



## *August Summer Newsletter 2009*

Where has the summer gone? With the month of August here, we clearly begin preparing for back to school. This is hard to imagine with the immense heat we continue to experience. We can only continue to look for ways to cool off and have fun. Though our days are few, I hope that you can take all opportunities to enjoy and spend some time with your family. Summer memories last a lifetime!

The St. Luke School community is gearing up for another great school year. Many teachers have been looking to the coming year by attending professional development courses and workshops during the summer months. Our team continues to stay committed in living out our mission of providing a Christian environment where all children can grow spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally under the guidance of a nurturing community. We strive for excellence in all we do and with a constant focus on Jesus we grow spiritually developing a lasting understanding and experience in our faith. We thank you for choosing St. Luke as a partner in creating a strong foundation for your child (ren).

We welcome all of our new families to our school community. We are confident that you and your child (ren) will have a positive experience this school year.

The summer has given opportunity to work on projects for the coming school year. Here is a brief report on what has been going on at St. Luke School.

### **August Summer Schedule**

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Office Hours 9 A.m. – 3 P.M.

August 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> - Teacher Inservice

August 12<sup>th</sup> – *Meet Your Teacher* 2 P.M – 4 P.M. Class list will be posted in the gym and students will be able to go to the classroom(s) to meet their teacher(s). Mark your calendars. *Open House* will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> (change from 6/15/09 calendar) at 6:30 P.M. beginning in the church and continuing in the school.

August 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - First Days of School: Noon Dismissal

August 17<sup>th</sup> - First Full Day of School: Extended Day Begins

Regular Office Hours 7:45 A.M. – 4:15 P.M.

(Reminder supervision is available in the gym beginning at 7:30 A.M. classes start at 8:15 A.M. and dismissal is at 3:30. All students are to be picked up no later than 4 P.M.)

**Extended Day and Study Hall:** These are two services that are provided to assist students and parents. Registration packets will be available at the main office. This program will begin on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Study Hall or Homework Help will begin on September 8<sup>th</sup> after Labor Day.

**Cafeteria Service:** Don Beto's Restaurant will continue to provide hot lunches for our students daily. A healthy, low sugar lunch is recommended. All children must have something to eat to make it through the day. This keeps children active and alert. Remember that your child does not need to bring money to school to pay for their lunches; families will be billed on a monthly basis for the amount of lunches consumed for the month. (August will be billed in September) We will continue to provide microwaves in the cafeteria to warm-up lunch boxes if necessary. School staff is on hand to help warm the food. Students may purchase milk, bottled water or juice for 50 cents. Also, a vending machine is available to purchase healthy additions for their lunch such as pretzels, fruit snacks, granola bars for example to supplement their lunchbox. Ice Cream is sold to 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> only on Fridays. A lunch menu will be issued on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Books and Materials:** Students will be given necessary supplies to begin the school year. Teachers may request a few extra items for the classroom. This information will be given to students the first few days of school.

**School Uniform:** All students are expected to be in full uniform at all times. Details about our dress code are laid out in our Student & Parent Handbook to be issued this month to all families. Please take the time to review and use as a reference throughout the school year. Changes and updates have been made this year. Students are to be nicely groomed at all times as well. Shirts are to be tucked in at all times and boys are to wear a navy, brown or black belt every day. White ankle socks are to be worn with a good pair of tennis shoe. As we anticipate cooler weather, please refer to guidelines to be in compliance. Finally, because the school is cool throughout the day, students are only allowed to wear a red sweater, sweatshirt or light jacket indoors. Our school uniform helps promote school spirit and discipline. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Physical Education Uniforms:** Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade dress out for P.E. Uniforms (short and t-shirt) will be available the first few weeks of school. The t-shirt and short combination is \$22 dollars. The basketball short will be available again for \$ 15. All students must have proper uniform by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The red St. Luke t-shirt may be purchased by our Montessori and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students to be worn on blue jean days held at least once a month. Adult sizes are available and may be purchased by Mom and Dad to show your school spirit as well!

**Business Office:** We appreciate everyone's timely manner in paying their monthly tuition payments. We are a non-profit organization and rely on tuition to meet our monthly obligations to keep the school going. Tuition is due on the on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month . After the 15<sup>th</sup> a late fee will be applied. I would like to remind parents that any balance of \$50 dollars or more will be charged a late fee of \$35 dollars. Automatic Debit Payment service is still available. We continue to strive to keep our school affordable to give as many as we can the opportunity of a Catholic education. Tuition is one means to meet the cost to educate each child we also rely on grants, fundraisers, donations and are also grateful that our parish contributes to our annual budget with over \$12,000 dollars. During these rough economic times, providing a Catholic education is a huge sacrifice but a need to give your children's future a bright start and a lasting difference. I thank you for your continued support and dedication. The pay-off is worth it! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact our school accountant, Mrs. Lupita Cano. She or Mr. Raul Cano our Office Manager, will be happy to assist you. Thank you.

**Forms- During** the first weeks of school the following documents will be sent home and must be returned to the child's teacher in a timely manner.

**Emergency and Transportation Card:** These forms ensure safety for your child(ren). Please make sure that all information is accurate and at any time if a change is needed you must come by the office to make the change.

**Agreement for the Use of Computers and Telecommunications** is required per student before they will be allowed to use any computer equipment on campus.

**Media Release Form:** This form is required that gives permission to use pictures of our students in "action" during the school year. Pictures may be placed in the newspaper, brochures, ads, school website, or Power Point presentations about the school.

**Title I Survey:** This is confidential information that enables the school to receive services from the school district's Federal Programs Department. Funds provide materials, services and professional development opportunities for faculty throughout the year. The amount of money is determined by the number of students who meet the criteria and qualify for the program's resources.

**Arrival, Dismissal and Tardiness:** All students are to meet in the school gym in the morning. Students are lined up by classes beginning with our Montessori students. Supervision is available beginning at 7:30 A.M. Dismissal occurs the same way. All students are taken to the gym by 3:30 P.M. Students remain in the gym five till four. All students must be picked up no later than four. A fee of \$20 will be charged after four o'clock for late pick-up. In regards to tardiness, a new policy and procedure will be in place this school year that will be outlined in our handbook. Once the Morning Prayer and announcements begins (scheduled to begin at 8:25) a student is considered tardy. All tardy students will be dropped off at the gymnasium not through the Rockwell entrance (office). A team of staff members will hold the students in the gym till announcements are completed. They will then be escorted to their classrooms. This change will facilitate a safe and secure environment. All students who enter after 8:45 A.M. are asked to come through the main office. Thank you.

**Curriculum Update:** Our faculty and staff continue to develop as a team to meet the changing and demanding needs to give our students the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that will lead them towards a bright future. St. Luke School is known for providing a strong academic base and when our students graduate in sixth grade do not have problems entering honors programs in feeder Catholic schools or entering Pre-AP courses in our local public middle schools. We are very proud of that! A strong foundation is the key. Our program focuses on the whole child in a safe nurturing environment. Our Language Arts Program remains strong as we continue to incorporate strategies shared in the National Writing Project. We are proud of our Lead Teacher, Ms. Mary Beth Martin who co-taught the course this summer over a six week period at the University of Texas at Brownsville to teachers in our area. We will incorporate the Junior Great Book Series in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading curriculum. This program facilitates the shared inquiry method to allow teachers and students to engage in reading classical literature and hold discussion that empowers students to think, read and write critically. The Science Foss Program for student in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade will be incorporated this year. This will enrich our curriculum not only in Science but Math, and Language Arts as well. Teachers are looking forward to this great addition. Our technology department will go through some changes providing both students and teachers with resources to

incorporate technology in all content areas. We have also become members of the Library Services and Media Cooperative through Region One that provides online instructional resources such as Discovery Education, Learning 360 and Homework Help to name of few. These resources will be great support in and out of the classroom to enrich content and lessons across the curriculum. More information will be provided as the year begins.

**Mini Facelift:** The summer has allowed time for our maintenance crew to work around the campus painting classrooms, the hallway and the office area. As you enter our school, you will notice that the flooring in the entire hallway has been updated giving a new crisp look to our school. Dispensers in all classrooms and bathrooms have been updated and give a bright look to these areas. We continue to work to create a safe and clean environment for our school. The plans for the gym have been approved by Monsignor Bert Diaz and have now gone to the Diocese. We are awaiting approval from Bishop Pena and then the bidding process will begin. Continue to pray for our efforts because we know that this is a project that is well needed and will require a team effort from both school and church members to make it possible. I will continue to keep you posted. I would like to thank Mr. Raul Cano who has facilitated this process with architects, engineers and the building committee. He has done a great job.

**New Faculty Members:** We would like to extend a welcome to the following new faculty members to our community. We welcome Mrs. Irma Martinez, Mrs. Esther Lugo and Mrs. Laura Hernandez. They are all very excited to begin the school year and work with both faculty and students. None of them are strangers to education and will all make great additions to our strong team of educators.

Once again, we thank you for choosing St. Luke Catholic School. Be assured that your children are in a wonderful place and in good hands. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a wonderful year.

Your Servant in Christ,

Mrs. Ana E. Gomez, M.Ed.  
*Principal*

“ Catholic schools are the gift to the whole community and are recognized as centers of learning that foster personal development and growth, enriched with a sense of self-fulfillment and worth, and guided by basic and essential moral values. It is precisely because of our history, and what we achieve today in Catholic schools, that we look to the future with hope and confidence.”

Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, S.T.D.

Archbishop of Washington and Chairman of the NCEA board of Directors