



# SUN TIMES

NEWS FROM SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

*"Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child."*

Volume 8, Issue 9

Roberta Harvey, Principal

Denise Mulcahy, Assistant Principal May 2007

Dear Saint Francis Families-

How is it possible that we are already into the third week of Easter? Easter joy and blessings to you all! I hope you enjoyed the Easter Triduum as much as our family did.

Holy Saturday was particularly beautiful as the history of the church was shared from Old and New Testament scriptures. Young, old, mother and child were brought into the church with such genuine love and devotion to the Word. As a group we recommitted ourselves to Christ's teachings and works. Truly the Holy Spirit blessed this gathering and I felt fortunate, no blessed, to be part of such a stirring celebration.

In the meantime, school is in its full spring swing! This means final preparation for our second graders as First Eucharist quickly approaches the weekend of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Eighth graders have completed their interviews and are nearing their Confirmation on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

We cannot forget to express our gratitude to our second and eighth grade teachers, Mary Green and the entire Religious Education staff, and to our parents for guiding and supporting our students in these important Sacraments of Initiation. Please remember our dear ones with your prayers.

April and May have our students out and about on various curriculum field trips, service trips, and athletic competitions. Our music department has some wonderful performances lined up: a seventh grade musical, sixth and eighth grade vocal concert, middle school instrumental concert, and an appearance by our newly formed jazz band.

Please make sure to check emails for times and dates. The calendar is full, day-by-day!

We can't forget our annual school outing at the I-Cubs game on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. This always a great way to celebrate our community and show our spirit! Last, but not least, our first eighth grade class will be graduating from St. Francis this year. Several activities are planned for them in May – a service project at the Freedom for Youth campus, a service trip celebration at Adventureland, and a graduation mass and reception on May 31.

To all of you hard-working parents who find the time to volunteer at our school, time and again, we give you a great big appreciative "THANKS"! You make our boat float. You are the candles on our cake. Merci, gracias, and god bless you always. Our mission would be incomplete without you. Your efforts not only help make this school run more smoothly, but make this environment joyful for all.

I have one last request for all of you. Please pray for our school as we work through the hiring process for next year. We give thanks to the dedicated service of those who are leaving, and ask God's blessings and wisdom to guide our decisions about future teachers all for the glory and honor of God. Amen.

Peace,

*Roberta Harvey*

Roberta Harvey,  
Principal



## MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

for Grades 7 & 8

Holy Family School

May 4

7 pm-9:30 pm

\$6.00

School ID's REQUIRED



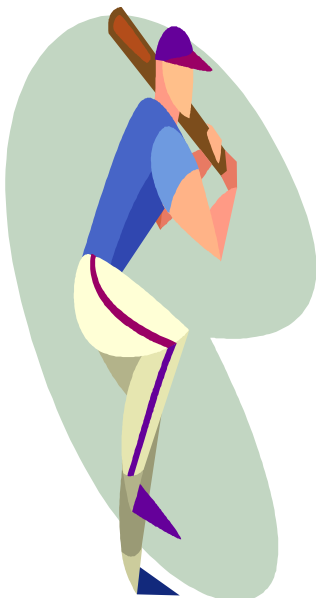
## Transportation Reimbursement Reminder!

Deadline for second semester reimbursement forms is May 1, 2007.

You will find reimbursement information and forms on the front page of the website. You must submit a form to your local school district's transportation office in order to receive your reimbursement. Mileage requirements may apply.

As always, call the school office if you have any questions, 457-7167.

# SPRING



### *Take Me Out to the Ball Game!*

St. Francis Night at the I-Cubs!

Friday, May 25

7:05 PM

School Kick-off, Friday, April 27

Four tickets will be sent home with each student on this day.  
Any tickets not purchased must be returned to the school office.

See you at Principal Park on May 25!



## Book Nook by Mrs. Mary Head

It doesn't seem possible that the end of the 2006 – 2007 is nearing. As the school year draws to a close, the media center prepares for the yearly inventory. It is a major undertaking and would not be possible without the help of numerous dedicated volunteers.

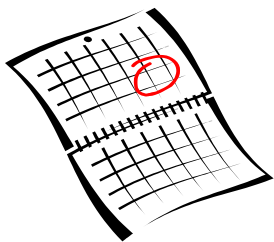
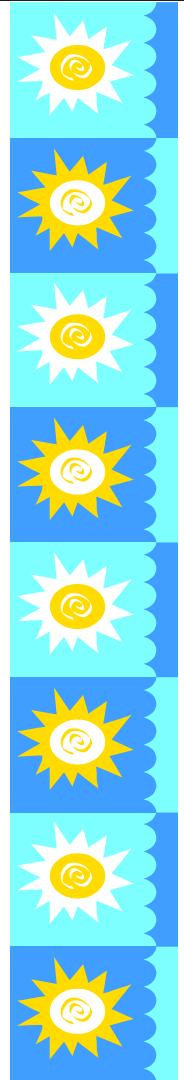
An important date to remember is: **May 14, 2007 – ALL LIBRARY BOOKS ARE DUE**

In order to prepare the library, inventory the materials, and cover the shelves, it is imperative that all library materials be returned by May 14. Please be aware and plan for this date. **Students who have unfinished genre logs on May 14<sup>th</sup> will not be able to complete the logs with books from the St. Francis Library.**

With May 14<sup>th</sup> approaching, it is time to launch an all-out search for library materials. Keep in mind, it is far better for the library when missing books are found and returned rather than paid for. The time and cost spent ordering, shipping, and processing the replacement book along with the unavailability of the book during that time is a hardship on everyone. Please search thoroughly before paying for the item. Replacement costs for the ones that are on "forever lost" status are \$20 for hardcover books and \$8 for paper.

Thank you to the many library volunteers who have given so generously of their time and talent. Their efforts keep the library operating smoothly and efficiently.

Have a wonderful summer.



## CALENDAR DATES for 2007-08

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Wed, Aug 22      1st Day of School
- Wed, Nov 21      Thanksgiving break
- Thurs, Dec 20    11:30 Dismissal for Christmas Break
- Thurs, Jan 3      Classes resume
- Fri, Mar 14        NO SCHOOL, Staff Development
- Mar 17-21         Spring Break week
- Mon, Mar 24       NO SCHOOL, Easter break
- Fri, May 30        11:30 Dismissal—LAST DAY!

# READING RECOVERY/READING SUPPORT

by Mrs. Mary Anne Conway

- Reading Recovery students are learning what it means to be a good reader; they have important jobs as readers during their lessons.
- Reading has to make sense! If what the reader is reading doesn't make sense, then it is the reader's job to attempt to figure out what was wrong.
- Good readers catch most of their mistakes by listening and thinking about the story while reading. Often children know that something they said didn't make sense. Sometimes they just keep on reading, expecting a teacher or parent to stop them if they're "wrong". Students are learning that it's their job to self-monitor and try something to fix their mistakes. Other times, a child might stop and wait at difficulty. If they wait, they are asked to think about what is going on in the story and then start the word again.
- Another job students have is to be active readers. Reading Recovery students learn many ways to fix their mistakes when they're stuck on a word. Their job as an active reader involves trying the following when they're stuck:
  - ⇒ Look at the picture
  - ⇒ Think about the story
  - ⇒ Reread from the beginning of the sentence
  - ⇒ Look for what is known about the problem word
- As students do their job of looking for what is known about the problem word, they are encouraged to look for word parts or "chunks" they know. Their job is to say those known parts. It is beneficial to use the largest known part(s) rather than isolating letter by letter.
- Following the rules of directionality to read from left to right is another job for students. Reading from left to right is important when students come across words with identical letters, but different ordering of those letters (example: stop/spot; from/form). When students read the wrong word, they are asked to reread the sentence and look at the letters from left to right in the problem word, while saying the word.
- Respecting the author's words is yet another job students have in Reading Recovery. They know that we only read the words the author has written. If students do begin adding words, deleting words or changing words (example: Mama/Mother, shop/store or kitten/cat) they are reminded to respect the author and read only what they see on the page.
- Reading is hard work and students have many jobs during the course of their lesson. They need our love and support as they work through the tricky parts in their reading. The comments that we make at home and school let our children know that we recognize their effort. It is important that they know that we are aware that they are becoming good readers and we are proud of them!

*Happy Reading & Happy Writing*

## MUSICAL NOTES by Mrs. Lee Randall

Concert time is almost here! Please be certain that your students will be at their required concert at the times and days listed below.

- May 15<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade - arrive at 6:40 in music room for warm up (no earlier please). Please wear dress clothes (no jeans).
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 2:00 Dress rehearsal for the students at school. Please wear your colored shirt with dress code pants.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade: speaking characters arrive at 6:00 for final placement and sound check; soloists arrive at 6:20 for sound check. All other students arrive at 6:40 for set-up and placement. Students should wear jeans and their colored shirt (these have been distributed in class).

These are required performances that are a part of the music grade.

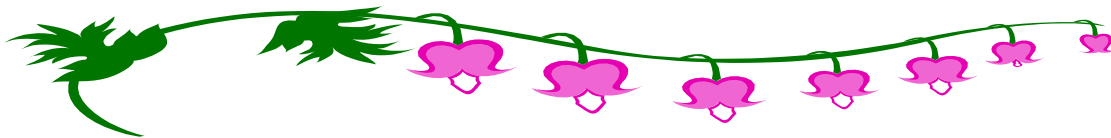
### Thank you!

A great big thank you to all of the parents who helped and loaned popcorn poppers for our recorder parties! I could not have done it without you. The kids enjoyed the popcorn and had lots of fun!

Another thank you to all of those who have donated their time and materials for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade musical. This production could not have been done without you! Thank you to the parents creating the costumes as well!

### OPUS Preparation for grades 5-8

OPUS preparations for students currently in 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade will start earlier this year. OPUS is auditioned choir groups that perform at the convention. Interested students need to see Mrs. Randall. There is a sign up sheet in the music room. At this time you are not committed to participating. I will send out information on rehearsals and copies of music for students to practice at the end of the school year. Rehearsals for OPUS will begin in August.



### *Terra Livre*

#### May 22 Missions Jeans Day!

Terra Livre is an organization that is located in Goiania, Brazil. Each year DCHS students have an opportunity to choose this location as a mission trip during their spring break. Terra Livre works to break the cycle of oppression through education, art and solidarity. Terra Livre future projects include a day care facility for the poorest children of the Goiania area.

A presentation on Terra Livre is scheduled for May 17 following the 9:00 AM Ascension liturgy. The Jeans Day to support this organization is scheduled for May 22.

Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.



## ENRICHMENT by Mrs. Chris Joslin

SFA sent in 7 projects to the Heartland AEA Technology Fair. Those seven entries won 2 red ribbons, 5 blue ribbons and 2 "Director's Choice" ribbons. The students involved were: 5th Graders: Matthew Blaser, Tom Bowman, Rachel Hanna, Jacque LeWarne, Colin Murphy and Rachel Wenman. 7th graders: Megan Ball, Megan Bowman, Kristina Maude and Kasie Nitzel. Congratulations to these students for their hard work and creativity!

MOCK TRIAL CAMP for SFA 5th, 6th, 7th grade students. See the attached flyer for more information!

A big congratulations to the seventh grade Odyssey of the Mind team for their hard work and success at State Competition on March 31 at Iowa State University. The team took first place in Spontaneous and a close second in the Style category. Their structure placed fourth for an overall score of fourth place. The team represented Saint Francis in a beautiful light and many wonderful comments were made about their creativity.

Next year, there will be an opportunity for more Odyssey of the Mind teams in the middle school. OM is an organization that fosters hard work, creativity, and teamwork. At the end of the April, the middle school will have the opportunity to see what a final product looks like and more information about forming teams will be coming home as well. Parent volunteers will be needed for this next year. In the meantime, visit <http://odysseyofthemind.com> for more information.



## ¡Noticias en español para mayo!

by Mrs. Shelly Power

**Sixth and Eighth** grade students continue with lessons on the family. Students learned family tree concepts and how to state family relationships in Spanish. Students took four short quizzes to learn vocabulary and now can discuss and write about their own families. In May, sixth graders will learn body parts vocabulary and be able to describe themselves based on their physical characteristics. Eighth graders will go on a "trip" to Marian shrines in Spanish-speaking countries.

**Fourth and Fifth grade** students are learning about regions and landforms in Spanish. They labeled maps of the United States and Mexico and will compare landforms and communities in the US and Spanish-speaking countries.

**First, second, and third grade** students are learning food vocabulary. They have learned how to state what fruits they like and dislike from the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, in Spanish. Students can say the day and date in Spanish and discuss the weather. In May, students will learn about foods from Mexico and from what food groups those words come. *¡Buen provecho!*

All Saint Francis Spanish class students should be able to recite  
the Sign of the Cross in Spanish:  
*En el nombre del Padre, del Hijo, y del Espiritu Santo. Amen.*



## News from the Lunchline

by Mrs. Barb Wisnieski and Mrs. Jeannine Laughlin

HAPPY MAY! With just one month of school left we have decided to put some new items on the menu. Check it out! We encourage the children to try new foods and a component to having a successful hot lunch program is exposing the students to new foods. Let us know what you think and we always love to hear what the kids have to say...especially if they have any new ideas!

With the end of the year comes collecting unpaid lunch accounts. This is a very time consuming endeavor so we ask that you stay on top of your accounts. We would like to have all accounts up to date by May 30th! Please watch your email for reminders. If you have a positive balance at the end of the year, that money will be kept in your child's account until next year. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kindergarteners will be having a lunch on Friday, May 11. A letter will be sent home with your child explaining all the details. This is always an exciting time for the Kindergarteners and we are so glad to be able to provide them with this experience!

Please consider volunteering next year to work in the cafeteria or on the serving line. It is such fun and the only volunteer job you can do in one hour and see all your children in action! Thanks to all of you who do come and help us out. We don't tell you enough how much we appreciate all your hard work!

Have a great May!