

October 26, 2016

Dear Parents,

We are about to get very busy during the month of November!!! Before I describe everything coming up I want to speak about grade cards, parent-teacher conferences, and the school basketball season.

Please look over your student's grade card that is in this Wednesday's Envelope. **You do not need to return this copy to school.** It is yours to keep. Feel free to write a note, email, or call if you have questions about the grade cards.

I would like to take a moment to thank our teachers. They have done a great job making a very smooth transition from the old paper-based grade cards to the new AscendSMS system. It is a huge accomplishment that was done in a very short amount of time.

Parent-teacher conferences are set for November 16-17th. There are more details later on in this newsletter. PLEASE take advantage of this time with your student's teacher! For some parents, it's the only time all year where you'll sit down to discuss the progress of your student. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The teachers know your children very well, and sometimes the students help us know the parents very well too :) On the front of the grade cards there is a sentence that is a great summary of how effective

communication should happen. It says this: THIS REPORT CARD IS BOTH AN EVALUATION OF YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS, AND A TOOL TO STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME. Thank you all for taking an interest in your student's education. We are blessed with great families at Divine Mercy Catholic School.

The next item I want to talk about is the upcoming basketball season. There is a girls basketball practice schedule in this Wednesday's Envelope for the remainder of October and the month of November. The boys coaches are still finalizing their practice schedule, but will be sent home soon.

The school jackets are in, and I think everyone will agree they are really nice! They will be passed out Friday morning to wear to Mass. Mr. Franklin will be there to see them, and we'll get a group picture after Mass with him. Thank you Mr. Franklin!

In closing, the events that we will have in November will require some volunteers to make things go smoothly. Please read over the list of events described later in this newsletter. If you can help with any of them please let us know. Have a blessed week!

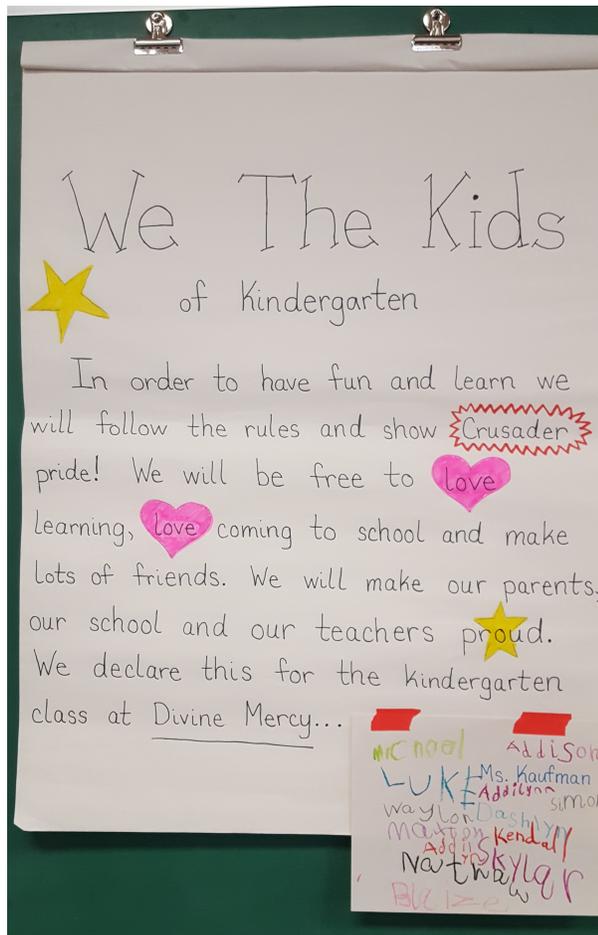
Mr. Linder
Principal

Classroom Curriculum News

Mrs. Lopshire - Preschool:



The Pre-K Class is having so much fun getting into the Halloween spirit!!! We're busy making witches, ghosts, jack-o-lanterns and black cats. We have been using different shapes, colors plus using our cutting, gluing and tracing skills. Check out our handy work in the hallway outside of our classroom. From all the Pre-K – HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!



Miss Kaufman - Kindergarten:
This week in social studies the kindergartners learned about the constitution. They learned that the constitution sets up the government, which has three parts- the president, the courts, and congress. We also learned that the constitution protects us and keeps us safe. The preamble is a small introduction to the constitution, so we as a kindergarten class signed our own preamble to the constitution of rules we promised to follow here at school this year. You can see our signed preamble on the attached picture (bottom left).

Miss Kuhlman - 1 & 2:
First and Second graders are discovering about the different symbols of the United States. One of those symbols is the Statue of Liberty. The children were asked, "Why is the Statue of Liberty green?" Their answers were: Tara Wolford, "They didn't like the original color, so they painted it." Lucy Conley, "Moss grew on it." And the most logical, since it is on Ellis Island, came over by ship, "You know how people turn green when they get sick on a boat?" says Carter Baumle. :) After finding out that the Statue of Liberty is made of copper, like our pennies, we experimented with pennies and vinegar.



Just a reminder that we are planning a special Veterans Day Mass on Friday, November 11th, at 11:00 in the Payne church. Immediately

following Mass the

students will present a short program in the hall. Veterans are invited to be our guest for lunch. Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a dinner roll will be served for lunch. Please let us know how many veteran guests will be joining your student for lunch so we can give an accurate count to the Payne cafeteria.



At last count, we have sold **966** apple pies so far!!! Thank you EVERYONE for making this a success for the school. We are

blessed to have a community that supports this school so much.

Don't forget that the pies must be picked up at the Payne Hall on Saturday, November 12th, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Rick Small of 98.1 "The Mix" radio station will be at Divine Mercy Catholic School on Thursday, November 17th, from 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. Rick will be broadcasting live and collecting donations for the Christmas for Kids barrel. Donations can include things like a new toy (no used toys please), canned goods, personal hygiene items, and monetary donations. Rick will be talking with students and staff, and does a great job promoting the values of a Catholic education. Thank you for practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday,

November 16th, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Conferences are also offered on Thursday, November 17th, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. **Please return your conference paper by Wednesday, November 2nd**, so teachers can get their schedules set. A slip for each child needs to be returned so that the teachers can prevent any duplication of times. A confirmation slip will be sent to you concerning the conference session.

*****Please read over the attached notes from the PTA meeting held last night. Let us know if you have any questions, or can help out with any of the events described.**



For these upcoming events:

Friday, November 11th

Volunteers are needed to help set up and decorate tables in the morning for the Veterans Day program.

Same day - After the veterans lunch, volunteers are needed to set up for the apple pie day.

Saturday, November 12th

Volunteers are needed mainly for the afternoon shifts until 5pm.

Thursday, November 17th

Volunteers are needed (7-8 workers) to help with the Thanksgiving Meal for students and staff - more information is in this Wednesday's Envelope.

Please contact the school office, or Mr. Linder (principal@dmcschool.com) if you can help with any of these things. Thanks!



Upcoming Dates:

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| Wed 10/26 | 1st quarter grade cards go home |
| Tues 11/1 | Mass @ 9:15 - All Saints Day (Holy Day) |
| Nov 3-4 | NO SCHOOL - Wayne Trace has conferences |
| Fri 11/11 | Veterans Day Mass @ 11:00 directly followed by a short program and lunch for veterans and students |
| Sat 11/12 | Apple Pie assembly day and pickup |
| Nov 15-18 | Fall Scholastic Book Fair |
| Wed 11/16 | Book Fair Guest Lunch |
| Nov 16-17 | Parent Teacher Conferences |
| Thu 11/17 | - Christmas for Kids 7-9 am at school
- Mass @ 9:15
- Father teaching classes
- Thanksgiving meal for students |
| Fri 11/18 | 2-hr Delay - Teacher In-Service |
| Nov 23-25 | No School - Thanksgiving Break |
| Wed 11/30 | Midterm reports go home |

DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PTA AGENDA

OCTOBER 25, 2016

In attendance were 2 teachers (Miss Kaufman and Miss Kuhlman), Mr. Linder, and 13 parents.

Financial Report

- Profit from Golf Outing - total profit was \$6,778 - this money went to cover the tech fee for each student and the rest was deposited in the tuition assistance fund
- Profit from All American Fundraiser - total profit was \$4,346
- Should we buy more apple peelers - there are 13 available peelers to use, looking to buy 5 more peelers - possible Pampered Chef
- Girls basketball uniforms - \$675 for 15 sets of game jerseys, practice jerseys - \$240 (Michele Daeger knows a company in Convoy that collects cans and will donate all the profit to us. We can use these funds to help cover some of the costs of the uniforms. The company said all donations from the month of November will go to our school)
- New sweeper for rugs - The school sweeper is getting old and not working well. We will check with Ernie and Donita to see if there is a certain type they want to get.
- Wireless mice for teachers - Some SMART board games can only be practiced on the internet from a teacher's computer...the computers have touch pads that are hard for the students to control. The wireless mice would make it easier for them. Matt O'Shaughnessey is going to see if a company will donate them to us. Michele Daeger and Melinda Tumblin are going to check with a few companies to see if they will donate mouse pads.

Mr. Linder

- Walmart grant opportunities - We will be working with the Napoleon and Defiance Walmarts to try and receive grants of up to \$2,500 from each store. Thanks to Bill and Ruth Graham for making the school aware of this opportunity.
- Playground risers/barriers update - If we secure money from the Walmart grants we can use these funds to start planning to install a playground border to keep the stones off the blacktop and reduce the number of times the students fall and scrape their knees and arms. We will run some prices and see how much (if any) additional funds it would require to have this done.
- School Jacket update - We received the jackets today. They are super nice, and we think the students will be very excited. We will be handing out the jackets Friday morning for the students to wear them to Mass. Mr. Franklin will be coming to Mass, and we will get a

picture with him after Mass. We are planning to make a thank you for him using a trifold display board, and have the students sign it.

Fundraisers

- Apple Pie Fundraiser: we sold 966 pies; Donations/Volunteers Saturday November 12th; donations for lunch (sloppy joes/buns/paper products/chips/cookies/water etc.) **We had a lot of volunteers sign up to work weeknights, but will not need all of them. We will need more afternoon workers to help on the 12th. Mr. Linder will put a request for workers in tomorrow's Wednesday email/newsletter. Beth Young offered to donate the sloppy joes to help feed volunteers.**

Upcoming Events

- Veterans Day Lunch/Program: November 11th: Mass at 11am with Father Stites, then Lunch and Program in the Hall. Meal from Payne Elementary. **Volunteers needed to set up and decorate tables that morning. And Volunteers needed to set up for Apple Pie Day after lunch.**
- Book Fair is November 15-18th ; restructured Scholastic system (Mr. Linder) **Our Book Fair will not be delivered in the big metal cases anymore, but it will come in boxes through UPS (it's called table top edition). The company restructured things over the summer, probably because they were losing money on deliveries, and set up some new requirements. In order for a school to have the metal cases they have to sell \$2,000 or more. Our school does very well and sells between \$1,200 and \$1,400, but don't reach that \$2,000 mark. Another drawback is that we will no longer have the use of the cash register; which allowed for credit card transactions. Now, we will have to process credit cards through an online portal using laptops - if we choose to. We could just request that people use checks or cash.**
- Guest Lunch Wednesday November 16th
- Parent Teacher Conferences November 16-17th: Meal for teachers **Learning from last year, Kimra said that it's best to feed the teachers right after school because they didn't have time to eat once the conferences got started. Wednesday Puckerbrush will be provided and Thursday there will be leftovers from the Thanksgiving lunch.**
- Rick Small (Christmas for Kids) Thursday November 17th
- Thanksgiving Meal Thursday November 17th
- Holiday Shop December 5-7th **Everything sold is \$5 and under. Presents are bagged up and the name is placed on the bag. Students can take these home and wait until Christmas to give them out.**
- Update on school dance- Matthew O'Shaughnessey **We are still planning a mother/son father/daughter dance. Matt has been contacting many places for donations to start accumulating items to raffle off at the dance. Different kinds of baskets were mentioned for the raffle/ auction - dad basket, mom basket, boy, girl, family basket. We are narrowing down dates, but February 25th looked like a strong possibility. High school basketball schedules were taken into account when planning for the date. Matt is looking to create a committee for**

volunteers to head up - flowers, DJ, admissions, raffle table, food, decorations, and donations. He sent around a sign up sheet at the meeting. If you are interested let the school office know.

Dates to keep in mind

- Christmas Program/Cookie Walk December 20th: start freezing cookies now **If you think about it, try and get a head start on making cookies now for the cookie walk and then freezing them.**
- Next meeting Tuesday December 6th 6:30pm

Teachers Concerns/Suggestions none