

January 29, 2009

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your school visit and participation in Catholic Schools Week. Our students are fortunate to have loving parents and be a part of a caring, Christian school community.

The last special event of Catholic Schools Week will be the "Family Spaghetti Dinner," Saturday, January 31 after the 5:00pm Mass in the Social Center. Tickets are \$5.00 per person, or \$20.00 per family. Beer and wine will be available for a donation. A DJ will be on hand for dancing and entertainment. This will be a fun activity for the whole family. All school/parish families and friends are invited to the dinner.

Please read the following:

- A special thank you goes to Barbara Schmiett, Lori Zuti, Dan Clyne, and Cathy Romero for providing a wonderful breakfast for the faculty and staff during Catholic Schools Week.
- Also, thank you to Rhonda Dodson, Todd Hopkins, Cody Young, Kassi Mancini, Aly Auer, and several others who helped put on the parent lunch today.
- Class pictures will be Wednesday, February 4. We will start at 8:30 am. Photographers will be back for afternoon preschoolers. Dress uniform is required. Picture forms will be sent home with your child today. We realize the date on the form is wrong. Please send the form back, on or before Wednesday with a check for \$7.00 to Lifetouch if your child wants a class picture. This is formal dress day. Please make sure your daughters' uniform skirts or jumpers are no shorter than one to two inches above the knee.
- Mr. Larson still needs interested parents and friends to judge the 7 & 8 grade science projects on Tuesday, February 10 from 10:00am – 12:30pm. Lunch will be served. Email Mr. Larson at larson@cosgriff.org if you can help.
- With the current economic situation, The Catholic Foundation of Utah informed Father Bill it is most likely that none of the Catholic Schools will receive a distribution for student scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year.

This year, Cosgriff received \$17,000 to help families in need. For the past 5 years, Cosgriff has received approximately \$45,000 per year in scholarship aid. This drastic loss of scholarship funding may affect academic programs; teacher/aide retention in addition to the challenge of keeping all students enrolled who wish to attend.

Below are some possible ways for parents, friends, and the community to help Cosgriff.

1. Pay the full tuition rate instead of the Catholic rate, if your budget allows.
 2. Fully support Mardi Gras – invite guests who have the intent of donating/spending money on the silent and live auctions.
 3. Make a gift donation to the Annual Appeal, earmarked specifically for student scholarships.
- Please try to sell or purchase at least one program ad for the Mardi Gras Program.

Full page	\$500.00
½ page	\$250.00
¼ page	\$150.00

Contact Connie Taylor at connie1751@comcast.net or Laura Ables at lauraables@gmail.com to purchase an ad.

- MARDI GRAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Help is needed in all areas. Please contact Joan Ryan right away at emigrationgirl@msn.com or 486-6595.
- The goal for the reading team at Cosgriff is to get the “Take Home Library” up and running by March 1.

What is the “Take Home Library?”

The “Take Home Library” is a collection of leveled reading books located in the Reading Room. Two or three leveled reading books will be checked out to each student in lower and middle elementary grades each week.

What is the purpose of the “Take Home Library?”

The purpose is for a student to read books out-loud to an adult everyday for 10-15 minutes. These books are on a student’s independent reading level. This reading practice is to develop and strengthen reading fluency.

Independent reading level:

A level at which a student knows at least 95% of the words on a page. This is a comfortable level for oral nightly reading.

Fluency:

A student works toward smooth, evenly paced reading. The goal is for a student to try to read how he/she speaks. Research indicates that reading comprehension increases as a reader becomes more fluent, and there is a direct correlation between reading comprehension and math competency.

These “Take Home Library” books will be exchanged one time per week for all participating grades.

Volunteers will be needed to make this program successful, and assist Mrs. Austin with take home library exchanges. Please email her if you are able to volunteer a few hours per week at austin@cosgriff.org.

- Thank you to Mr. Huntzinger and the following members of the choir for the beautiful singing and instrumental accompaniment at the 11:00am Mass last Sunday – Sydney Paullet, Will Ryan, Nathan Howard, Adams Freeman, Danny Brown, Mary Oliver, Joey Mancini, Andrew Campbell, Sam Cheeseman, Sarah Frederick, Madeline Osborne, Luc Steffen, Ian Hansen-Wissbrod, Paul Oliver, Raquel Markham and Lindsay Ryan.

All 4, 5, and 6 grade students are invited and encouraged to sing in the choir at least one Sunday per month. Learning music theory and reading music are life long skills. In addition, choristers fully participate in the Mass. It is my hope that more parents support and encourage their child to sing in the choir so the students may know the meaning of service and benefit from such a rich musical tradition.

- Mark your calendar for the J.E. Cosgriff Summer “Fun” School. Summer school will run June 1-25, Monday thru Thursdays from 9:00am-12:00pm for grades Pre-K-8th.
- The February Community Service project will be to support the International Heifer Project. The Heifer project has been in existence for over 50 years, teaching both young and old how to raise and care for farm animals who in turn supply milk and meat. One time impoverished people have been taught simple agricultural techniques to rejuvenate and protect their land and natural resources.
- Between 8:00am and 4:00pm there is no parking along the north side of Redondo Avenue, specifically along the block that runs along the south side of the school. If you choose to drop off or pick up students along this corridor, please do so as quickly as you can and avoid chatting and lingering or leaving your vehicle altogether. With homeowners’ cars parked on the street, the thoroughfare is very narrow. Two-way traffic needs ample room to get through and vehicles stopped or parked on the street create a safety hazard for students and drivers. Be considerate and remember safety first.
- Please check nametags on all your children’s Cosgriff uniform outerwear periodically to verify they are bringing home their own. We have had a number of items go missing from recess, lunch, etc. and have yet to show up in the Lost and Found. Also, check the Lost and Found regularly and support an effort to keep its volume down by retrieving items that belong to your student(s).

- A special thank you to Chanteel Ballard and Jennifer Cook for a very successful TGIF. Students learned new information and also enjoyed the specialty classes.
- Father Bill has made a great effort to keep the parking lot clean for all who use it. Snow removal is very expensive, so the snow has been moved to the church lawn and the playground. Cosgriff students are not allowed to climb on the snow hill at any time during school hours or after skiing on Friday's. It is your responsibility as parents to keep your child safe and off of the snow pile during non-school hours. Thank you!
- Expect to see student progress reports next Thursday, February 5. If you are concerned about a grade, call or email your student's teacher right away.
- Our second annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event for the American Heart Association will kick off Friday, February 6th with a morning assembly, and continue through Friday, February 14th. ***Parent volunteers are still needed*** to record the number of jumps students K – 8 perform at lunch recess during this event. If you can volunteer from 11:40 am – 12:50 pm on any one of the following days, Feb. 9, 10, 11, or 12th, please contact Lori Zuti at shuzuti@comcast.net . We need at least 3 volunteers each day, so please come out and join the fun!
- Please click here for exciting Mardi Gras Highlights.

Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Betsy Hunt
Principal