

October 6, 2009

Greetings!

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School is a vibrant place with a lot of activities. In short, we are busy, busy, busy and this brown envelope is meant to outline upcoming events and present updates on current projects.

PowerSchool is now operational for Grades 3-12. Letters containing your student's individual pass codes are in the mail. Thank you to Mrs. Cerulla for all of her hard work in putting this system together. I am sure that it will greatly enhance the communication between teacher, parent and student on a day to day basis. Mrs. Cerulla is currently researching the possibility of adding Grades K-2 on the PowerSchool Server. More information will become available on that issue as it progresses.

October is a busy 'test month'. Grades 1, 3, 5, & 7 will be taking the IOWA Test and Grades 9, 10 & 11 will be taking the PLAN, PSAT and EXPLORE Tests. Please pray that God will grant all of these students the ability to do their best on these standardized tests.

And, please keep our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students in your prayers on October 15<sup>th</sup> as they attend their annual retreat at St. Stanislaus Kostka. A short, yet informational excerpt, compiled by Mrs. Cameron is included in this package. Thank you to Mrs. Cameron for organizing this spiritual day of reflection for our young teens.

Your H.O.P.E. Tickets for the month of November are enclosed. Thank you for your continued support as each dollar raised goes to **Help Our Parish Educate!** As always, ticket stubs and money can be returned via the school office.

**Calling all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents ...** On Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00, there will be a meeting regarding the upcoming class trip. It will be held in the Elementary School Library. Mrs. Burkett has been very busy researching possible destinations/packages and has exciting things to share at this meeting!

The week of October 12<sup>th</sup> is Spirit Week at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic School. Ms. McKay, Ms. Johnston and the Homecoming Committee have put together a list of Spirit Week events as follows:

Monday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grades K-12:</b>	Mix & Match/Bad Hair
Tuesday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grades K-12:</b>	Pajama Day
Wednesday, October 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grades K-12:</b>	Sports Team Day
Thursday, October 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grades K-12:</b>	Jeans Day
Friday, October 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grades K-12</b>	Red & White Day

Please note that jeans are acceptable on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and while the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are on retreat on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, their dress code is casual which does include neat, non-ripped/frayed jeans. Friday is a Mass Day so all students are expected to wear their school uniforms.

Spirit Week will culminate on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at dismissal when our PTG will officially open a **Comet Spirit Shop** in the front vestibule of the Elementary School. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place and Fr. Ptak will be on hand to bless the new venture. All are encouraged to attend this brief ceremony. Various Mt. Carmel items will be on sale including but not limited to shirts, sweatshirts, hats and necklaces. Thank you to our fabulous PTG for making this idea a reality and to our esteemed athletic director for his valuable input!

On Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> the parish is sponsoring a Halloween Dance (see enclosed flier). This is an adult event (sorry kids) with music by the up and coming Country Group: Annabelle Road! This is a great chance for parents to meet, mingle and scare up some fun. Proceeds benefit Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Because October is Polish Heritage Month, during the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>, the entire school will be celebrating 'Polish Heritage Week' in honor of and respect for the Polish immigrants that established this beautiful parish and school over 110 years ago. In an effort to expand the students' awareness of Polish Culture, I would like to display authentic Polish artifacts in the Elementary School hallway during the week of the October 19<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Ptak will be contributing to this display and if you have something that you would like contribute, please send it in with your student on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Individual sign up sheets for the Polish Luncheon will be coming home with your student from his/her teacher.

A reminder that Festival Worker Forms are due to Mrs. Huerta by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

And, last but not least, a quick word of thanks. This year, the attitude of cooperation and commitment by our staff, parents, students, alumni and parishioners is so strong that I am truly grateful to be working with and for each and every one of you.

Timothy Scanlon, Principal