



"Children-Our Most Important Asset & Future Investments"
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November 24, 2009

Dear Families,

Happy Thanksgiving!!!! - With Thanksgiving almost here, please remember that there will be no school tomorrow, Wednesday, November 25th. Please remember to return your Tuesday packet on **Monday, November 30th**, which is the first day back from Thanksgiving vacation.

If your children were tired on Friday, they earned it because they ran their hearts out at the Annual Raider Run. We are so grateful that the weather held out for us. Thank you for supporting this very important fundraiser that sponsors the many field trips that our students enjoy. Special thanks to **Mr. Neumeier** for his help in coordinating this large event and also, to all of the parents that helped him! We had a great turn out of parents to help with this event! If you haven't done so, please send in your pledges.

No School Day - Just a reminder that next **Wednesday, December 2nd** is a **No School Day**. Therefore next Tuesdays' letter will come out on **Monday, November 30th**, please turn in your Thursday and Friday hot lunch orders on Tuesday.

Oooops! - There was a big mistake on the monthly Thursday/Friday hot lunch form. Thursday, *December 3^{rd's} Hot Lunch is graciously being donated by Yosemite Ranch*. Thank you to **the Fansler Family** for their very generous donation to the school.

Fall Academic and Sports Awards – Don't forget that the annual Fall Academic and Sports Awards are next week on **Thursday, December 3rd** (The more is the Honor Roll!). **The awards will be held in the Gym at 10:30 for grades 4-8 and 1:15 for grades K-3**. Coaches are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early and to bring a list to confirm their team members

Absentee Photos - For all the students who were out ill on November 18th for pictures in their uniforms we have now scheduled a make-up day for those students. Please mark your calendar for this event if you were absent. The pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, December 9th**.

It's Yearbook Time! – Please note all of the following information relating to this year's Yearbook.

- Yearbook Orders – This year all orders will be placed online. Please go to the school's webpage and click on the Yearbook link.
- 8th Grade Baby Pictures – Please submit your 8th grader's baby picture as soon as possible. There will be an envelope in the school office.
- 8th Grade Ads – Please look for the flier in this Tuesday packet for more information.

Shop with SCRIP – Don't forget to make your shopping easier by purchasing scrip at school. You may download the current Scrip Order Form from our website. Help your fellow employees with their shopping by passing out SCRIP Order forms at the office! We have so many wonderful restaurants, stores and travel vendors to choose from that you can't go wrong! There are only 29 shopping days after Thanksgiving.....and we all know how fast it goes by.....so make it easier on yourself! It's easier to shop at school instead of the crowded mall and the best part is that gift certificates are always the right size! We have more choices to choose from than ever before. Ask about special orders if you don't see something you want. Orders placed by 9:00 am on Wednesdays will be available for pick up on Monday afternoons. Please order as early as the season of giving gets busier. We thank you for using the Scrip Program. Your purchases not only help to reduce your tuition cost but help the Tuition Assistance Program. Give back while helping this program!

6th Annual Nativity Raffle – **Mrs. Gennock's 2nd grade** is back at it this Advent season with chances to win one of five beautiful Nativity Sets. They are on display in the school office. The raffle will run the first 2 weeks of Advent. **Tickets are \$1 each, \$10 buys you 12 chances and \$20 buys you 25 chances! All proceeds will be added to our recycle money to benefit the Holy Cross Women's Shelter**. There is an envelope in the office marked "**Nativity**". You can simply order tickets by sending in a check (**made payable to SAS**) or cash with your name and phone number or stop by the table outside the office during the first two weeks of advent. Please support this very worthy cause!

Thank you and Congratulations! – We would like to thank everyone who purchased the Macy's Benefit Shopping Day tickets. We had a great response! The winner of the November 14th Macy's \$50 gift certificate was **Katie Mahoney!** Congratulations Katie.....it pays off to shop! Remember to shop smart.....with scrip.....it's always available.

Essentials SAS Shopping Day – Please start your Christmas shopping at **Essentials in Pavillion West Shopping Center (Bullard & West)** on **Saturday, December 5th**. They will donate 10% of their sales

purchase to SAS and in addition, you will get a free Brighton charm! Please download the flier available online to receive your free charm. There are also some fliers available in the school office. Thank you to Essentials for donating to our Scrip Program! We want to support those that support us!

Congratulations SJM Pee-Wee Football Players - Andrew **DeFendis**, Nathan **Wilson**, and Zach **Angelillo** participated in the final game this weekend and beat out Kerman to clinch the Championship. They were undefeated for the year. Way to go boys!!!! What an amazing accomplishment!!!!

Grab Your Running Shoes – Hooray to **Kerri Weisert and Dani McNamara** in Mrs. Asparuhov's 5th grade class. They were both in the "Just Run" International 2K race in Monterey on November 14th. Dani placed 6th and Kerri placed 10th out of more than 2000 kids. Great job girls you did an awesome job.

Boys Basketball – There will be a Parent Informational Meeting coming up on **Wednesday, December 2nd** in the Events Center at 6:30pm for the 5th -8th grade teams. Please join us.

Tylenol Alert – The office is in need of Junior Strength Tylenol. The kids seem to prefer the chewable and/or melt-a-ways. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Breakfast at the MET – The Cultural Arts Rotary Club of Fresno invites all to a "Greens Eggs and Ham Breakfast" at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art. Come enjoy breakfast, a visit to the museum and a morning of ornament decorating. The event will be held from 8:00-10:30am on **Saturday, December 12th**. For more information please contact the MET at (559) 441-1455. Fliers are available in the school office.

ITBS Information - Included with your child's report card (grades 2-8) are the standardized test results from ITBS. There is often discussion as to why we administer the test during the fall when the neighboring public schools administer their standardized tests in the late spring. St. Anthony's Catholic School administers the test at the direction of the Diocese of Fresno.

The Diocese of Fresno administers the ITBS tests at the beginning of the year to gauge where our students are and what they need to work on. The Public School System uses their STAR tests as a summative assessment, or a final exam, and gives it to students at the end of the year. The philosophy of our school, and the Diocese, is that this test should be a formative assessment that helps the teacher adjust teaching and learning while they are happening. In this sense, a formative assessment informs both teachers and students about student understanding at a point when timely adjustments can be made instead of waiting until the end of the year when its too late (This is one reason why comparisons to Public School Testing are not possible).

Where do we go from here?

The teachers and administration use the results and a computer program from ITBS to pinpoint what types of information individual students are missing and make changes accordingly. The changes are sometimes class-wide if there was something missing from the entire group and other times focused for individuals. It is a valuable test that we use to help our students improve. This is why, if you track our testing scores through the 8th grade, you see strong longitudinal growth in all subject areas. These trends far exceed the national norms. We are using the tests to modify instruction and fill in gaps in knowledge instead of using them as final grading exams like the Public Schools.

Thankful at Thanksgiving! – We have so much to be thankful for and St. Anthony's School would like to express our appreciation to those for whom we are grateful!

- Families who purchase from our Scrip Program – Keep up the good shopping!
- Family businesses that donate to our Scrip Program – (**Edible Arrangements, Me 'N Ed's, Piazza del Pane, Uncle Harry's and Betty's Toasted Sandwiches, Carmel Kids, Mathnasium, Patrick James, Capagnia, DiCicco's and Sam's Deli**) Thank you for your generosity!
- The parents and friends of St. Anthony's that donate their time to make this school a great place for your children.

Always in Christ,



Tim McConnico
Principal

<p>School Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 to 4:00 Wednesday & Friday 8:00 to 3:30 Minimum Days 8:00 to 2:00</p>
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