

St. Francis of Assisi School, in partnership with parents, is committed to provide a strong educational foundation emphasizing traditional Catholic spirituality, teachings and values.



Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS Focus for May 10-14

A Self-Aware Individual Who:

- *Identifies talents and uses them for self and others*
- *Knows how she or he learns best and takes responsibility for own learning*

What a perfect time for these bullet points as we prepare for our annual Spring Program on May 21. Students will be sharing their talents through their performance of the play, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory". Several students from various grades are main characters, while others are practicing songs and movement routines to accompany the story.

Now that we are half through this last trimester, students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. That means they should take initiative when doing homework, completing assignments, and following directions for assignments. During the next two weeks we will be conducting the Developmental Reading Assessments for gr. K-6 so we can see student growth in reading since November. The NWEA assessments will be given the first two weeks of June.

Election Results

New PTC Officers for next year, 2010-11:

President: Diane Vidmantas

Vice-President: Andrea Vandomelen

Secretary: Regina Boguski

Treasurer: Doug Trobough

New SAC members for 2010-11:

Mark Van Hoomissen, Development

Carolyn Schultz, Publicity/Marketing

Thanks and Congratulations to each of the new officers/members.

Your service to St. Francis of Assisi is vital to its continuing success.

Young Rembrandts Art Class

Attached is a flyer that briefly describes this art class that can be offered after school once a week, on Tues., or Weds. beginning on May 18 or 19. The cost for four one hour sessions would be \$32. We need at least six students, K-5, to sign up and the class can be held. If there is sufficient interest, the class can also be offered next fall. Please check out the flyer and if you are interested, please **send in your response by Tues., May 11.**

Upcoming Events

May 7, Fri.—NO Banks Bus

*9 am all school Mass prepared by the 7-8th graders. All are welcome to join us in prayer.

May 10, Mon.—Menu Change: Tuna Sandwich, carrots, applesauce, chips, and milk.

May 13, Thurs.---Gr. 1-2 Field trip To Jackson Bottom
*Mid-term reports home

May 14, Fri.---9 am All school Mass with Father Jeff Meeuwsen, prepared by gr. 3-4. Parents and relatives are always welcome to attend Mass with the school children
***11:30 am Dismissal,**
No Lunch today, Inservice for staff.

May 16, Sun.---10:30 am Mass,
First Communion Sunday

May 21, Fri. – 7:00 pm Spring Program!

Please mark your calendars for this wonderful, annual event. The performance is now back here at our own St. Francis of Assisi School basement! Thanks to all of the parents who are helping Mrs. Knifer.

May 23, Sun.---10:30 am Mass with Father Mike, followed by potluck. All are invited to his retirement party beginning at 11:30 am.

Attachments:

- Lunch Invoices (with student)
- Volunteer Cards (with student)
- Flyer on after school art class, 'Young Rembrandts'
- Love & Logic
- 2010-2011 Calendar
- Yearbook Order form
- Spring Program flyer

May Birthdays

5-03 Nicholas Haren, gr. 3
5-05 Justin Bral, gr. 5
5-05 Dawson Dethlefs, gr. 5
5-05 Alexander Kiss, gr. 6
5-08 Skyler Schultz, gr. 2
5-09 Diane Ramsperger, Principal
5-15 Evan King, gr. 7
5-19 Adrian Van Lom, gr. 8
5-22 Halle Vandomelen, gr. 2
5-25 Nikolas Vidmantas, gr. K
5-29 Zachary Cook, gr. 3
5-30 Alexander Gajdostik, gr. 1
5-31 Andrew Evers, gr. 2
5-31 Cooper Cropp, gr. 1

"May God bless you with love and friendship. May you grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace." (Sadlier, We Believe & Pray, p.20)

Scrip Sellers

Ann King: 503- 647-5891
Kelleen Meeuwsen: 503-324-7706
Margaret Duyck: 503-324-3862

Remember to use Scrip for ALL of your shopping needs! The school can earn a good profit from the Scrip. It is a very easy fundraiser. Last day for earning Scrip rewards will be May 21.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

May 3 – 7

The staff would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" to the parents and students for a wonderful week. All the flowers and gifts were greatly appreciated. We are very grateful for all you do to make St. Francis of Assisi School the best ever! May the blessings of peace and joy from our Risen Lord be with each of you and your families.

Congratulations to the 2010 Valley Catholic Middle School Science Fair Winners

From St. Francis of Assisi School

There were 9 students in grades 6-8 that participated in the Valley Catholic Science Fair on April 23. There were ten other schools at the fair with a total of 96 participants. Five of our students won trophies.

*6th grade: Libby Hertel and Josh Haren, both 2nd place; Alexander Kiss, 3rd place

*8th grade: Clara Kiss and Jamie Haren, both 1st place!

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's Science Fair! A special thank you to Sister Mary Peter and to Karen Kiss for coordinating the VCMS participation.

DANCE CLUB NEWS - Please mark the following practices on your calendar, all from 3 – 4 pm: Fri., **May 7**; Weds., **May 12th** & **19th**; Thurs., **May 20th**. Performance at Spring Program, 7 pm.

Family Faith Sharing Questions

May 9, 2010 **Sixth Sunday of Easter, John 14:23-29**

"In today's Gospel, Jesus promises peace. In his farewell speech to his friends at the Last Supper, he promises to send someone to help them practice the love that will bring them peace and joy. That is our Advocate (helper), God's Holy Spirit, who dwells in us and guides us, the Church.

We are happy because we know that no matter what happens, Jesus is and always will be with us. When we reach out to another person at Mass and offer a sign of peace, we are sharing the love of Jesus with another person; this is the peace of Jesus Christ.

We offer a sign of peace to others at Mass. When and where can you offer a sign of peace to others all week long? What are other ways we can share peace with others?"

"Come Holy Spirit. Be our helper and guide us in the ways of peace. Amen."

(From The Catechist Magazine, April/May 2010, pg. 16)

2009-10 YEARBOOKS

are coming!

They will be \$10 each.

The order form is attached. Please return it by May 11, if you would like a year book or two. Thanks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Spring Program – "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory". If you can help with preparations for this play, please contact Mrs. Knifer at 503-324-0583

Other Events:

***May 8, Sat.** --- Visitation School Auction, 4:30 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$30 each.

***May 15, Sat.** --- OR History Museum, 'Becoming American' May Family Day, 11-3pm

Love & Logic

Easing Separation Anxiety

April 29, 2010



Dear Parents,

I am often asked, "How do I help my child feel less anxious about going to daycare, preschool or the babysitter?" If you have kids, the odds are pretty high that you've pondered this question and wondered what to do. Listed below are some quick tips:

- Remember that kids take their emotional cues from the adults around them.
 - The calmer and more business-like we act, the easier it'll be for our kids.
- Avoid doing too much reassuring.
 - Strangely, the more we talk with our little ones about how much fun they are going to have, the more anxiety they seem to have. It's as if they reason, "If my parents have to tell me this is going to be okay, maybe it won't."
- Make the transition short and sweet.
 - The quicker you move, the faster your child will calm down once you leave.
- Don't look back.
 - Although it's hard to resist the urge to go back and comfort your child, he or she will calm down far quicker if you keep going and don't look back.

While all children are different, some separation anxiety is normal and healthy. Generally speaking, the tots who feel the most secure when they are with their parents are the ones who feel the most secure when they are away from their parents. A large part of providing this security involves combining big doses of love with good, solid limits.

Thanks for reading!

Dr. Charles Fay

Love & Logic

Getting Kids to Think

May 6, 2010



Dear Parents,

Have you ever stopped to think about what a blessing it is to be a good thinker? Now I'm not necessarily talking about being a genius or intellectually gifted. I'm mostly referring to being able to use good problem-solving skills and good old-fashioned common sense.

As this world becomes ever more complex and temptation-laden, it becomes more and more important that we teach our kids how to build their mental muscles. Listed

below are some quick tips:

- When your kids ask you for help with something, encourage them to try a bit longer before you jump in to help them. The only way to really learn good thinking skills is by having to figure out some things on your own.
- Ask them as many questions as possible. Examples include, "What else might you try? What have you seen other people do to solve this problem? What would happen if you tried _____? Where might you learn how to do that? Is that something you could learn about in a book, by asking someone, or by looking on the internet?"
- Allow them to mess up. Too frequently, we step in and tell kids exactly what to do when we worry that they might make a mistake. When the consequences are small, allow them to blow it and learn.

In our book, [*Love and Logic Magic: When Kids Leave You Speechless*](#), we also teach the importance of limiting the amount of TV kids watch and how to deal with all of the arguing that can happen when we begin to set limits. The less TV your kids watch the better thinkers they will become.

Thanks for reading!

Dr. Charles Fay

YOUNG REMBRANDTS
Art Class for K-5

After school on either

Tues. or Weds. for 4 weeks beginning on

May 18 or May 19.

Classes would be from 3:05 to 4:05 and would cost
a total of \$32 for four weeks.

If you are interested, please fill out the bottom portion and
return to school by Tues., May 11.

_____ Yes, I am interested

_____ No, not this year

Preferred day, Tues. _____

_____ I would be interested next fall

Weds. _____

Family Name _____

Students for class _____

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Friday, May 21st – 7 p.m.

The spring program is fast approaching! Come see who wins the Golden Tickets and how they fare in the world of Wonka!

The students of St. Francis will act and sing as they tell the story of Charlie Bucket and the Chocolate Factory. Students are to wear nice jeans and a white T-shirt for the program. They will be participating in creative movement so they need to wear appropriate shoes. No heels for the girls. Tennis shoes/sneakers would be perfect! Students are to arrive by 6:45 p.m. at their classrooms.

The spring program is a tradition at St. Francis and is the culmination of the work the students have been doing in music during the last trimester. It is an important part of their participation grade. It is our hope that all of the children can come and perform. We know there are sports practices and games taking place at this time, but it is our wish to have all of the students present for this final all-school performance of the year.

We still need help with the set. If you have the time in the next two weeks, the 7th and 8th grade students will be working on the backgrounds and stage props from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:45-2:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. Additional ideas and hands would be greatly appreciated. Please call the school (503.324.2182) or Mrs. Knifer's cell (503.318.5979) if you are available. We need your talents!

Come and Enjoy!