

# Virtue of the Month: FAITH

October 4, 2007

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## Upcoming Events

- Monday, Oct. 8th, Auction Meeting, 6:30PM
- Wednesday, Oct. 10th, School Mass, 8:30AM
- Oct. 11th and 12th, No School, Inservice Days
- Monday, Oct. 15th, Scrip Order Due
- Wednesday, Oct. 17th, NO SCHOOL MASS
- Oct. 18th, 19th, & 22nd, Noon Dismissal, Conferences
- Saturday, Oct. 20th, SCHOOL AUCTION
- Tuesday, Oct. 23rd, Picture Retakes
- Wednesday, Oct. 24, School Mass, 8:30AM

## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

If you missed it, I didn't write a newsletter last week as I was surprised by my wife and kids who took me out to lunch-now, for a really long letter-not really!

One of the academic goals that I have set is to improve our student's reading and literacy/comprehension levels. This will not be a short term objective, but rather a three year commitment of concentrated effort, the acquisition of new phonics materials, reading comprehension materials as well as curriculum lessons designed to address this growth. It will involve the faculty, support staff, the students and the parents each with a role to play. I will use test data to determine our progress.

### FAQ's

#### What is reading literacy anyway?

Basically, it is reading comprehension. The way to improve this skill is through reading activities- timed, with comprehension questions; vocabulary building; context reading skill building; outside reading/reading logs.

#### Is there a problem in this area now?

I would not say a problem, but it is an area for school wide growth.

#### What the parents can do?

Read with your child and then discuss the main ideas of the story or passage. Ask thoughtful questions. Encourage reading!

#### What will we be doing?

Some things will be just the same-spelling, vocabulary and our established reading curriculum, but now with greater emphasis on comprehension skills and higher level thinking-evaluation, analysis, comparison, synthesis. Also, I want to launch a whole new phonics program in K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade next year. I want to enrich our library selection specifically in the Middle School level.

#### Why three years?

To both give us time to fund and implement certain components

but also to analyze the effectiveness of specific strategies through testing data over time.

Sincerely,  
Michael Cantu,  
Principal



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## Auction News

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!!!!



**"Passage to the Old World"**

See the enclosed fliers for up to date information from your auction committee.

Everyone take a slow, deep breath—hold it—and slowly let it out. This is now the time of what I “lovingly” refer to as the pre-Auction crazy days. Deadlines are looming, packages need to be completed, baskets need to be put together, people are sitting where?, the office is a mad-house, There are needs descriptions and values, etc. etc. (Have I made you nuts yet?!) Have patience with each other and remember that it will be another wonderful auction. The items coming into the office are great! It is almost a sell out! And once again we will try to improve check out (any ideas?) A few quiet moments in the Chapel are highly recommended during these days (and always). You’ve done great, you are doing great, you will do great!

## Conferences



Conferences are a chance for you to sit down with your student’s teacher(s) to discuss how they are doing and to ask questions. They will be October 18th, 19th, and 22nd. (A good break from the auction madness!) All 3 of these days are noon dismissals. Sign ups are in the school office. Check with your student’s teacher(s) to see if they attend the conference or not. Please be on time (and don’t take more than your allotted time) to keep everyone on schedule.

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## School Savings Program

St. Francis is in the process of starting a banking program in which every student has the opportunity to open a savings account. Our kids know (or are learning) how to read and write. Now we can teach them to be financially "literate". This program involves a weekly scheduled bank day, run by parent volunteers. At this time we are seeking volunteers to make this program successful. Please contact Sarah Geisler (503.678.2062 / sarah\_geisler@yahoo.com) if you are interested. See the enclosed information in this week's envelope.

## News from the School Office

Picture retakes are Tuesday, October 23rd.

No School Mass on Wednesday, October 17th. Fr. Tom McCarthy will not be here.

There is a Master Plan Survey located on our website. Please fill it out to help in future planning for the school and parish. All parents are encouraged to fill it out whether you are members of St. Francis Parish or not.

Please read the Parent/Student Handbook and return the signed signature page to the school office by **Friday, October 5th.**

I will publish sports news if you give it to me. I do not include it in the regular newsletter because we do not generally publish student's names on the website.

The school directory will be put together as soon as I have all the directory

"permission forms" signed and returned. Any paper work I have not received is in your envelope.



**SMILE**

Racial Non-Discrimination Policy—In accordance with the Department of Catholic Schools Policies and Guidelines 3020 for admissions, this school admits students of any race, color, or racial or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at this school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, racial or ethnic origin, in administration of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship or loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

# **ST. FRANCIS PARISH NEWS**

## **Youth Minister Wanted—**

St. Francis Parish is seeking a dynamic Youth Minister for Senior High and Middle School age. Must be an active practicing Catholic who has skills in leadership, faith formation, program development and a team worker. Call 503-625-6185 for application and job description.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast—October 14th

## **Out of Parish News**

### Catholic High School Open House Schedule

La Salle Catholic College Preparatory—Oct. 7th

Valley Catholic School—Oct. 14th

De La Salle North Catholic High School—Oct. 14th

Jesuit High School—Oct. 21st

Central Catholic High School—28th

St. Mary's School—Nov. 4th