

RAMOPAGE

St. Luke Catholic School Newsletter

Steve Weber, Principal

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October 14, 2009

Mr. Weber Says: Many of our recent Sunday readings are well connected to the Christian call to be good stewards. This is Stewardship month for the Archdiocese when we are called to prayerfully reflect on the gifts God has given us and faithfully respond to His call. True stewardship understands that everything we are and have comes from God. We are called in our prayer and worship to help build the Kingdom in our own community. We are called to use our talents in service of the Body of Christ. We are challenged to be generous with our financial resources to support the work of the Church. Parish families will be asked to fill out a stewardship pledge. Active participation in this process is key to maintaining parishioner status for school. Please take the time to pray, decide what you will do, and respond.

I do think it is important to understand the high level of support the parish provides for our school. The parish as a whole invests over \$517,000 in our school ministry. In plain terms, that is the amount of money the school “loses” over income from tuition, fees and investments. This amount means that the parish gives a subsidy of over \$890 per child. That is the minimum amount per child that tuition would have to increase without the generous gift to our ministry. Our school budget is almost \$2,830,000. This is not a small sum and it does not include the very significant investment in capital improvements we have added in the past ten years. These include the parish hall wing, nine new classrooms converted out of old space, and a new gym facility, just to name a few.

I challenge you, even in these hard economic times, to choose to sacrifice to support your parish and honor our parish’s support of your school ministry. Remember that the parish cannot give back what it does not have. Please return your stewardship card with joyful generosity.

Open House: Even as we are just ending our first academic quarter, we must be thinking and planning for next year. Most of you should have received or will receive soon an invitation to our Open Houses on October 27, 28, 29. Please take this time to learn more about our school. Each day will have a specific grade grouping focus: Tuesday is K-3, Wednesday is 4-6 and Thursday is 7-8.

Each day is a similar format. Join us for Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday if you are able. We will hold a reception and short information session, including teacher presentations from 9-9:45. Tours and open classroom visitation will follow until 11:00. Please invite your neighbors or friends who may be interested in St. Luke School. Registration packets for 2010-11 will be available October 27.

First Quarter Conferences: Communication with parents, teachers and students is critical for success in meeting a child's potential. Report cards will come home this Friday, October 16. The main conference day for all grades is Wednesday, October 21 from 8:00 -3:30. There are no classes on October 21, just conferences. Grades 7 & 8 also have conference dates on Monday, October 19 and Tuesday October 20 from 3:15-5:00. Conference appointments were sent home in the last family packet. It is both an expectation and very important that a conference takes place for every student. Students in grades 4-8 are expected to attend and participate in their conference.

Conferences for grades K-6 will take place in the teachers' homerooms. Middle School (grades 7 & 8) will take place in the parish hall cafeteria. All middle school teachers will be present at tables throughout the cafeteria. Parents and students may speak with whatever teacher they wish, when that teacher is available. Please keep time with each teacher to about 5 minutes since there are at least six teachers to meet. If it appears that a longer meeting is needed, please simply set a date and time for that conference. This will allow everyone to have time with each teacher.

Living Rosary: October is a month the church sets aside to honor Mary as the Mother of Jesus. We use the rosary as prayer pattern and teaching tool. Join us on Tuesday, October 20 at 2:15 to pray a Scripture based rosary. Our seventh grade will lead us in this special prayer. Park in carpool lines and come pray with us!

Missionary Speaker: Sister Loretta from the Mission Office of the Archdiocese will speak with our students on Monday, October 19. She will speak with grades K-3 from 12:30-1:00, 4-6 from 1:15-2:00 and 7-8 from 2:00-2:45. Parents are invited to attend any session.

Reminders: The deposit for the grade 8 Washington, DC trip is due by October 22 and needs to be paid online through the parish website www.stluke.org. Families who requested financial aid were sent a letter with the amount approved. Those who requested a payment schedule, however, must pay by check directly to the church business office. See Sue Reynolds.

Feed the Need: St. Luke graduates Nick Berg and Matt Hupfer are helping to coordinate a food drive for Gleaners Food Bank. This is a great way to help in these hard times.

When: Monday, October 26th- Friday, October 30th.

What: Non-perishable foods

How/Where: Boxes will be placed in all Saint Luke classrooms; please be generous!!

Community Notes: Julie and Lauren LaMothe will be collecting pumpkins for Riley Children's Hospital POWER program on Monday Oct 19th between carpool lines by the Bell Tower after school. Thank you for your support for a healthier tomorrow.