

## August/September 2008

### **Thanks!!**

*Again this summer we made major improvements in our school plant:*

- new linoleum in the faculty room, the kitchen, and four classrooms ( Rooms 20, 17, 18, 19, 7),
- new stove and work table in the McKay Center
- new enlarged drain pipe to alleviate flooding into the McKay Center
- sealing and lining the schoolyard
- painting benches and some classrooms

*You will notice how our plant looks so clean and bright!*

*Thanks to:*

- Sister Catherine and Jose Robles and Raul Ponce for making sure that blinds and lights are sparkling and that all the floors are polished!
- the Men's Club volunteers who participated in "2008 Work Day" on Saturday, August 16. These men painted areas facing the school yard: walls of the school building, the pavilion, and the Collins Center.
- Laura and Joe Marchini who donated the services of their window washing company to clean the outside windows of our school!
- the Mother's Club and the Festival Committee for their fantastic fundraising efforts. Our children will benefit from a new math program Grades K-8 as well as new document readers and multimedia projectors for each room.
- our S.C. parents and parishioners for their financial support
- the school's Finance Committee for their sound financial planning

### **St. Cecilia School Website**

We are grateful to Tom Angsten (Quinn, Gr. 1) and his company, The Netkitchen, for working with Sr. Marilyn, Gene Ide, and Karen Carberry to update our school's website and making it more user-friendly. This is a work in progress, and we hope that this will be a useful tool for parents. Visit our school's website at [www.stceciliaschool.org](http://www.stceciliaschool.org)

Remember to download order forms for Scrip, Birthday Book Club, sweatshirts, and T-shirts!

REMINDER: If you still need to sign up for the email Wednesday newsletter, you can download that form on the website.

### **SC Spirit Items**

SC Spirit Items, including sweatshirts, shorts, t-shirts and folders, will be available for purchase on Registration Day. Because they have grown so fast over the summer, you'll want to replenish your supply of school items, plus we've ordered new t-shirt styles and colors. And remember - the children may only wear SC sweatshirts on the playground during recess and lunch! After Registration Day, we will re-order items as needed. If you have any questions, please call Katherine Ragusa at 415-613-9588 or Eddy Salazar at 415-254-2694.

### **Parent/Student Handbook**

The Parent/Student Handbook can be downloaded from the school's website or you may request a copy from the school office. This handbook is for your reference and information. It contains school and Archdiocesan policies and should be referred to if you have questions. Please sign the Parent/Student Handbook Response Sheet and return it to school by **Tuesday, August 26**.

### **Accreditation Process**

During the summer we received the following letter from the accrediting Commission for Schools which stated:

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges is pleased to announce the action taken by the accrediting Commission for Schools granting St. Cecilia School a six-year term of accreditation, expiring on June 30, 2014. This action was taken upon recommendation of the WCEA Elementary Commission after its careful study of the Visiting Committee Report. Please accept our congratulations on the quality of instruction being offered in your school.

We thank you for your support during the past two years as we worked to prepare for the visiting team at St Cecilia School last March. We are very proud of our school and our outstanding faculty!

### **Tuesday, August 26, Mandatory Coaches' Meetings**

**7:00** *New coaches in the Serra Room (located behind the Lower Church)*

**7:30** *All coaches in the Lower Church*

Any person planning on coaching or assistant coaching for the school year 2008-2009 must attend these meetings. If you do not attend, you will not be allowed to coach a team at St. Cecilia's.

**Thursday, August 28, 7:30, Lower Church** *New Parent Meeting* for parents new to S.C. Please RSVP by *Tuesday, August 26. Please do not bring children!*

**Tuesday, September 2, 7:30, Lower Church** *Sacramental Parents' Meeting* for second and seventh grade parents whose children will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation this year.

**Wednesday, September 3, 7:00, Back To School Night for Grades K-6** The evening will begin in your children's classrooms where the teachers will discuss expectations and policies for the school year. There will be two teacher presentations so you can visit more than one room. Refreshments will be served in the auditorium. Students do not attend!

### **School Pictures**

Thursday, September 4

Grades 5-8

Friday, September 5

Grades K-4

Students wear their school uniforms. If your child is sick, there will be a make-up day. Look for **one Picture Envelope per child which will be sent home next Wednesday!** *Each child must have this Picture Envelope with money on the day of pictures.*

**Thursday, September 11, 7:00, Back To School Night Grades 7-8** Parents meet in their child's homeroom, follow their child's daily schedule, and hear presentations from each teacher. Students do not attend!

**Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00, Church Family Mass Meeting** Monsignor Harriman will meet with all the families who will be reading at the School Family Masses during the year. More info will follow!

**Thursday, September 25, 7:30, Auditorium Head Room Mothers' Meeting** Siobhan Haskell and Lisa McKeon will chair the meeting and clarify responsibilities.

**Thursday, October 23, 7:00, Pavilion, Mandatory Parent Meeting**

At the end of the last school year the faculty again became aware of issues regarding our students' improper computer use both at home and school. We are concerned about the risks and dangers of revealing personal information, and we are concerned about students' comments which are contrary to our Catholic/ Christian value system. We are scheduling a mandatory parent meeting on Thursday, October 23, at 7:00 P.M., entitled, "Keeping Kids Safe in a Media World—24/7". This meeting will NOT be a repeat of the Internet meeting that we had three years ago. *Please mark this date since at least one parent from each family MUST attend.*

**Drive -Through:**

I encourage parents to use the Drive-Through system. It works quite well and eliminates the problem of finding parking! Cars waiting for Drive-Through should line up on 18th Avenue between Wawona and Vicente Streets, rather than lining up on Vicente Street! Do not block driveways! New families, please put the child's name in BIG, DARK letters in your windshield!

DO NOT DOUBLE PARK ON VICENTE OR 18<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE TO DROP OFF OR PICK UP!

DO NOT PARK IN THE DRIVEWAY TO THE SCHOOLYARD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE!

**Faculty News**

Welcome to our new faculty/staff members:

Mrs. Kerry Lucey

Gr. 1 Rm. 4

Mrs. Lucey will replace Ms. Mary Radanovich who will be on a Family Leave through December.

Ms. Rossana Busalacchi

Third Grade Aide

**IOWA Testing**

On Monday, September 15, we will begin IOWA Testing for Grades 2-8. Check the September calendar for the exact dates of the testing. Students should not be leaving for appointments on these days.

Students with documented learning disabilities on file in the Principal's Office are eligible for extended time. To qualify, the students' testing evaluation must be current (within three years) and administered by a credentialed school psychologist or a licensed educational psychologist. Parents whose child qualifies for IOWA testing modifications will receive a letter next week with their child. If you have questions about this Archdiocesan policy, please contact Sister Marilyn.

**Prayers**

Our prayers are with the Soberanis Family as they mourn the loss of Robert (father of Gina Soberanis, Grade 6) who died suddenly on August 7, 2008.

**Monday, September 2 Labor Day--NO SCHOOL**  
**Monday, September 22, Teacher In-Service--MINIMUM DAY**