

St. Philomena School News

“Anchored in a community that promotes Gospel values in all areas of a balanced curriculum.”

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From Mr. Morissette

June 13, 2012

Here we are at the end of the 2011-2012 school year; when I reflect back on this school year, three words come to mind: triumph, loss and faith.

Triumph ~ I am very proud of all that the teachers have taught and all that the students have learned. The school made huge strides in our curriculum especially in the area of science with the creation of the lab-based science classroom. We instituted standards-based report cards that are aligned with the new Common Core standards which give clear and concise learning expectations. We revised and rewrote our religion curriculum that we will implement this fall. The students did well on their ITBS tests and 5th and 8th grade students participated in the Washington state MSP online test in science and math. We started a rather expansive after-school club program, expanded the Honor Roll and summer camp. We started the Gloria Strauss Scholarship Fund to help those families in dire financial needs. We worked very hard on improving instruction and assessment and striving to meet the needs of all students. *A year of a lot of triumph!*

Loss ~ While there were many triumphs, the year was overshadowed at times with a complete sense of loss and grief. On December 29, 2012, we lost our energetic and outgoing 4th grader, Anthony Strauss. The loss seemed insurmountable and heart wrenching. Our school community was rocked with news of parents facing cancer, lost jobs and extremely dire financial situations.

We are also saying goodbye to some beloved faculty and staff members at St. Philomena School. Mrs. Byers is retiring after 36 years at St. Philomena School. Miss Moreno is moving on to teach at Villa Academy, Mrs. Yanak is moving on to new adventures and our Title 1 teacher, Mrs. Parsons, will not be coming back next year. We also say goodbye to our 8th graders who graduated and to all the students and their families who will be leaving our school this year. *A year of some significant losses!*

Faith ~ With the highs of our triumphs and the lows of our losses, one thing remains true and intact and that is our faith. We are blessed to be part of a community whose center is the love of God. We thank him for all our blessings and we look to him to give us guidance and strength. He was there throughout all triumphs and during our losses. He has also given us hope and encouragement.

Our hearts will forever be altered by Anthony's death, but we take comfort in knowing he is experiencing the true love of God. We know that God has continually watched over the Strauss family as they welcomed, Dominc Strauss into the world in February and moved into a new home this past spring.

God gave strength, hope and courage to Julia Freilinger and Grace de Leon as they fought their battles with cancer. It brings all of us such joy seeing them as they continue to get healthier every day. We are truly blessed to have both these women on our community!

While we will miss those faculty and staff members leaving, we know that God will be guiding them and keeping them safe as they move onto new adventures.

Our faith brings us a lot of hope for the future! Next year we will begin the year with a new PreK program, welcoming new faculty members and many new students. We will have a five day-a-week lunch program, more after-school club options, new school hours, a safety fence around our playground, a new Development Director, and many new curriculum improvements. *A year enraptured in faith!*

I want to thank all the parents for their dedication and support of the school. I want to thank the faculty and staff for their never ending hard work and professionalism. I want to thank Father Woodland and the St. Philomena parishioners for their support of Catholic education. Finally, I want to thank the students for being beacons of God's hope and love and for just being great people. I wish you a summer filled with fun, relaxation and safe times!!

We will be celebrating Mrs. Byers during our final school Mass of the year on Friday, June 15, 2012. Mass will begin at 9:00 AM with the celebration following Mass. Everyone is invited to attend!! We are also establishing the Marilyn Byers Alumni Fund, which will help alumni families who attend St. Philomena School with tuition assistance. If you would like to make a donation in Mrs. Byers' name, please make checks out to St. Philomena School. We are also encouraging all students who had Mrs. Byers to send in a card or note of thanks, which we will be presenting to her at the Mass on June 15th. Let's celebrate this true treasure of St. Philomena School! We will also have something planned for Miss Moreno, Mrs. Yanak and Mrs. Parsons.

There is a change to the Kids' Club fee for 2012-2013; the afternoon fee is \$8.00 per day not \$10.00 as listed in last week's information. I apologize for any confusion regarding this issue.

See you on September 4th!
Mr. Morissette



FYI:

- Thank you to the 6th grade parents, 7th grade parents and the 7th grade students for the amazing job they did with the 8th graduation brunch and reception. Both events were terrific!
- Registration forms for summer school and summer camp are on the school's website.
- Ms. Marlys Hunt is offering her services for one-on-one summer tutoring. If you are interested please email Marlys at marlys.a.hunt@gmail.com.
- The required summer reading list is on the school's website.
- Please consider being a room parent for next year.
- Buddy family information is in this week's Wednesday Envelope
- Report cards for families current with all financial obligations will go home on Friday, June 15th

CYO NEWS: Soccer Registration - please be sure to turn in the registration and fees (\$50 for registration + \$20 for a jersey, if one is needed). Last day to turn them in is Wednesday June 13. We will try to register a Kindergarten team next year. If you know of any K soccer players who are interested, please have the parents turn one in.



Cross Country Registration - due date is September 7, 2012. We have one coach and are looking for additional coaches. If you are interested, please contact our Athletic Director, Sean Bui at sb3athome@comcast.net or call 253-854-1073.



Friday, JUNE 15th IS OUR LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Please join us on Friday at 9:00 a.m. for mass. Students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. to start their summer vacation. Special thanks to Mrs. Angie Mendez and her excellent team for their commitment to our children. Kids' Club is a special part of the St. Philomena family.

Kids' Club closes at 8:15 a.m. on Friday!



Please check the **lost and found bench** for your misplaced treasures. Everything that has not been claimed will be donated on Monday morning, June 18th. Happy Hunting!

To all St. Philomena School parents.

Thank you for making the last 36 years the happiest time of my life. It has been exciting to see the light bulbs turn on as your children learned new skills and the joy in their faces as they made new friends. Prior to coming to St. Philomena I taught at other schools, so I can truly say you are the best, most supportive, and most involved group of parents anywhere. Your dedication to your children's learning and your willingness to partner with their teachers in this effort were, and still are, major reasons for their success. They've also made St. Philomena School a very enjoyable and rewarding place to teach. Now, as I am about to retire, I look back over those years and smile. Your concerns helped me grow as a teacher, and your encouragement and support made my job easier. Thank you again, and God bless you.

Marilyn Byers



YEARBOOKS: We have a few final keepsake yearbooks available for purchase! For a fee of \$18, you can have the 2011-2012 school memories at your finger tips. Please connect with the school office if interested. Yearbooks will be handed out Thursday, June 14th.



SPLASH
April 20, 2013
Wishes...

It is never too early to start procuring. Talk to your friends, family or business associates, see if they would be willing to donate their time share, services from their business, or donate Sports tickets! Watch for end of the summer sales on garden tools, lawn furniture or summer sports equipment.

If you have any questions or need some ideas please call Chris Korzeniecki at 206-824-4051

2012/13 Tuition Contract

You can start working on your volunteer hours, scrip totals, auction procurement, and tuition payments for the 2012/2013 school year.

Please note that if you are paying quarterly the payment dates are as follows:
June 1st, Sept. 1st, Dec. 1st & March 1st

If you have chosen the quarterly or 12 months of payments the first payment is now over due.

Scrip

Don't forget scrip for your Father's Day gift giving! Even though it is the last week of school, it isn't the last week of scrip. Come and see us Wednesday's 9-10am and 5- 6:30pm.

Please return your blue scrip envelopes.

St. Philomena Prayer Corner

Please take a moment to remember the following people in your prayers:

- St. Philomena Students, may they have a safe summer vacation
- Julia Freilingner-Mother of Charlie (2nd) & Parks (4th)
- Grace de Leon-Mother of Kayla (6th) & Kara (8th)
- The Strauss Family
- Thomas Avolio-St. Philomena Alumni-who has been deployed to Afghanistan
- Arlene De Dominces-A Parish member and friend.

