

August 26, 2011

Dear Parents,

It was so nice to see all of you at the Kindergarten Parent Orientation and "Welcome Dinner" on Monday night! The first three days in Kindergarten were filled with a variety of exciting experiences. The children toured the school stopping in the office to visit with Mrs. Edens and Miss Jessup, and stepped into Mrs. Zappelli's office where the big box (P.A. system) sends messages out to all the classrooms. They also visited Miss Carroll in her office and saw the Birthday Bucket where they will pick a surprise on their birthday or half-birthday. Miss Carroll even let some of the children play her "chimes." What a beautiful noise! She promised the rest of the children that they would get a turn to play them when they pick a prize from her "Birthday Bucket." On the tour they also met Mrs. Naylor, who is our volunteer school librarian; Mr. Meyer, the science teacher for grades 4-8; as well as Mrs. Brinkman who teaches computer, who the children will see on Monday; and Mrs. Ryan, grades 4-8 math teacher.

On Wednesday, the children learned the morning routine including what to do when they walk in first thing like to put their lunch bags in their cubbies; backpacks on the hook; to place their "Friday Envelope" and/or "school envelope" in Miss O'Rourke's Inbox; and to go straight to the carpet and have a seat on their colored row. When they hear the chimes on the P.A. they know to stand for prayer and pledge. Later the children met their 8<sup>th</sup> grade buddies and sat with them during our Opening of School Mass. Thursday the children began learning the lyrics and movements for "The Good Morning Song." They learned about important classroom and school rules we have here at St. Pius School, and also heard stories like One Happy Classroom and Listen and Learn. They met their P.E. teacher, Mr. Foy, who they will see on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning next week, and had their first Art class with Miss Stephano. Friday the children continued learning about rules while always making sure to treat others with kindness, and heard The Recess Queen. They learned the St. Pius Playground rules and began learning "The Goodbye Song."

The first prayers the children will be learning are the "Sign of the Cross" and the "Our Father." We say these prayers in the morning with the entire school over the P.A. and in the afternoon before the children leave. I ask that you start going over the words to these prayers at home for extra practice so that your child feels comfortable when we say the prayers together at school. If any one needs the words to the "Our Father" please let me know.

Next week the children will begin their morning math lessons with Mrs. Raffetto. "Kinderbear" and "Special Person" will also be starting next week. Those that are selected to take Kinderbear home will have a sticker on their cubby and get to take the special Kinderbear Bag home. The child selected for Special Person will receive a half-slip and questionnaire in his/her Friday Envelope.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

~Miss O'Rourke