



The Principal's Communicator

Volume 5, Issue 1

Summer, 2010

A New Year Begins

The future lies in the hearts and minds of our students. Nowhere is the future better supported than at Catholic Schools. Students are prepared not only by learning the 3 R's (Reading, (W)Riting, and (A)Rithmetic), but by also by learning, experiencing, and living the 4th R – Religion. Students will need to have a firm educational background based on a strong moral foundation to be successful in the future.

Margaret O'Brien Steinfelds, former editor of *Commonweal Magazine*, encourages Catholic educators to do more for more people. "I believe that Catholic education needs to engender an enlarged sense of its own mission that will try to have a distinctive impact on American culture," Ms. Steinfelds said. "More than literate, productive and skilled citizens, we also will need citizens prepared for critical engagement with American culture. Some people use the term counter-cultural, but I think critical engagement is what is needed."

By choosing St. Matthew School you have started the process where your child will learn the educational skills needed for success. Your child will also develop sound moral principles based on Catholic teachings to help him/her make important decisions now and in the future. A strong Faith Foundation will serve as the building blocks needed later in life.

Besides academic differences, an important difference is the Spiritual and Character Formation of students. Everything we teach, all programs and activities are based on our fundamental purpose – providing a sound Catholic education. As the students progress through the grades and questions begin to arise, the teachings of the Catholic Church are emphasized so a sound, moral decision can be made. Students are instructed to look at decisions and base them on our Gospel values. It is not something that will happen in one day or even one year. It is a process that takes many years to introduce and a lifetime to achieve. If the child develops his/her values, a growth in areas of **Trust, Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Tolerance, Caring, Fairness, Community Involvement, and Stewards of the Environment** will emerge. The formation program is the core of our Catholic Education.

To ensure success, the students rely on teachers, staff, administrator, and the community to reaffirm their commitment to quality education, the future, and – most importantly – the children. Our School and Parish Staffs are committed to making our school a place where all will grow in their love of God; become enthusiastic to learn; develop trust and confidence in each other; and provide the best educational opportunity for children.

Academic achievement is an important component of our school and one in which the Faculty and Staff work hard to maintain and improve.

No school is perfect. Our faculty and staff constantly strive to improve areas in which we can do better. With your help we hope to make this our most successful year. I wish to welcome you to a new school year! To all new to our school, thank you for choosing St. Matthew School – you made a wise choice.

The Principal's Communicator is a weekly newsletter published by Mr. Fisher on Fridays during the school year. The Principal's Communicator can be received either through e-mail or by visiting the school's website:

www.saintmatthewsparish.org

The Communicator tries to inform families of general events and school news. Specific classroom news is distributed to parents through the homeroom teacher's individual web page. Go to our school website (above), click on St. Matthew School on the left side of the Parish page, click on Teachers' Websites and select the desired teacher or staff member to access their web page. (Teachers are in the process of updating their webpages so don't rush to see new information just yet; new information will be posted by August 27.)

Friday Communicator Envelopes. In order to make it easier for families to receive paper copies of tests and material not available online, the St. Matthew Communicator Envelope will be used again this year. All papers needing to go home during the week will be stored in the envelope for you and then distributed on Fridays. Over the weekend, empty the envelope, sign and return papers that need to be returned, sign the envelope on the line designated for that week, and return the envelope to your child's teacher on Monday. If you don't receive your envelope weekly, ask for it or go through your child's bookbag. All students from Early Childhood - Grade 8 use the Communicator Envelope weekly.

Cafeteria Service News. Beginning Tuesday, August 31, our daily lunch program will be offered. Mrs. Nancy Furlong will continue to offer Cafeteria Service to our students. Lunch orders must be pre-ordered and paid in advance. September lunch order choices are listed online. An order form for August 31 - September 10 and the next order form for September 13 - 24 are available at our website. If you wish to order lunch for any or all days, please complete the form and return it to school by August 30. In order for Mrs. Furlong to order the food needed, lunch orders can not be accepted after the due date.

The Faculty and Staff of St. Matthew Grade School 2010 - 2011

Early Childhood Center (Pre-K for 3 and 4 year olds)

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Pre-K: | Mrs. Patricia Sullivan | Pre-K . Assistants: | Mrs. Diana Rykaczewski |
| Pre-K . Assistants: | Miss Erica Basara | | |

Elementary Grades (K - 4)

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Kindergarten: | Mrs. Susan Killen | Kinderg. Assistant: | Mrs. Leticia Broujos |
| 1st Grade : | Mrs. Tracy Kohl | 2nd Grade: | Mrs. Nancy Raymond |
| 3rd Grade: | Mrs. Carol Monaghan | 4th Grade: | Mrs. Kathy Brownlee |

Middle School (5 - 8)

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 5th Grade: | Mrs. Erin Fetters | 6th Grade: | Mr. Rosario Limmina |
| 7th Grade: | Mrs. Sheryl Persinger | 8th Grade: | Mrs. Katie Donovan |
| Math & Science (5-8): | Mrs. Ellen Tannenbaum | I.L.A. (Gr 7) | Mrs. Katie Donovan |
| Math & Science (Gr 5): | Mrs. Katie Donovan | | |

Non-Homeroom Teachers

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Art: | Mrs. Rena Winter | Physical Education: | Mrs. Kathy Schnell |
| Media Specialist: | Mrs. Kathy Fisher | Computer Lab: | Ms. Cindy Luce |
| World Language: | Mrs. Diane Pedicone | Music: | Mrs. Katie Donovan |

Staff

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| School Secretary: | Mrs. AnnMarie Wilber | Part-time Office: | Ms. Cindy Luce |
| I.T. Part Time: | Mrs. Ronnie Dorso | Nurse: | Mrs. Sandy Baran |
| Business Manager: | Deacon Frank Quinlan | Custodian: | Mrs. Jeannie Celano |
| Before School Care: | Miss Erica Basara | Maintenance: | Mr. Robert Reece |
| After School Care: | Mrs. Marian Jackson | Cafeteria: | Mrs. Nancy Furlong |
| Administrator: | Mr. Bernard J. Fisher | Religious Education: | Miss Patricia Berrigan |
| Pastor: | Father Joseph Drobinski | | |

Odds and Ends

... Don't forget to meet your child's homeroom teacher and pick-up your materials and supplies on Thursday, August 26 from 5:30-7PM or on Friday, August 27 from 9AM-Noon. Your child will receive a note from his/her homeroom teacher by August 20. When you first arrive, enter through the Fallon Ave. door and go to the Open Area (Cafeteria). All families with students in Kindergarten-Grade 8 are required to pay a \$200. materials fee per student. This fee is collected on when you pick-up your materials and supplies. Families in the Early Childhood Program will pay a \$100. materials fee to your child's teacher during the Information Night on August 30. Checks are made payable to St. Matthew School. You will receive a slip to give to your child's teacher so you can pick up the materials in your child(ren)'s homeroom. After this you will go to your child(ren)'s homeroom.

... In your Communicator envelope which you will receive when you pick-up your materials and supplies are two forms for our Diocesan Program: **For the Sake of God's Children**. Any adult who wishes to work with children must receive clearance before that person can begin. This includes working as a Homeroom Volunteer, helping at Home and School Family Activities, chaperoning on Field Trips, coaching, helping on the Playground, etc. If you have already received clearance from Hyden and Associates, you will need to complete the Volunteer Covenant Form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher on August 30. Background clearances are good for 5 years. If you and your spouse have received clearance, additional Volunteer Covenant Forms are available in the School Office. If you are not sure if you have background clearance, please check with Barbara at the Parish Office. If you received Background clearance at another parish, please notify

Sister Suzann at the Diocesan Human Resource Office (573-3126) so your clearance can be forwarded to St. Matthew. If you have never received clearance, please complete the Background Screening Form and mail the form and your payment to Hyden and Associates. This form is also available on the Diocesan Website (www.cdow.org). The clearance process takes about 3 weeks. Please do not delay in receiving clearance if you wish to become involved in your child's activities in school or in the parish.

... Students in Grades 1-8 will be dismissed at Noon on Monday, August 30. Full day sessions for Grades 1-8 begin on Tuesday, August 31, with dismissal at 3PM. Students will need to pack a lunch if you did not place a lunch order. Daily, students may purchase white milk, chocolate milk, and bottled water for \$.50. Beginning in October, students will pre-order and pre-pay for drinks for the month or year.

... Please support St. Matthew and the 7th grade by purchasing a \$5 coupon for Macys. The coupon includes an all day shopping pass for October 16 and an entry to win a \$500 gift card. 7th Grade parents will be selling tickets at the August 22 Family Picnic at Crestmoor and September's Back to School Nights.

... You will receive two Volunteer Forms, one for Home and School and one for the School, in your Communicator envelope. Both the school and Home and School have many activities planned, but neither can be successful unless additional help is received. Last year we struggled with our Recess Periods because we only had a handful of volunteers. The students must have time on the recess yard, so I am asking you to try to help us one day a week. If you are not available, perhaps a relative, parent, friend can help us provide a safe recess for our students. I am grateful for any time you can give to our school.

Reminders on Arrival and Departure from St. Matthew School

Before School Care Program

Our Before School Care Program will again take place in our Open Area / Cafeteria. The Before School Program is available for students in the Early Childhood Program (3 & 4 year olds) up to our Grade 8. The program begins at 6:45AM and ends with students going to their classrooms at 7:45AM. The cost is \$1.00 per student. Students will pay our Before School Director as they enter the Open Area (or a family may wish to pay for the week if you know your child will attend daily). Students are to enter the Open Area through the After School Care door (exit door from the Cafeteria by the main steps of St. Matthew Church on Maryland Ave.). Parents may leave their child(ren) off for Before School Care by either parking on Maryland Ave. and escorting their child(ren) up the Church steps to the first landing, then down into the Open Area, or parking in the parking lot by the Statue of Mary and walking your child(ren) down the sidewalk to the steps leading to the Open Area. Students arriving after 7:30AM will not be charged. At 7:45AM students in our 3 year old and 4 year old Classes will be gathered by our Director and escorted to their classroom. Students in Kindergarten will be escorted to their classroom by a member of the School Safety Patrol. Students in Grades 1-8 will be called by the teacher on duty to send the Grade School students to their classrooms.

Early Childhood Program Arrival

The doors of the ECP will be opened at 7:45A.M. Early Childhood students will enter the main school building at the Fallon Avenue entrance. Parents are to park on the school side of Fallon Avenue and walk their child to the building. Either a teacher or an assistant will be there to receive them. All students must be in school by 8:00AM.

Early Childhood Program Dismissal

Dismissal begins at 11AM for Half Day students and 2:40PM for Full Day students. Parents are asked to park their cars in the school parking lot next to the school building and walk to the E.C.C. steps. Teachers will wait with your child until you or your designated person comes to pick up the child. Extended day students will be walked to the Open Area of the school at dismissal. If, for any reason, the "normal" pickup person will not be available to pickup the student on any given day, a note sent in prior to the occurrence would be appreciated so the teacher is aware of this circumstance in advance. As a last minute emergency, please call the School Office (633-5860).

Kindergarten Arrival

In the morning, for parents of Kindergarten students arriving between 7:45-8AM, your child will enter the main school building at the Fallon Avenue entrance. Please turn onto Fallon Ave. from Maryland Ave. Park on Fallon Ave and walk your child to the front steps of school (red doors). Mrs. Broujos, our Kindergarten Assistant, will greet the children and help escort them to the Kindergarten classroom. Please allow your children to go into the building themselves. **IMPORTANT:** Please do not allow the students to get out of a vehicle while stopped on Fallon Avenue. Cars come around the corner from Maryland Avenue or Birmingham and either the car or the child could be hit. Walking your child to the bottom on the steps is the safest procedure for all involved. If you have an older student, he/she can walk up Birmingham Ave. and enter the school by the parking lot door.

Kindergarten Dismissal

Kindergarten ends its day at 2:50PM and 11:50AM on Shortened Full Days. Kindergarten students will be called for dismissal ten minutes before Grades 1-8. Mrs. Killen will escort the students to the parking lot entrance to the school. The student will be "released" to the parent or the designated pickup person once it is confirmed that the parent is present at the school parking lot door. Once you have taken your Kindergarten student to your car, Grades 1-8 will begin dismissing. If, for any reason, the "normal" pickup person will not be available to pickup the student on any given day, a note sent in prior to the occurrence would be appreciated so the teacher is aware of this circumstance in advance. As a last minute emergency, please call the School Office (633-5860).

Grades 1-8 Arrival

Students arriving between 7:45-8AM will enter the school through the parking lot door. Drivers should follow the traffic pattern from previous years: Go East on Curtis Ave. to the School Parking Lot, enter the lot and follow the cones around the lot until the first car has reached Birmingham Ave (about ten cars will fit); have your child exit quickly and walk between the school and the cones. Once all the children have exited their vehicles, the ten cars will turn left on Birmingham Ave. toward Fallon Ave. The next set of ten cars will enter the parking lot until all students have arrived by 8AM. No students in Grades 1-8 are to enter the school by the Fallon Ave. entrance until 8AM, so please follow the above arrival procedures for the parking lot – it does move quickly. Students arriving after 8AM will be marked Tardy and must have an Admission Slip in order to enter the homeroom.

Grades 1-8 Dismissal

Grades 1-8 begin dismissing at 3PM and Noon on Shortened Full Days. Please use the school parking lot. Cars are to park parallel to the school in columns of four. Over 50 cars can fit into the parking lot. Students will come out the back door into the parking lot. Once all students are in their cars, our safety patrol and teachers will direct the cars onto Birmingham Ave. Please do not park on Birmingham Ave, Curtis Ave., or Fallon Ave. Woodcrest Civic Association has asked that the streets around the school remain open so dismissal traffic can flow without obstruction. If our school parking lot is full, additional space can be found in our gym parking lot.

Opening Liturgy & Picnic – August 22, 2010

Members of St. Matthew School and Parish will gather on Sunday, August 22, for the Annual Family Mass and Parish Picnic. The Liturgy and Picnic will be held at Crestmoor Pool.

Families may begin arriving at 11AM. Once you arrive you should go to the pavilion to leave off any items your family brought with you for the picnic and lunch. All families are asked to bring a covered dish/fruit/ dessert item(s) that will feed 8-10 people. Remember, if the item is supposed to remain cold, please bring a cooler of ice with you so it can be stored safely until 1PM.

Our Sunday Mass will begin at 11:15AM. Mass will fulfill your Sunday obligation. If it is raining, you will be directed to go to St. Matthew Church so you can attend the 11:30AM Parish Mass. If you are a member of St. Matthew Parish, please bring your weekly Parish envelope as we will have an Offertory collection.

After Mass, the Home and School will provide a hot dog lunch for you and your family. You and your family will then pick from the many covered dish items provided by other families. (Remember, bring throw away containers & serving utensils for easy clean-up). Food will be served from Noon until 1:30PM. Families are asked to bring their own non-alcoholic drinks.

The rest of the afternoon will provide a chance for you to meet teachers and other school and Parish families. A variety of family games and activities is planned. Be prepared to participate in a three-legged race with your child, play horse shoes and boccie ball, throw a frisbee, or bring your baseball glove for a family softball game. A volleyball game will also be held. The swimming pool will be open until 5PM for your enjoyment; life guards will be on duty so bring your bathing suit. (Changing facilities are available.)

So remember:

- The day is for families registered in our school regardless of whether you are a Parishioner or a non-Parishioner.
- You should pack and bring items with you as if you were going on a picnic anywhere in the County.
- Tables will be available in the pavilion on a first come, first claim basis.
- Bring a tablecloth to cover your table.
- Pack sunscreen.
- For your covered dish item, think of something that another family may not bring so we can experience a variety of items throughout the afternoon
- Items to store in the car in case you need them would be folding chairs or beach chairs.
- Bring ice if the day is hot.
- Bring your bathing suit in case the day is really hot and you change your mind about using the swimming pool.
- If the day is bright and sunny, you may wish to bring an umbrella for protection during the Liturgy.
- A number of games and activities have been planned. Feel free to bring any game or equipment you think will be enjoyed by several families.
- Families can stay until 5PM when our picnic concludes for the day.

CRESTMoor SWIM CLUB ANNUAL CRAB FEAST

AUGUST 28, 2010

7PM - 12AM

\$35/PERSON

\$25/PERSON (AGES 11-20)

\$15/PERSON (AGES 10 & UNDER)

BEER/ROAST BEEF/SIDES/MUSIC

CONTACT TINA FERGUSON FOR TICKETS @ 983-0183

OR JACKANDHERBIE@COMCAST.NET

(LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR)

Communication to Families 2010 – 2011

St. Matthew School will be going paperless. Information items from school can be obtained either through e-mails or by viewing them on the school's website: www.saintmatthewsparish.org/school.html.

Please complete this form and let us know the best method to send information to you.

_____ I will read the Principal's Communicator and other school information through St. Matthew School's website.

_____ I would like to receive the Principal's Communicator and other school information through my e-mail account.

Please send information to the following e-mail addresses:

Student's name

Grade

Parent's signature

Date

Please return this paper to your child's homeroom teacher by August 28.