

September 21, 2005

Dear Parents,

It is the third week of September and faculty, staff and students are settling in to a wonderful routine. Academic work is in full swing, extra activities have begun. But most important, we came together for the first time as a school community for our first Mass. Liturgy was prepared by Mrs. Esling and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Mrs. Flaviani directed the student choir. The students were prayerful in their participation.

**Student Council:** At the Mass, the 2005-2006 Student Council was blessed by Fr. Mario as they received their pins and took their oath of office. Please congratulate the Student Council members for 2005-2006:

Alejandra Garcia, President; Samantha DeLosada, Vice President; Jeremy Marks, Treasurer; Jeannette Hanna, Secretary; Commissioners of Publicity: Celina Baldizon, Jamie Dailey, Kimberly Lopez, Allondra Orellana, Amelia Rudnicki and Maya Siu.

**Prayers:** Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family of Gina Fazio-Siu, our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade paraprofessional, for the loss of her older brother, Robert. Our prayers are also requested for the cousin of Rory and Brendan Kinney. She is 11 years old and has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. As a community, we continue to pray for both of these families.

**Catechetical Mass:** Sunday, September 25, 2005, the faculty and staff will be commissioned at the 9:15 a.m. Mass. At this liturgy, the parish will recognize all those who have accepted the call to serve as catechists. In front of the Church community we will all be commissioned in the name of the Church to teach others what it means to follow Christ. I would encourage our school families to be with us on this morning. The Men of St. Paul will have their pancake breakfast following Mass. Please see the enclosed flyer.

**ITBS:** The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are scheduled September 26 – October 7. Please avoid scheduling medical or dental appointments during this period. Children should be here on time to facilitate the testing process. A good night's sleep and healthy breakfast are encouraged.

**Hurricane Relief:** Thanks to Ms. Mallet and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade for organizing our free dress pass sale which ended last Friday. I will have a final amount of funds raised next week.

As a school, we are also joining with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) to raise funds. The NCEA would like to collect one dollar from each of the Catholic school children to be earmarked for the educational needs of their counterparts impacted by Katrina.

This new campaign is entitled "Child to Child: A Catholic Campaign to Aid Education." Through this initiative, NCEA will collect contributions from the 2.6 million students enrolled in each of its member schools.

Here at St. Paul's we have selected Thursday, September 29 to collect \$1.00 from every student. We again ask your support and ask you to send your child to school with a dollar to send funds to dioceses that have been severely impacted by the hurricane.

Children always have a great capacity for compassion and generosity. We are confident that our children will rise to the occasion and make a real contribution to their peers whose lives have been turned upside down by this disaster.

**Professional Development:** Friday is a Professional Development training day. Training will focus on the needs of educators to enhance their professional practices by implementing standards—based instruction. Teachers will be going to various sites based on grade level. **It is a School Holiday for the students.**

**Miscellaneous:** Current QSP Daily Drawing Winners: Monique Molina- 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Hannah Abdel – 5<sup>th</sup> grade; Samantha Prior – 7<sup>th</sup> grade; Dan Gonzales – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mrs. Olivo is in need of pine cones for an Extended Care art project. If you have any that you could donate, she would be very grateful.

Please stop by the office and check out the Lost and Found for lunch boxes, sweaters, etc.

**Tardiness:** The tardy children situation is very bad this year. All students need to arrive at school and be in line by 8:00 a.m. when the school bell rings. If you have a long commute, please make sure you leave your home early enough so as not to get caught in the morning commute traffic. It is very important that your child/children ARRIVE ON TIME FOR THE START OF SCHOOL.

**Bingo:** Once again this school year we will double the hours you work at Bingo plus your name will be put in a drawing for a credit of \$100.00 towards tuition, financial agreement, service hours or extended care. All you need to do is call the office by Wednesday of the week you want to volunteer. Then, when you work Bingo, make sure you sign the volunteer book so you will receive the appropriate credit.

**After School Care Assistant:** St. James' is looking for an assistant to help with their after school program. Hours would be 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. except for Wednesday when it is 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. If interested, please call 415-647-8972.

**Morning Drop-off:** We need Adult Volunteers. A decent early morning workout! Get to know school parents and students. Plus – Earn service hours! If you can assist, please call Kathleen McKeon at 415-826-3737. Thank you.

**Supervision:** At no time during the day are students to be unsupervised on school premises:

- Any child who arrives at school before 7:45 a.m. should go to Extended Care.
- The same policy is in place afterschool—students are not to be inside or outside the school building unsupervised.
- If sports practice is happening in the gym—only team members are allowed in the gym. Coaches do not supervise other students.
- For the safety of any child, he/she should be in Extended Care if not supervised by an adult.

### **St. Paul's Walk-a-thon**

The St. Paul's School Walk-a-thon has returned to its original Fall time slot -- October! The event will be held Saturday, October 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Archbishop Riordan High School track. Enclosed in the Wednesday envelope today you'll find: (1) sponsor forms – one for each student in your

family, and (2) a flyer with details of the event. (Additional copies of these materials may be found on the school website: [www.stpaulsf.net](http://www.stpaulsf.net).) Students may start collecting sponsors now – you have just over 3 weeks! Sponsors are invited to pledge an amount of money for each lap completed around the quarter-mile track. Lump sum (flat fee) donations are also welcome. Parents, friends and other family members are invited to join in the fun, and get some exercise. However, students are eligible for prizes based only on the total number of laps they walk. Parents' laps do not count toward their children's totals. Remember, 80% of the money you raise will count toward your financial agreement to the school. This is a fun and easy way to help with your commitment -- both financially and with service hours (earned if you volunteer to work on the event). Contact Laure Moon (415) 824-0878 if you have questions, or want to volunteer.

**St. Paul's Annual Dinner Dance and Auction:** Book your baby sitter now for a wonderful evening of dining and dancing!!! The eighth annual dinner dance and auction, *Les Rues de Paris*, will take place on Saturday, November 5, 2005. It is truly a fun event, raising money for the St. Paul's Preservation Fund. The Fund was developed to retire the debt incurred to construct our school and retrofit the church. Without our parish, this beautiful school building and parish center would not exist. Invitations will be in the mail this week.

We will need volunteers on the night of the event, November 5<sup>th</sup>, to oversee silent auction tables, sell raffle tickets, set-up and help with the checkout of the auction items. Please contact Anne O'Shea at 415-641-9409 or Joan Russo, Chair, 415-282-1384 if you are interested. **Service Hours given!**

**Picnic Notes:** This year's school picnic was fabulous. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and outstanding participation from school families and friends. Many thanks to all the adult and student volunteers, plus everyone who donated their talents and time toward the success of this community builder. It takes a lot of people to coordinate this event! Special thanks to Cathy Marks Homoele for leading this year's Picnic Committee, Sabine Bravo (creative genius), Maria Martinez (games guru) and Pedro Rodriguez (accounting). They have served on the Picnic Committee for many years. We will miss them all next year as their children graduate in June.

Picnic Volunteers Great job! Your time is very much appreciated. Your service hours will be submitted to the school office within the next two weeks. You will receive your first Service Hour Statement in November. If there are any discrepancies regarding the time you served at the school picnic—Apologies! Please call Kathleen McKeon 415-826-3737.

We need new Picnic Committee Members. The current crew has been running the picnic for the past five years. It is truly time to give others an opportunity to coordinate this event. A Chairperson and 12 organized and committed individuals are required for next year's Picnic Committee. You will accrue lots of service hours. A few experienced Picnic Committee members will take time to assist you with the process. Future picnics are contingent on the response to this request for committee members. Interested? Call Kathleen McKeon 415-826-3737 – e-mail: [kannmckeon@aol.com](mailto:kannmckeon@aol.com).

**Student Identification Cards:** Student identification cards are being sent home in today's Wednesday envelope. Please contact the office if you have not received your child's identification card.

### **Upcoming Calendar Events:**

**Thursday, September 22** -- 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Mission Dolores – 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Friday, September 23** -- **Professional Development Day—School Holiday.**

**Sunday, September 25** – Commissioning of Teachers Catechetical Sunday –  
9:15 a.m. Mass.

**Monday, September 26** – Start of ITBS testing – **12:35 p.m. Dismissal.**

**Tuesday, September 27** – Hearing tests – Kindergarten students

**Wednesday, September 30** – Progress Reports go home.

**Saturday, October 15** -- Walk-a-thon—Archbishop Riordan High School – 9:00 a.m. to  
1:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Arleen Guaraglia  
Principal