

February 12, 2009

Dear Parents,

The annual Mardi Gras is Saturday, February 21 starting at 6:00pm. It is an exciting, fun and also a very important fundraising event for the school and parish. Please ask friends and family to give their support and attend Mardi Gras. Tickets are \$45.00 per ticket if purchased by February 16, and \$60 after this date. Contact Joan Ryan if you can volunteer to help at 486-6595. Click here to purchase tickets to Mardi Gras online.

Please read the following:

- Thank you to Mr. Larson for organizing and facilitating the annual science fair for the 7th and 8th grade students. Under Mr. Larson's encouragement, many students researched challenging topics of interest.

Congratulations to the Cosgriff Science Fair Winners:

7th Grade Life Science

1. Amelia Luttmmer
2. Nick Marron
3. Daniel Voytovich
4. Maya Shaughnessy
5. Sean Liston

7th Grade Physical Science

1. Nick Steffen
2. Mark Barnett
3. Sean McMinimee
4. Henry Garcia
5. Erin Peifer

8th Grade Life Science

1. Kane Dodson
2. Hannah Harrington Dunn
3. Patrick Neville
4. Anthony Randazzo
5. Lauren Allegra

8th Grade Physical Science

1. Sierra Pond
2. Tony Martino
3. Carolyn Taylor
4. Eric Larson
5. Alex Jensen

- FACTS tuition aid forms for the 2009-2010 school year are due by April 1st. Although Cosgriff will not receive funds from the Catholic Foundation, every attempt will be made to support families who need financial aid. To submit an application online visit www.factstuitionaid.com.
- The School Board facilities committee chairperson is soliciting parents, teachers, and community members input for ideas and suggestions with respect to our school and parish grounds. Some areas include safety, area functionality, optimization and cosmetic and aesthetic enhancements. Your ideas and input for a kitchen remodel and other school improvements should be shared with Ted Frederick at 801-708-2798, or Edwin.frederick@us.army.mil.
- There is no school on Monday, February 16 for Presidents' Day.

- **March lunch update:** On Thursdays, only in March we will be trying a new lunch company called Vie Gourmet. Some students sampled the company's products before Christmas and liked them, so we are asking the rest of the student body to give their input. Chef Tom will continue to bring lunch Monday – Wednesday each week in March. Please fill out the lunch menu as you normally do, and return it to school by Friday, February 20. [Click here to download March's lunch menu.](#)
- Tommy Walz, 3rd grade student and son of Joe and Beth Walz, is currently at Primary Children's Hospital. Tommy has been placed on top of the list to receive a new heart. Please keep Tommy in your prayers as he and his family accept this challenge with faith and courage.
- A request goes to several parents who continue to enter the west door of the school with their child before school begins in the morning. Please refrain from visiting with teachers during their precious preparation time. If you have business in the office, enter and exit through the main doors on the southeast side of the school.
- Please leave your home early enough so that your child is able to line-up before the first bell.

8:10am 6-8 grades

8:15am preschool-5 grades

Tardiness has become a serious problem at school. Please help to resolve this matter. Thank you.

- [Click here to view exciting Mardi Gras Live and Silent Auction highlights.](#)

In their yearly finance meeting Bishop Wester, pastors, the superintendent and principals met and discussed the current economic crisis and how it relates to our Catholic Schools. The principals were informed that diocesan scholarship distributions have disappeared due to the economic downturn. The following tuition schedule was discussed and set for 2009-2010:

Elementary Tuition for 2009-2010

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Qualified Catholic Rate | \$4,208 (2% increase/\$83) |
| Regular Rate | \$5,263 (2% increase/\$103) |
| International Students | \$8,160 (2% increase/\$160) |
| Registration Fee | up to \$150 per child |
| Other Fees | for non-core activities as approved by the Superintendent |

Salary Increase for 2009-2010

1.5% increase for all contracted employees (faculty, administrators).
0-1.5% increase for all staff (not under contract)

The direction and emphasis of the current administration and faculty of Cosgriff School has been to implement and continue the following:

1. Strengthen Catholic identity in the school community with the support of the Pastor, parents, administration, faculty and staff. The new emphasis on music and liturgy enhances the prayer life of the entire community through song and the celebration of the Mass.
2. Build and strengthen the toddler and preschool curriculum to foster social and emotional development while teaching essential pre-reading and mathematic skills.
3. Structure a strong and individualized literacy plan for all elementary level students focusing on critical reading comprehension skills. This reading program consists of the following components:
 - Designing programs to meet the academic needs of each student
 - Evaluating each student's reading and writing skills across the curriculum
 - Assessing student progress on a regular basis to determine necessary modification to academic instruction
 - Implementing data driven instruction (NO GUESSING)
4. Provide differentiated instruction on all grade levels to further meet the needs of students with varying abilities.
5. Solidify and maintain a rigorous and challenging middle school experience stressing competency in written expression, mathematic ability, scientific exploration and foreign language acquisition.

Finally, your support is crucial to the continuation of these programs and the positive direction of J.E. Cosgriff School. Your support can be shown in the following ways:

1. Donate to the annual giving program (scholarship fund), ([click here for more info](#))
2. Pay full tuition if you can afford to do so (instead of the Catholic rate)
3. Fully support all fundraising opportunities – Mardi Gras
4. Volunteer as needed to support teachers and programs

Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hunt
Principal