



ST. CECILIA SCHOOL

*Plant your roots in Christ, and let Him be the foundation for your life.
--Colossians 2:6-7*

October 28, 2009

Dear Parents:

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are ongoing this week. If you missed your conference, please contact your child's homeroom teacher to schedule another conference appointment.

Halloween Festivities

We are looking forward to a fun-filled Halloween parade tomorrow. I am printing below the information sent home in the last bulletin regarding our activities and costume policies. Please take a moment to review the costume policies to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the day.

Halloween Festivities, Thursday, October 29th

Parade: Sponsored by NJHS

Halloween is actually the vigil of All Saints Day. It is a mix of cultural beliefs and superstitions that have been gathered up into one event. We encourage positive historical role models for costumes, such as Ben Franklin, George Washington, comic book heroes (Superman, Spiderman, etc.,) the saints (St. Cecilia, St. Francis, St. Paul) and fictional literary characters. This year the students will go to their classrooms after the 7:45 am bell to unpack their belongings and to have attendance taken. Teachers and the students will return to their morning lines at 8:00 am for morning prayers and flag salute. The parade will immediately follow. Student members of NJHS will escort grades pre-k through eight. Parents, please join us!

Costume Regulations:

- No grotesque, bloody, gory or violent costumes at all (including witches and vampires)
- No full face make-up. Example: full face make-up is clown make-up; light make-up is lipstick, eye shadow and blush
- No hair dying
- Masks may be worn only during the parade (no scary, grotesque, or monster-like masks)
- Costumes must be modest; no costume that suggests immodesty/promiscuity
- No costume that is degrading toward women, men, or any culture
- No weapons. Examples: guns, swords, etc.
- Shoes must be worn; no skateboards, rollerblades or skates at any time.
- If a student chooses not to participate by not wearing a costume, the school uniform is to be worn. (Jeans and a shirt are not a costume.)

Parents, please keep in mind that many costumes that are appealing to our young people today are not suitable for St. Cecilia School as they are not in keeping with the traditions of a Catholic school. This makes your challenge as a parent more difficult, and your



efforts to honor the costume regulations above are expected and appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter—you make the difference!

Aid to Baja: Students are invited to support the *Aid to Baja* program which collects candy and sends it to children in Mexico. If your child is interested in participating, please send in your leftover Halloween candy to school on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Flu Update

Due to public concerns regarding the H1N1 flu, we have been monitoring our student absences to determine if there is a marked increase school wide or in a particular class. We are also comparing our absentee figures for this year with last year's for the same time period. On this past Monday we had 35 students absent; last year we had 7 absences on the same day. On Tuesday, we had 21 students absent; last year's absences on the same day were 5. This week's absences have been spread across all grade levels. The majority of our absences have been due to the flu or flu-like symptoms. The Orange County Health Care Agency is advising schools that the majority of the flu that is currently out there is the H1N1 virus.

Medical experts are encouraging parents to get their children vaccinated with the seasonal flu shot, which is currently available and the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available. Also, please be aware that if one child in a family contracts the flu, other children in the family are at high risk of also contracting the flu. Please consult your pediatrician to confirm cases of the flu.

It is very important that parents and the school work together to keep our students healthy. Teachers are regularly disinfecting classroom surfaces and reminding students to use the hand sanitizers located in every room. Parents, please remind your children of good hygiene habits, especially covering coughs and sneezes, properly discarding tissues, and thoroughly washing hands.

Please remember that children with flu symptoms, (100 degree temperature and above, body aches, headache, sore throat, cough and/or lethargy), may not attend school. Students must remain home until they have been without symptoms and without a fever for at least 24 hours ***after having been off of fever reducing medications.*** This is the best way to contain the flu virus and reduce the risk of infecting others. The teachers will work with students and parents to manage make up work after an absence.

Tomorrow is our Halloween parade. This is a day most students look forward to, and students who have been ill this week may want to come to school in order to participate in the costume parade. While as parents it is tempting to give in to our children's wishes, please remember that sending students back to school before they are fully recovered puts them at risk of a relapse and puts the rest of the students at risk of being infected. Hopefully, the three day weekend will allow time for all students to have some extra rest and will enable our students with the flu to recover fully by next week.

Auction 2009 –two days away!

The *Masquerade Ball* will be held this Friday, October 30th at the Irvine Marriott. Included in today's envelope is the auction program for every family that is attending the auction. This is our largest school fundraiser and is a wonderful evening for our school parents and friends. Special thanks go out to our four auction managers, Darlene Bayardo, Becky Byszewski, Eileen McCarthy, and Nancy Walz, for their leadership and commitment of time, talent, and treasure on behalf of the children of St. Cecilia School.

Liturgical Events for November

During the month of November we will be remembering in prayer our family members and friends who have passed away. Last week a prayer remembrance card was sent home to each family. If you have not already done so and would like to include your deceased family and friends in our daily prayer intentions, please complete the card and return to school by tomorrow. The Basket of Remembrance will be included in our daily morning prayers during November and will be included in our school wide liturgy on Friday, November 20th.

All students in kindergarten through eight will be attending the 8:30 am Mass on All Souls' Day, Monday, November 2nd.

Student of the Month/Free Dress/Canned Food Drive

Next Monday is our Student of the Month Assembly at 2:00 pm. Students who bring in canned food on Tuesday, November 3rd, may wear free dress on that day. Our canned food items are donated to the St. Cecilia Parish Food Bank which provides food for hundreds of families. Any donation of non-perishable food items is gladly accepted; the Food Bank is in special need of boxed cereal. Also, if you have paper grocery bags at home that are just taking up space, please send them into the school office and we will send them to the Food Bank.

Veteran's Day

We will be learning about Veteran's Day on November 11th, and all students in K-8 will be attending a prayer service and assembly in honor of our veterans. During the prayer service we would like to pray for all of the veterans in our school families. If you or a family member is a veteran, please complete the form enclosed and return it to school no later than Friday, November 7th. Students may wear red, white, and blue free dress on November 11th. Family members are welcome to attend our Veteran's Day Prayer Service. Further details highlighting this event will be sent home next week.

Sixth Grade Outdoor Education

Our sixth graders will be attending the Pali Mountain Outdoor Education program next week, November 3rd-6th. This is a camp designed around sixth grade science concepts. The camp is located just outside of Running Springs. We wish our campers a safe and healthy trip!

Mater Dei Applications Available

Mater Dei High School admission applications are available now at www.materdeiadmissions.org. Mater Dei is accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year on a rolling basis -- apply today! Once your application file is complete, it will be reviewed for Early Qualification. All applicants are required to take the Entrance Exam on January 30, 2010. Also, don't miss 8th Grade Visitation Day on Thursday, November 12 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. for an opportunity to experience many aspects of the Mater Dei community from the student's view. For more info. call (714) 850-9534.

A few calendar reminders...

Friday, October 30 th	No school due to teacher in-service <i>Masquerade Ball @ 6 pm; Irvine Marriott</i>
Tuesday, November 10 th	Auction Free Dress
Friday, November 13 th	No school; diocesan in-service for all teachers
Monday, November 23 rd through Friday, November 27 th	Thanksgiving Vacation

May God continue to bless us through one another.

Gratefully,



Mrs. Mary Alvarado
Principal