

Notes from Mrs. Greco
February 1, 2007

Thank you to all our families, teachers and staff who made our Open House a successful and enjoyable event. Cathy Cawley and Joann Treacy, members of our Development Committee were most grateful for all the help they received from families. Twenty-three new families attended and were able to experience the Catholic community we are. It is a great way for us to begin our celebration of Catholic Schools Week. You will be seeing press releases, etc. as part of the Office of Catholic Education's comprehensive advertising campaign to promote the value of a Catholic education. Keep an eye (and ear) open for related messages and be proud that you already know how Catholic education benefits our children.

Home & School was also kind enough to invite teachers and staff in the school and rectory to a special luncheon on Tuesday. Thanks to the expert catering, coordination, and planning by Lisa Bamberger, Mary Beth Carroll, Barb Good, and Debbie Eberle, a relaxing and wonderful time was enjoyed by all. We don't usually have the time to dine together - especially in the middle of the day. Our moms so generously took over in the school at lunch time and the lunch duty went off without a hitch. Tomorrow is our First Friday Mass and we will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Mass begins at 11:00 and we invite you to join us in prayer.

The National Junior Honor Society is proud to announce that their Teacher Torture dare raised \$357.76. The (un)lucky winners are Ms. Chirillo & Mrs. Weidner, Mr. Schmauk, and Mrs. O'Hara. Each winner will receive a share of the money raised to donate to a charity of their choice.

Congratulations to Domenic Lang whose portrait of his dad will appear in Beneficial Finance's "Someone Special" calendar! The artwork for the calendar is selected from work submitted from area schools. This year 123 schools competed. Each school is allowed one entry. Domenic will be presented with a trophy and a \$100 savings account at a special awards ceremony in March.

It is also with great pleasure that I inform you that we are one of 14 public and parochial schools in this five-county area that received a \$2300 grant

from the P.A.E.P. (Philadelphia Arts in Education Partnership). We will again partner with the Abington Arts Center and the focus of our grant involves our 8th grade students. The title of the project we submitted is *Learning How Our Cultural Heritage Built the United States of America*.

Registration and re-Registration dates are included with today's communication. Please adhere to the deadlines to help us plan for the 2007-2008 school year.

Our Home & School Gianni pizza sale has been extended to February 8th. Please check the flyer for revised dates. Thank you!

We are happy to be able to offer an after school book club for grades 2 and 3 and thank Mary Beth Carroll for agreeing to be the moderator. We will use this as a pilot program to see if there is interest in this format. Please check the flyer for more information.

Our Auction team is revving up again for next October. If you made a donation to the auction, your auction donation tax letters will also be sent home today.

BLOCS applications for financial aid are online at our website or at your request, we will send an application home to you. Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) is the official state-approved Scholarship Organization for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. As such, BLOCS is able to accept Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) contributions for our schools. There is a substantial tax break (up to 90%) for businesses who donate through BLOCS. Additionally, the application is how Immaculate as a parish determines financial aid awards. Even if you do not receive an award through BLOCS, you may be eligible for financial aid through the parish. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH. We do not award financial aid unless you have filled out a BLOCS application so you are encouraged to do so.

Important Notice to our PHILADELPHIA families: the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia is entering its 6th year of local operation. To qualify for the scholarship, all applicants must be Philadelphia residents, with at least one child entering grades K-5th in fall 2007. Families must

meet the income guidelines as outlined on the application form. The best way for families to get the application and fill it out, is to visit the website at: www.csfphiladelphia.org and submit the application online. Please let us know if you need us to download an application for you. This is a lottery scholarship which lasts for 4 years! Due to staffing limitations, CSFP will only process and enter into the lottery, the first 4,000 applications received. 1000 new four-year awards are available starting in September 2007. The application deadline is March 1, 2007. Please fill it out TODAY! Only families that have "won" the lottery will be notified in mid-March.

CD order forms of our Christmas Concert are online. CDs are priced at \$20 each. Please reserve your copy as soon as possible. We want to get the CDs produced in a timely manner. You won't be disappointed!

February 7th is our deadline for the joint PREP and School drive for Baby Formula.

8th Grade Parent Reminder: Our \$75 fee for 8th grade students is due on Wednesday, February 28th.

Please check your envelope or the website for:

Registration dates for 2007-2008 school year.

Auction flyer (Yes, it's time to jump on board again!!)

2 Lunch envelopes.

Junior CYO calendar.

BLOCS Application is online.

Christmas Concert CD order form.