

ascension school Family Newsletter

Vol. 9, Issue 29

April 3, 2009

"For God gives those who please Him wisdom, knowledge, and joy."

Ecclesiastes 2:26

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Ascension – Facing the Future of Catholic Education

Ascension School is in the midst of a time of opportunity, transition and challenges. Like most institutions and families right now the advances in technology, the challenges of the economy and new political shifts in state and federal government all are factors in ushering us into this new age of Catholic Education. Three ways or initiatives our school is responding and proactively approaching these challenges include Enrollment Management, Collaboration and Response to Intervention:

RTI - Response to Intervention - This is a new initiative facilitated by our resident early childhood intervention specialist Jennifer Teleha. Mrs. Teleha will be the first to say that our efforts at initiating an RTI model have been a team effort on the part of many of the teachers taking extra time beyond the school day to learn strategies of implementing this new approach to collect and study data to help intervene on behalf of students in our school. An enclosure spells out just what RTI is all about. This is a progression from the IAT Intervention Assistance Team model that we have used at Ascension for some time. Mrs. Teleha, Ms. Wheeler, Ms. Friel and Mr. Devitt have been selected to speak on this topic and our early experience of initiating the RTI model at the OCEA Convention in Cincinnati next fall.

Enrollment Management - We have a team of about a dozen parents working on improved ways to communicate and promote our school. Some of our efforts seem to have paid off already. We had 57 children screened for kindergarten this spring. This was more than projected given trends in baptisms in the parish. Not all of the students screened will become students at Ascension, but it appears that we will likely fill the 48 student seats available for next school year. Ascension School enrollment is open yet this spring. Our school families are the best ambassadors for Catholic Schools including Ascension. One way to share the good news is to refer families to Catholic Schools.

Collaboration - Our school has agreed to a 1 year study facilitated by the Catholic Education Collaborative (CEC) to look at ways the schools of the East Dayton area, specifically St. Helen, Immaculate Conception and Ascension of the One Bread One Body (OBOB) Cluster can work and plan together. Our Parish Pastoral Council and School & Religious Education Committee have both endorsed the involvement in this 1 year study. Your feedback on the recent CEC surveys will be helpful. (In fact those surveys can still be returned.)

There are a number of buzzwords and acronyms used in education that can be confusing. Another enclosure is inserted today that lists and defines many of the acronyms in current use around Ascension.

Report Cards

Report Cards are being sent home with students today. Gr. 5 & 8 students are also receiving individualized reports on their Faith Formation progress as measured by the NCEA ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis and Religious Education).

Family Handbook Reminder - Dispensing Medicine

No medication or over the counter drugs such as aspirin or cough medication (except cough drops), will be administered by school personnel during school hours unless or until a request form is filled out and completed by both the physician and the parents. This form will be kept on file in the student's health folder and the medication log record will be kept in the health room and all appropriate charting done as the medication is given. All medication is to be in the prescription container when brought to school with the forms. The school nurse or school office will keep the medication in a locked cupboard and administer the correct dosage on the days she is in the building. The school secretary or administrator will be the designated person to administer medication on those days that the nurse is not available. Copies of medication forms may be requested through the family envelope, over the phone or in person at the school office.

**Grandparent Day information is enclosed.
All Grandparents Day Registrations are due on
Mon. April 20 so arrangements can be made.**

Asbestos Management Notice

Ascension School has an Asbestos Management Plan which may be viewed at the School Office during normal school hours. The school is inspected for asbestos and management every three (3) years. Periodic surveillance of asbestos containing building materials is conducted regularly every 6 months. The Custodial and Maintenance Staff has undergone asbestos awareness training. Response actions taken are within Federal and State guidelines.

- **Yearbook Orders are due back on Monday, April 6.
The books are \$10 payable to Lifetouch.**

CYO/SAY Soccer

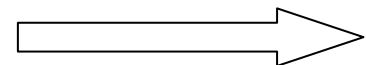
Soccer (current K-7) and Golf (current 5-7) sign ups for next fall will be held after Mass on the weekend of April 18 & 19 in the Witzman Center. The CYO Coordinator is Kelly Collins and the SAY Coordinator is Jeff McManus. Early Bird Participation fee is \$30 for soccer and \$25 for golf if paid by April 24, 2009.

Fr. Rudy Award

Nominations for the Fr. Rudy Award are now being accepted. The nominee must be an eighth grade student attending Ascension School or enrolled in the Religious Education Program. Recipients of this award should exemplify the aspects of the Ascension athletic philosophy. To nominate an 8th grader, please submit the answers to the 4 questions found in the Ascension Athletic Handbook (p 19 – available online as well.) Nominations may be turned in to any Athletic Board member or turned in to the school office. Nominations must be received by May 1.

The Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl theme for next week is Solidarity: *We are bound to each other and we come to know God through community; we are called to stand with one another and continue to transform our world so that dignity and justice are protected for all.* Learn more and participate in activities in the Rice Bowl Calendar each family received at the beginning of Lent.

Over please....



Ascension SCRIP Program

Ascension Women's Guild sells "Scrip" as a fundraiser. It is used like cash and costs you nothing extra. Cards are always available for Kroger, Speedway and Kohl's. Kohl's SCRIP can also be used to pay your account. Kroger cards are available in \$25 denominations or as a card that you use by adding funds and then using as a declining-balance card.

Cards are also ordered from Great Lakes SCRIP that can be received in one week or less. A flyer listing some of the cards available is on the table in the church narthex. A complete retailer list is online at "glscrip.com." For more information or to place an order call Judy McManus (299-0997), Joanne Prinz (439-5753) or Phyllis Hildebrand (435-7114). Orders can also be placed in the collection basket, along with a check written to the Women's Guild. Cards are received in less than one week. There is no added cost to you and Women's Guild uses the profits to benefit Ascension Parish. All profit is returned to the parish through various projects.

SCRIP gift cards are great for Teacher Gifts at the end of the school year. Women's Guild sells \$10 cards to a lot of popular places such as Panera, Bob Evans, Red Robin, Coldstone Creamery, Cracker Barrel, Chipotle and many pizza stores. Retailers such as Borders, Barnes & Noble, Blockbuster, Bath & Body Works are also available in \$10 denominations. Many of the nicer restaurants come in \$25 denominations, such as Olive Garden, Red Lobster and Applebees. There are \$25 cards for Elder-Beerman, Penney's, Speedway, Kroger's and many more.

A Few of The Most Popular Choices From Great Lakes Scrip:

GAS STATIONS:

BP, Shell, Speedway

RESTAURANTS:

Applebee's, Arby's, Bob Evans, Burger King, Cheesecake Factory, Chili's, Chipotle, Cold Stone Creamery, Cracker Barrel, Domino's, Donatos, Fazoli's, KFC, Long John Silver's, Max and Erma's, Mimi's, Olive Garden, Panera, Papa John's, Red Lobster, Red Robin, Ruby Tuesday's, Spagetti Warehouse, Starbucks, Subway, TGI Friday's, Uno's, Wendy's

RETAILERS:

Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Bed Bath and Beyond, Best Buy, Borders, CVS, Dick's Sporting Goods, Elder-Beerman, Home Depot, JC Penney, Jo-Ann Fabrics, K Mart, Lowe's, Macy's, Michael's, Payless, Radio Shack, Rite Aid, Sam's Club, Sears, Staples, Wal Mart, Walgreens

OTHER:

Blockbuster, National Amusements, Regal Entertainment, Showcase Cinema

YMCA Teens In Action Camp is a service-learning camp for youth ages 12-15. It combines teambuilding, learning leadership skills, swimming, mentoring and making new friends through community service projects. Plus Fridays have field trips as reward for hard work. The program is \$75.00 (financial assistance available) and has 8 weeks from which to choose. Brochures are in the school office.

Calendar

April	4-5	S-SU	Youth Ministry Aluminum Drive
	6	M	Ascension Festival Poster Contest Due
	7	TU	Faculty Mtg, Rm202, 2:45-4pm
	8	W	IAT Mtg, Rm106, 3-4pm
	9	TH	Holy Thursday, School in Session
	10	F	Good Friday, No School
	12	SU	Easter
	13-17	M-F	Easter Break, No School

Enclosures

Gr. 7 Ed Outing Permission
Grandparents Day Registration
Extracurricular News
Report Cards
Gr. 5 8 ACRE Assessment Results
First Communion Photo & Reception

Return Date

Mon. April 20
Mon. April 20
None
None
None
See Details

Quotation

"The art of teaching consists in helping students feel that although you may stand in front of them, you're really behind them."

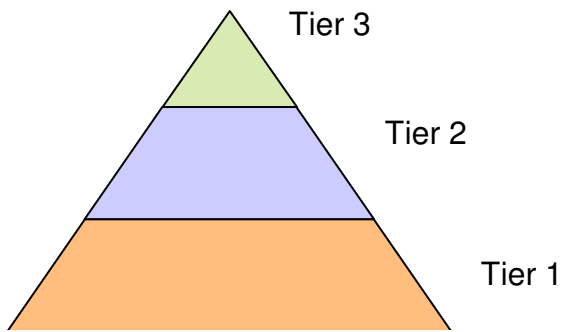
-Anonymous

Response to Intervention (RTI): A Fact Sheet for Parents

RTI is a part of the general education effort for ALL students to identify and help those students who need academic or behavior interventions before they have greater difficulties. It is also a tool to see who might need additional challenges in the classroom.

The Ascension RTI model includes the following:

- High quality instruction for all students based on research and the standards defined by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.
- Universal screening of all students grades K-4 three times a year to monitor progress.
- Tiered instruction to allow students to receive increasing levels of instructional help based on their specific needs in the general education curriculum.



Tier 3: Intensive Intervention

- Students significantly below grade level
- Progress Monitoring

Tier 2: Targeted Group Intervention

- Students at academic or behavior risk
- Progress monitoring

Tier 1: Core Instruction

- For all students
- Universal screening 3 times per year

- Parental Engagement: Parents are provided information regarding their child's needs, interventions, goals, and expected progress, time spent in each tier, with regular reports of progress or lack of progress and the right to request a additional evaluations at any time. Parents are also encouraged to take an active role in assisting their child at home with homework and interventions recommended by the teacher.
- Shared Ownership: All staff, the student, and the parents assume an active role in instruction and assessment for all students.
- Data-Based Decision Making: The use of student data to guide the design, implementation, and adjustment of instruction. This data is gathered through:
 - Progress monitoring: Continuous measuring and comparing of student learning to determine progress toward targeted skills with the purpose of appropriately adjusting instruction.
 - Grade Level Benchmarks and Outcome Assessment: The assessment used 3 times per year of all students compared to age and grade level standards; and, the measurement of how students have performed at the end of planned instruction or the end of the year.

The ABC's of Acronyms used around Ascension School

AP	Advanced Placement
AR	Accelerated Reader
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
CAP	Central Auditory Processing
CBA	Curriculum Based Assessment
CBM	Curriculum Based Measurement
CEC	Catholic Education Collaborative
CYO	Catholic Youth Organization
DIBELS	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills
FACTS	Fast Automatic Cash Transfer System
IAT	Intervention Assistance Team
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IPDP	Individual Professional Development Plan
IRA	International Reading Association
ISF	Initial Sound Fluency
ISP	Individualized Service Plan
LNF	Letter Naming Fluency
LPDC	Local Professional Development Council
LPMP	Lay Pastoral Ministry Program
LT ³	Linking Tradition, Transition and Transformation
MFE	Multi-Factored Evaluation
NCEA	National Catholic Education Association
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
NWF	Nonsense Word Fluency
OBOB	One Bread One Body cluster (IC, St. Helen and Ascension Parishes)
OCEA	Ohio Catholic Education Association
ODD	Oppositional Defiance Disorder
ORF	Oral Reading Fluency
PAC	Parish Activity Center
PACE	Parents Advancing Choice in Education
PDD	Pervasive Development Disorder
PDS	Parish Data Systems
PM	Progress Monitoring
POB	Parish Office Building
PSAS	Private School Aid Service
PSF	Phonemic Segmentation Fluency
PTO	Parent Teacher Organization
RT	Retelling Fluency
RTI	Response to Intervention
SERRC	Special Education Regional Resource Center
SEVIS	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
SMS	School Management System
WUF	Word Use Fluency