



Saint Teresa of Avila School

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412-367-9001

Faith Grows • Excellence Abounds

The mission of St. Teresa of Avila School is to provide a foundation in the Catholic faith as we integrate Christian values with the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of the child. Committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, we enrich our students with the knowledge and skills essential for life-long learning in the 21st Century.

MID-WEEK EXTRA

October 12, 2011

Dear Saint Teresa of Avila School Families,

Thanks for taking the time each week to review the contents of this letter. It is one way of keeping you informed about the many happenings related to our school family.

MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS: ELEMENTARY DIVISION VISITS SAINT TERESA OF AVILA SCHOOL

As you have been reading since Spring, 2010, our school has been involved in a comprehensive self study of every aspect of our school. A 200 page document, prepared by the faculty and staff, has been submitted to the association and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. It has also been distributed to three professional educators who are visiting our school, October 18-21, 2011.

The purpose of the visit is for the team of educators to experience our school “in action,” visit classrooms, meet with our various “stakeholders” including faculty and staff, students, pastor and parents.

As part of the self-study we have prepared a strategic plan which will guide us during the next seven years. The focus of this plan is “service,” technology, and the continuous improvement of our total curriculum. You will, of course, hear more about this in the weeks, months and years to come!

Please be reminded that all parents are invited to attend the meeting with the team scheduled for next Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in the library. The meeting will be over in time for dismissal. You are welcome to attend.

ATHLETIC EVENTS: Due to opening of our Middle States visit and our Second Century Donor Event scheduled for late afternoon/early evening on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, there will be no practices, games or meets for any students who participate in any St. Teresa sports or cheerleading events at any time on that day. Thanks for your cooperation.

THANK YOU: SCHOOL BOOK FAIR: *Last week's Fall Book Fair was a rousing success, thanks to the many St. Teresa parents who took this opportunity to support the school library, while also encouraging their child's love of reading. Total sales were \$4900, a substantial increase over last year's Book Fairs. The library realized a profit of \$1800 in cash and Scholastic credits, which will be used to buy books and other educational materials. St. Teresa families were also generous in funding our teachers' "wish lists." Look for a summary of book donations in the October monthly envelope. The Spring Book Fair is tentatively scheduled for March 12-16; watch for more details. Special thanks to the team of parent volunteers led by co-chairs Cindy Fusco and Susan Ciaramella who worked tirelessly to make the Fall Book Fair such a success.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The following dates are important to note:

- Sunday, October 16, 2011, Parish Organ Dedication and Social...*please return handout and we will be grateful for your "tasty treats!"*
- Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 2:15 p.m....Middle States parent meeting...see below
- Grandparent/Special Persons Event, Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

REPORT CARD CONFERENCES: The first parent/teacher/student conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2011, from noon-6:45 p.m. Please look for a conference form to arrive home later this week.

OFFICE REQUESTS: Thanks for your cooperation in labeling items to be sent to the office. Mrs. Mundie and all of us are quite grateful!

MORNING ARRIVAL Students may enter the front doors at 8:00 a.m. each morning. Students who arrive before 8:00 a.m. must report to Extended Day in the library. The reason for this is that there is no one available to supervise students either in classrooms or the hallway. (One day last week 15 students had arrived and were in the hall between 7:50 and 8:00 a.m.) Faculty members have various responsibilities at that time and are not available until at least 8:00 a.m. Thanks for your cooperation!

HELP YOURSELF! Remember to purchase Bonus Bucks that are available for sale at the beginning and ending of each school day. By purchasing these gift cards to over 40 establishments in our area, you are also able to "pay down" your fund raising fee and/or tuition.

SECOND CENTURY FUND: Letters concerning our annual appeal will be mailed this week. We are grateful for the tremendous generosity of all of the friends of St. Teresa of Avila School and every student in our school benefits from these wonderful gifts!

GRADEBOOK: Please take the time regularly to review your child's grades on line. Our teachers make a conscientious effort to record all grades regularly (all within one week of submission). Your review of grades, and also any comments, will help to insure that your child is on task as well as to note areas where reminders and other kinds of encouragement may help the student to "be the best version" of himself or herself as a student at St. Teresa!

Night at the Races: St. Teresa of Avila School Athletic Association will be holding a Night at the Races on Saturday, November 12th to benefit the school's athletic programs. Entrance fee is \$15 which includes dinner, beer and setups. Doors open at 7:00pm. If interested please contact Lori Kenna at 412-364-6350 or Dave Evankovich at 724-935-9585. Hope to see you there!

TUITION PAYMENTS: Your timely payments enable us to be accountable stewards to all to whom we are responsible. The fourth of twelve payments was due on September 1, 2011. Gradebook is currently available to all families and after **October 5, 2011**, will be available to all families who have paid at least thirty percent of the total tuition.

Please remember in your prayer all those who have died, all those who are ill, and for peace in our world especially in the Middle East.

Blessings,

Sister Karen Brink, OSB, Principal

REPEATS OF IMPORTANCE:

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VOLUNTEER ROUND-UP The advancement committee is welcoming additional members. Please see the flyer on our website about a variety of roles that need your talents! This committee helps to ensure a bright future for our school and our students!

We also have immediate need for volunteers to help finish the Music Studio on a Saturday in the near future. Carpentry skills and men to help hang heavy wood panels would be welcome, but many other tasks of unskilled labor are needed such as touch-up painting and wrapping panels in fabric. We are also accepting donations of used musical instruments for display and demonstration purposes. Call Andrea McHugh at 412 635 9830 for details on the date and time.

TWO NEW INITIATIVES As previously announced, and as part of our Middle States study we are looking to form two new "working committees". Please see the information in the October envelope about the "Service Initiative" Committee and the "Science/Technology" committee, both of which will enhance our total school program and need adults who are interested in a particular aspect of our school. Please consider joining one or both of these committees and bring your ideas to the first meetings. We look forward to working with you!

The 2:00 meetings will be in Room 14 and the 7:00 p.m. meetings in the Ehrman-Palumbo Science Room. See you there!

TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Thank you for your efforts in regard to the following: We continue to work diligently to insure the safety of all of our students and school families and staff. Parents, and others who bring students to school in the morning are asked to observe the following:

- Please pull up in front of the school as close as possible to the flag pole. This enables a number of cars to unload students at the same time, and allows for a steady flow of exiting vehicles, including school busses.
- As a safety factor, please have your student exit on the school side of your vehicle rather than the traffic side.
- The bus drivers have been asked to allow students to exit the bus as close to the entrance as possible. This can happen if there is a steady flow of vehicles.
- If you need to come into the building, please park your car in one of the designated spaces along the hillside.
- Please do not drop off students before 8:00 a.m. as there is no one to supervise them until that time.

If you exit your vehicle at any time, please do not leave it running.

Thank you for your consideration of the above which provide the highest measure of safety possible for everyone on our campus!

