

ASCENSION SCHOOL Family Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 5

Sept. 10, 2010

*"For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy."
Ecclesiastes 2:26*

www.ascensionkettering.org/ascension-school/ Ph: 254-5411

Ascension Walk-a thon!

Just two more weekends to get pledges! Our Ascension Walkathon is Thurs, Sept. 23. Students, we need you to think of friends and family members who would sponsor you to walk 5 kilometers or more (3 kilometers for K-1). Parents who have volunteered for various roles in the walk will be contacted by other lead volunteers. Thank you for your support! Information packets went home individually with students after the kick-off assembly last week. All but a handful of permission forms were returned so it is looking like close to 100% participation by the students in the walk!

Federal Survey

All of our school families are asked to review and complete the enclosed survey. This information is very important to ensure our continued participation in the Federal programs. These programs provide a variety of materials and services for our children, teachers and school. It is one of the benefits our children receive from your tax dollars and we do not want to lose it. **Please complete and return the survey by Mon., Sept. 13. Even if you have already submitted free and reduced lunch applications this form must be completed also.**

Family Handbook

Your school handbook is enclosed for those who requested a handbook. If you did not receive a handbook that means your family is either, preferring to use the online copy of the handbook or your family has not turned in the signature sheet. Please read & discuss all appropriate sections with your children, particularly highlighted sections in italics that are revised or newly added to the handbook this year. When completed, return the last page with both sides signed. **All students must sign the form too!** This signature sheet or the one sent in the summer is required of all families. Thank you.

Parking Lot Safety

Morning Arrival - Parents who deliver students by car please remember to drop students off in the morning by way of the upper lot. Students may not be dropped off in the lower lot prior to 8am. **Students arriving after 8:00 am must be escorted into the building by their parents. Students arriving late are not admitted to class until parents sign them in.**

Afternoon Dismissal - No parking is permitted after school directly in front of church in the single row of a dozen parking spots along Woodman Drive. There is a safe zone of 10 feet around the buses during loading that prevents any cars from being parked that close to the buses. Because buses and day care vans sometimes arrive late the lower parking lot is off limits to cars during the car rider dismissal. A teacher safety guard will hold a stop sign there as a reminder to exit by way of the upper lot.

Soccer Parking - For the safety of the children, please do NOT park along the lane (Sister Maureen Way) during soccer practices and soccer games.

Tues., Sept. 14- Early Dismissal

Early dismissal on Tues., Sept. 14 will be at 1pm for an afternoon teacher in-service. Kettering, Dayton, Beavercreek and Sugarcreek Buses will arrive early at 1pm. The Sugarcreek bus will take the students directly home on this day.



Collaboration (Article contributed by Fr. Chris Worland)

As many have heard, the parishes of Ascension, Immaculate Conception and St. Helen's have worked hard to build a strong relationship over the last 5 years. We call ourselves the "One Bread One Body Partnership". We gather together for Penance Services and for Masses on Memorial Day, Labor Day and Independence Day. Over the years, our staffs, our pastoral councils and even some commissions have met together from the three parishes to discuss the areas we can do better together rather than trying to do them separately.

As our respective parishes began looking at continuing to provide quality catholic education, it naturally led to discussions between our three parishes. The One Bread One Body parishes have been working together for over a year to discuss the possibility of coming together as one school.

Each of our schools has been significantly impacted by the economy in recent years. Each of our schools has been forced to make significant cuts in order to continue to provide quality Catholic education. At the same time higher tuition has added additional financial concerns to our families who may already be struggling. Each of our schools is having a difficult time making it alone.

However, our school discussions are not just about saving money. The focus on our school discussions has been the same focus that we have had in all our other One Bread - One Body discussions. What can we do better together rather than separately?

We have recently embarked on a process to create a business plan that describes what this new school might look like. Several teams have been formed from members of each parish to discuss the various facets of this new school

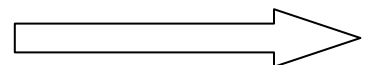
In addition to the steering committee that looks at the overall vision and scope of the project, there are 7 other committees:

- Fundraising and Development Strategy Team
- Curriculum and Instruction Strategy Team
- Finance and Facility Strategy Team
- Governance Strategy Team
- Student and Family Services Strategy Team
- Enrollment Management and Marketing Team
- Human Resources and Strategy Team

As you might imagine, there is an enormous amount of work to be done in the next several months in order to develop a coherent and comprehensive plan to continue to provide great catholic education for our children far into the future. It will take an enormous effort to improve upon the good work that our 3 schools have done and continue to do. However, we have good people from all three parishes that are willing to take on this mission. Once we have a business plan, we will be presenting this plan to the parishioners at each parish, so we can hear what you have to say. **We have made no final decisions at this point.** Nothing will be implemented until we hear what our parishioners have to say about the plan.

Please keep our three parishes and schools in your prayers. We will try to keep you as informed as possible during the coming months as significant elements of the plan are developed.

Over Please...



Remember the 3 R's: Respect - Responsibility - Reverence

Coupled with our implementation of the "Well Managed Classroom" and "Common Sense Parenting" strategies the emphasis this year will be for students to continue to become more self disciplined and more responsible, respectful and reverent in their conduct. This requires teaching the students social skills. The first life skill we have focused over the first few weeks is:

Participating in Mass:

1. Follow quiet hall behavior to church.
2. Fully participate in responses and in song with reverence.
3. Respect others space.
4. Use books & seats responsibly.
5. Follow quiet hall behavior back to class.

Parents who attend mass – your help is requested in helping the students quietly and reverently return to the classrooms after mass. Students are instructed to kneel in prayer after the closing song is sung and wait for teacher instructions for dismissal.

Bundle Sunday

Parishioners/School Families are invited to bundle all used clothing and linens into boxes or bags and drop them off at Ascension this weekend on Sat. or Sun. Sept. 11 & 12 where volunteers and a St. Vincent de Paul truck will be available to receive the donations. All items donated must be bagged or boxed. The collection times are 9am-1pm Sat. Sept., 11 4:30-6:30pm Sat; and 8:30am-12:30pm Sun, Sept. 12.



In years past the school has sent home a sign up form to solicit family volunteers to help donors load their items on the truck. Notice of the need for our help did not reach us in time this year for a sign up, however families may still offer to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Society at any of the shifts by simply calling Ralph Pinney at 426-2559.

Title 1 Services

Dayton resident students in Ascension have available the service of a Title I reading and math specialist provided by Catapult Learning, funded with federal funds through Dayton Public Schools. In order for the specialist Christie Gardner to simply assess your student, she needs parental permission. This is not an indication that the teacher necessarily believes there are any concerns. Mrs. Gardner is trained to conduct this assessment (the classroom teachers are not trained on this particular instrument). The assessment does not take long and afterwards parents are notified if your child qualifies for assistance through the Title 1 program in either math or reading. If your child qualifies you will then be given the choice to have your child participate in Title I services during the school day.

It is the recommendation of the school for parents to allow the assessment because Title I services can be a valuable service to your child.

This fall the school has requested Title 1 services to be extended to our Ascension students residing in qualifying attendance areas of the Kettering School District. An announcement regarding the start of those services should be coming soon.

Girl Scout Recruitment

If you have a daughter who is interested in girl scouts please attend the open house on Fri, Sept. 10 from 5:30-7pm in the school cafeteria. If you have any questions please call Dawn Koesters at 431-0354.

Snacks

Students may bring a snack for themselves. We have a number of students throughout the school with peanut and nut allergies so we ask that none of the snacks contain peanut, peanut oil or peanut protein. **Please check that there are no peanut ingredients in any of the processed foods. It is surprising the number of items that contain peanut products.**

It would be healthy for us all to consider snacks that meet the lunch program's healthy guidelines (no more than 7g of fat and any more than 35% sugar per item). Here is a list of appropriate snacks that may be brought to school:

Crackers - goldfish, triscuits, graham, etc.
Fruit and vegetables (dried or frozen)
Jello or pudding snacks
Fruit roll-ups
Fruit chewy snacks
Applesauce
Breakfast bars
Pop-tarts
Pretzels
Raisins
String cheese
Yogurt & gogurt
Popcorn – no peanut oil



Often birthdays are celebrated with a treat. **Parents may send in birthday treats, however they must be pre-packaged, individually wrapped so they could be sent home with the students if necessary.** We also celebrate half birthdays for children with summer birthdays. Parents are encouraged to send alternative treats other than food, such as pencils, erasers etc, instead of food.

Come Join the Celebration

Families of Ascension School are invited to be part of the Queenship of Mary celebration on Weds, Sept. 29 at Ascension Church. All songs will praise Mary during the prayer service starting at 7 pm. The service will include a coronation of Mary. Children and their parents are welcome to join us for the Twinning Committee sponsored event. A social gathering will follow featuring ice cream and cookies.

Calendar Update

Sept.		
11-12	S-SU	Ascension Food Drive, All Masses
12	SU	Welcome Coffee & Donuts after Masses
13	M	PACE Orientation, Pace Office, 6-7pm Band Lessons begin Child Protection Class, St. Helen, 7pm
14	TU	St. Remy Class/Cohort Day Early School Dismissal, 1pm Faculty In-service, Rm202, 1:30-3:15pm
15	W	Archdiocesan Principal's Mtg., 8am-3pm RTI/IAT Mtg, Rm104, 3-4pm Staff Mtg, Principal, POB4, 3:30-5:30pm
16	TH	School & RE Comm. Mtg, POB1, 7-9pm
17	F	Mass, 9am

Enclosures

Spanish Club Flyer
Federal Survey
K-12 Art Gallery Brochure
Saturday Bowling Flyer

Return Date

Mon, Sept. 13
Mon. Sept. 13
See details
See details

**Photo Proofs being sent home separate from the Envelope
Please return proofs and payment by Sept. 27**

Quotation

*"To handle yourself, use your head;
to handle others, use your heart."*

Conventional Wisdom