



From the Desk of Mrs. McDermott

11/16/11

Dear Parents/Guardians

Please join us for Family Mass, this coming Sunday, November 20 at 9:00 p.m. While 1st & 5th Grade will prepare the Mass, we really would like to see all families in attendance. Boy Scouts will also be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday from 7:30 am - 12 noon. Adult Tickets are \$5, Children 10 & under \$3, Children under 3 eat for free. Tickets are available at the door.

There will be no envelope going home next week, so in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to share with you all the things that the faculty and I have to be thankful for:

- Our wonderful students – your wonderful children who work hard each and every day at St. Bruno School
- You, our parents, for entrusting us with your children's education, spiritual and social growth - we know it is a sacrifice for many of you
- The many parents who volunteer with the weekly/monthly activities of school life
- Everyone who is involved in organizing and running the school Sports Program
- The members of FSA for past and future events
- The members of the School Board (some who have no ties to St. Bruno) for the time they commit on a monthly basis in support of St. Bruno School
- The parishioners of St. Bruno Church who continue to support the school
- The faithful bingo players who help raise much needed funds for our school

Parent/Teacher conferences

Conference slips with the allocated times for the parent/teacher meeting went home last week. Report cards this year will not be sent home prior to the meeting, instead they will be given out by the homeroom teachers during the meetings. Once again conferences will take place in the school gym. In order to meet with every parent, the teachers need to adhere to their schedules, so please arrive at least 5 minutes before your scheduled time and wait in the lunch room. Each conference time will be 10 minutes long. A bell will sound to let you know that your child's teacher needs to meet with the next scheduled parent. If you feel that you need more than 10 minutes to meet and discuss your child/ren's progress, please let the teacher know and a second conference may be arranged. Please note: tuition and Extended Day payments must be current in order to receive a copy of the Report card.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

A food drive is a great way for us to connect with social outreach, involve our students in community service, and really emphasize the need for giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. If you are able and willing to participate, we ask that you send canned goods, pastas, rice, and other non-perishable food items to school with your child by Monday, November 21. If each child brought one item, we would have 230 food items to donate to the families who use the Food Pantry at Assumption Church.

Book Fair

St. Bruno Book Fair starts today Wednesday, November 16 and runs through Friday, November 18. Stop by to see what is on offer!

Storyteller

All PreK – 4th graders and parents are invited to attend Storyteller Night, tonight Wednesday, November 16. It will start at 7:00pm in the gym. Children are encouraged to wear their pj's & bring a blanket to sit on the floor. The book fair will be open, there will be crafts to do, milk & cookies to eat, a great show to watch and most importantly, it is **free**.

SCRIPT PROGRAM

With Christmas just around the corner, please keep in mind the SCRIPT program to help reduce fundraising balances. You can preorder or purchase gift cards to use towards that list of gifts that I am sure gets longer as December approaches.

FSA

Thank you to all the families who participated in FSA's Candle Fundraiser. FSA made a profit of \$777.

RECYCLE PROGRAM

Our first recycle drive of the school year continues until November 22. Please check the list of acceptable devices in the flyer in today's packet. Share this list with family, friends, and coworkers. All proceeds will benefit our new Technology Fund.

PreK – 3rd grade St. Xavier/Big Shoulders/CME Math Initiative Teacher Updates

PreK 3/4 Ms. Marisa

In Prek 3/4 we have been enjoying working at our Math stations. There are 5 stations and the children work on rotation to ensure that each of them has the opportunity to work at each station. We do these Math activities twice a week. With these hands-on activities, we are exposing the children to exploring, following simple patterns, number recognition, one-to one correspondence, quantity and comparing sizes of shapes. These activities help them understand math concepts and prepare them for the next step.

PreK 4 Mrs. Tellez

I have begun implementing Math Work Stations in my classroom. I have created 10 different stations to accommodate two children per station. Children rotate to a different station each time they use them. My current stations should allow all the children to explore each station within a 5 week time period.

Kindergarten Ms. Kathy

The Kindergarten children are loving their new Math Work Stations. After we work together to learn new concepts and skills, we use the Math Stations to review and reinforce those Math concepts.

First Grade Ms. Diane

The first graders love working on Work Stations. It's their favorite part of the day. After their regular math lesson, the first graders work in pairs at a math station. Each station reinforces a different math skill. The math skills covered at this time are: addition, subtraction, problem solving, measuring, geometry, and patterns.

Second Grade Mrs. O'Shea

The students in Room 201 really enjoy the work stations. We attempt to have work stations three times a week. As their teacher, it is rewarding to see the children who normally would dread Math, look forward to playing math games. I feel this has really helped the students revisit the skills they learned, and they are moving through material at a faster rate than in past years. The assessments the students have taken have helped me work on skills that specific students are weak in. The CPAA give specific activities and I incorporate those into the stations. I believe within the year we will see a lot of progress and certainly in the following years to come.

Second Grade Ms. Hernandez

The St. Xavier Math Initiative is a very useful resource in the classroom. As a first year member to the Math Initiative program, I find it is interesting, engaging, and most importantly hands on for the students. It gives our students an opportunity to apply the skills and concepts that they are learning through our lessons and see its real-life application. I use the math station at least once a week as a way to review the concepts and skills that students are beginning to master. The students look forward to working in station and are often asking about the next time they get to work in stations.

Third Grade Ms. Rafinski

The third grade students are currently working on math workstations. Workstations take place two days out of the week, and I use them to reinforce math skills and concepts learned in class. There are three different types of workstations, a money station, addition and subtract station, and a rounding station. Each week, students rotate stations with their small groups and work on the activities for that station. Workstation activities and concepts will change every four weeks to align with new concepts learned in class. Students enjoy math workstations and look forward to them each week.

Regards,

Katrina McDermott

