

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic School

Parent Bulletin

March 24-28, 2008

Welcome Back

Welcome back from Spring Break. We hope all of our students had an opportunity to relax and get ready for the home stretch. Now that we enter the fourth quarter, it is important that our students do their very best in their work.

Parking Lot Safety

We have come to you in the past to ask for your help in ensuring the safety of our students by driving carefully in the parking lot and to use the drop-off point when dropping off children for school. We notice that we are still having difficulties and that some parents are putting the safety of our children at risk. We ask you again to be safe and to observe the following precautions:

- 1. Please drive no faster than 5 miles an hour through the parking lot.**
- 2. Please be on the lookout for children at all times.**
- 3. Please enter the parking lot only through the entrance.**
- 4. Please drop off your child only in the drop-off point.**
- 5. Please do not park in the drop-off point.**

We will soon be starting a program where our older students, perhaps in grades six through eight can act as safety monitors under the supervision of an adult each morning and each afternoon. We will soon be ordering safety equipment for them to wear. However, we will not risk their safety by putting them in harm's way, and will only place them where they cannot be hurt by careless drivers.

If we are unable to further control unsafe driving in the parking lots, we may be forced to install speed bumps. We will try to avoid this but need your help.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Student Awards Assembly

Our Student Awards Assembly will take place on Thursday, March 27, at 2:15 p.m. Teachers will notify parents if their child will receive an award during the assembly. Please take the time to attend the assembly as we recognize deserving students.

New Student Lunch Program Cook

Ms. Pennebaker has decided not to return as the school's cook. She will pursue other opportunities. We very much appreciate her help and support for the school. We wish her the very best. Taking Ms. Pennebaker's place is Mr. Blair Robbins. Blair comes to us from the Palms where he worked with Chef Ray, our past school cook. Blair comes highly recommended. We look forward to working with him.

Student Safety

We continue working to review our safety programs. These efforts include looking at the issue of our responses to emergency situations. We also are reviewing the proper clearance of our volunteers and the formalization of our school programs, as they pertain to the provision of services to students and parents by an outside agency or volunteer. Please know that we always will do our best to ensure the safety of our students.

School Expansion Update – March 10, 2008

We have received a conditional building permit to construct our classrooms. This will allow us to begin construction on the classrooms in short order, while working to resolve the septic system issue. We are working with Reynaldo Romo who will be our contractor. Reynaldo is a parishioner who was in charge of the renovation of the church. We are very happy that we are finally on our way. The septic issue will be resolved as soon as possible.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic School Tuition Determination for School Year 2008-2009

Our school budget is complete and we have adopted the tuition schedule for the 2008-2009 School Year. We have sent home notices regarding the tuition determination process. Since there are different tuition schedules for the Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten through Eight, different letters have been sent to parents. Please look for the appropriate letter. The issue of tuition assistance is addressed in both letters. Please review the letters and take the necessary action if tuition assistance is required. Please note that parents asking for tuition assistance must have required tuition assistance applications sent in to our third party verification company not later than April 16, 2008. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the principal.

Preregistration for School Year 2008-2009

We will begin our pre-registration process for School Year 2008-2009 on Monday, March 24, 2008. Preregistration will take place during the week of March 24-28. Priority will be given to currently enrolled students and siblings of currently enrolled students who are preregistered. Students who are not preregistered by close of business, Friday, March 28 will then be eligible to register along with outside students during the open enrollment period which starts on Monday, March 3. The non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 is due when preregistration forms are returned. Preregistration forms will be sent home on Thursday, March 13, 2008.

Tuition, lunch, extra care statements

We will be sending home notices to parents who have not settled their account. Accounts that are not settled by close of business, Friday, March 28, may lead to the disenrollment of children. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions. Many thanks for your help.

Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS)

Our students in grades three through eight will be participating in AIMS testing during the period April 7-11, 2008. All of these grades will be assessed in the areas of Reading, Language, and Mathematics. Two of our grades will also be assessed in Science. AIMS results will give us a good idea how well our students are coming along. We will be sending home a schedule of testing dates during the next week.

Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Parish Altar Server Program

Mrs. Karla Romo, a school parent, is starting a program where students at our school, whose parents are parishioners at OLM, would become parish altar servers. We have approached all altar server eligible students whose parents are parishioners, to see if they are interested in becoming parish altar servers. We will soon be sending home a letter to these children's parents to ask them to allow their children to participate. These children can only become altar servers with the permission of parents. Please support Mrs. Romo in her efforts.