

April 30, 2010

Dear Parents,

Our week began with Career Day for students in grades 5-8. The students heard presentations from a production manager for Nike, a post doctoral research scientist, and a software engineer at Google. I am grateful to Kika Kilmartin for organizing this event for the students.

Tonight, our cheerleaders will be participating in the Mercy High School Cheerleading competition. Good luck to these girls and their coaches as they show the St. Pius Spirit.

This weekend our second graders will join other St. Pius Parish children in making their First Communion. Please remember these children and their families on this very special occasion as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

On Monday, May 3, we will have our annual May Crowning. The second grade will lead us in prayer to honor our Blessed Mother in this traditional prayer of the Church. This will be at 11:00AM in the church.

Also on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys will receive screening for scoliosis. Thank you to Kathy Wright and Lenora Torres for providing this service which is so important for children at this age.

It will be nice to have the grandparents and special persons with us on Wednesday starting at 10:00AM. I hope you will be able to join us at 12:00PM for our Spring Sing.

At the same time, Mrs. Ellefritz will be presenting an art show of student work, also in Fitzsimon Center. Each child will have art on display. If you are unable to attend the performance, the art will remain on display before and after school on Thursday and before school on Friday.

I hope you remember we have switched the regular minimum day for this coming week. Monday will be a full day of school and Wednesday will be a minimum day with dismissal at 12:45PM. This allows the students to spend the afternoon with their guests.

I would like to thank the many families that have already completed their Service Hours and SCRIP commitments for this year and still continue to help at school and to purchase SCRIP. A gentle reminder...those families who do not reach both commitments will be moved to the second tier of the tuition scale for the 2010-2011 school year. Tuition Agreements will be

adjusted accordingly after all reports are in from e-SCRIP. Please return your Service Hour Sheet so you can receive proper credit.

Any family that returned their re-registration information will receive a tuition agreement in today's brown envelope. Please sign the agreement, return the original and keep the yellow copy. Your attention to this is very much appreciated.

We will continue to make every effort to help those in financial need. If you have a hardship and need financial assistance, please request financial aid forms from the Parish Center (361-1411). The fully completed forms are due by May 5. We do require a copy of your full, current tax return as part of the package. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

This year we have decided to hand out paperwork now so we have the summer to update our records. Please carefully read the enclosed materials and complete all the forms. Each one is designed to gather the necessary information needed for the Archdiocese and school to ensure the safety of your children.

Permission slips for fall baseball, volleyball and cheerleading are due on Monday. This may seem early, but the league requires that we notify them now of how many fall teams we will be fielding.

Important dates for this coming week are:

Sunday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	First Communion, 9:30AM Mass
Monday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Scoliosis Screening, Grades 7&8
Tuesday, May 4 <sup>th</sup>	PTG Board Meeting, 7:00PM
Wednesday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents' & Special Persons' Day, 10:00AM
	Spring Sing, 12:00PM
Thursday, May 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Board Meeting, 7:30PM
Friday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cheerleaders Celebration of Spirit at Notre Dame High School, 6:00PM
	Progress Reports

Blessings on your weekend.

Sincerely,



Rita Carroll  
Principal

**PTG BOARD SEEKING NEW MEMBERS:** Anyone interested in serving on the PTG Board for the 2010-2011 school year is invited to submit their name to the school office. The PTG plans many wonderful events for the children and families of St. Pius School. Serving on this board is a great way to help the school and meet other parents.

**ST. PIUS SCHOOL BOARD SEEKING NEW MEMBERS:** St. Pius School Board is seeking applications for sub-committee member positions for the 2010-2011 school year. The board functions as an advisory group to the pastor and principal to recommend goals and policies for St. Pius School. Meetings are held in the evening, once per month during the school year. Experience with marketing or grant writing would be particularly beneficial, but a strong commitment to Catholic education and St. Pius School and enthusiasm in ensuring its ongoing success are the most important skills to be successful in this position. For more information, please contact Rodney Yee at [ryee@caltrust.com](mailto:ryee@caltrust.com).

**YEARBOOK SPONSOR ADS:** Please see the attached flyer and support the yearbook by advertising your business. Your support will help keep the cost of the yearbook at a minimum. All sponsor forms are due ASAP. Thank you!

**MSGR. HAGGARTY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:** The Family of Msgr. Jim Haggarty, to honor his memory, is offering a \$500 scholarship to a female 8<sup>th</sup> grader and \$500 scholarship to a male 8<sup>th</sup> grader who will be attending a Catholic high school. In order to apply, the student needs to write an essay on **What can I do, in light of my Catholic faith, to make the community where I live a better place?** These essays must be submitted to Barbara in the Parish Center by Wednesday, May 25, 2010. If you have any questions please call Barbara at 361-1411.

**GOT HOURS?** Please join us in the **LIBRARY** every Monday until the end of the school year. What to do? Your choice: Stay and help with all the behind the scenes duties, or take work to go. All are welcome and any help is appreciated. **When?** Minimum Mondays 12:00 -12:45pm, Regular Mondays 12:30 - 3:00pm. **Got Questions?** Contact Candace at [zixnaylor@abcglobel.net](mailto:zixnaylor@abcglobel.net) or Julie at [jluttringer@mac.com](mailto:jluttringer@mac.com).

**ST. PIUS SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE:** A fifth week will be offered-Monday, July 12th through Thursday July 15th. Space is quickly filling for all 5 weeks of the summer program. If you are planning to enroll this summer, please do so immediately.

**VOLLEYBALL, BASEBALL AND CHEERLEADING REGISTRATION:** It is that time of year again to register for the upcoming season of volleyball, baseball and cheerleading at St. Pius. You can download an application from the St. Pius website and submit it to the office. Please have your applications in by Monday May 3. Applications submitted after this date will result in a \$50 late fee. If you have financial hardships with the registration fees, please contact Miss Carroll.

**ST. PIUS TRACK NEWS:** On April 25th our track team competed at Sequoia High school and did a wonderful job! The majority of our athletes placed in the top 3 in their events. The Safeway store on Woodside Road generously donated all of our snacks for the meet. We enjoyed fresh oranges, strawberries, blackberries, and bananas, granola bars and bottled waters. We are so thankful for their support! The next time you are shopping at Safeway please say "Thank You" on behalf of our team/school.

**MERCY & NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOLS' SPIRIT COMPETITION:** Come support St. Pius School's Junior Varsity and Varsity Cheerleading teams, showing your Shamrock pride at *Notre Dame High School and Mercy High School's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Spirit Spectacular Cheerleading and Dance Competition*. This is a community-building event where 10+ Bay Area schools compete. St. Pius will get its own cheer section, so bring your signs, rooter poms, and balloons to show school spirit. No noise makers are allowed. There is a limit of 90 attendees for each school, so get there early to make sure you get in. The event for Mercy High School on Friday, April 30, 2010; Doors open at 4pm, competition starts at 5pm. It will be held at Serra High School @ 450 West 20<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403. The entrance fee is Adults \$5.00; Children \$1.00. The event for Notre Dame High School is Friday, May 7, 2010; Doors open at 5:30pm, competition starts at 6pm. It will be held at Notre Dame High School @ 1540 Ralston Ave., Belmont, CA 94002. The entrance fee is Adults \$5.00; Students w/school I.D. \$2.00; Children 12 and under are free. Thank you. Lisa Blanton, Cheerleading Commissioner

**KIDS BINGO NIGHT:** There are a few spots left for the Kid's Bingo Night on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00-9:00PM. The cost is \$30. If you would like to sign your child up to attend, please call Flavia Katwan at 279-2333. Thank you!

**CIAO! 2010 FESTIVAL THEME: ITALIAN; DATES: JUNE 4-6, 2010:** Thanks to the all the families who have volunteered to chair a booth. We are still looking for volunteers. Please contact one of the chairs if you are interested in helping. Grazie. Your St. Pius Festival chairs:  
Russ Vavuris ~ 368-6545 or [rusvavuris@aol.com](mailto:rusvavuris@aol.com)  
Kim Velez~ 368-6481 or [kimavelez2@yahoo.com](mailto:kimavelez2@yahoo.com)  
Quetzal Grimm~ 299-0773 or [quetzal@apr.com](mailto:quetzal@apr.com)  
Laura Vargas~ 365-8027 or [laura@pinc.org](mailto:laura@pinc.org)  
Keith Hipsher~ 367-1277 or [hip1@pacbell.net](mailto:hip1@pacbell.net)  
Carol Sheetz~365-2830 or [carol.sheetz@comcast.net](mailto:carol.sheetz@comcast.net)

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SPRING FESTIVAL:** April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 1st, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>;  
ADVANCE PURCHASE RIDE TICKETS - Save big on rides by buying tickets and all-day wristbands in advance. All Day Wristbands - \$30 each. Tickets - \$15/book of 30 tickets. Both the wristbands and ride tickets can be purchased online at [www.mountcarmel.org](http://www.mountcarmel.org) or see Mrs. Langridge in Grade 3 after school. Advance purchase discount tickets and wristbands will only be sold until 3:00 p.m. on Friday April 30th. Tickets will be sold at full price after that. Wristbands **will not be available** during the Festival.

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS! May 3-May 14:** We are collecting items to be put into care packages for soldiers. Each class is being asked to bring in particular items. However, if you would like to donate any of the items listed below, feel free to do so. We are also looking for donations of large Ziploc bags to package the items in, as well as paper back books and magazines (3-4 months old max.).

**KINDERGARTEN:** oatmeal packets, tuna pouches

**1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE:** Powerbars/granola bars

**2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE:** lip balm (chapstick)

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE:** playing cards, gum

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** sunscreen (4 oz. or smaller)

**5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** bug spray

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** individual snack packs (sunflower and pumpkin seeds, trail mix, fruit snacks)

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** insoles for boots (large size)

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** individual packets of drink mixes to be added to water bottles (Gatorade, Crystal Light, etc.)

**CIAO FESTIVAL:** The festival is only 5 weeks away and we are in need of volunteers to work our booths. Please consider working a shift or two. Get a head start on your parish hours for the 2010-2011 year. Contact one of the chairs below to schedule a shift.

Bounce house~ Gina Morales@ 368-6392

Garlic Fries~ Matt Taylor@ 369-5255

Pit Stop~ Colleen or Mike Montalbano @ 367-1490

Grazie!

**SUMMER MATH SKILLS SHARPENER:** We have received information on a program to help your children maintain their math skills through the summer break. The **Summer Math Skills Sharpener** programs have been designed to expose children to mathematics over the summer months. The **Summer Math Skills Sharpener** programs provide a quick refresher of basic skills already taught during the preceding year. (A student should utilize the program for the grade level most recently completed.) The programs also:

- contain a series of varied and interesting problems on every page.
- contain pages designed to be completed by the student in 15-30 min.
- provide enough pages so that students can refresh their skills 3 times per week for 10 weeks.
- are presented in an attractive and colorful bound book.
- are created for students reviewing grades K-8, Pre algebra and Algebra I.

- contain an answer sheet and/or solutions for all problems for immediate feedback.
- are intended to reinforce math skills that will last a lifetime.

The cost for each book is \$16.00. If you would like to order a book, please complete the form below and return it to school by Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Summer Math Skills Sharpener Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade Level

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed

# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

May 2010



## Thoughtful Moments

### Keep your paperwork!

Make sure to file your Church documents a safe place with your other important family documents. Your children will need their Baptismal Certificates for just about everything to do with the Church – registration for religious education, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, etc.



### Heal together

The most effective way to convince our children of the value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to seek it ourselves. If you haven't been to Confession in years, remember that it is first and foremost a sacrament of healing. And welcoming a penitent sinner back to God's forgiveness is one of a priest's greatest joys.

### Spread peace

Violence is power used to hurt. It can be physical – a blow, a gunshot, a bombing. But it can also take other forms, such as threats, nasty remarks, or withering glances. All forms are hurtful and dangerous. Ridding our families of such violence will help to change our communities, too.



## Stop a lying habit now

It is not unusual for a child to lie to avoid punishment or to obtain something not allowed. Still, lying is not acceptable. Try these ideas to stop it:

**Eliminate fear.** Fearing a parent's reaction is a common reason children lie. Matt said, "Once I stopped yelling and started listening before accusing him, Jake stopped lying."

**Substitute truth.** The best way to eliminate a bad habit is to replace it with a good one. Karen explained, "By the time Abigail was nine, she had a habit of fibbing. Before punishing her for lying, I started giving her a chance to take

it back. If I suspected she was lying, I waited a moment and asked, 'Would you like to take that back?' If she did, there was no punishment for lying. After a while, she stopped lying at all."

**Model honesty.** Hearing a parent lie can convince a child that lying is okay, even when told otherwise. Lisa said, "A friend used to call often to complain about her soon-to-be ex-husband. I didn't want to hear it but I didn't want to hurt her feelings, so I made excuses for why I couldn't talk or get together. Once when I was scolding Tessa for lying, she said, 'You lie to Miss Julie a lot. Shouldn't you get punished, too?'"



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## What is Sacred Tradition?

Sacred Tradition refers to beliefs and practices that have been handed down from the Apostles to following generations under the teaching authority of the Catholic Church. "Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught,



either by an oral statement or by a letter of ours" (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture together form the sacred deposit of the Word of God, which is committed to the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Many ways to say, "I love you"

Each child has a different language of love. Some children want to hear the words, others want signs of love, and still other children appreciate loving actions. Use these ideas to expand your vocabulary of love:

**Quality time:** Spend a little time each day playing just with your child. Cook something together. Talk in the car on the way to somewhere instead of listening to music or chatting on the phone. Before bedtime, chat about what's going on in your child's life, judgment free.



**Affirming words:** Compliment your child's dress or appearance. Put an encouraging note in his lunch. Send a card in the mail. Use magnetic letters to put loving messages on the refrigerator.

**Loving gestures:** Give hugs or pats on the back freely. Sit close together when watching TV. Give him a back rub or just touch his shoulder when you walk past.

**Acts of service:** Serve your child's favorite meal for dinner. Do one of her chores for her. Bring him a blanket while he's watching TV.

### Scripture LESSON

#### John 20:19-23, Jesus opens doors.

In the panic after his death, Jesus' followers forgot his promise that although he would suffer, he would rise on the third day (Matthew 16:21) and "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice" (John 16:22). God always keeps his promises and a locked door can't keep Jesus out of our hearts.

Still, the disciples were shocked to see Jesus appear to them in a locked room. Jesus wanted them to be witnesses to his resurrection. But he also came to commission them to carry on the work

he started.

Jesus knew they couldn't do it alone; they needed strength. So he breathed on them just as God breathed life into Adam.

By doing so, Jesus renewed his disciples, strengthened them, and gave them a new outlook so they could continue his mission.

What can a parent do?

Let your children know that they, too, have been chosen to do God's work.

When we are baptized,

Jesus commissions each us to spread the word of God's love and the hope of salvation.



### Feasts & Celebrations

In May we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Three ways to grow closer to her include praying to her, honoring her feast days, and praising her to others.

May 2 - St. Athanasius (373). Born a Christian in Egypt, St. Athanasius became a priest and defender of the Catholic faith. The victim of terrible persecution of the Church, he was exiled six times.

May 10 - Blessed Damien of Molokai (1889). Born in Belgium, Joseph de Veuster became Father Damien at the

age of 19. He ministered to lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai for whom he built roads, water systems, and churches. He died of the disease after serving there for sixteen years.

May 25 - Pope St. Gregory, VII (1085). He battled three evils that plagued the Church: simony (buying and selling sacred offices and services), unlawful marriage of the clergy and kings and nobles virtually appointing Church officials. For this he suffered and died in exile. His efforts were deemed successful after his death.



### Parent TALK

So far, ten year-old Noah's toughest choices have been which friend to invite over or what birthday present to ask for.

His real challenge came when my niece's Confirmation was scheduled during the same weekend as a Cub Scout event he

hoped to attend. Celebrating the Sacraments with family has always come first, but Noah was distraught. I knew that the Cub Scout event was a big deal to him, so I told him that I would let him make the choice.

Night after night he lay in bed trying to figure out which "once in a lifetime" event he should attend. "What should I do?" he asked. "It's too hard to choose!" I told him that prayer is the best way to find answers and make peace with your choices.

Finally, he chose to attend the Confirmation and was glad he did. Clearly the Holy Spirit touched him as well.

#### Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children  
Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of *Growing in Faith* and *Partners in Faith*  
(540)662-7844 (540) 662-7847 fax  
www.partnersinfaith.com  
(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible.)



Dear Parent,

On Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the school will be holding Mini-Olympic games at St. Pius School. Again, this year Rhythm and Moves will be organizing the games with the Student Council. Parents will not need to organize the games. Parents are welcome to come to school and watch the fun. The games will be starting around 12:30.

A barbeque lunch will be provided. Children not wishing to have a hot dog or a hamburger may bring their own lunch. If this pertains to your child, please have him/her bring a lunch on that day. We ask that you please do not deliver food to school. At the end of the activities the students will enjoy a popsicle at the picnic tables. Students must wear comfortable shoes and should wear sun block. Students are welcome to wear hats on this day if they wish for sun protection. While students do have free dress, each class has been assigned a "team color," which should be prominent in their clothing. Please refer to the handbook for proper free dress attire.

The team colors are as follows:

- Kindergarten and 8<sup>th</sup> grade– BLUE
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade – RED
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade – GREEN
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – ORANGE
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade – PURPLE
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade – YELLOW



Colleen Langridge

Catie Costa

Student Council Moderators

# ST. PIUS WORSHIP TEAM CONCERT



**Save the date:**

**Sunday, May 16, 2010, 7 p.m.  
Fitzsimon Center**

**FREE! FREE! FREE!**

Donations received will be used to upgrade  
the school Worship Team's band equipment

# **SMENCILS ARE BACK!** **and...NEW THIS YEAR- SMENS**

**When: Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday, May 7th**

**What: Student Council will be selling:**

- **Smencils in root beer, cherry, tropical blast, chocolate, grape, orange, very berry, cotton candy, bubblegum, and watermelon scents.**
- **Smens are ball point pens in Red Licorice, Creamside, Aloha Mystery Scent, Banana, Berry Pink Lemonade, Mocha, Passion Fruit, Black Licorice**

**Cost:**

- **Smencils = \$1 each**
- **Smens = \$2 each**



WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR NEW WEBSITE...AND YOU,  
OUR CUSTOMER! JOIN US FOR THE GREATEST CUSTOMER  
APPRECIATION EVENT EVER

# ready, set... launch

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For our internet shoppers only:  
April 23 – May 7, spend \$75 and  
choose a **FREE** polo shirt.

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**for St. Pius School -**  
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date: **Tuesday, July 27, 2010**  
time: **10am – 6pm**

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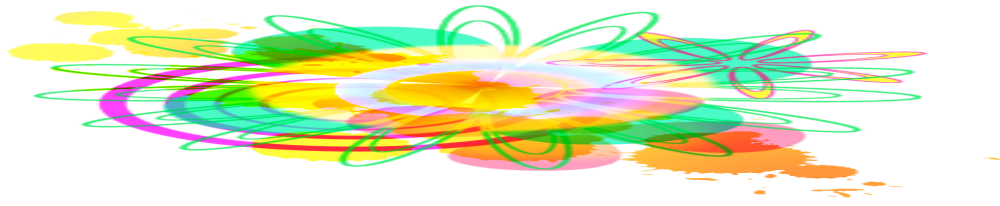
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## Spin Art Booth

St. Pius Festival

June 4, 5 & 6

Come and show your creative flair at the Spin Art Booth! Workers needed to help make art on flying disks. Contact Alicia Gray at 364-1902 or email [aliciagray1@comcast.net](mailto:aliciagray1@comcast.net) to volunteer. The more volunteers, the more fun!

Time	Friday June 4, 2010	Saturday June 5, 2010	Sunday June 6, 2010
12:00-2:00	Not applicable		
2:00-4:00	Not applicable		
4:00-6:00	Not Applicable		
6:00-8:00			
8:00-Closing			Not applicable