

St. Therese School Newsletter October, 2008



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Dear Parents and Friends of St. Therese,

We have had a wonderful opening to our 2008-2009 school year. Everyone has gotten back into the swing of things pretty easily.



As many of you may already know from your children, our theme this year is stewardship. Already the 7/8 girls have taken the lead with a two week food drive to help a local food bank whose shelves were empty. Thank-you to all the students who brought in cans. The girls were able to take in 526 cans. That's a start. Our ambassadors are getting ready for the Penny Drive, which you will be hearing about this month. The students are learning that all stewardship activities do not have to be big things. In the spirit of St. Therese, our patron, they can also be little things. For example helping each other in class and on the playground, as well as keeping our environment clean inside and out. We hope to have our stewardship bulletin board overflowing with helping hands by the end of the year.

Also, we kicked off our Annual Fund Sept. 20th. Our goal this year is \$65,000. Our campaign runs all year. Please consider giving a gift to the Annual Fund. No gift is too small. We want to stay affordable and accessible.

I know October is a busy month culminating with Halloween. Always check your school calendar and/or weekly bulletin (all of which you can check out on-line) to keep up with all that is going on.

Thank-you for caring about St. Therese School.

Eileen L. Gray,
Principal

School Ambassadors for 2008-2209 by Sandy Gunder

Congratulations to the following 7th and 8th graders who will represent our school at various events throughout the school year:

- ✦ **Christopher Adams**
- ✦ **Sarah Bruce-Eisen**
- ✦ **Nick Davis**
- ✦ **Jackie Gunder**
- ✦ **Rick Lum**
- ✦ **Michelle Thomas**
- ✦ **Olivia Vincent**

- Myra Brisky**
- Bryan Carter**
- Maya Fraser-Philbin**
- Elijah Lazo**
- Tahj Stewart**
- Zachary Valdry**
- Cian West**



Events include collecting for our school endowment fund (Five for the Future) at church once a month; coordinating the Penny Harvest Drive in the fall; helping at Kindergarten Information Night in November; conducting tours for our school open house during Catholic Schools Week in January; helping with new parent registration in the spring.

St. Therese Students in Action! by Sandy Gunder

Since September was “Hunger Awareness Month,” Ms. Jungers 7/8th grade girls decided to put what they’ve been learning in Religion into action by coordinating a food drive. To that effort, they spoke at a Monday prayer service and asked students to collect food and bring it in for the next two weeks. By the end of the first week, they’d already collected 300 cans!

The girls made two deliveries to the First AME Church and helped them sort and box up items for distribution.



St. Therese 7/8th grade girls with some of their food before delivering to First AME.

A Note From Your 2008-2009 P.O.L.T. President; Alison Carter

Hello St Therese families!

I hope everyone has survived the first month of school. It is hard to acclimate to the new hours and schedules; making lunches, getting them dressed, combing hair, feeding them. All that! But as hard as it is to adjust, it is very well worth it for our children's sake. May God bless our children! They are our future.

So, now that September is over we have to think about the goings on for this month!

I hope the ***Sally Foster Fundraiser*** went well. Remember that besides the auction, this brings in most of your required fundraising commitment.

October 26th the 2ND graders, Ms Kingston and Ms Sullivan will be hosting the Social Hours for this month's '\$5 for the Future' Sunday. If you are in that class I encourage you to take part. It's a nice way to get to meet the other half of our support system; the Parishioners. It is not required to attend the mass to help with the social hour. Plus you receive volunteer hours! For more information please contact your room parent, Kellie Valdry, Catherine's mom. She can give you what duties you will have during the 'hour'. If anyone would like a mini walk thru let Sandy Gunder know and she'd be glad to clarify things for you. Don't forget to have your child be in full uniform (no sweats please). Just from past experience, whoever volunteers at either the 9am or the 11am mass, please, please! plug in the coffee maker as soon as you arrive!! It takes about 30 minutes before you can brew coffee. Thank you!

Please offer support to the following activities:

- **St T's Cross Country**; see the Parent Bulletin in Wednesday's envelope for times and dates. You can always contact our new and returning Athletic Director, Lucita Valliere if you would like to speak to a live person.
- The Athletic Department's fundraising **Wreath Sale started Oct 8th**
- The 8th graders are trying to raise money to take a trip to Washington DC. They are offering **'NIGHT OUT FOR PARENTS' Friday, Oct 24th**. We all could use a little break, right? The live person to contact is Heidi Tilghman at [**tilghman@u.washington.edu**](mailto:tilghman@u.washington.edu)

Last but not least HALLOWEEN is coming!!! OOOOO Spooky!! It is on a Friday so maybe everyone won't be rushed to go out and Trick or Treat if that is what you do for that night. Oh, and it's a Friday so that means unless you control your child with the candy you will be up alllll night! I just would like to say to all, please be extra safe, walk in groups, take extra care crossing streets, and no matter how many kids are walking around, there always are those few speeders that just don't get it!! Oh, and no littering!

Always read your Wednesday inserts too so you don't miss anything important!

Thank you for your attention and I hope you are having a very nice October!

***Best Regards to all,
Alison R Carter, POLT President***

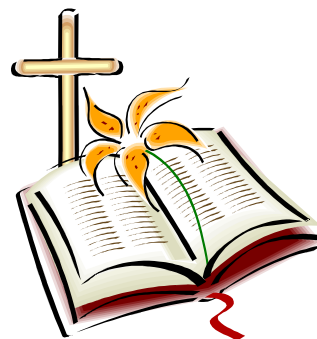
Please Join Us

St. Therese School would like to invite you to join us at one of our weekly Prayer Services or monthly Liturgical Masses.

Our weekly Prayer Services are at 8:45am on Monday mornings and last around 20 minutes. Under the direction of the classroom teacher, different classes are responsible for each service. They pick a theme and using scripture and/or appropriate readings; guide the rest of the school in living that theme within the context of their lives for the rest of the week. We end each Prayer Service with our school song, which also reinforces our strength as a school community.

Upcoming Prayer Services (Mondays, 8:45am):

October 27	7/8 girls
November 3 (10am)	7/8 grade boys
November 10	4 th grade
November 17	Kindergarten
December 1	3 rd grade
December 15 th	Kindergarten



Upcoming Liturgies:

Our liturgies are planned by two or more teachers with the coordination of our Pastor, Father Okumu. They choose a theme and the readings that support that theme. Students are used in as many liturgical roles as possible. We are also led in song by our tremendous children's choir. Our worshipping together is one of our strongest bonds as a community.

Monday, **November 3rd**, 10am
 Wednesday, **November 26th**, 10am
 Friday, **December 12th**, 10am

Feast of All Souls (Day of the Dead) Mass
 Thanksgiving Mass
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

***St. Therese School Commission
Looking for Your Support
By Lucita Valiere***



Hello Everyone,

My name is Lucita Valiere and I am the president of the School Commission. My husband and I have been actively involved with St. Therese for 18 years, both at the school level and as parishioners. Our family attends the 5pm Sunday mass. All four of our children attended St. Therese School. Nicole is now 26 years old, Joe is 22 years old, Sam is 18 years old and our youngest, Nina is currently in the 6th grade. We also have our nephew, Cedric Nazario attending the school in the 3rd grade while his parents are serving in the Army in Iraq.

St. Therese has been a very welcoming and diverse community. The one thing that stands out for me is that our St. Therese community really looks out for each other and provides support in many ways, at many levels, to many people. I am reaching out to you and asking for that support for the school commission.

The school commission is an advisory board that advises and supports the pastor and the principal. The responsibilities of the school commission, in cooperation with the pastor and the principal, include; creating & following a mission statement for the school, recommending policies, setting short term & long term strategic goals for the school, developing means to finance the school (including tuition structures, financial development, and fund raising), promoting internal/external communication, marketing and public relations, and evaluating the school's goals and plans.

The school commission is a two-year term. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

Current members include:

Fr. Stephen Okumu, Parish Pastor

Mrs. Eileen Gray, School Principal

Mr. Ray St. Mary, Business Manager

Mr. James Adams, parent of Christopher in 7th grade and Jamon in 3rd grade

Mrs. Allison Carter, POLT president; and parent of Rosa in 3rd grade

Mr. Tom Evered, Parishioner

Mr. Scott Nichols, parent of Henry in 2nd grade

Mrs. Lucita Valiere, School Commission president; parent of Nina in 6th gr; and aunt of Cedric in 3rd gr.

Ms. Lisa McIver; parent of Cameron in 6th grade

Mr. Ed Gallagher; parent of Maggie in 5th grade

Mrs. Sonya Sanders, parent of Steven in 2nd grade

If you have any concerns or questions, please never hesitate to contact me at lvaliere79@hotmail.com or call 206-760-0933.

Good Food Good Grades
By Tyra Elliott



The September issue of BETTER NUTRITION featured an article entitled:

Good Food Good Grades

The opening sentence was “Eating a healthful diet is linked to better academic performance in children.”

The results indicated: Students with the most varied and well balanced diets consistently scored higher on standardized tests.

Their research showed that for the children scoring higher on the tests, their diets consisted of fruits and vegetables, fewer calories from saturated fats and junk food, and a balance of carbohydrates and protein.

Their conclusion was based upon the single common variable: that students who scored high or at least passed, received their required nutrients in all categories based upon their diet. However, those not eating a varied, **balanced diet** did not score well or pass the standardized tests taken.

Don't forget!
We are still
looking for playground
and lunch duty volun-
teers. Please contact
Sandy Gunder if you
can help out at:

sandyg@stthereseeparish.org



Greetings from Ms. Brannan's
Kinder-Stars!

Please come visit and listen to us learning to read, enjoy math all around us, study about trees, learn about community helpers, learn our prayers and that Jesus is our friend. We always just have FUN!!! We've been to the downtown Library and have a trip to Remlinger Farms planned for this month. We are enjoying our 7/8 grade buddy class and had lots of fun making applesauce. We are REALLY looking forward to the parents helping in the classroom. PLEASE COME VISIT!!!!!!

“How was your summer?”

Excerpts from letters written by 4th Graders

Dear Grandma Azella,
I had a wonderful summer . . . I was very excited to pick blackberries for the first time this summer. Before I picked the blackberries I found a good place to pick them. I put them in a white bowl. When we got home my mom tried to make them into a pie but this didn't work so we ate them as soup. While I was eating my blackberry soup I was watching Twilight Zone with mom and Sam. I had a great time picking blackberries and eating them . . .

Love and hugs,
Sidney (Kemp)

Dear Auntie,
My summer was exciting . . . I went to the water park with my cousins and my brother and sister. There was a giant water slide and one that you can ride on with an inner tube. On another one you just slide down. They were so fun and so awesome. And there was a place called the Lazy River. You got on an inner tube and you got pulled around. It was fun. There was also a wave pool and that was fun, too . . .

Love,
Elizabeth (Valdry)

Dear Jared,
My summer was incredible, fun, and exciting . . . I went to Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C. My dad, my little sister, and my stepmom live in Baltimore. I went to the Buffalo Soldiers' Statue there. I also went to the Black History Museum. It's nice to learn about black history . . . In my YMCA program back in Seattle, we went to Jetty Island. I picked up shrimp called moon shrimp, and I also picked up crabs . . .

Sincerely,
Jaedyn

Dear Grandma Freddy,
I had a great summer. I went to golf camp, tutoring and taekwondo. Then we had a trip to Phoenix. When we went there we went to the Phoenix Science Center. My favorite exhibit was the earth exhibit. It had a show about the earth . . . When I got back home I had a birthday party. All my friends came. It was at 321 Bounce. You can play basketball, boxing, wrestling and racing games there . . .

Sincerely,
Jaylen (Nowell)

Dear Uncle Darren,
This is a letter about my summer . . . In the middle of July I went to a barbecue with my best friend Alex, and it was fun. At the barbecue they had a volleyball game, a water slide, and a big bag contest. Somebody there wore a great t-shirt with Barack Obama's face on it . . . I also worked out with my mom's personal trainer. It was fun and interesting but it was pretty hard going up and down those stairs . . . Four days before school started I went to my first NFL game. It was sooooo cool.

Love,
Shai'Ree (Tucker)

Dear Uncle Mike,
It had a tremendous summer. First, I traveled to Seaside, Oregon. It was real fun there. It was fun when we watched the fireworks go off right by the ocean . . . I went to a candy camp at the Pacific Science Center. My class went to a lot of exhibits. My favorite exhibit was the Speed exhibit. The weekend after my camp I went to George and Laurie's son's house and chased chickens. I caught three out of six . . .

Your nephew,
Malcolm (Prevo)

Dear Gena,
I had an awesome summer. First, I went to Wild Waves for Leon's birthday. I went on the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is a ride that goes up and down. Then I went on the Wild Thing. Then I went on the Speed Slide. This is a slide that goes straight down. The ride home from there was sooo long . . . Then I went to the Great Wolf Ranch which is an indoor water park. I loved the Howlin' Tornado. It's a water slide that goes down a little hill, which goes into a HUGE hill! The ride was so cool. Again, the car drive back was sooo long!

Love,
Lucas (Gordon)

Dear Uncle Steven,
My summer vacation was thrilling. I went to Bring Your Child to Work Day at mom's job. We ate lunch at the cafeteria, and mom showed me what she does at Microsoft . . . I also had a birthday at a Japanese restaurant. Some of my mom's friends came and one of my friends came . . . One day Tyrone took Myles and I to the Seattle Children's Museum. We saw how people in Ethiopia and Japan live.

Love,
Alex (Campbell)

Middle School Language Arts

Have You Read a Good Book Lately? ***Students are enthusiastic about reading!***



5/6 Girls Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan

Amariah

The 5/6 Girls are reading Homeless Bird. This story is about a girl who lives in India and she is getting married to a boy who is supposedly sixteen. She is thirteen. I feel really bad for her because in this story, in India, when you get married it's not for love and care, it's for her to be a maid and a servant to a man. After they get married, Koly finds out that he (new husband) is very sick, and the family only wanted the marriage for the money. Koly feels like "a stuck bug in a spider web and can't get out."

Anna

Even though we haven't finished reading this book, I still recommend it. It's like fiction, but it's also like a nonfiction book. The girl, Koly, has to get married to someone even though she is only thirteen years old. She has to listen to her husband's family because of tradition. ...

Maggie

It's about a little girl that lives in India. She is only thirteen and her mom and dad arrange a marriage for her. Her husband is so sick she has to do everything for him...

Khari

This book helps you learn about the culture of India. This book is so good it paints a picture in your mind.

Ayanda

This book reminds me to get more involved in learning about other cultures.

Sue

I am anxious to find out why this book is called Homeless Bird.

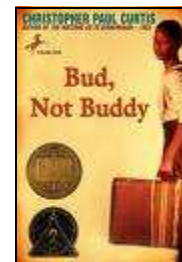
Gabrielle

I feel the main character, Koly, should not have to get married at thirteen.

Ellie

If I had to pick my favorite book, this would be my first choice.

5/6 Boys Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis



Jessie

I like this book because it teaches me about history and it teaches me that the world is better than it used to be a long time ago. It has many funny parts like when Bud thought Lefty Lewis was a vampire. I really like the scene when Bud was in the shed and he was scared because of the fish heads...

Ta'Jae

I like this book because Bud made a rulebook for his life and I like the way he talks.

Garcia

I like this story because it is exciting and funny. It has lots of tips telling how to deal with things in life. This story could actually happen.

Troy

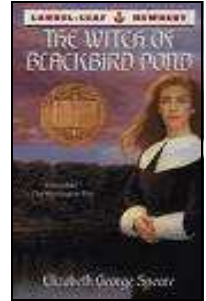
I like the way Bud explains his thoughts.

Antoine

I like this book because it is funny and sad. My favorite part is when Bud is in Hooverville and he meets a girl name Deza Malone. She keeps holding his hand when he says something sad...

7/8 Girls *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare**Taylor**

I like this book because the more you read the more interesting it gets. It is very descriptive. If someone is reading it aloud and you close your eyes you can imagine the things that the story tells. This story is about a girl named Kit who is sixteen years old. She once lived in Barbados, but she had to live with her grandfather because her parents drowned. When her grandfather passes away, Kit seeks a new life with her aunt in the early colonies.

**Maya**

I like this book. It is about a rich girl from Barbados, moving somewhere completely new and different. She leaves her old life for a new one, and she is disappointed.

Jekelle

One thing I like about this book is that it gives good details and you feel like whatever is happening to each character is happening to you.

Michelle

This is an interesting novel. So far, the story is just getting started. The main character has met her only family and realizes that life is going to be harder than she imagines. I am sure many interesting events are soon to come.

Granada

This book makes me wonder what my life would be like if I lived back then.

7/8 Boys *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan**Tahj**

I like this book because it is a great novel. It is full of suspense and action.

Andre

I like this book because the author has a great imagination.

Jordan

This book pulls you in and doesn't let go. It gives lots of laughs and action.

Zach

This book sparks your imagination with its use of mythical characters.

Elijah

When you finish reading a part, it makes you think about what might happen next.



Auction News by Steve Berg



I wanted to give you a brief update on what is happening with the auction. To date we've received about 35 items. We ultimately need in the ballpark of 325 items or services to make the auction a success. Please be diligent in asking now for the donations.

We have a couple classes who are already getting started on their auction art projects. Please make sure each class has gotten people to help with the projects as these need to be completed by Christmas break.

If you go online and Google "art projects for kids auctions" you will find many sites with ideas for projects. Remember each class has a budget based on the number of kids in the room. \$10 per student. Please make sure you run project ideas past the auction coordinator to make sure it is an appropriate item. It is suggested that items are not too large that they are difficult to transport and would also fit into a variety of home spaces. Not every potential buyer has space for a piece of furniture and not every buyer has outdoor space. These are good things to keep in mind.

We have gotten two families to agree to donate the commemorative wine that we private label and auction off at the end of the evening. Sandy Lee who donated it last year and kindergarten parents, Jeremy Robinson and Catherine Schomer (Owen's parents) have generously taken on this donation.

With the help of Lucita Valiere, we will be offering a block of rooms at the Crown Plaza just a short walk from the W hotel for those who wish to stay over the night of the auction. We will publish the rates shortly, but the hotel is working on a Valentine's package for the night. More details to follow. Reserved rooms are limited so you will want to book early.

In the near future, Karl Lum will be reopening the auction link on the school website where you will be able to view items, get the latest news and book your tickets for the auction.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Berg at auctionc@saintthereseeparish.org or by calling 206-720-7280.

***Steve Berg,
Your 2009 Auction Chair***

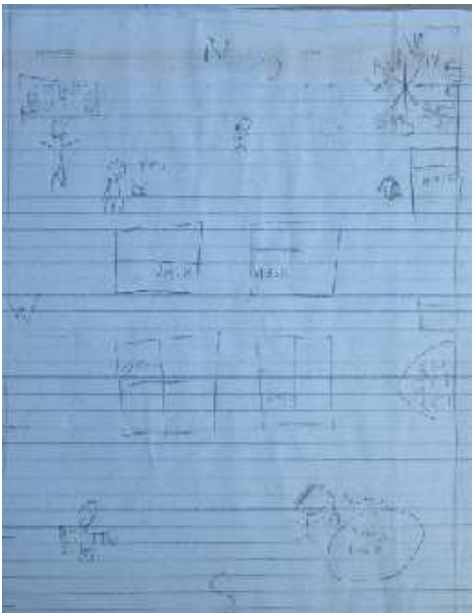
3rd Grade News

By Rosa Carter and Cedric Nazario



Our class is reading the chapter book *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Skene Catling. It's about a boy named John Midas who is crazy about chocolate and I love chocolate. Every morning we do a P.O.D. that means Problem of the Day. We also do a D.O.L. and that means Daily Oral Language. The class learns how to correct sentences.

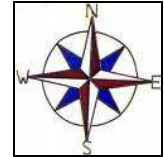
~Rosa



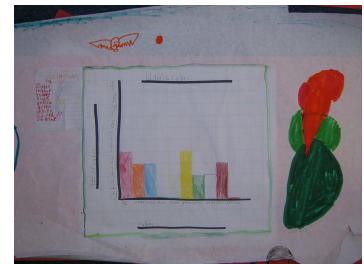
We have "Gotcha" drawings every Friday. Mrs. Nowell pulls out a "Gotcha" ticket for kids to win prizes. We earn tickets by being good like being quiet in the hall, helping others, and not kicking and hitting.



In Social Studies we learned about a Compass Rose. It shows you about north, south, east, and west. We learned what direction we live from school and we made a map of our classroom.



In math we learned about graphs and tally charts. We graphed letter in the class' first names, last names, and we graphed Unifix Cubes using tally charts. It felt excellent to show off my skills!



-Cedric



St. Therese School

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igniting minds, dreams & faith

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St. Therese Catholic School is a diverse community that nurtures faith and inspires learning



The St. Therese Newsletter is published by Sarah Luna on behalf of P.O.L.T.

Newsletter also available on-line at our website: www.stthereseseattle.org

Motown Night!

Come ***Boogie on Down*** with your friends at Motown Night
Saturday, November 15th, 8:00 p.m. to midnight

Sponsored by St. Therese School's P.O.L.T.

Purchase tickets by calling **(206) 760-0933**