

A (long!) note from the Principal's desk,



06 September 2010

Dear Parents,

We have had three busy weeks already! I hope your child is adjusting well to their new teachers, schedules and daily routines. Please do not hesitate to let us know what we can do to help. The school year began with changes, additions or enhancements to our program or services. While some initiatives had a rocky start (first day bag lunches and pick-up were a mess!), others went smoothly, or continue to improve every day. Thank you for helping your child get to school on time each day, and prepared for class. Thank you for doing your part to help traffic procedures go well.

What have we been up to?

1. New middle school electives of art, journalism, keyboarding and technology applications began. Band classes did not begin due to scheduling difficulties and a limited interest (9 students). We are still pursuing this option as an after school activity. Middle school students have expressed much excitement as they experience new subjects and learning experiences.
2. The Dual Language Program began in BOTH 4K classrooms due to overwhelming interest from almost all K4 parents. Thank you Mrs. Wittig for helping us begin this program.
3. Saxxon Math curriculum was adopted for Grades K-8 to provide the resources for a 'spiral' math program that prepares students with the skills needed for high school algebra. Grades 4th and up have begun using it. Training for teachers in Grades K-3 will take place shortly and we expect to introduce and use it in all classrooms over the next two weeks.
4. New traffic procedures, that include the use of car signs in the windshield, and single location pick-up and drop-off for families with more than one student began on August 16th. They are going very well, car lanes are now cleared in 15 minutes or less at each location, with thanks received almost daily from our neighbors in Monte Vista who appreciate the orderly lines and increased safety for our children. (See traffic reminders below.)
5. Masses are attended by ALL students in 1st - 8th grades every Friday, at two churches (OLG and St. Anthony High School). We are grateful to Father Pat Guidon our chaplain, and to Frs. Art Flores, Charlie Banks, Jim Dudley, Rocky Grimard and Jonathan Felix who will assist us during the year as visiting priests. Every first Friday we will celebrate an all-school Mass at SACHS. Parents are encouraged to join us at Mass.
6. Morning assembly helps draw us all together as a school family to begin our day with prayer, the pledge, reflection and announcements, ending with song. We meet Mon-Thur on the playground from 7:50-8am. Join us!
7. Lunch schedules are working well. Menus are in the process of revision. Breaded and fried items will be replaced when existing stock is depleted, and healthier options of fresh fruit, grilled chicken and a soup/salad bar are on the way. We no longer allow the ordering of unlimited a la carte items. KRP will be provided with breakfast items that are easier for young children to eat.
8. Daily P.E for 30 minutes was incorporated into the schedule for all students.

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