

Principal's Letter September 11, 2009

Dear Family,

With one week under our belt, I feel we have already accomplished much. The students have learned the rules and expectations of their teachers, and the parents have been given the curriculum expectations for their children. At Information Night we introduced our new teachers, and outlined the gifts and challenges of the year ahead of us.

To recap:

Our gifts...

- 3 new, energetic, talented teachers who have already blended well with our staff-Kali Paris, Chris Harris and Michael Stein-Ross.
- Seasoned teachers who have a passion for what they do.
- Accreditation-we passed with flying colors, and received the full six year accreditation from the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.
- New technology in the form of interactive white boards which will help us to engage our students in a way that is meaningful to them.
- Ongoing professional development through well-planned conferences and Professional Learning Communities, which allows the teachers to work together to develop and enhance curriculum.

Our challenges...

- The fact that the Family Center floor has had to be replaced, and that the replacement of the floor has been delayed, which has an impact on our Physical Education program and a potential impact on our CYO sports program. We will get through this!
- The threat of h1n1 flu. The school is closely following the guidelines from the health department and the Center for Disease Control, and will keep current with the ongoing information provided to us.
- The effects of the recession on our families. The School Commission and I promise to work diligently to keep our St. Francis family together through these difficult times.

Thank you for coming to Information Night. The partnership of teacher and parent has an important impact on our children.

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Continuation of Sheila's Bulletin

The Family Handbook is coming home today, and we ask that you take the time to go over this with your child (children). There are a few changes in this year's handbook that are important to note:

- Off-Campus Conduct (p.21)
The administration of St. Francis of Assisi School reserves the right to discipline students for off-campus behavior that is not in line with behavior expectations of its students as outlined in the school handbook. This off-campus behavior includes but is not limited to cyber-bullying. Any defamatory comments regarding the school, the faculty, or other students will result in immediate disciplinary action.

It is difficult for a child to realize the impact of hurtful words on another child's psyche. With the advent of Facebook and the myriad of other formats available for posting one's thoughts to the masses, there is an increased potential for causing damage to another child's reputation. Students need to recognize their responsibility to be respectful to everyone. When hurtful items about fellow students or teachers are posted on the web, it affects the classroom environment.

- Telephone (p. 27)
Cell phones in grades 6-8 are collected in the morning and returned at the end of the day. Our older children are so used to texting that they do it without thinking. Not having cell phones available in the classroom will make it easier for the children to focus.

Please be sure to sign the sheet after reviewing the handbook with your child. Thank you.

Have a Great Weekend,

Sheila