



*No. 3
21st September 2011*

Dear Parents/Carers,

These days it seems that when we turn on the television, pick up a paper, or check the Internet all we get is bad news. We all ask the question, "Why"? We know that acts of nature are beyond our control, but what about the acts of people? Why do people, especially young people, use violence or offensive language as a solution to a problem or a disagreement? Is our society coming to a point where people only act on their feelings and cannot interact with reason and dialogue? As Christians, we have been taught by Jesus to talk through our problems and to forgive each other. As a local community, a school community, and as a family we need to remember our Christian heritage and to put into action what we have been taught by Jesus: "Love one another as I have loved you". Therefore I ask you as parents to talk with your children about how to live out the message of Jesus. Surround them with the Good News, not the bad.

Sports Program

Congratulations to our sport teams who have had a great start to the baseball and volleyball seasons. The children are very excited about their games, and I am very appreciative of the work that our parent coaches are doing with the children. I encourage as many of you to attend the Annual Athletic Picnic this Sunday at Alta Loma Park. It starts at 12noon and finishes around 4pm. Many thanks to the 5th grade parents for organizing the picnic.

High School Information Evening

Our High School Information Evening will be hosted at here at All Souls on Tuesday, October 4th beginning at 6pm and concluding at 8.15pm for students from grades 6 through 8. The format of the evening will center around the high schools presenting information about their schools in a fair-like setting in the cafeteria along with 20 minute presentations from the high schools in the classrooms. This was a successful evening last year and everyone gained a wealth of information about the various Catholic high school options for our students. This year we have invited St. Veronica's parents and students to attend this event.

ITBS Testing week

This week we have seen our grade 2 through to grade 8 students sit for the ITBS tests. These tests assist the teachers in developing relevant learning experiences for students who may need additional assistance with their learning. The tests are used as a diagnostic tool, and they also give the school an overall picture of how our students are performing against the national norm. Parents will receive a copy of the results at parent/teacher conferences in November.

Parish Festival and School Auction

The school board has decided that due to the loss of one of our major sponsors we will not be holding the annual auction for 2011-12. Instead we will still continue with the raffle and will hold a couple of other fundraisers. The parish festival committee has invited the school and the athletic board to operate booths and to keep the earnings for the

board along with the teachers have prepared auction items which will be on display during the festival and people will be able to bid on the items during the three days. We hope that people will be aggressive with their bidding so that the school can earn a substantial amount toward fulfilling the fundraising commitment. Between the raffle and other activities the school board is committed to raise \$20,000.00.

Families who signed up for either Category B or C Auction on their Family Agreements will be asked to assist during the festival to supervise the mini-auction booth. One of the school board members will be in contact with you to find out what hours you will be able to assist. I thank you in advance for your support.

Rollout of 5th Grade Laptops

This week our 5th graders will receive their laptops and we look forward to them in using the laptops to enhance their learning.

Online Electronic Books

In our junior high classes, students have access to online subject text books in science and math. Links to these resources are located on the relevant grade websites that the teachers have established. This means that students do not have to bring their heavy textbooks home each day. If you have any concerns about this please contact the relevant teacher.

Junior High Email Accounts

Mrs. Hornick has set up email accounts for each junior high student. The emails are secured via the Google intranet that the school has set up. This means students can only send and receive emails from their peers and their teachers in school not from anyone else outside of school. Once again this is a great opportunity for our students to collaborate with each other with their learning.

Preschool Update

The preschool discussion is certainly alive and the school board is making progress with a preschool plan. We are anticipating the preschool to open next August 2012. The school board, school leadership team and the parish team looked at a number of options and all three groups agreed with the selected option. We are currently

care building, and the preschool would be located in the current kindergarten room. We had hoped for the preschool to be housed in the convent, but due to state compliances we would be up for \$500,000.00 in construction! A timeline has been developed for the start of the preschool, and we will keep the school community informed. We will be establishing a search committee for the appointment of the preschool director.

Family School Mass

Our next Family School Mass is on Sunday, October 2nd at 9am. Our 6th grade class will be preparing this Mass. We look forward to seeing as many of our families as possible at this Mass.

Early Dismissals

Monday, October 3rd is an early dismissal day and students will be dismissed at 2.30pm.

Friday, October 7th is a minimum day with dismissal at 12:20pm. The festival begins that evening.

Vincent Riener
PRINCIPAL

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be available to parents and students next Thursday. You will be able to access your son/daughter's grades online. There will be no paper copies available. You will need to log onto the DMS (Cornerstone) from the parent portal of the school website:

www.ssfallsoulsschool.org. All parents have received log-in information, and we will reissue your username and password by an email early next week. If you have problems logging on to the DMS, please contact the school office at 583- 3562. If you need assistance to log in we have computers that you can use at school.

Virtue of the Month

Our Virtue of the Month is faith. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." Faith can help us face life's challenges, though life will not always be easy. When we feel doubt we can ask God's help. We know that God is with us. God gives us this gift of faith. It is up to us to choose to accept it.

World's Finest Chocolate

ALL MONIES are due this Friday,
September 23rd.

Student/Parent Handbook

There has been an addendum to the handbook. Please find the handbook online and read the addendum made to the Field Trip Section 8.9.7 on Page 36.

Athletic News

Get your raffle ticket now! Great Prizes!

This Sunday will be our annual **All Souls Athletic Program Picnic**. This event is open to **EVERYONE!** Bring the family. Bring the neighbors.

But, if you can't make it on Sunday, you can still take part in the fun while supporting sports for all our kids ...

Members of the picnic committee will be selling raffle tickets in the school yard today and tomorrow (Thursday and Friday) after school.

Prizes include **49er's Tickets, Pier 39 Fun Packs, Movie Tickets, Target Gift Cards, Gimbal's Fine Candies Basket, All Souls Free Dress Passes ...** and more!

So, don't miss out on the excitement and get your raffle tickets in the schoolyard today or tomorrow to support your All Souls Sports Program!