

Notes from Dr. Greco
February 24, 2011

"Creating An Attitude of Gratitude in Your Children" will take place this evening, February 24th at 6:45pm. You are welcome to attend even if you did not respond to your e-vite. Our count was for handout purposes only.

In View and Terra Nova testing (our standardized testing) will begin tomorrow and continue each day first thing in the morning until Friday, March 4th. Although our policy is that these tests cannot be prepared for, please make sure that your students get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast before coming to school each day. There is a writing component in every section of the test (including Math) and being rested helps the students to organize their thought process. Thank you for your support.

Our 5th grade students will be celebrating their DARE graduation on Monday, February 28th, at 1:30pm. Parents are cordially invited to attend as Officer Wagg presents the students with their diplomas.

Ash Wednesday is on March 9th this year and Msgr. Diamond will be celebrating a 9:00am Mass that day which the school students will attend. Ashes will be distributed after Mass. You are welcome to attend Mass and receive ashes along with our students.

- **Re-registration of current students and registration of new students is taking place now. Please return your forms to the office.**
- **Yearbook Orders are due now.** Don't be disappointed. We purchase only the number preordered so please don't delay! **February 25th is our deadline.**
- Early Spring Art Workshop registration begins now and is open to grades 3 and up. This is the last Art Workshop session during the school year. Art in the Summer begins in July.
- Parish Trivia Night is set for Saturday, March 5th. Please check the parish website or call school or the rectory for more information.
- **Calendar Changes:**
 - **Our 2nd Snow Make Up Day will be Monday, March 14th.**
 - **Our 1st Snow Make Up Day will be Easter Tuesday, April 26th.**
 - **Professional Ed day - No School for students - will be added on Friday, May 13th. We are the recipients of a Title II Grant for teachers to attend 2 workshops with Heidi Hayes Jacobs, noted for her work with curriculum mapping & 21st century skills. (Our first session is on March 2nd.)**

Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education Contest

This year we are going to try something new to help our school earn more from the Box Tops for Education and the Labels for Education Programs. We are going to have a contest between the grades that will run from February until May, with the winning classroom getting a water ice and pretzel treat. All you need to do is clip Box Tops and Labels for Education UPCS and send them to your child's classroom. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. Labels for Education can be redeemed for academic and art supplies and athletic equipment for our school. Each month we will give you an update to let you know how each class is doing. **Please check the Boxtops4education.com website to learn about bonus offers to maximize our points.**

The following item is included today:

- **March Calendar**
- **Invoices from the Business Manager.**
- **Scrip order forms (Scrip helps to defray your invoice total!)**
- **Art Workshop registration form.**

Important information to PHILADELPHIA families with children in our school:

Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia is accepting applications for 750 new, K-8th grade scholarships for Philadelphia children. The application process is free and easy to complete. Now is the time to act. **The application deadline is Tuesday, March 1st.** These need-based scholarships are available to students entering grades K-8th in September 2011 and are awarded by random lottery. To be eligible, families must: meet income requirements, be residents of Philadelphia, have a child entering grades K-8th in fall 2011 and **complete the required essay question.** **The easiest and quickest way for families to submit an application is online at www.csfphiladelphia.org.** Only families who are awarded scholarship opportunities will be notified by mail, in mid-March. Please call the office if you have any questions. This is an increase in the number of scholarships available and I encourage you to apply if you qualify.

Important information to ALL families with children in our school regarding the BLOCS Scholarship and financial aid from Immaculate Conception Parish:

The BLOCS Scholarship Application is available for downloading, at www.BLOCS.org. If you would like a hard copy, please call the office and we will copy and send an application home to you. Parents must get their scholarship applications to PSAS no later than **April 15, 2011**. There will be no grace period this year. After we receive our award report (June 30th or earlier), our parish uses the PSAS needs analysis to award our separate scholarship funds. **All families must submit a BLOCS application in order to be considered for financial aid from Immaculate Conception parish.**
