

## Upcoming Events at St. Luke School :

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\* Volleyball and Baseball Fall Seasons underway. Go St. Luke!

9/2/10— First School Mass for the Year, 8:30 a.m. Everyone welcomed to attend.

9/3/10- Diocesan Teacher Inservice , McAllen, TX—No classes

9/6/10- Labor Day Holiday—No classes Enjoy Your Family Time!

9/8/10- La Posada—Good Neighbor Settlement House

9/10/10—Blue Jean Day— All student's allowed to wear jeans with a St. Luke t-shirt. All donations made today will be collect for our 7th Grade service project—La Posada ( monthly meat served at the Good Neighbor Settlement Home, Brownsville)

9/22-9/24—Professional Learning Communities Conference : A team of teachers will attend this conference in San Antonio.

9/28—Individual Picture Day for Grades 4th -7th .

9/29- Individual Picture Day for Grades Montessori-3rd.

Students are to wear their Sunday's Best. No blue jeans please. Students will receive a proof to



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## Parental Involvement and Communication

There has been a strong interest in assisting on campus with day to day activities and events from parents. This is very welcomed as a lending hand is always needed. We are happy to share that various parents have come forward to dedicate time weekly with office duties, cafeteria and recess duty. We thank them.

Soon we will be contacting parents who have committed to help on committees, serve as coaches and dedicate their time as Room Mothers. Working together as a team and benefits the entire school community.

On another note, communication is very important. Open lines of communication vital in having a strong impact on your child's success. We

encourage all parents to address needs and concerns with their child's teacher. Administration is available to assist as well. We are here to meet the needs of all of our students and find solutions at all times. As mentioned before, teachers are available for conferences daily. Arrival and dismissal is not best practice. I know that it is tempting but does not prove as effective. Many teachers send notes home, communicate through the planner or email. Each teacher has a school email account . All school notices this year will be sent home in the Wednesday Folder. This will be the only day to ensure everyone receives information. Please take the time to review. If we want

to be informed we must do our part and review.

The Menu and Calendar of Events and newsletters are posted on -line for your convenience. Spanish version of the newsletter is posted as well. Links to every teacher's School Notes page . This web page will give parents a preview of the week ahead with reminders from teachers. If you submitted your email address to the teacher you will soon begin to receive an update every time the teacher updates their page. Classroom teachers in 1st -7th grade update their page weekly. There are many ways to stay informed. Please do not hesitate to see your child's teacher if you have any questions.

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# September Newsletter 2010

## Welcome Back to a New School Year

Our 2010-2011 school year is well underway! We welcome back all returning families and extend a warm welcome to all families who are new to St. Luke Catholic School.

During the summer months, the teachers and staff were hard at work attending professional development sessions, preparing classrooms, and planning units of study for the upcoming school year. Of course, we did manage to take time for some much needed rest and relaxation. By the first day of class, we were ready to return to school with renewed energy

and enthusiasm.

In order to smooth the transition from summer vacation to the academic year, it is helpful to establish routines at home to ensure your child has the proper nutrition and rest necessary to do well in class. Be sure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and lunch each day. It is also vital that your child gets enough sleep every night. Finally, establish a consistent routine for completing homework.

This year holds to be a year of change, challenges and celebration. Our current enrollment is at an

all-time high of 320 students in Montessori through seventh grade. We sincerely thank all of you for entrusting your children to us. Know that we continue to be committed to providing a quality Catholic education for your child in a safe and nurturing environment. We look forward to continued great things at St. Luke this year!

Mrs. Ana E. Gomez



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St. Luke Catholic School is to provide a Christian environment where children can grow spiritually, academically, physically and emotionally under the guidance of a nurturing community .

School Council Retreat

TBA

School Council Workshop

October 9, 2010, San Juan

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## Making History : Opening of Middle School

The opening of the 2010- 2011 school year was clearly a historic one for St. Luke Catholic School. After more than a dozen years of hoping, dreaming, and planning, our goal of opening a middle school was

finally realized. This year, we have added seventh grade to our school community, and next year, we will add eighth grade.

We welcome our new middle school staff, all of whom are highly qualified

teachers. Joining our faculty at the middle school level this year are Dr. M. Villarreal, (Language Arts) Mrs. M. Gonzalez, (Social Studies and Study Skills) and Mr. R. Galang (Math and Science).



## Counselor's Corner

We are off to a fast start! As we enter this new school year, we may find ourselves struggling to adjust to the new routine of coming to school and appropriately managing our after-school schedule. One of the most important aspects to remember as parents is that children thrive in environments where schedules and consistency exist. As you begin to establish new routines, take a moment to look at your schedules and ask yourselves if the routine that is in place is effective for you or your children?

Many times we set-up a schedule that suits us because we live busy lives;

unfortunately, that schedule may not be effective for our children. Keep these ideas in mind when establishing a new routine:

Establish a bedtime routine. Remember children need 8-10 hrs of sleep every night in order for them to be productive at school. A tired child may lead to tantrums (at all ages), moodiness, inappropriate eating habits (sugar cravings), headaches and other physical ailments that affect the learning process.

Children must arrive promptly at school. Young children may cry as you depart; however, rest assured that

their crying stops once you leave. Minimize the drama of the drop-off by going through the car drop-off EVERY morning at the same time. You will see that children will react better with this strategy.

Follow-up with any homework assignments BEFORE the bedtime routine begins. Children need to know that you are interested in their work and productivity.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school to schedule an appointment during my Friday schedule.

Ms. Marianela Caballero

## Fine Arts Department Shines and Mobile Science Lab begins

We are pleased to announce that we have expanded our Fine Arts program. This year, students in K-5 through seventh grade will have the opportunity to take Art and Drama classes. We welcome our new art teacher, Mrs. Frida Arellano, and our new drama teacher, Mrs. Corie Rendon. Both teachers have been hard at work planning lessons designed to

stimulate our students' creativity. Be prepared for marvelous shows and displays throughout the year.

We are also excited about our new Primary Science Lab. Mrs. Martha Soto will be our resident science specialist. She will visit K-5 through third grade classes on a weekly basis and conduct hands-on science activities with the students. These activi-

receiving in the classroom, and will introduce students to the scientific method at an early age.

These innovative programs can help plant the seeds for future scientists, inventors, artists, and directors. The sky's the limit!



## Parent Student Handbook Updates

The education of a child does not depend on his/her effort only but is a clear team effort. The team consists of the student, school personnel and parental support.

Over time, research has consistently



supported this fact. A positive relationship will nurture this endeavor. The Parent Student Handbook serves as a guide to do so. Each family has received a copy of this year's handbook. The following are highlights and

changes from previous years. Please review and submit the acknowledgment to your child's teacher.

- Pg. 10 Cellular Phones and Cameras
- Pg. 11 -12 Dress Code
- Pg. 16-17 Attendance Policy
- Pg. 18 Grading & Mid term/Finals
- Pg. 20 Wednesday Folder
- Pg. 26-28 Discipline

## Traffic, Traffic, Traffic

Safety is of the utmost importance and in order to maintain a safe environment everyone must cooperate. How? We can all follow the procedure set in place during arrival and dismissal times.

Many of the problems are common sense things that if not addressed and handled by each family may lead to an accident. This is to be avoided by all measures. We ask that everyone abide by the rules and be patient. We thank the Brownsville



Police Department that has agreed to patrol the parking lot as a reminder of the law and how it pertains to everyone.

- All traffic is to enter the parking lot through the designated entrance closets to the church. There is only one lane.
- All cars should move 5-10 mph only. This is not a speedway. Cellular phones are not permitted this is the law.
- All cars are to exit through the exit closets to the empty field.

Be cautious when driving at all times.

- All drivers and pedestrians are to be aware and patient at all times. If parked, drivers are to be extremely cautious when leaving.
- Students are not allowed to walk alone in the parking lot. Pedestrians are to follow the directions of personnel on duty.

Please review the diagram provided at the end of the newsletter. Remember that safety is everyone's responsibility.

We thank you for your cooperation.

## St. Luke Students Attend Texas Governor Perry's Luncheon

St. Luke had the honor of being invited to attend a special luncheon hosted by Brownsville Economic Development Council (BEDC) at the University of Brownsville Fine Arts Center.

We thank Mr. Gilbert Salinas, VP of Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs for the invitation. Our school was the only one in

attendance for this special occasion. Students in the seventh grade who had shown leadership qualities were given this special invitation. The students

were acknowledged by the council for their leadership and the school for its growth in our community.



Students were able to hear our Texas Governor speak on the importance of education, the impact of team work and healthy competition to drive an economy. Gov. Perry was recognized by the BEDC for his leadership in economic development in Texas.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students.

## Annual Open House Scheduled for September 2nd

Mark your calendars: our annual Open House will take place on Thursday, September 2. We will gather as a school community in the church at 6:30 p.m. Afterwards, you are invited to proceed to your child's classroom for an informational presentation by your child's teacher. We will host two classroom sessions so that families who have more than one child enrolled

at our school may attend multiple presentations. Each classroom presentation will last approximately twenty-five minutes. The teachers will share their goals and expectations for the new school year and will ex-



procedures and classroom routines. Please be sure to join us for this informative evening. We know that a strong home-school connection is the key to your child's educational success.