

We at Most Holy Trinity draw all life and love to God through Worship,  
Prayer, Study and Good Works

# **Changing the world... one child at a time!**

September 1, 2009

Dear Friends and Families,

Welcome back to the new school year at Most Holy Trinity School. We are so very glad that each and every one of you is here. In fact, we wish that all of your friends and families would join you here too. Be sure to look inside the Tuesday envelope for a time-sensitive incentive to bring even more special people to our great school.

Tomorrow night is Back to School Night beginning at 7pm in Church. This is an important evening not only for all the information that you receive, but also for the reconnecting and welcoming that goes on between families. I hope to see you all there. After a short time in Church and some important introductions, you will proceed to your child's classrooms. There will be two sessions with your classroom teachers and if you still feel that you need more time to visit, feel free to make an appointment.

I will be addressing you at Back to School night but I'd like to take just a minute to talk about "what's new?" at MHT this year.

Each month, beginning this Friday morning, our students will once again be preparing liturgies. We have chosen to take The Gifts of the Holy Spirit to focus on for each gathering. This Friday the gift that we are celebrating is the Gift of Knowledge. Service for our community will also be a part of each celebration. This Friday, in honoring the gift of knowledge, we ask that each student bring one school supply to share with students who have none. If each of us brings a pencil, eraser, or crayons, MHT will be following Jesus' request to take care of those in need.

We've started to take fitness more seriously this year. Each of our classes has at least one period of Physical Education a week but we felt that we needed more. Each day, when the lunch bell rings, the classes are walking two laps around the playground before they head off to lunch. This is only about five minutes of walking but multiply it times 20 days in a month and it will begin to add up. Thanks to our day of exercise last year, we've purchased new tables and umbrellas. They were supposed to be here on the first day of school, and we are patiently waiting.... These were purchased with the monies earned from our Jog-a-thon last year. Thank you joggers!

Thanks to the profits from our Crab Feast last year, each classroom teacher has a new computer and projector for their classroom. It has only been one week of school but I've already seen the projectors at work and the computers are so much faster and more equipped than our previous ones. Thank you to all who attended the Crab Feast and made it such a success. The profits come right back to our students and our school!

Academically speaking, in preparing for WASC, our school wide improvement and accreditation process, we have spent much time gathering data and meeting to see how best to help our students learn. In studying test scores and classroom assessments, we have found that math and reading comprehension are two areas that we want to focus on this year. Last year we purchased a new math series for grades Kindergarten through second. We are continuing with this excellent series and have added it into our third through fifth grades. In sixth through eighth grades, we have added an extra math teacher to provide smaller and more individualized instruction.

I have had many questions about our Wednesday dismissal times. The reason for the 2 o'clock Wednesdays was to add academic minutes to our days. Your calendar has been marked for either minimum days (12:30dismissal) or Early dismissal (2pm dismissal). If you are ever confused, just call the office and we will set your mind at ease.

One thing that you'll never need to worry about on Wednesdays is food. Lunch will be offered on both days by the eighth grade parents who are raising money for their children to go to Washington D.C. over Easter vacation. This is a fantastic trip and also very expensive. We would like as many of our students to go as possible. All of our children will one day be eighth graders, so please do your best to support these parents on Wednesdays.

There are many things in your Tuesday envelope.

- We have made one copy per family of our updated handbook. The last page is to be signed and returned to the school office after you and your child have looked over the handbook. For the older students, please read the new section concerning the use of cell phones.
- September calendar of events, Pasta Hot lunch calendar, Family Fun Day, Spanish Classes, Raffle tickets for Family Fun Day
- A letter from our new Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Kathy Almazol, who visited our school today. We gave her a Most Holy Trinity blessing!

I know that this first Tuesday envelope is a bit overwhelming, but there is so much to share in becoming true partners in education. Please do your best to read what is sent home, to ask questions, and to become involved here at Most Holy Trinity.

I look forward to a great year working together with you,

*Serving God's world in love, one day at a time,*

*Dorothy Suarez*

