

## Archived 2008-09 Web Letters from Mrs. Kobyra

**May 27, 2009**

*Last week, every family should have received an email from me through the school messaging system about the new Middle School Model that we will begin implementing in the 2009 – 10 school year. If you did not receive that email, please ensure we have the correct email address in our system. We are very excited to be moving forward with this innovative plan to include the 6th grade in our middle school, providing us the opportunity to offer classes that take into account the differentiated educational abilities of our students and the desires of our families for a larger variety of electives. Immediately following the Points for Parents Forum at 7:00pm on Thursday, May 28th, I will be available to address your questions on this new model.*

*As we close in on the final weeks of the school year, we say good-bye to our eighth graders and pray that they take the Catholic values and strength of character fostered here at St. Timothy with them as they embark on their journey into adulthood. Our preschoolers and kindergarteners are also finishing out their school year and we look forward to their future with us as they transition up to the big school.*

*Please take the opportunity now to clear up any accounts with the school office, the cafeteria and return your library books. The cafeteria will offer hot lunches through June 5th and ice cream, chips, fruit cups, yogurt and string cheese will only be sold while supplies last. Your account must have funds in it to purchase items. No negative balances will be accrued at this point. Please plan accordingly.*

*School supply lists and summer reading lists will be sent home the last day of school and will be available on the website during the summer.*

**May 1, 2009**

*Please keep our second graders in your prayers this weekend as they receive our Lord in the Eucharist for the first time on Saturday morning. The school Mass on the 8th will be the first time they receive the Eucharist with the entire school community and we invite you to join them for this special occasion. Immediately following Mass, we will crown the Blessed Mary in the church.*

*Our students, under the direction of Sra. Gott, continue their work in support of the missions, both in and out of school. 3rd graders, Erin McLaughlin and Rebecca Phares raised money during Easter Break at their lemonade stand. Student rice bowl contributions during Lent totaled \$476. And most recently, students collected over 2000 bars of soap for the Medical Missionaries to distribute in Banica during an impromptu “Battle of the Bubbles” competition between some classes. I am very proud of the students when they learn about the needs of others far removed from their own lives and respond so generously.*

*Don't forget to respond to the May 16th auction invitation before May 1st for the discounted admission rate. It promises to be a fun evening in support of the school.*

*The bricks for this year's fundraiser were installed this week. If you ordered a brick this year, please stop by the grotto behind the school to see the recently installed bricks.*

*Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

**April 23, 2009**

*Hope everyone had an enjoyable and refreshing Easter holiday. We are moving quickly to the completion of the school year. I ask you to support and encourage your students to work to finish strong.*

*As promised during the last PTO meeting, the board has created a Points for Parents volunteer program to be implemented during the 2009-10 school year. They would like parent input on the program's structure and implementation before it is finalized. The draft of the handbook, which includes the requirements, a list of volunteer opportunities with assigned "values" and the structure of the program is available online for your review. Please direct any comments to [pointsforparents@sainttimothyschool.org](mailto:pointsforparents@sainttimothyschool.org) by May 8th. On May 28th at 7:00 pm the PTO Board will host a Q & A forum for parents to learn more about the Points Program, ask questions and volunteer for specific activities.*

*As I mentioned in my last web letter, all parents should be aware of the Terra Nova testing for students in grades 2 -7 each morning, Wed. April 22 through Tuesday, April 28th. Even if you do not have a student in those grades, it is important you are aware of the testing schedule as we need to provide a quiet, non-distractive environment that week. If you need to enter the building during this time, please do so quietly and avoid all hallway conversations. Please note that all specials (PE, Computers, Art, Music, Library) have been cancelled during these five days if they are regularly scheduled to begin before 12:00 noon, so no specials volunteers will be needed those mornings. This will help us keep the hallways quiet and allow those teachers to assist with the testing. Students in grades 2 – 7 need to bring #2 pencils to school and those in grades 5-7 should have a working calculator. Testing begins early and all students need to be in their classrooms on time. Avoid making appointments during the morning. Due to the conflict with school testing procedures, school Mass on Friday will continue as usual with only K, 1st and 8th grades in attendance.*

*Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

### **March 30, 2009**

*The school library is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair beginning this Thursday, April 2nd through Wednesday, April 8th. Students will be visiting during their library times and parents may come at any time until 4:00 each afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage your students to explore new authors and series to read during Easter Vacation.*

*Please note that Spring Uniforms may be worn upon our return from Easter Vacation on April 20th. The Spring uniform is considered optional. The traditional (winter) uniform may still be worn after this date, but there is no mixing and matching between the two uniforms.*

*In an effort to recognize the extraordinary work done by a select group of volunteers, the PTO is accepting nominations for two "Outstanding Volunteer" awards for the 2008/2009 school year. If you are aware of a volunteer that regularly provides extraordinary, selfless service to the school, please consider nominating him/her for this recognition. We have many parents who volunteer behind the scenes in roles that are not noticeable or publicly recognized. Please send nominations to me by April 8th with a brief paragraph or two describing how the nominee has volunteered and what benefit the school has received. (anonymous nominations are acceptable). I look forward to reading all of the wonderful things our volunteers have been doing and the opportunity to publicly recognize two Outstanding Volunteers. The PTO will announce the award after Easter Break, presenting the recipients each with a pair of tickets to the "Seaside Spectacular" on May 16th.*

*On Saturday, March 28th the St. Timothy Advanced Band attended the band festival! The Diocese of Arlington Band Festival at Bishop Ireton High School is an event where all of the band programs at Diocesan schools perform 2-3 pieces of music for a panel of judges. Groups who perform at the festival receive a "Superior" rating, "Excellent" rating, "Good" rating, "Fair" rating or a "Poor" rating. We are thrilled to announce that the St. Timothy Advanced Band received the top rating of "Superior" Congratulations to the Advanced Band players for their hard work!*

*Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

### **March 20, 2009**

*Thank you to the PTO for arranging Mr. Brock Jolly, the speaker on paying for college at Thursday's PTO meeting. I hope that those that took advantage of his expertise found it helpful. For those of you unable to attend the meeting, the PTO also introduced the Points for Parents program that will be initiated in the 2009–10 school year, requiring volunteer service to the school from each family. Specific details on the administration of the program will be available soon. Parent volunteers are vital to the daily management of our school, to the students and faculty. The PTO has my full support as they move forward with this program to ensure that every family participates in our mission: to spread the Word of God while providing for the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical growth of our students.*

*We have a few changes in the schedule this week for you to be aware of. We will be attending Mass as a school on Wednesday, the feast of the Annunciation, instead of Friday. To accommodate the schedule change, the teachers will trade their Wednesday and Friday schedules. If you are scheduled to volunteer for a specials classroom on either of those days, please note the change. If you have any questions specific to your situation, contact your classroom teacher or the specials teacher for clarification. On Friday, we will still attend the Stations of the Cross at 2:15.*

*You remain in my prayers,  
Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

### **March 16, 2009**

*Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Catherine Raveia, the newest member of our faculty. She is the new Literature teacher for Junior High, replacing Mr. Baptiste. She brings with her many years of experience in education, teaching in public schools around the country, including Fairfax County high schools. Most recently, she was an adjunct professor at Sanford-Brown College. We are excited to have her years of expertise in the Junior High Literature program.*

*The PTO has arranged for a guest speaker for the PTO meeting this Thursday, March 19th at 7:00pm to educate us on ways to help plan for college. Brock T. Jolly is a financial planner who will provide information on "Little Known Secrets for Paying for College". I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as it is never too early to start planning ahead. An informational flyer details the presentation.*

*The Board will also present an introduction to our Points for Parents volunteer program scheduled for the 2009/2010 school year. The PTO has worked hard to develop a program modeled after those already in use in most of our local Catholic schools to provide an equitable distribution of volunteer commitments.*

*A representative from Score! will be available at 6:30 for those of you interested in more information about the tutoring programs, on-line learning opportunities, or study skills classes at Score!*

*You remain in my prayers,  
Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

**March 6, 2009**

**Dear Parents,**

*March 19th is the Feast of St. Joseph. We are excited about two special events that we are hosting to honor his Feast day. The first is based on an old tradition that comes from Sicily. Altars dedicated to St. Joseph were set up there after a famine in the Middle Ages to thank St. Joseph for his intercession during the famine. There are many customs and traditions associated with these altars, which the students are learning about this month. Fr. Weymes will be blessing our altars in the library that day.*

*The second special event, also on March 19th in the library, is a Catholic Book Fair, brought to us by the Daughters of St. Paul. They will set up a one-day-only exhibit of Catholic books and other media. These books on the Saints, Bible stories, activity books, DVD's, CD's and other material are appropriate for students, teachers and parents. On the day of the fair, each class will visit and parents may visit until 3:45. Purchases are handled differently than our traditional Scholastic book fairs. No purchases will be made by students during the day. Order forms will be sent home with the students indicating any items in which they were interested and purchases can be made through that form.*

**February 13, 2009**

**Dear Parents,**

*The Lenten Season begins this Ash Wednesday the 25th. The school will attend the 9:00am Mass on Ash Wednesday in addition to our regular Friday school Mass. You are invited to join us each Friday during Lent when the school gathers in the church at 2:15 pm for the Stations of the Cross.*

*All of the raffle tickets for the All Saints' Parish Car Raffle have now been mailed. Each Thursday from 9:30 – 12:30 ticket counters are needed in the library pit. Please stop by for part of that time to help with this major fundraiser. We also encourage you to return your tickets as soon as they are sold, to prevent too many tickets coming in all at the same time before the deadline.*

*Thank you to the hard work of our volunteers at Bingo Night earlier this month. The PTO is hard at work planning the next Family Fun Night. Skate Night on Sat. Feb 28th at the Ashburn Ice House is a great value at \$5 per person, including skate rental. Please assist the planners by returning your order form as soon as possible. These community building events are a wonderful opportunity for everyone to see have some fun outside of school and for you to meet the families of your students' friends.*

*The Spring Benefit Auction (May 16th: A Night at the Beach) website is up and running. All of the forms you need to: donate an item, place an advertisement, ask a business to donate or advertise and to sign up for a volunteer shift are available for printing. For those of you that have never attended one of our annual auctions, a detailed description of the event is available and as the event nears, you will be able to view the auction items and catalogue.*

*You remain in my prayers,  
Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

**February 9, 2009**

*Dear Parents:*

*Congratulations to 1B! They will have a free dress down day and ice cream party Tuesday the 10th for being the class with the most registered families on [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com). We appreciate their support of this program which will benefit everyone.*

*We have a lot of activities planned this month and hope to see everyone turn out to enjoy and volunteer. Please join us for the Open House on Feb. 12th and Skate Night Feb. 28th. The community spirit we enjoy at St. Timothy is in large part because of the activity of our volunteers, joining together for a common purpose. Many of our parents give of their free time and regularly support your students in the classroom on a regular basis. It is our hope that those that are unable to come in to the classroom during the day take advantage of some of the upcoming opportunities to volunteer on weekends, evenings and at home.*

*The upcoming car raffle is a major fundraiser at our school. Most of the work is done by All Saints' Parish but we do have some work to do here. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets at Masses on March 15th and April 19th (9:00, 10:45, 12:30 and 5:30 Masses on Sunday). We also need volunteers to count money and tickets each Thursday morning after dropoff, beginning this week. Please contact Evelyn Ingram to volunteer. ([ptovolunteer@sainttimothyschool.org](mailto:ptovolunteer@sainttimothyschool.org)).*

*The spring benefit auction committee is working hard to prepare for Beach Night on May 16th. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of this event, including help with soliciting donations, event planning, assisting with decorations and working the evening of the event. Contact Michelle Lodge to volunteer for this event ([ptosecretary@sainttimothyschool.org](mailto:ptosecretary@sainttimothyschool.org)).*

**January 26, 2009**

*Dear Parents:*

*The weather forecasters are promising us some snow this week. Finally! Since Fairfax County Public Schools are not in session on Tuesday, we will be send a message through the Emergency Messaging System if it is necessary to delay or cancel school that day. And, as always, you can check our website by 6:00am for any weather-related announcements. The full policy and how it applies to the preschool program is available in your handbook and online. When checking the website, be sure to "refresh" to ensure that you are viewing any recent updates.*

*If school is closed any day, be sure to encourage your children to cuddle up with a book. Mrs. Fairbanks is once again running the Snow Day Reading Contest.*

*Stay safe and warm,*

*Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

**January 20, 2009**

*Dear Parents,*

*It is with a sad heart that I inform you of the death of Danny Bennett, STS class of 2000. LCpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett was killed while serving our country in Afghanistan. The viewing will be held Wed., Jan. 21st at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. On Thursday, January 22nd, the funeral Mass will be held at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton at 12:30pm; the interment at Arlington National Cemetery at 3:00pm; and a reception at the Bennett home at 6:00pm. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the USO or the Hyde Schools - Woodstock Campus. ([www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org) - [www.hyde.edu](http://www.hyde.edu)). The entire St. Timothy Community joins together in prayer for Danny and his family, that were a part of our school family for so long. We continue our prayers for all of those still serving in harm's way: our alumni, family members of current students and children of our faculty.*

*It is fitting that next week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week with the theme "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service". We are so proud of Danny and all of our alumni that have dedicated themselves to service in the military and priesthood. We will use next week's theme to continue our tradition of service through some of the following activities in addition to prayer services and some extra fun and treats. We will begin Catholic Schools Week with the celebration of Mass on Monday at 9:00. Later in the week, The 7th grade will be hosting a baby shower to support Hope in Northern Virginia. Diaper donations from all classes will be collected on Friday, January 23rd and 30th. Each of the other grades will be collecting specific supplies for a shelter for women and children in Bristow, Virginia: Transitional Housing BARN. Check with the individual teachers for their collection dates. Mrs. Gott will host the first meeting of TMC (The Mission Commission), a new club for 4th - 8th grade students interested in supporting the Missions both home and abroad afterschool on Tuesday. More information is available on her flyer.*

*Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

### ***December 19, 2008***

*The Reading Raffle Assembly showed an incredible amount of enthusiasm for the project. Thank you to our Reading Resource Teacher, Terri Fairbanks, for getting the students excited about reading and to the PTO for providing the prizes. Over one thousand hours of reading by students in all grade levels was done and 14 lucky students won prizes. A show of hands at the beginning of the assembly showed nearly 100% participation. Please encourage your students to continue to read over Christmas break. A love for books is a habit that can and should be developed by regular reading.*

*All of the staff and faculty would like to express their heartfelt gratitude at the extraordinary generosity of our families to us during this time of year. Your remembrances are meaningful and we appreciate them dearly. You will all be in our prayers this Christmas.*

*God Bless!*

### ***December 15, 2008***

*Dear Parents:*

*Interims were sent home on Friday, Dec. 12th for all students in grades 4-8. We hope that this will assist you in determining your students' strengths and weaknesses and provide you with time to help your student improve in any areas that need extra attention. Teachers are always available for questions and assistance.*

*Score! Educational Center will be at school Monday evening the 15th at 7:30 pm to provide information on the after school Study Skills program for students in 5th – 8th grades, as well as their tutoring services for all grade levels. Please RSVP to them directly at (703) 830-9553 to ensure they are able to provide adequate materials.*

*Last Monday, Dec. 8th we tested our emergency notification system for the first time. For this test, we sent emails and phone messages to families' home telephone and primary email. Future tests will include work emails and cell phone numbers. If you did not receive a test message from me last Monday to your home phone and email, please update your emergency notification form and send in to the office c/o Kim Kovac.*

*We look forward to seeing you for our Christmas Paraliturgy on Monday the 15th at 9:45 and at our band concert on Wednesday the 17th at 7:00pm. Remember that school will close at 12:00 on the 19th for the holidays and after care is closed.*

*You remain in my prayers,*

*Mrs. Patricia Kobyra*

### ***December 8, 2008***

*The Presidential Inauguration on January 20th is an historic occasion that we expect will bring unprecedented crowds to the Washington, DC area. Although we had originally planned on school for that day, we are following the recommendations of the Office of Catholic Schools and the lead of other school districts in the region and closing school and all school activities on January 20th. The decision was made for the safety of our children and concern that parents might have difficulty reaching their children if necessary. The Diocesan offices in Arlington are closed and local emergency personnel may need to focus their attention on events related to the crowds. We will not need to make this day up at a later time; the rest of the school calendar remains unchanged. Enjoy the four day weekend!*

*As part of our emergency planning, we are pleased to announce a new School Messaging System that the Diocese has provided our school. Emergency messages can be sent as phone calls, emails and text messages. We are still working out the details of how we will use the system but you can expect to receive some test messages over the next few weeks after which time we may ask for feedback. To ensure the reliability of this system, please be sure to keep your emergency notification information updated at the office. If your home or cell phone number or email address changes, please send in the updated contact information. This will not replace the need to frequently check the school website as it will remain our primary method of communicating with families.*

*Last week we announced a business partnership with Score! Educational Centers. As part of this partnership they will be providing the school with free educational enrichment programs such as a Math Challenge, Spelling Bee for the younger grades, summer reading incentive programs... as well as providing their Study Skills class on-site as an after-school program for students in grades 5 – 8 for a significant discount. They will also provide a 10% discount to all families in K-8th grade that choose to use their tutoring services at their centers in Clifton, Oakton or Reston. Additionally, the school will receive \$100 for every student that enrolls in the study skills or tutoring program. In order for families to receive their discounts and for us to receive our incentive, you must use the voucher when registering. Information on their program and the voucher is available on our website. To kick off this partnership, Score! will hold an informational session for parents here at school on two evenings: December 15th and January 8th at 7:30pm. Study skills classes will be held mid-January through the end of the*

*year. Classes are planned for Mondays immediately after school and if there is enough interest, there may be a Thursday session as well. Class sizes are kept small so it will be first come, first serve, for the after-school Study Skills program.*

*Junior High students will have mid-term and final exams for the first time this year. We have decided to have exams in the core curriculum areas as preparation for high school and as we realize the need for students to be able to demonstrate academic proficiency in a cumulative manner. Mid-terms in Soc. Studies, Science, Lit. and Math will be held during class time Jan. 8th through the 14th according to the posted schedule. Spanish will be held after Mass on the 9th. No. other tests will be given in the JH in January until after the 15th to allow the students to prepare. The test results will count as approximately 5% of the 2nd quarter grades.*

### ***December 1, 2008***

*Advent is a time of waiting expectantly for Jesus' birth. Advent wreaths and Advent calendars are an excellent way to mark the time until Christmas. But more than just counting the days and weeks, we should use this time to prepare ourselves and our hearts for the greatest gift, His Son. Those that attended the Mark Forrest Concert, "Christmas through the Eyes of Mary & Joseph", were given a wonderful opportunity to begin Advent reflecting upon the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to everyone that worked on bringing his program to us.*

*There are many requests for donations and opportunities to care for our neighbors during this season to which we know you will continue to be generous: Toys for Tots, the Fr. Ed Toy Drive, Food Pantry Donations... During the weeks of Advent here at school we are focusing on the good works of Catholic Charities and Fisher House. The NJHS is sponsoring Catholic Students Care About Catholic Charities Week and the Student Council is fundraising for Fisher House by organizing Christmas-themed fundraising events. If your students participate in the cookie sales, free dress day, Christmas raffle or send a candy-cane-a-gram to a friend, please make sure they know that their contributions will be supporting these worthwhile organizations. Encouraging them to earn the money by helping around the house or spending their allowance will personalize the message that we are all called to help each other, no matter our age. Please note the recent change in schedule for these activities as the NJHS and Student Council joined forces to provide these opportunities.*

*During the second week of Advent, December 8-10th, the PTO will continue its tradition of opening Santa's Workshop for the students to do their own Christmas shopping. The small and inexpensive gifts provide the students an opportunity to consider their family members and be a part of the gift giving. The excitement of the students at the Workshop every year demonstrates that it is just as much fun to give as to receive. To assist you in your Christmas preparations, Girl Scout Troop 5641 is providing an "Elves for Hire" service. They will provide babysitting services (for a modest fee) while you attend to your Christmas errands. Open to children aged 1-10 years, on Sat., Dec 13 from 12-3pm in the After School Care room in the school. For more information email [suscogs@verizon.net](mailto:suscogs@verizon.net).*

*Due to the Christmas gift giving season, we have extended the deadline of our Commemorative Brick Campaign until Dec. 12th. Consider suggesting this as a gift to the family or for graduates from out of town grandparents. It is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the heritage of St. Timothy School.*

*In our final week at school before Christmas break, we invite you to celebrate Christmas at our Angel Pageant on Monday the 15th at 10:00 in the church. K-8 students will act out the Christmas Story with adorable angels, shepherds, donkeys, wise men and, of course, the Holy Family. You are also invited to a Christmas concert by our school band on December 17th at 7:00pm.*

**November 21, 2008**

*This month's brown envelope will be sent home on Tuesday, November 25th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Be sure to look for it as it has important information on Open Houses and changes to our re-registration.*

*Thank you to all of the volunteers that have labored so hard on our Craft Fair. It is sure to be a success. I'm particularly excited about the new Kid's Korner with activities and crafts for the children and the Used Book Sale sponsored by the 6th grade. Please come and take advantage of the great buys. The Music Room is overflowing with thousands of books!*

*If you have not already submitted an order form for the brick fundraiser, now is your last chance. Order forms need to be turned in before Thanksgiving break .(order)*

*Be sure to preorder your discounted Mark Forrest Christmas Benefit Concert tickets by Monday so tickets can be sent home before break. The concert on Sunday at 7:30pm will include St. Timothy choir members. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.*

*The Honor Roll Students & Christian Witness Award recipients for the first quarter were not printed in this month's bulletin due to space constraints, but are being recognized in the Church bulletin and here. We are very proud of the hard work and example of these students.*

**November 7, 2008**

*The upcoming conference week has a number of schedule changes from our norm. Please pay careful attention to the noon dismissals on Tuesday through Friday, with Tuesday and Thursday only having the AM preschool students, and Wednesday through Friday having only the PM preschool students attending. On each of these 12:00 dismissal days, the preschool students will be dismissed at 12:00 with the rest of the school. Also on each of these 12:00 dismissal days, be aware that the aftercare program closes at 4:00. Specials will be held at their regularly scheduled times; afternoon specials will not be held. However, your students should still wear their PE uniform on their PE days.*

*Junior Girl Scout troop 5641 is offering babysitting services for children in the music room while their parents attend teacher conferences. A flyer is available online with details, including a required advance registration so that adequate supervision levels can be maintained. This is a fundraiser for the troop; donations will be accepted. After your conference, stop by the library to visit the Scholastic book fair, open each day until 3:30. You may peruse some of the offerings and help your student create a "wish list" online.*

*Students may "purchase" the privilege to wear red, white and blue shirts with jeans to demonstrate their patriotism on Tuesday, Nov 11th (Veteran's Day). Please email me if you have a family member serving overseas so that the school can recognize and pray for their well-being. The Student Council will be collecting the \$1 donations to support for their Go Green! environmental initiative, coming soon.*

*Thank you all for your generosity to our special Thanksgiving collection of the First Friday Food Pantry. For those of you that did not yet contribute, a box will be available in the front hallway of the school during conference week. You or your students may still bring in the designated items so the NJHS can begin to put together the Thanksgiving boxes beginning the following week. We ask those of you planning on making monetary gifts to the gift certificates for perishable foods to do so to the office by*

November 12th c/o "Thanksgiving Baskets". A box is also available in the front hallway for used book donations for the sixth grade Used Book Sale.

### **October 31, 2008**

*I am pleased to announce the beginning of a new fundraiser and Tuition Reduction Program. Through the hard work of Peggy Reno and Amy Noory, this week we will begin two new programs which will offer you the opportunity to earn money for the school as well as reduce your tuition bill! In the first program, you may prepurchase gift cards to over 300 retail stores and in the second, you may shop online at hundreds of popular online shopping sites. In both cases, a percentage of your purchases (2-17%) will be donated to St. Timothy School. To encourage you to do as much of your shopping as possible in this way, we plan to share the profits with our families through a tuition reduction program. Accounts will be kept for each family and reductions will be taken off of the next year's tuition. Deadlines and details on the finer points of the program and how to register and shop will be coming home in your students' backpacks early next week and will be available online. Ordering will be available beginning this week! This program allows you to spend the same amount on all of your purchases, but by readjusting your shopping habits you will support the school and keep your tuition costs down. Since the advance purchase of gift cards will usually earn the school (and you) a higher percentage than the online shopping program, you will want to plan ahead to purchase cards at the stores you know you frequent and supplement your other purchases with the online shopping. For an even higher return, you can use your prepurchased gift cards at the online shopping site and earn credit both ways!!!*

*Join us in celebrating our Tiger Pride at the Chantilly Chick-fil-A Wednesday evening. Let the teachers serve you, guess who is inside the cow costume and enter to win an Ipod Touch or Nintendo DS. A percentage of all purchases made from 5:00 - 8:00pm benefit the PTO and the wonderful activities they provide for the students. Purchase made at the drive-through are included, so pass the word to your friends and family to come out and enjoy an evening off from cooking. Raffle tickets will also be available during lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday.*

### **October 17, 2008**

*The first quarter is coming to an end this week, followed by a four day weekend for the students. Remember that school is closed on Friday (the 24th) and Monday (the 27th). Encourage your students to take this opportunity to rest and refresh themselves, enjoy the lovely Fall weather and come back excited and organized for the second quarter.*

*Everyone needs to return their Walk for the Homeless registration forms (available online) by this Monday the 20th. Donations are not necessary, but forms must be returned if students wish to participate. The walk is held on the 30th at 2:00 pm but we need the forms early in order to register the students. Having the students be active participants in a Walk for the Homeless is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop a social awareness of the needs of the less fortunate.*

*Preschool families now have the opportunity to use the Mother's Day Out extended preschool program on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday if your student is in school that day. We hope that removing the limitation of a specific day will make this more convenient for your schedule. We suggest you register early as there is still a limited number of spaces and it will be available first-come, first serve.*

*It was wonderful to see so many of you at the PTO meeting on Thursday evening. For those of you unable to attend, the following were important items of discussion.*

*- the Design for Excellence visiting team commendations and recommendations. The entire document is available online for your viewing. This includes all of the required standards, the areas in which they feel the school excels and their suggestions for our focus during the next 5 years. Some of their recommendations have already been implemented and we will be looking carefully at the rest as we create our 5-year plan.*

*- the PTO excited us all with their preview of an upcoming scrip program which will allow school & parish families as well as family and supporters, to purchase gift certificates for a wide range of stores through St. Timothy School. The school will receive a percentage of the profits. Similar programs have been widely successful at other schools and we are very excited that the PTO will be implementing it at our school. More details will be coming soon in time for your Christmas shopping.*

### **October 10, 2008**

*Brrr! The colder weather is fast approaching. Please be sure to send your students to school with jackets every day, as well as school sweaters and PE sweatshirts. As of Tuesday, the 14th, they are now required to wear their traditional winter uniform. Please refer to the specific requirements available online and in the handbook, paying particular attention to the change to winter socks and shoes.*

*If your students have come home saying that the PE schedule has changed again, they are right. This year, we tried something new by scheduling one of our weekly PE periods as a large group PE (the entire grade level). While this provided some wonderful opportunities in theory (more time for the teachers to meet together and opportunities for controlled socialization between the classes), in practice it did not work as well as we envisioned. After giving the students, teachers and volunteers adequate time to adjust to the new environment, we re-evaluated the program and determined that it was not providing the benefits we anticipated. Therefore, effective immediately, there will no longer be any large group PE classes. To accommodate this change into our schedule, each class will trade their second PE weekly, giving the students PE 2x one week and 1x the alternate week. Students should still wear their PE uniforms 2x/week on PE day regardless of whether it is their week on or off. If you were scheduled to volunteer for the double PE time, please contact Mrs. Cargill re: whether she will still need your assistance. Thank you for your patience and consideration as we continue to try new things and evaluate our programs.*

*I hope to see everyone on Thursday evening at the general PTO meeting at 7:30pm. The PTO has some new programs planned that they will be discussing and I will be speaking on the State of the School and the recommendations from our visiting Design for Excellence Team. If there are any specific questions you would like addressed, please contact one of your PTO representatives who will be providing me with a list of suggested topics for discussions. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting. If possible, arrive a few minutes early to see the video presentation of our school that was shown to the DFE visiting team.*

## **September 29, 2008**

*The Feast of our Guardian Angels is this Thursday, October 2nd. Originally, the school had planned to attend Mass this day instead of our usual Friday Mass but we will attend Mass as usual on Friday. The consecration of our school to the Sacred Heart of Jesus included a commitment to attend 9 First Friday Masses. First Friday Food Pantry collections will also be collected this Friday. It was noted at the Sunday Masses this weekend that our Food Pantry is bare . They have had a large increase in families needing food supplies and we ask that you keep in mind the economic situation and give generously if you are able. The recommendations below come from the SVDP food pantry as the most necessary items, but if you have other canned and dried supplies you can give in addition, they would be welcome.*

*This Friday is our Family Movie Night. Plan to join us for a fun evening of pizza, popcorn, snacks and ...French Cooking? The PTO will be showing the animated family comedy, Ratatouille, about a a rat dreaming of becoming a renowned French chef in Paris. Bring your blankets and pillows. Arrive at 6:30 for your food. A parent must remain with the students. You may pay at the door but it would be helpful for planning purposes if you could RSVP by Wednesday to make sure there is enough food and drink for everyone.*

*It's almost basketball season. This year, CYO basketball (for fourth grade and above) will be holding an evening registration on October 7th, 7:00 - 8:30pm. If you have any questions, contact coordinator Phil Yanchulis. If you plan on being a head coach or an assistant head coach, make sure you are virtue certified. Fingerprinting is no longer required, but completed paperwork and attendance at the Virtus Class is mandatory. There is a session scheduled at St. Timothy in the evening of October 9th. Adults working with the students in any capacity need to be virtue certified.*

## **September 19, 2008**

*I would like to personally thank everyone that contributed to the success of our Design for Excellence year of self study. The visiting team that spent this week visiting our school left us with a glowing report and a recommendation for full re-accreditation. I will present their full findings at the general PTO meeting on October 16th. In their presentation to the faculty and staff, the most meaningful observation they made was that it was apparent to them that our school is centered around Christ in everything we do.*

*God Bless!*

## **September 3, 2008**

*Join me in welcoming and thanking the following volunteers that have graciously agreed to serve on behalf of all the parents on our School PTO Board. President: Yvonne Pyla; Vice President: Maria Litman; Treasurer: Tara Irons; Secretary: Michelle Lodge and Volunteer Coordinator: Evelyn Ingram. To support the Board, Michele Orié and Ann Boyd will chair many fundraising activities & social events for the children such as: Chick Fil A Night, Santa' s Workshop, Bingo & Movie Nights and much more and Elaine DiBartolomeo and Vicki May are*

*chairing our Craft Fair. These generous ladies represent all parents and will need the support and assistance of every family. Many others have already stepped up and agreed to take on the responsibility of Room Mother or to regularly volunteer in the classroom, specials, cafeteria, recess and morning carpool.*

*As a parochial school, completely funded by the parish and tuition, we depend upon every family to share of their time, talents and experience with the school. While our smaller class sizes have a wonderful benefit to the teachers and students in terms of academic opportunity, it comes with a need for more duties to be performed by volunteers as we have a smaller staff to support the smaller enrollment. If you have not yet committed yourself, consider volunteering in one of the special classes on a regular basis. PE has combined classes for all grade levels once a week and will need particular assistance on those days. The library will also need to rely more on volunteers. Leadership opportunities include a Ways & Means board position and a Spring Auction chairperson or committee. Mostly, we ask that you recognize the hard work being done by committee heads, board members and room mothers and respond with generosity when a call for volunteers is sent out.*

*On another note, I must ask you to please set an example to your students on the need to follow school rules. The requirement that children not be dropped off unattended before 7:55 is for the safety of all of your children. Regardless of their age, NO ONE may be dropped off before 7:55 unless they are escorted to the cafeteria and signed in for Before School Care. The front doors to the school are locked until that time. Recognizing that your time is valuable as you need to fight traffic to get to work and drop off other children, we have begun this early morning program. Unfortunately, we are still seeing students dropped off and left outside in the courtyard unsupervised.*

*Please remember that Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is Our Lady's birthday. The staff will be devoting their time to a Spirituality Day and the students have no school. We look forward to seeing K-6 parents at Back to School Night on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7:00pm in the gym.*

*As always, you remain in my prayers.*

### **August 26, 2008**

*God is good!! Another school year has started smoothly. The fresh faces, new haircuts, uniforms and shiny shoes we see coming through the front door this week are outward signs of the fresh outlook, new beginnings and peace we know the students will bring to their new classrooms. Our part of the new beginning include some new programs and procedures.*

*First, you may have already heard from your students that this year Ms. Cargill and Mr. Dannemann are teaching all of the kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade PE classes. Those of you with students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above know how well respected they are and how well the students participate in their activities. New to the PE schedule this year is a combined class. Each week, the A and B classes will have one class separate and one class together with the*

*entire grade. We decided to restructure the schedule to provide this opportunity for additional socialization between the classes. By combining the classes in a unified structured activity we hope to encourage new friendships and eliminate some of the bullying problems that may occur when students are not familiar with each other. Hopefully, we will see this transferred to the free choice activities during recess. To help make this program a success, Ms. Cargill and Mr. Danneman will need parent volunteers to assist on the combined PE days for all grades K-8, beginning the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. A schedule is available online.*

*As part of our continuing effort to improve communication between the home and school, there is a new page on our website "Office Forms" (link on the left) that has new forms we are using this year to ensure the safe dismissal and attendance of our students. Please print out the Absence Notification, Dismissal Change and Lunchroom account forms and use instead of handwritten notes. They should still be sent through the classroom teachers. On this page is a form for the preschool Mom's Day Out sign up which should be used each week when signing up for the preschool extended day option.*

*Also new this year, all teachers K-8 will have their own "TeacherWeb" page. TeacherWeb is similar to the SchoolNotes pages that many of our teachers have used in the past. The teachers are still being trained and setting up their pages. They will let you know when they are available or you can look on their Class Pages on our website for a link when it is activated. You should plan on signing up with your email address as this will allow you to know when the pages have been updated. This will also allow us to send school wide announcements through the Teacher Web pages, instead of relying on Room Mothers to forward emails for us.*

*I wish to remind you that students who arrive at school before 7:50 must report to the cafeteria beginning September 2<sup>nd</sup>. A before school care program from 7:00 – 7:50 will provide supervision for early arrivals. Students must be signed in by parents and the \$10 fee must be paid at this time.*

*God Bless!*

### ***August 18, 2008***

*Please note a change from my letter and the calendar in the brown envelope. Volunteer training will be held on Thursday, August 28 at 10:00am and 7:00pm. We are offering this new training session in the morning and evening to allow both parents to attend. In addition to going over procedures and policies for parents volunteering in the school, it will include a required Virtus update video. The entire session should last no longer than an hour.*

*Please also note that the first week of school has an atypical schedule as we adjust to the beginning of the school year.*

*Monday and Friday will have noon dismissals (all half-day dismissals will be at 12:00 this year). Tuesday – Thursday we will dismiss at the regular 3:15 time.*

*After school care will begin on the first day of school, Monday August 25th. On Monday it will close at 4:00pm, Tuesday – Thursday it will remain open until 6:00pm and there will be no after school care on Friday, August 29th.*

*The new Before School Care program will not be available during the first week of school but will begin at 7:00am on September 2nd. More information is available through the website.*

*Hot lunches will not be sold until September 9th, but milk, crackers, granola bars, yogurt and fruit cups will be available for purchase. Please take into consideration the new lunch prices when planning for your student's lunch account. An updated price list is available online.*

*Preschool classes do not meet until the week after Labor Day. Orientation for preschool students and their parents is Tuesday, August 26th. You should have received a mailing with the time for your student's orientation. If you are unsure of when to attend, please call the front office.*

*Also, for your planning purposes, mark September 8th as a day off from school while the faculty and staff participate in a spiritual retreat with Nativity School as part of our continuing commitment to faith formation for our faculty.*

*I look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Back Coffees on August 29th for K-8 parents and September 5th for preschool parents and at our Back to School Nights in a few weeks.*