

September 29, 2011

Dear Parents.

The new "Fridge" calendar for October-December is available online, [click here](#) to download a copy.

Parents with 4th-8th grade students make sure to check TeacherEase for assignments and student progress. All parents should have a password.

Please read the following:

Above and Beyond at Cosgriff (ABC's)

- Foreign Language Instruction

In preschool, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades Ms. Hilbck teaches Spanish. Her main goals for students at this age are to develop an ear for different vowel and consonant sounds, learn sign language, expand auditory comprehension and memory for the Spanish language. Students learn words by acting out simple plays and picture identification. Most importantly, when young children learn a new language, new pathways to the brain are developed.

Fourth and fifth grade students are fortunate to study Latin. Mrs. Millard informs her classes that more than half of the English language comes from Latin roots as well as other languages, including Spanish. Latin is rigorous and demands discipline that expands students' capabilities in multiple subjects. In fact, in several large cities with at risk populations, the study of Latin has been a strong factor in the rise of test scores in all subjects.

Research has shown students who study Latin score consistently higher on SAT/ACT assessments, while the classic majors score the highest on the MCAT. Students study a minimum of 100 Greek and Latin roots and then derivatives; thereby expanding their vocabulary. They learn to read and write in Latin while studying the lives of a Pompeian family. In addition, they are learning the new Roman Mass, enriching their Catholic identity.

Mrs. Dalanese feels that her 3rd, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students learn about a different culture and appreciate diversity through learning Spanish as a second language. For middle school students, their focus on grammar, vocabulary and verb conjugations helps solidify a foundation in writing for both English and Spanish. The middle school classrooms are focused on immersion as students ask and answer questions in Spanish, as well as read and write in Spanish on a daily basis. The mission for the 8th grade graduating class is for every student to acquire competency in reading, writing and speaking Spanish and acquire the skills to be admitted into an honor class or Spanish II in High School.

Foreign language instruction is just one way the faculty reaches Above and Beyond at Cosgriff to provide all students a superior liberal arts education.

- Picture retakes are Monday, October 3rd. Students may bring a free dress top to put on for picture retakes, and then change back into their school uniform. Picture retake forms are in the

office if your child will be getting his/her picture taken. Please bring pack the picture packets that you want to have redone.

- Mrs. Romero is in need of a few experienced knitters who will assist in teaching her 4th grade students how to knit caps for patients at Primary Children's Hospital. Please email her at lrromero@cosgriff.org if you have time to teach October 5th from 12:45-1:30 and/or October 7th from 11:30-12:00.
- Cole Hazel is home and recovering very well from his operation. We hope to see Cole return to school within the next week or two. Continue to keep him in your prayers.
- The Cosgriff Book Fair sponsored by King's English, along with the Fine Arts sale will take place October 15th-20th. [Click here](#) for details about this great book and art sale.
A former Cosgriff parent and current school board member, Mary Crowther, has generously donated several beautifully framed prints purchased through Poem Art Publishing for Cosgriff, to sell before and during the annual Book Fair. These prints are moderately priced with all proceeds going directly to the school. Invite friends and family to support the Book and Art Sale
- The Grandparent Brunch is October 5th at 9:00am in the Social Center. A school visit will follow. Please RSVP if your child's grandparents, relatives or favorite family friend will attend the brunch to 801-486-3197. Volunteers are still needed to help set up, serve and clean up after the brunch. Please call or email Rhonda Dodson if you are available to help the day before or the morning of the brunch rjedodson@comcast.net or 801-322-1950. All parents need volunteer hours, please support this important event if you are able to volunteer for a few hours.
- Brian Kretschmar and Chris Maez will head up the Cosgriff Ski Program this year. Information and signup sheets will be available the first week in November. If you have any questions regarding the ski program, please contact Brian at 801-474-2934.
- The 7th grade class will host the 11:00am Mass this Sunday with 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students singing in the choir. Please plan to attend this special Mass.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are October 19th and 20th. [Click here](#) to download a conference form if your child is in grades K-8th. Please email or send it back to Mrs. Marron in the office right away. (kmarron@cosgriff.org).
- Parents and students of Cosgriff School are asked to take part in a very important stewardship activity; "Quilters Without Borders" October 6th from 7-8:00pm in the Vaughan Center. No experience is necessary. Quilts will be donated to several Salt Lake shelters.
- The Christian virtue students will learn more about in October is Justice. A person who understands and lives as a just person – is loyal, caring, tolerant, and practices good stewardship for all of God's creations including other people, animals, the earth, and our community.
- The social skill students will learn and practice is Making An Apology. [Click here](#) to review some ways to teach your child the steps for this life long skill.
- The Student Leadership Council would like to support the [Homeless Youth Resource and Outreach Center](#) during October. This stewardship/service project requires families to dig deep into closets to donate some of the following greatly needed items – (new or slightly used) for teenage boys and girls regular and larger sized – sweatpants/scrubs, socks, jewelry, towels, pillow covers, back packs, and camping gear. New – women's/men's underwear, hygiene supplies, make-up, craft supplies, notebooks, and public transit gift cards. Please bring all items by the office, please put underwear in a separate bag – gift cards/bus passes give to the office. Thank you.

- A very special thank you to all the golf hole sponsors from our “Bad in Plaid” golf tournament. Your additional generosity was very much appreciated.

NAI Utah

Mike and Meredith Makris

Richards Brandt Miller Law Firm

The Marron Family

The Winston Family

The Harmston Family

Mark Cotter

The Mancini Family

The Frederick Family

The Hazel Family

Jack Links

- Robin Harmston works in front and behind the scenes. She changes the decorations on the church altar to match the occasion or season. This year she will teach three grades the Art History course in the school. Robin tackles the most challenging volunteer duties. For example, taking children’s pictures with Santa Claus or hanging fine art prints for display for the upcoming Book Fair and Art Sale. She is a sterling example of one who gives her time, energy and talents in a quiet unassuming manner. None the less, Robin deserves recognition as an outstanding steward of St. Ambrose Church and Cosgriff School. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support.

Betsy Hunt

Principal