

# APOSTOLIC TIMES

St. Andrew the Apostle School

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER August, 2009

Dear Parents:

I always chuckle when people ask me, "so what do you *do* over the summer"? As if I have to decide between sailing the Great Lakes or chilling out in the Hamptons. The relaxing and easy days of summer fade away rather quickly for leaders in Catholic education. Our staff at St. Andrew has been working very hard to prepare for the kids, who are the light of the world. The best project completed over the summer has been the installation of white boards. Among the many benefits of white boards is the safety aspect, which decreases the chance for an asthma attack. The white boards will also lead to overall general cleanliness. Many thanks to Marion Wagner and Sheryl Payne for their extra efforts over the summer to get the building ready for the kids. The summer projects are complete, which means in a short time the kids return with "summer sleep" in their eyes. We all anxiously await their arrival to begin our important work.



On behalf of Fr. Gregor, it is with great joy and enthusiasm that we begin another year, our 50th, in Catholic education! At St. Andrew we acknowledge parents as being the primary educators of their children, and as such, we look forward to joining with you in partnership to make your child's learning experience positive and rewarding in every way. We invite you to be an active part of this exceptional faith community, and carry the good news of Catholic education beyond the doors of our school.

I am deeply honored to serve as Principal of a school so steeped in the tradition of excellence! As we anticipate another dynamic year at St. Andrew School, I wish you health, happiness, and the peace of Christ as you continue to enjoy these wonderful days of summer as a family.

## CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FAITH WITH YOUR ST. ANDREW FAMILY

On August 23rd at 10:30 AM, Bishop Sartain will celebrate a multi-lingual Mass in the new East parking lot to celebrate St. Andrew the Apostle's 50th Anniversary. There will be 2,500 chairs and many tents set up. Arrive by 10:00 A.M. to hear the beautiful Prelude music of different nationalities sung by adults and children who will set the tone of this holy Eucharistic celebration. After the Mass enjoy a light reception and music, and reminisce. If you can help in any way, contact Sue at ext. 314.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Parents are needed to help out at the refreshment table for the 50th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, August 23. We need about 10 parents. You don't need to bring anything, bake anything, or buy anything. Just offer to help by showing up. If you can help, please contact Sharon Rejsek, Chair, at 630.650.5163 or e-mail her at [sharonrejsek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharonrejsek@sbcglobal.net). Service hours will be given for school parents. Thank you!

## CLASS ROSTER/SCHEDULE

The school class schedule, including specials, will be final and announced at Parent Night, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Teaching assignments have been made for the 2009 - 2010 school year:

Grade 8: Mrs. Snow	Grades 6/7: Mr. Irwin	Grade 5: Mrs. Ellerman	Grade 4: Mrs. Syrios
Grade 3: Mrs. Kurbis	Grade 2: Mrs. Dalton	Grade 1: Mrs. Ceci	K: Mrs. Caposieno
Preschool: Ms. Triner	Technology: Mrs. Zilka	P.E.: Mrs. Bolero	

## FAMILY FOLDERS

Beginning September 1, and every Tuesday thereafter, all school communication will be sent home in the **family folder** with the oldest child enrolled at SAS. Each time the folder is sent home, please remove and carefully read all the contents. We ask that you respond to any items that require your attention, sign the folder, and return it to school with your child the next day.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

First day of school: Monday, August 24 at 7:45 A.M.  
Mandatory Parent Meeting: Monday, August 24 at 6:00 P.M. in Church  
Open House: Monday, August 24 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 P.M.  
Preschool Parent Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.  
New Parent Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
Cold Stone Fundraiser: August 27, 6-9 P.M.  
50th Anniversary Dinner-Dance: September 11.



## NEW HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

This year SAS will be introducing a new hot lunch company, FSP. Actually, FSP is returning and we are happy to welcome them back. Periodically over the past year we received expressed concerns from parents about the lunch program. Many of our parents expressed the need for a company that has all the components to make life easier for everyone involved—a company that is nutrition focused, has online convenience and most importantly, is "kid approved." The administration feels that FSP fits the bill, for the most part, for both parents and kids. With 2 lunch choices a day, the menu runs the gamut from healthy "kid favorites," to the ordinary culinary creations that we all enjoy. Every day, students are offered a broad menu in order to delight diverse palates, dietary restrictions and preferences.

The **first day** for hot lunch is Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. **No hot lunch the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>.** Please send brown bag lunches for your children. The **order form** for August 31<sup>st</sup> & September lunches will be **sent to your homes** in a few days. The cost of the hot lunch will be \$2.76/lunch with a small additional charge for milk. The orders are **due back on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.** Please send them to school with your child or turn them in at the Parent Meeting at 6:00 P.M. **This is a firm deadline.** If we do not receive your order form on 8/24 your child will not receive hot lunch for 8/31 & for September. No late orders will be taken.



## LUNCH HELPERS

We will be needing *consistent* parent volunteers to assist in the lunch room each day. If you are interested in helping, and know that you can consistently help one day each week throughout the school year, please call the school office at 815.886.5953 or Bernadette at x303.

## FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCH

Enclosed are forms for the Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals. Please read them carefully to see if you qualify. If you have any questions please call Bernadette x303.

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning Monday, August 17 the office will be open from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Our office personnel and accounting staff will be available to assist you in person or by phone or e-mail with whatever questions or concerns you might have. The office is also open the week of August 10 from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M.

## BAKED GOODS NEEDED

The School Board is setting up a refreshment table for Parent Night on August 24<sup>th</sup> and they need baked goods and beverages from parents. Service hours will be granted for those who provide items for the table. Cookies, punch, soda, veggies, brownies, and other food/drink items are needed to make this a "sweet and successful" event. By donating or providing goodies, you will get a head start on your service hours and your contributions will get the year off to a great start. We appreciate the parents who always support the school. Please contact School Board members Bob Martin at [rm7@aol.com](mailto:rm7@aol.com) or April Pearson at [pearson.april@comcast.net](mailto:pearson.april@comcast.net) if you have questions or comments.



### AUGUST CALENDAR

Enclosed is the **updated** August calendar. SAVE THE DATE: Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. for Parent Night. This evening is mandatory. On Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> we will have a Preschool Parent Meeting 6-7 P.M. & a New Family Meeting 7-8 P.M.

### SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Enclosed is an updated school year, 2009-2010 calendar. There is a change on Feb. 12, 2010. This date is the Teacher In-Service Day (not 2/19/10). There will be an 11:30 A.M. dismissal on 2/12/10. Friday, Feb. 19, 2010 will be a full day of school.



### SCHOOL UNIFORMS

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN COMPLETE UNIFORM ON AUGUST 24. Our school uniform company is SCHOOLBELLES. The company is located at 7763 S. Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, IL. All students in grades K through 8 are required to wear uniforms for all classes. P.E. uniforms are also on sale. Information about uniforms will be available during the parent social on August 24 in the hall.

Some of the clothing from Schoolbelles will have the new St. Andrew logo on them but any old uniforms you might have or have passed down to you are still acceptable. The logo on the P.E. uniforms has not been changed yet. When Schoolbelles changes completely to the new logo, the old logo is fine & will be accepted as St. Andrew uniform requirements.

### TEACHER EASE GRADING PROGRAM

This year, the administration and faculty of St. Andrew will continue to use TeacherEase, a centralized grading system that will allow parents and students easy access to student progress. Utilizing any computer with an Internet connection, parents will be able to access information pertaining to grades, performance, conduct, teacher comments and important assignment due dates online. We constantly receive remarks about the excellent features of the program because it strengthens the bond between parents and teachers regarding their child's current progress. TeacherEase is an invaluable tool to all of us as we partner with you in the education of your children!

### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN CLASS

There will be a Protecting God's Children Class on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3 P.M. at St. Andrew. Please arrive 10 minutes early to fill out paperwork. No one will be admitted late. Please call Andrea Vasquez x 504 to register.



### TUITION ASSISTANCE

Through the generosity of the Parish, we have established a formal tuition assistance program for school families. Applications are available through the school office. The administration does not want to lose school families for financial reasons. In the difficult economy and in these challenging times, we need to work together to make Catholic education possible for as many students as possible. Please contact the school office for more information. Forms are available anytime and the committee meets monthly.

### TRANSPORTATION FORMS

Enclosed are the Valley View transportation forms. If you have **not** filled them out & you require bus service, please return them to Valley View Transportation as soon as possible. Please call them at 815-886-6686 if you have any questions.

### MANNA

We have a program called Manna. The tuition does not cover the entire cost of educating your children. We need programs like Manna to help us. There are many great vendors. You can access the order form on the SAS website. The proceeds are split between lowering your tuition cost (75%) with the remaining 25% going to the Capital Campaign. Please support this great project.

## BUDGET

The school budget is bare-bones for the 2009 - 2010 school year, reflecting the difficult economy. Please be prompt with your tuition agreements and payments of fees. Please try to use the Manna program as much as possible. This will help you lower your tuition and will help the Parish. It's a win-win situation. Thank you for your continued support of St. Andrew.

## PARENTS NEEDED FOR PTO

An active and dedicated PTO is an asset to any school. The children at St. Andrew need quality programs and the very best educational opportunities. Please consider an active role in your child's education by joining the PTO. We need people to work behind the scenes and assist in various ways, so it's not just about attending evening meetings! We want to extend an invitation to all parents to join the PTO by contacting the school office. Please share your time and talents with the children! Thank you for your consideration in this critical area for the school. There will be more information at Parent Night on 8/24.

## MARKET DAY

Our school community is participating in a fundraising food program called **Market Day**. Each month restaurant-quality food products, from the same vendors that supply many upscale restaurants, will be available for purchase. Market Day products are competitively priced and our school will earn profit on your purchases. We can earn this money without our students going door-to-door, without purchasing products we wouldn't ordinarily purchase, and with the knowledge that all products are of exceptional quality and covered by a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee!



The order sheet will be coming home once a month with your student. Please take a few minutes to review it and place an order. Enclosed with this mailing is the first order sheet for this school year. Forms can be returned to school by Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The pick-up will be Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 5:30 in the school hall.

You can find out more about Market Day and even place your order online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Register your e-mail address to receive reminders to order and special offers for online customers. Our Market Day account # is 1997.

Please give **Market Day** a try! For questions call Jodie Nelson 815-407-0748.

## NO MORE PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS

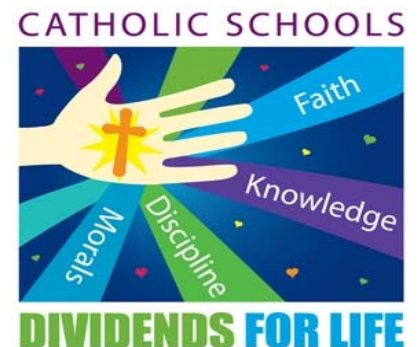
Effective with the start of the 2009 – 2010 academic year, the administration will not issue perfect attendance awards. There is no academic benefit or value to having perfect attendance. Although it may raise student self-esteem, the perfect attendance award is not conducive to one's overall well being. Parents are notified to keep their children at home when they are sick. Please do not bring students to school when they exhibit illness or other unhealthy symptoms.

## SACRAMENTS NEEDED

If there is any students above 2<sup>nd</sup> grade who are in need of receiving sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Communion please contact the Faith Formation office.

## FROM THE ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Starting August 2009, we will be tracking collection envelopes (regardless of the amount inside) to identify families who qualify for the "active" tuition rate. Please take a moment over the summer and verify your address with the Parish, and be sure to make good and consistent use of your envelopes. This will ensure that you are classified correctly for the "active" tuition rate.



*Peace and all good things,  
Mr. Leppert and Faculty*

