



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2010

AUGUST 2, 2010

As we begin the final days of summer, great anticipation is beginning to arise for another great year at St. Luke Catholic School. This is an exciting time where we make history developing new programs and experiencing positive growth/improvements in our community.

Be assured that the entire faculty and staff of St. Luke School are ready to meet you and kick-off the school year. We thank you for choosing St. Luke as a partner in setting a strong academic, physical and spiritual foundation for your child (ren). Our school community remains dedicated to promoting excellence in all of our students. We welcome back all of our families and together extend a warm welcome to the over fifty new families this year. We look forward to the coming months.

The summer months have been busy and the following are a few updates and upcoming events:

School Office Open: The office hours will be as follows: August 2nd-6th is 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. , August 9th-11th is 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Lunch hour 12-1) , August 12th -13th is 7:45 a.m.-12 noon and beginning August 16th regular school hours resume 7:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Important Dates: 8/5/10 New Family Orientation K3-5th Grade, 6:30 p.m.

8/6/10 Middle School Orientation 6th -7th, 6:30 p.m.

8/11/10 Meet Your Teacher K3- 7th, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

First Days of School: Our first day of school will be on Thursday, August 12th. Traditionally, our first two days of school are scheduled ½ days where students are dismissed at 12 noon. Supervision is available at 7:30 a.m. at the gym only. It is imperative that students arrive by 8:10 and will be escorted by school personnel into the school building. Prayer, pledge and announcement begin at 8:15 and all students are to participate. August 16th is the first full day of school. Our school day begins at 8:10 and ends at 3:30. Dismissal takes place in the gym. All students are to be picked up no later than 4 p.m. We know that the first days of school are exciting especially for your children. Know that staff will be on hand to review procedures and to be of assistance for students and parents. In order to meet the needs of our Montessori students, the following schedule will apply on the first days of school:

Thursday, August 12th – Returning K4 and K5 students are to report to school

Friday, August 13th - New K4 and K5 students are to report to school

Monday, August 16th – New K3 students are to report to school

After School Care & Study Hall: Packets will be available the first few days of school. A child must have proper paper work filled out before they begin the program. After School Care will begin August 16th and will run from dismissal until 5:30 p.m. Study Hall will begin August 23rd and will run from dismissal until 5:00 p.m.

Immunizations: It is imperative that all students be up to date with their required shots. Students who do not meet this requirement may not be admitted in class. These are required by the state of Texas and must be on file. If your child is missing the proper documentation please visit our office before the 12th. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call our office and speak to Mrs. Alcocer, our Health Coordinator. Thank you for your cooperation.

Uniforms: All students are to be in proper uniform according to their grade level. Parker Uniforms in Harlingen carries all necessary items for our school. A flyer has been posted on our web site. Students in 6th grade may purchase the new middle school uniform for this school year even though it is not listed on the flyer. This will be a year of transition for students where 6th graders may wear the elementary uniform if needed but will be required to wear the new uniform for the 10-11 school year. P.E. uniforms will be available the first week of school. Students in the elementary will wear the traditional red uniform and our middle school students (6th-7th) will be sporting a new P.E. uniform in grey and navy blue. The price for t-shirt remains \$11.00 and short price is \$15.00.

Business Office Reminders: We appreciate your timely manner of making your monthly tuition payments. We are a non-profit organization and rely on tuition to meet our monthly obligations. Tuition is billed by the 1st of the month and is due by the 15th of the month. At this time, all fees should be up to date. Fees and tuition may be made by check, cash payment, automatic debit and credit card (Visa, MasterCard) Registered students who have not met this requirement will not be placed on a class roster. If you have any questions please feel free to call the office and speak to our school accountant, Ms. Lupita Cano. She will be happy to assist you.

Forms: These documents are of the utmost importance to ensure safety for your child (ren), acquisition of local services and serve as a guide throughout the school year. It is imperative that they be properly be filled out and returned to your child's teacher in a timely fashion. Be on the lookout for the following: Emergency Card, Transportation Form, and Agreement for the Use of Computers and Telecommunications and Media Release. Next, Title I survey which enables our school to receive services for qualifying students. This is based on family income and surveys are kept confidential. Finally, our Parent and Student Handbook will be issued to each family. Changes and additions will be highlighted. Please take the time to review. Your child's teachers will be doing the same. An acknowledgement will be returned to the school. Thank you.

Building News: Patience is the key word and will remain so during the upcoming months. First I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Raul Cano for his hard work and dedication to the gym renovation project. We had hoped and expected to start the project at the beginning of

June but met a minor pause. We were directed by the Diocesan Building Committee to go out for additional bids to completely look at our options and hopefully save some money. The second round of bids ended a couple of weeks ago and over fifteen contractors visited our school. The selection is in process and everything else is in place already. We expect renovations to start soon. We will definitely keep you posted on this wonderful improvement to our community. We thank all everyone who supported our Raffle this last month and we congratulate the Oquin family for taking the grand prize. Over 700 tickets were sold to support this project. Thank you. As you walk the grounds you will see other projects done to improve our school such as new white boards, flooring in portable, new doors ect. We thank Mr. Luis Garcia for leading the way and for his work.

Technology Grant: Our school has been awarded a \$30,000 dollar grant from the Kenedy Foundation to support a new computer lab for the coming school year. We are presently looking at all of our options on how to improve our technology program and teachers are working on looking for ways to integrate across the content areas. We live in a technology driven society and it is all around us. It is a school initiative to guide students in using technology to grow in knowledge and have the skills needed to be their best to achieve in our fast growing world. We thank the Kenedy foundation for their continued support of our school.

Summer Reading: Students in 5th – 7th grade received a **required** reading list. Students are to come to school having read their material. Teachers will be reviewing and presenting opening activities based on their summer reading. Assignments will be guided and completed in opening weeks of school. If students own the copies of the novels it is best that they be brought to school.

Faculty and Staff Updates: We welcome the following educators to our St. Luke family: Mrs. Ana Tejada will be joining our fourth grade team. Mrs. Tejada comes with years of experience teaching in our local public schools and a clear understanding of Catholic schools attending herself as a young girl. Our middle school team will consist of Dr. Minerva. Villarreal (Language Arts), Mr. R. Galang (Science and Math) and Mrs. M. Gonzalez (Social Studies/Religion/Study Skills). They are each very enthusiastic and look forward to building our program. Together they bring experience and great passion. Our fine arts department has grown and will consist of Mrs. Frida Arellano (Art) and Mrs. C. Rendon (Drama/Music). These ladies are determined to let our students shine. Their goal is to integrate the arts with the world our students are experiencing in the present. We look forward to great things. Last school year, Mrs. Anabel Alvarez piloted a Spanish program with several grade levels. This year she will implement a program for students in 1st -7th. Students really enjoyed this last year and we look forward to this new program. We all know the importance of being bilingual and have a strong foundation in both English and Spanish. Mrs. M. Soto will be running the Learning Center and will manage a mobile science lab for grades K-3rd. She will provide great assistance to students and teachers. Also, Mrs. Martin will be a full time Instructional Facilitator with various duties and will be support to all teachers and students. I am confident that the new additions and changes to our faculty and staff will continue to

have a positive impact on our entire school community. Finally, we welcome Mrs. Sandra Wehrli who will join our counseling team.

We keep in our prayers and wish the following faculty members the best as they move on this coming year. Mr. Vargas has resigned and will be working solely at the parish. Mrs. M. Caballero will be our best volunteer (as she has promised to come in for special activities, presentations, etc.) and will be dedicating more time to her private practice in the coming school year. We thank them for their years of service and dedication to the children of St. Luke. It is not goodbye to either one of them as they will still be present in our school community in different capacities. At this moment, I am working on a schedule for a new counselor alongside Ms. Caballero's volunteer time. This information will be provided to the entire school community once it is available.

*Communication: As partners in your child's development and education it is vital that a positive line of communication be kept to meet the needs of our each of our students. It is so important and there is research to support that a parent's involvement has a positive impact on their child. We remember as parents we are our child's first teacher. What we do and say is so vital. It is important for parents to keep in contact with your child's teacher at all times. Always go to him or her if there is a need, question or concern first. There are many ways to communicate such as phone or email. Always feel free to call and schedule a conference. Parents and students will continue to have access to updates on **School Notes**. Parents may receive weekly updates via email. All you have to is submit your email address to your child's teacher(s). This and regular school updates can be accessed via our website www.stlukecatholicsschool.com. We will also be incorporating a Wednesday Folder for each student. The **Wednesday Folder** will be a system in which parents will receive all notices from the teacher, administration and others in an organized fashion on this designated day of the week. Look for the specific instructions on how this will work and assist all families.*

We thank you for choosing St. Luke Catholic School. We are confident that by working together the possibilities are endless. We treasure each of our students and dedicated ourselves to helping each of them reach for their highest potential. By focusing on the whole child, we make a difference in promoting excellence in academics, character and in nurturing a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the center of all we do. May you enjoy the rest of your summer vacation and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours in Christ,

Ana E. Gomez, M.Ed.

Principal