



February 5, 2012

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Catholic Schools Week ended with a beautiful Mass in honor of our patroness, St. Agatha. Fr. Mark's homily was inspirational, connecting St. Agatha with this year's Catholic Schools Week theme: faith, academics and service. Fr. Mark ended Catholic Schools Week with a blessing of each classroom, a special way to mark our school's 70<sup>th</sup> year. All members of our school family contributed much to make the week enriching and enjoyable for our students. Special thanks to Mrs. Senier, Siobhan and Patrick's mom, who led our K-2 students in Zumba class, to Mrs. Kenney, Liam and Riley's mom, who introduced us to the Miss Money program, and to Miss McEvoy, whose students fashioned the beautiful posters that adorned our altar at our Friday liturgy. As mentioned in last week's note, Mrs. Tierney and Mrs. Brown must be commended for their efforts in planning the week's events.

Catholic Schools Week occurs mid-year and reminds us that we have now entered the second half of the school year. There is still much to do in the remaining months of the school year. At Friday's faculty meeting, faculty and staff reviewed our progress to date and discussed strategies to prepare for next month's standardized testing even as we move the curriculum ahead each day. There is still much to be done and we look forward to the challenges ahead!

This week, St. Valentine's Day celebrations will be held in individual classrooms. Look for notices from your child's teacher to receive information concerning this special day. This month, some lessons will also be designed to commemorate National Black History Month. This year, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, will occur during February vacation. We have much to accomplish in a very short month!

For many Fridays this year, our terrific Auction Committee has been meeting to plan for our annual fundraising event, which will be held on March 24. This fundraiser is most important to our school's financial well-being. The Committee is seeking ways and means to make this evening even more successful, but they need the assistance of many, many volunteers. At this time, the greatest need is for donations of sports memorabilia and other live auction items that will generate high bidding. If you can help in any way with these solicitations, or to volunteer your service on the night of the auction, please call Mrs. Brown at the school office as soon as possible. The success of the auction depends upon donations and EVERY family's participation in some way. If you have

not yet fulfilled your family's 20 hour volunteer service requirement, the auction offers you many opportunities to do so. Thank you very much for your assistance with this fundraising effort.

I pray your week is a restful, happy, healthy one.....

Sincerely,

*Maureen C. Simmons*

Maureen C. Simmons, Principal