



# October Newsletter

## All Creatures of Our God and King

The memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4th. He continues to be a favored Saint by many Christians around the world. I would like to share with you some interesting details about him that make this true.

" Saint Francis gave up his wealth to live among the poor. He wanted to spend all of his time in prayer and in holy conversion. As the years passed and he traveled to many lands preaching about peace and the love of God, Francis learned more and

more to appreciate the simple gifts of God's creation. He realized that all creation is one, and he addressed the sun, the moon, the rivers, and the animals as his brothers and sisters. It is said that he spoke to the birds and calmed a dangerous wolf that was threatening the town of Gubbio. Those who share his respect for God's creatures choose the feast day of Saint Francis to ask for God's blessing upon their pets and upon all animals." ( Blessings and Prayers...,2004)

My we too celebrate in the awe of the many blessings of God. We pray:

" O God our Creator, everything that has the breath of life gives you praise! We ask you to watch over our pets and all animals. Keep them in good health. Guard them against trouble. May the wisdom of Saint Francis and our love for these animals deepen our respect for all your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mrs. Ana E. Gomez, M.Ed.

## Carnival Time: Annual Fall Festival

Plans for our Fall Festival are underway! This year's festival will take place on church and school grounds on October 24th and 25th. The St. Luke community is getting very excited about this time and looking forward to a successful carnival. An organ-

izational meeting ( Room Mothers) with a representative from each classroom was held this past week to begin plans. If you signed up as a Room Mother or to volunteer in the carnival you will be receiving a phone call soon.

Each classroom will

host a game or food booth. Various clubs and organizations will also host booths. All help and donations are welcome. Please contact the school office.

The official raffle will take place on Sunday evening. Do not forget to submit your tickets stubs prior to that day. We wish everyone luck!

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School Council Meeting  
 October 19th  
 6:30 P.M.  
 Library

Spanish Version of Newsletter on Website.



## Counselor's Corner

As we continue to focus on building character at St. Luke Catholic School, we move on to the next pillar of character: RESPECT.

This word that our student body hears frequently because it is a part of our school motto. However, this month we will focus on the importance of putting this motto into action.

One of the biggest concerns that has arisen is the respect (or lack thereof) that children demonstrate to one another. For example, the playground is a crucial time where the students forget to be respectful with one another due to

the excitement of playing, or having independent play. Together with the teachers I will be focusing on helping the children to use respectful behaviors, words and tone of voice with everyone they encounter. At times, it is simply a matter of improving their impulsivity.

One of the greatest tasks is teaching our children empathy: the ability to imagine what another person might feel. Therefore, we encourage you to help your son or daughter by practicing using respectful behaviors at home with siblings or other family members.

Correct their behavior by having them put themselves in the other person's

shoes. Gentle, but consistent, reminders are helpful to build positive habits.

I will be conducting a Parent Workshop that will help you to address the "Common Issues with Children." This meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14 at 9 a.m. in the Computer Lab. I will be addressing aggressive behavior, handling anger, improving motivation and building positive relationships. My presentations are bilingual, so make plans to attend!



## Jump Rope for Heart



Coach Heriberto Perez spends time with all of our students discussing a healthy life style. In his health lessons, he stresses the importance of staying active and eating healthy. A healthy heart benefits from this combination. Many people continue to suffer from heart disease around the world and the need for awareness and research continues.

We congratulate the students of our school for a successful campaign. Students in K- 6th grade collected pledges to aid the American Heart Association. A total of \$2,192.88 was collected for this cause. We continue to support healthy living.



## Hats on for Cancer

For the first time this year our school will be participating in the "Hats on Day" fundraiser sponsored by the Foundation for Children with Cancer. This event encourages children to bring in a hat (store-bought or handmade) to raise money for hospitals that treat children with cancer. The National Elementary Honor Society will be coordinating the event bringing awareness to the student body. The week of October 12th will be dedicated for this event, and on Friday, October 16th will be the official "Hats On Day." Money collected that week for mission bag and the Friday Blue Jean Day will go directly to the cause. Monies raised will stay in Texas. Visit their website for more information : [www.childrenwithcancer.org](http://www.childrenwithcancer.org)

## Student Council Elections

Student government is key in developing leaders for tomorrow. St. Luke School sponsors a Student Council for students in grades 3rd-6th grade. This group of students serve as a voice for all students of the school. Students prepare and facilitate special activities and carry out special service projects in the community. Students develop leadership and service skills that last a lifetime.

Students in 5th and 6th grade may serve on the executive board which reports to the principal. The students are nominated by their peers and plan their own individual campaigns. This year the process will begin on Monday, October 5th. Students will place posters throughout the school and will give a formal speech on Thursday, October 8th. Official elections will take place on the following day. Classroom representatives for 3rd-6th grade are then voted in by their classmates.

We look forward to a successful year.



## Student/ Parent/Teacher Conferences

The end of the first quarter will be October 16th. On Friday, October 23rd time will be set aside for parents and student to meet with teachers. This will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Report Cards will be distributed at this time. If you are unable to attend please do not hesitate to call the office or speak to your child's teacher(s) to schedule a conference at a different date or time. Remember that there are no classes on this day. Thank you.

## “Kindness Coins” Craze

Our school has adopted a new classroom recognition program to encourage our students to improve their behavior at school. You might have heard your children talk about the “Kindness Coins” that are being distributed by faculty and staff members.

Faculty and staff received “Kindness Coins” to be awarded to students whenever they witness a kind deed or behavior that was demonstrated during ANY part of the day. Children NEVER know when they will receive a coin, so the idea is that

the students will be acting kindly towards one another at all times. The students have been instructed to NOT ask for a coin for their behavior. The deed, or behavior, must be genuine and/or altruistic behavior. The adult has been instructed to inform the child, or the class, the reason why they have received a coin. The teacher publicly recognizes the reason for the awarded coin. The homeroom collects all of the coins as a group and the room with the most coins at the end of the month will receive a special treat.

This will continue every month for the entire school year. The faculty

and staff have already noticed an improvement in behavior and the students' excitement for the program.

The recipients for September were Mrs. Deibel's Montessori group. They selected a movie and popcorn for their “special treat.”

The “Kindness Coins” was an idea from Mrs. Espinosa that has proven to be effective, and so far so good. So we would like to thank Ms. Espinosa for her idea and Ms. Caballero for the coordination of the program.



## Health Update : Flu Season



As a school community we continue to monitor and take all precautions to maintain a safe and clean environment at all times. The flu season has arrived early this year. To help keep families informed and updated we have made available links on our website to the CDC (Center of Disease Control) and a government site dedicated just to the flu.

TCCED and the Catholic School Office is requiring all schools to send home students who are running a fever of 100.4. As parents, we monitor our children and it is highly recommended that they be taken to the doctor for an evaluation. People with influenza-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).

If your child is absent from school for any reason, we ask that all families call the school office to notify. Any child who is absent from school because of a fever must bring a doctor's release stating the child may return to school. Remember that these are excused absences and

and that teachers will allow make-up time for all missed work and tests.

Teachers continue to teach and enforce good hygiene practices such as hand washing, coughing etiquette, the use of hand sanitizers and keeping the class room clean. School restrooms should be cleaned twice a day. High traffic areas are wiped down throughout the day such as desks and work areas in the classroom. All water fountains should be cleaned at least every two hours. Many parents have asked if they may continue to donate hand sanitizer, wipes and disinfecting spray for the classrooms. This is of course welcome! Also, air purifiers, especially those with ultra violet light, have been found to decrease the spread of influenza by removing allergens, viruses and bacteria from the air. If you have an air purifier that you are not using, or would like to donate one to your child's classroom, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation and please do not hesitate to call my office if there are any questions, suggestions or concerns.

## Reminders

As stated in our Student Parent Handbook the following are reminders:

**Visitor's Policy:** All visitors to the school are to report to the office and sign, receive a Visitor's Pass before they head to the destination. All doors on our campus are kept locked during the school day to ensure safety. No St. Luke student is allowed to open the door to any one unless given permission by an authorized adult. We appreciate your patience in waiting to be greeted.

**Birthdays:** Montessori students celebrate their birthdays at snack time or at a time designated by the teacher. The Teacher along with the parent organizes a “Celebration of Life.” Students from 1st-6th may celebrate during their lunch time with a birthday treat such as cupcake or cookie) Parents are allowed to eat with their children at lunch on their birthday.



## School Support

With the coming Fall Festival, we are asking for a few donations for this fabulous event. Our First Grade classes will be hosting the "Loteria" again this year. This is always a favorite. We are asking for donations for prizes. These may be any household item of five or more dollars is acceptable. Gift cards, family oriented items, or seasonal items are also accepted.

Ms. Martin's class will be hosting the famous 2 liter Ring Toss. Any Coke product is acceptable. These will be given away as prizes over the two evenings.

Monetary donations are acceptable and may be placed in an envelope and marked and sent to the office. Thank you for your support! See you at the Fall Festival!

## Special Celebration

As many of you are aware, Monsignor Bert Diaz is celebrating his 20th anniversary in the priesthood. Along with his parents ( who are celebrating their 50th anniversary of the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony) , a special Mass will be celebrated on October 30th at 6:30 p.m. A reception will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

We celebrate with the Diaz family and may God continue to bless each of them.



## Living Rosary

On October the 7th , Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is a traditional form of Christian prayer that dates back to the times of St. Dominic. It is an opportunity to meditate on the life of Christ while on earth. Holy Scripture is the focus . We pray for the intercession of Mary to our God. He listens and answers all of our prayers.

On Wednesday, October 7th our fourth grade students will present the Living Rosary. It is a time of prayer, reflection, and song. Students are asked to bring flowers to school this day to offer

to the Virgin Mary. Students in 2nd-6th grade will attend the service. Parents, family members and friends are invited to attend. The Rosary will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the church.

The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary. Take the time to pray with your family and truly find the grace and peace it brings. We thank Ms. Martin and Mrs. Espinosa for organizing this prayer service.



## Planning Sessions

As our school community continues to grow and prosper, we look to the future with great confidence and hope. Staying true to our mission of creating a Christian environment where all students grow academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally we see the benefits in them as they move on.

Just yesterday, I attended a football game where one of our graduates clearly shined his light as he rushed for two touchdowns and exemplified true sportsmanship and leadership with his teammates. He is a proud freshman at Hanna High School enrolled in Pre Advanced Placement courses. Our graduates attending St. Joseph Academy and Incarnate Word have come back to say how confident and prepared they feel. It is nice for our teachers to hear them tell our current 5th and 6th students to listen to their teachers.

With this planning sessions and committees have been set to plan special activities, fundraising and school improvement. Get involved and help us continue making a difference! We will keep you informed.

## Upcoming Events

10/5 : Picture Order Money due. Retakes and Sibling Pictures (group) date TBA

10/5-10/9: Student Council Campaign

Fire Prevention Week

10/12-10/16th: Hats On for Cancer ( Mission Bag donations for the week will go to this cause sponsored by the NEHS)

10/16 : Blue Jean Day & Crazy Hat Day ( details will be sent home or via internet)

10/16: Monsignor Bert's Birthday  
End of the First Quarter

10/19: Fire Truck Visit

10/20: National Day on Writing Celebration: Check out our displays and our work posted on-line. Link will be set up via our web page

10/23: Student/Parent/Teacher Conference : 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Raffle tickets due.

10/24 & 10/25: Carnival Time! Times to be posted.

10/26: Teacher Work Day/ No classes

10/30: Story Book Day / Family Picnic  
11:30 a.m. Details forthcoming!

Anniversary Mass at 6:30 p.m. St Luke Church/ Reception K of C Hall