

St. Therese School Newsletter September 2009



From the Principal 1

P.O.L.T. News 2

P.O.L.T. News Continued 3

Athletic News 4

Welcome New Families! 5

School Commission

Important Dates 6

A Note From the Principal



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of St. Therese School,

Why does it always seem that summer goes so fast? The back to school commercials and sales have begun and we are likewise gearing up for the 2009-2010 school year. We have anxious, yet excited Kindergarteners and 8th graders. The other grades will take it in stride. Also, I haven't met a teacher yet that isn't excited and full of new ideas.

We are already planning the Annual Fund, Auction, and other community builders. I love the energy of this time of year. Please take the time to read the packet sent home as well as the school calendar. Thanks to your generosity we will also have Ms. Elliott back as part-time P.E./Health and part-time Title 1 tutor. God is looking out for us here at St. Therese.

Also, this year the teachers, students, and our parent community will be involved in our re-accreditation process. I will keep you posted as to our progress. Our site visit will be sometime in the early spring. Please keep us in your prayers.

All in all I am looking forward to a wonderful school year and seeing you at the various school and church events. We all have a stake in providing the best educational experience we can for our children. They are the future!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eileen L. Gray, Principal

News from Sarah Marshall, Your 2009-2010 P.O.L.T. President



Greetings St. Therese families and friends,

I am thrilled to be your 2009-2010 P.O.L.T. President. P.O.L.T., in case you don't know is the acronym for Parents Organization and Leadership Team.

P.O.L.T. has hit the ground running this year. We held our first meeting just about two weeks ago in the home of Sandy Gunder. As I sat at that meeting I couldn't help but to feel incredibly grateful for the love and dedication of the families of this school. In particular, my fellow P.O.L.T cohorts.

I sat across the table from Lucita Valiere, who's husband Jim once served as our school's vice principal. Lucita also has had four children Attend St. Therese! Her youngest, Nina is in the 7th grade this year. She's been a part of the school for over ten years. Lucita not only works many hours as our Athletics' Coordinator of the school, but she also has another job! That takes a strong belief in this community and desire to see it thrive. She is dedicated to the success of this school, and it is evident as I spend more and more time with her. She is organized, professional, and gives so much of herself to the school and is incredibly inspiring.

To her right sat Monique Adams. Monique not only sent her four children here (her son Christopher is in 8th grade this year and her youngest son Jamon is in fourth grade), but Monique was a student at St. Therese as well! Did you know our Administrative Assistant Mrs. LaDay is her mother? St. Therese is truly a part of Monique's family in every sense of the word. Monique is our Room Parent Coordinator this year. For several years

she has served this position very well, and she is an integral part of our community. When you talk to Monique, you can feel her passion for our St. Therese community. It is a community that has served her family well for more than 30 years. Monique knows this is a special place, and you will see, through her work on P.O.L.T., in the classrooms and around the school that she really cares about and is invested in our school. Since Monique and I have children in the same grade, I have had the pleasure of spending time with her on the soccer field and basketball court when my daughter Mia and her son Jamon were on the same co-ed teams in 2nd grade.

Mary Alyce Eugene, this year's Co-Hospitality Chair sat next to me. She is full of energy and warmth, and a strong desire to build St. Therese up. Her son, Declan is in the 2nd grade this year, and since Mary Alyce and Declan's first day, three years ago in Kindergarten, she has been friendly, hard-working and a true asset to the school. The role of Co-Hospitality chair serves her well. Mary Alyce will be working with Angela Corpus to plan and organize our all-school events-take for instance the coffee on the first day of school. Both ladies went out and purchased all the food for the event, will arrive early in the morning, set up tables and chairs and then you will see Mary Alyce and her beautiful smile greeting us all as we venture in, full of nerves, on our children's first day of school. As I have gotten to know Mary Alyce I have found that she is warm, and friendly and FULL of knowledge about the school. If you're lucky enough to meet her, take some time to chat with her. She's a good person to know.

Then there's Sandy Gunder. Sandy's daughter Jackie spent her entire elementary and middle school years as a student here. Very proudly, Sandy dropped Jackie off at Holy Names Academy today for her first day as a Freshman. Sandy's husband Tom has spent countless hours coaching various sports teams at St. Therese, served on the board and was also school commission president. Sandy has been very present in the classrooms volunteering with everything from playground duty to her most recent adventure-the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. At the very least, you will hear from Sandy once per week. As our Volunteer Coordinator Sandy has the thankless job of coordinating upwards of 5,000 parent volunteer hours! Sandy also serves as the "face" of St. Therese by coordinating enrollment, giving tours and completing the enrollment process for all new families. Hopefully you all have gotten to know Sandy by now.

Even though her daughter Jackie has graduated from the school, Sandy is still here working hard—a sign of a dedicated staff member, and alumni parent.

Then you have me! You may recognize my name from last year when I served as the communications chair and was the one responsible for publishing all of the school newsletters, which I will still be doing. I have spent the last 13 years as the Director of Admissions for The Learning Tree Montessori School on Capitol Hill. I am confident that I can serve the school well as P.O.L.T. president with the skills that I have developed through my job. I have plans to work on helping the school to boost enrollment that I am excited about. This is a WONDERFUL school that more people need to hear about. Get out there and spread the word!

I am here to serve you guys. So, if there is something that you have a question about, or want to give suggestions, please do so. We want to hear from you. That's what we're here for. We're a team. Please do not ever hesitate to give me a call or email me (my contact info is listed in the school roster).

To close, I just want to thank you all for your continued dedication to our wonderful school. During my daughter's first year here, she was out with a cold. When we came back, four children had written her name on their prayer card, praying that she regain her health, and return to school soon. I knew then that this was the absolute best choice for my daughter and for our family, and I have only been more convinced of this as we continue our journey at the school.

Wishing you all many blessings for the 2009-2010 school year.

Sarah Marshall
2009-2010 P.O.L.T. President

2009-2010 P.O.L.T. Officers



POLT HITS THE GROUND RUNNING!

Introducing your P.O.L.T. Officers for the 2009-2010 School Year:

Please thank me in advance for the wonderful leadership this group provides to our school.

President Sarah Marshall (mom to Mia in 4th grade)

Co-Hospitality Chairs Mary Alyce Eugene (mom to Declan in 2nd grade) and Angela Corpus (mom to Aliyah, 2nd grade)

Room Parent Chair Monique Adams (mom to Jamon in 4th grade and Christopher in 8th grade).

The group meets monthly and coordinates school events, parent communication and fundraising.

Look for more information and communication soon!

Athletic News



Dear St. Therese Families,

Welcome back new and returning families and students. For those who do not know me, I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Lucita Valiere and I am the Athletic Director for St. Therese. I have been running the program for the last 13 years. My husband, Jim and I have four children. Our three older children have graduated from St. Therese (Class of 1996, 2000, 2004). Our fourth and youngest child, Nina, will be in the 7th grade at St. Therese. My family and I have also been St. Therese parishioners for the last 19 years.



I would like to provide you with some information regarding the athletic program. We have the following sports in the Seattle Archdiocese - Catholic Youth Organization (CYO): **Cross Country (gr. K-8); Soccer (gr. 1-8); Basketball (gr. 4-8); Volleyball (gr. 5-8); Boys Baseball (gr. 5-8); and Track & Field (gr. 4-8)**. Here at St. Therese, we also provide Pee Wee Basketball (gr. K-3) through our partnership with the Rotary Boys and Girls Club.

We are now in the midst of beginning our Cross Country and Soccer season. You will find included with this letter, student registration forms for the two sports if your child is interested in participating, in one or both sports. Please note the deadline dates on the form to submit your registration to the school office.



I am always looking for volunteers to help with coaching, team parents, scorekeeper, transportation, uniform

inventory, and athletic fundraising. This is another way and opportunity for parents to volunteer and earn their required parent hours to the school. Based on a soccer survey that was sent out in the spring, I currently have the following teams that have shown interest to participate this season: 2nd grade coed soccer, 4th grade boys soccer; 4th grade girls soccer.

I am currently looking for coaches for the 2nd grade coed soccer; and 4th grade boys soccer. Thank you to Sarah Marshall who has volunteered to coach the 4th grade girls' soccer team. The 7th/8th grade boys who expressed interest will be joining the St. George/St. Therese team; and the 7th/8th grade girls who expressed interest will be joining the St. Paul/St. Therese team.

Thank you to our Cross Country coaches: Montee Gillespie (7th grade parent) and Sabrina Tinsley (3rd grade parent) who will continue to coach the team.

I look forward to seeing and meeting you at the Back to School Picnic on Thursday, August 27th. I will have a table set up with my Athletic Program information. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by and see me at the picnic. You can also check out our school website at www.stthereseseattle.org; email me at st.thereseathletics@yahoo.com; or call the Athletic Office at 206-324-0460, ext. 118.

Thank you,

Lucita Valiere, Athletic Director
St. Therese School/Parish



Welcome New St. Therese Families!

Please Welcome the following new families to our St. Therese School Community!

- ✦ Geoff and Juli Coburn and their sons Buckley (1st grade) and Fletcher (3rd grade)
- ✦ Ms. Aisha Eillington and her daughter Fanci (2nd grade) and son R. Marquis (6th grade)
- ✦ Ms. Lilli Ewing and her two children Nicholas starting Kindergarten and big sister Carmen (4th grade)
- ✦ Phillippe Jeoffroy and Gail Morgan and their daughter Celeste in Kindergarten
- ✦ Ms. Darcy Keller and her son Naveed Modarres entering 6th grade
- ✦ Ms. Josie Lavin and Kayla (Kindergarten)
- ✦ Helen Lozan and 1st grader June
- ✦ Ms. Elizabeth Lykins and daughter Caroline (Kindergarten)
- ✦ Jason and Anna Malone and daughter Lilli in Kindergarten
- ✦ The Marshall family (Clifford and Catherine and son Clifton, 2nd grade)
- ✦ Lavette Norman and Allen Scribner and daughter Faith in Kindergarten
- ✦ Ms. Sheri Oliver and son Bryce Green (Kindergarten)
- ✦ Ms. Tomica Ransaw and sons Jayden, 1st and De'Juan, 8th
- ✦ Ms. Adelle Richardson and her son Quentin Richardson-Daigle, 6th grade
- ✦ Ms. Kristian Shell and 3rd grade son Jalen Aziz
- ✦ Ms. Lorna State-Sylvester and daughter Takeo in Kindergarten
- ✦ Ms. Malakia Vester and son Jonathan in 8th
- ✦ Ms. Reshae Vester and son Bryson Jones, 6th
- ✦ Jonathan and Zoe Wakefield and their daughter Eleanor in Kindergarten
- ✦ Ms. Michon Wheeler and her daughter Charity joining our 6th grade
- ✦ Lisa Mclaughlin and Dameon Robinson and their son Xavier in Kindergarten
- ✦ Kathleen Naughton and her sons Cooper (Kindergarten) and Jackson (1st grade)
- ✦ Allen Scribner and Lavette Noonan and their daughter Faith in Kindergarten



Meet Your 2009/2010 School Commission Members

Returning members:

Ed Gallagher, chair and dad to Maggie, 6th grade
 Alison Carter, POLT representative and mom to Rosa, 4th grade
 Tom Evered, parish representative
 Lisa McIver, school parent and mom to Cameron, 7th grade
 Sonya Sanders, school parent and mom to Steven, 3rd grade

Welcome to new members:

Angelo Banchemo, school parent and dad to Mia, Kindergarten and Paolo, 2nd grade
 Katherine Schoemer, school parent and mom to Owen, 1st grade

The commission meets once a month and works with Mrs. Gray and Father Okumu on school policies.

2009-2010 Room Parents

Thank you to the following parents for volunteering to be our Room Parents for the year:

Kindergarten

Rhonda Banchemo and Tracie Kidd

1st Grade

Maria Marshall and Carla Spaccarotelli

2nd Grade

Yvette Moy

3rd Grade

DaVonna Johnson

4th Grade

Lisa Holden-Jackson

5th/6th Grade Boys

Peggy Jackson

5th/6th Girls

Anna Richards and Pat Philbin

7th/8th Boys

Tracie Kidd

7th/8th Girls

Lucita Valiere

Look for more information on your room parents soon! And be sure to give them a BIG THANK YOU for representing your class!

Important Dates

August

31-First Day of School and Welcome Back Coffee

September

7-Labor Day, School Closed

10-Middle School Back to School Night

15-K-4 (Elementary) Back to School Night

18-No School

October

23-Early Dismissal for Middle School Only

November

11-Veteran's Day, No School

17-20-Noon Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences

25-Noon Dismissal

26 & 27-Thanksgiving Holiday

December

18-Noon Dismissal

21-Jan 3rd-Christmas Break, School Closed

