go overboard in assisting and print out too much information from the internet and send it to school with the child's name on it. Now, the upper grades know this is PLAGIARISM. They know they won't get credit for this. They have to read, comprehend and then write it in their own words. They have to cut out and glue their own pictures. They have to be able to explain their projects and reports. This is the same criteria we want to instill in our younger students, as well. We want all of our students to be able to comprehend and articulate well what they are learning.

I would like to apologize for the cancellation of last week's parent events planned by the PTO. The parents who attended the seminar with Dr. George Smith really had a great time sharing parental challenges with him and other parents. He gave sound advice on being a parent and not a friend to their children. The other activities had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control. The PTO has asked to reschedule these events. Watch your calendar for new dates.

Thanks to the following parents for their donations: Ms. Anissa Braxton (Amon, gr.5) vacuum cleaner and Mr. Dwayne Bland (Demarius, gr.5 and Daejohn, PreK) for the copy paper.

Some parents are very concerned about other parents driving on the front half of the parking lot, double parking to let children out of the car and parking on the street before school is dismissed. The last thing we want to happen is someone's child being hit by a car or parents running into each other. The street is usually blocked at 7:45am and 2:45pm to allow students to safely cross the street to the parking lot. There is a yellow line on the parking lot that we ask parents to park behind. Faculty and staff are the only ones who park on the front half. Also, you cannot stop in the middle of the parking lot to drop off students. Nor should you drive off the parking lot onto the street when the street is blocked. Please SAFETY first.

Special information concerning graduation pictures was given to the PreK kindergarten and eighth graders. Please adhere to the dress code.

Third graders are reading at Family Mass on the 14th. All third graders, their parents and other students with their families should be at Mass at 9:00 at St. Kilian Church. There is NO SCHOOL on the 15th, President Day. The student body is sponsoring two fund raisers this month. The Athletic Fund Raiser is to help pay for their outing next month and the awards for football, volleyball, basketball and track. Fat Tuesday is like Mardi Gras, a big celebration before Ash Wednesday. The student will receive a flier with details of lots of "fun" food they can purchase and enjoy eating before Lent begins. Proceeds help to pay for the Honors Luncheon at the end of the school year.

Speaking of fund raisers, have you purchased a Carson Community Day coupon booklet yet? Remember, we have 2 families here in our school whose relatives lost everything and are homeless. The booklets are \$5.00 and you can sell them to family, neighbors and friends. Stop by the office to buy one for yourself, or take SOME to sell to others. Community Day is February 27.

The junior high students are going to Naperville Settlement in Naperville to experience the flight of slaves who made a stop here while traveling the Underground Railroad. Mr. Tom Hushek, a member of our School Board, found a sponsor to fund this trip for the students. The trip is FREE and includes lunch.

The intermediate students are going to Kennedy King College on the 26th to see a live performance of "Take My Hand and Walk with Me". The cost of this trip is \$10.00. A permission slip will be sent home two weeks in advance.

Professional Development on the 22nd is a system wide Archdiocese sponsored event. All teachers must attend this workshop. The preschool will be open and all day care will be available.

TUITION! TUITION! TUITION! Everyone must be through paying tuition by May 15. We have financial obligations to meet, and the Archdiocese ends the fiscal year on June 15. We must have our end of the year financial report completed by then. This also includes the payment of tardy fines, before and after care fees, lost/damaged books, gum fines, returned checks fee, etc. And, speaking of returned checks, the fee for a returned check has to be raised to \$35.00 beginning February 15. The reason is our bank has increased its fee to \$32.50. By charging only \$25.00, we are losing money; therefore the need to increase our fee.

Child Find is early intervention screening for children ages 3-6. Sponsored by CPS, the children are given an academic speech, vision and hearing test. Parent permission slips will be sent home next week.

Please label your child's clothing. We have unclaimed sweat shirts, gloves, jackets, hats, uniform shirts and blouses (left after practice), etc. If the name is on the clothing, we can return it. Lost: one pair of size 11 (child's) black shoe boots, Velcro straps with a silver design. If your child accidentally took these home, please return them to school.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! In case of bad weather, call 1-847-238-1234, look at the news on channels 2, 5, 7,9,10, and 12, go online to [www.emergency closing.com](http://www.emergencyclosing.com) or call 773-238-1757.

Some other future events we are planning are:

February

The first annual Chili Cook off

April

Open House

Registration 2010-2011

June

Father Daughter Dinner Dance

March

Parents Meeting

Muffins for Moms

Donuts for Dads

May

Mother Son Dinner Dance

Marketing Talk.....A new Addition to the Newsletter

Last December, you may have asked yourself, "Who's that taking pictures at the Christmas Play?" Well, that was me Pam Jefferson-Waits, St Ethelreda's Marketing and Development Director. You'll see more of me, and hear from me too, on Principal Spells' monthly newsletter. I'm here to promote and share the good news about our school. So, if you haven't already, please complete and return the Parent Satisfaction Survey. We value your opinion and need your input to help make St. Ethelreda the best school ever!

Share your love with everyone this Valentine's Day