

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Hopefully you received the financials for the month online. I will work with Denise Duda to try to make sure you are able to look at them prior to our meeting. As you are well aware, our numbers did go down from what we budgeted (491) last year. We are currently at 481, with four interested people on a waiting list. Money is the number one reason most people report as the reason they have left the school. Everyone is offered tuition assistance, but many do not want to apply. I have worked with Denise and Mary Beth Rudis over the past few weeks to find ways to help meet the financial problems the drop in numbers will cause. I met with the Board's finance members prior to last week's parent night to explain how we are addressing the situation. We are VERY thankful to the parish and to Father Larry for an increase in the school subsidy; and also to cover the uncollected tuition we had at the end of the year. But we need to understand that cannot be the total answer to the problem. We did let go of one of our daytime maintenance people. One member of our office staff has had her work week reduced and two others have lost one hour each day. Teacher Assistants have had their time also reduced. We will probably have to utilize the policy we developed a few years ago regarding outstanding tuition. It states that if a family falls two months behind in their tuition, the children will not be allowed to attend classes until payment is received. While financials will be watched very carefully, we are still short money which we will need to address.

On Wednesday, August 19th we opened the doors to students and parents for our "Drop-Off" Day. The event was very positive; people were very excited to be back and definitely looking forward to a new year.

Our school year officially began the next day. All went well, except for problems with the busing situation. As a staff we have worked together to make dismissal as efficient and safe as possible. I am in contact on a daily basis with the District and have shared the email and hotline number they established to address parent concerns, along with bringing different individual problems to them personally. I have also been in contact with the legal department of the Archdiocese regarding the District's responsibility in providing transportation to our school. It appears that many Catholic schools are being affected by bus changes this school year.

On Wednesday, August 26th we gathered as a faith community to begin the year with our Opening Mass. During the homily Father welcomed everyone back and shared with them the importance of our joining together in prayer, and also how we need to use the gifts we have been given. Father also introduced the new staff members and asked all new students to stand. Two teachers also spoke personally about some of the gifts they have been given and how they are used. At the end of the Mass Mrs. Mira (new music minister) spoke to the students about the choirs she is interested in forming (1-4, 5-8) which would be responsible for singing at the school masses. A letter went home in last Thursday's brown envelope. Rehearsals will be either Tuesday or Thursday after school from 2:15-2:45.

Parent Night was held that evening. Thank you for your attendance. The teachers and I have received very good feedback as to some of the changes which we made. We were very impressed by the great turnout that night.

The first weeks of school have gone extremely well. I can't stress this enough. I am especially pleased with the way lunch/recess have been going. Last year teachers/teacher assistants were expected to be present (rotating basis) in the lunchroom and/or playground. This is again happening, and I am hearing positive comments as to what a good start we are off to. We will also be implementing "Peaceful Playgrounds". The last change has been giving the 8th graders their own recess/lunch. This has proven to be very successful. I give my compliments to the ladies working in the lunchroom and to all of the staff members for helping out.

As we try to meet the varying needs of students, we also made a small change with our Teacher Assistants. Rather than just stay with the same teacher, we had them "move up" with their former class. This way, the new teacher would have help with any students who may need extra help from the very beginning. Within the next week they will be moving back to their "old" teacher/classroom to get to know the new students. The assistants are also again being flexible and helping out whenever needed.

Also last week I met with the Mothers' Club officers for this year. We have agreed to again meet prior to the general monthly meeting to discuss important issues to better prepare.

As I mentioned at Parent Night, our revised handbook is again available online and there is now a direct link for parents to respond electronically that they have read and agree to abide by it. Also, the teachers are setting up their math and science textbooks to be accessed by parents online.

Our Science Teachers are already working on changes for this year's SF. During the summer Mrs. Rozhon and Mr. Brady met regarding how the Science Fair/Expo will be organized and work for this year.

At the beginning of the year it is also important to set goals. As a Catholic School we follow the Genesis Document in forming goals. School goals lead to individual teacher/principal goals. In a few moments I will share our School Goals for the year. Tomorrow I will share my personal goals with Father; these will be shared with you next month.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Sept. 2: Teacher/Staff First Aide refresher
- Sept. 3: RTI (Response to Intervention) Team
- Sept. 4: All School Mass
- Sept. 7: No School for Labor Day
- Sept. 8: School Pictures
- Sept. 8: Mothers' Club Meeting
- Sept. 11: Head Room Mothers' Meeting/Junior High Dance
- Sept. 15: Superintendent visit to our school
- Sept. 16: Unit Meetings
- Sept. 17: Council Meeting
- Sept. 18: Movie Night/No Bus
- Sept. 19: Strengthening Catholic Schools Conference

Sept. 20: Catechetical Sunday
Sept. 27: Alumni Reunion
Oct. 1: Progress Reports