

# *St Lucy Parish School*

## *Wednesday Newsletter*

*August 27, 2008*

Dear Parents,

The question I heard over and over at last Wednesday's opening assembly was, "Where did that summer go?!" Hopefully it flew by because you were relaxing, enjoying your children, and grateful for the break from the daily routines of school. We were so happy to see your children back here, since the school certainly isn't the same without them! It's quite boring without the happy energy of your children in the hallways! The faculty was commenting that the students must have been well fed and rested this summer, since they seemed to grow a foot and a half since we saw them last!

We've had a few changes over the summer, including a new roof courtesy of the parish, a new addition to our junior high faculty, a new club offering (the Algebra Fan Club plus a quarterly junior high math competition), and a huge shipment of digital document cameras and multimedia carts on the rails as I write this. It is a blessing to welcome Mr. Ralph Fullerton to our junior high, where he is teaching Religion 6-8, and US History. He has a degree in Philosophy, minors in Catholic Studies and Religious Studies, and has been involved in youth ministry at Holy Family Parish and at the diocesan level for many years. He also has strong skills in technology and graphic design, and will be helping with The Lightning Express student newspaper. Be sure you introduce yourself to him and help him feel welcome! (Mr. Kropp and Mr. Caro are delighted to have another member of the Male's Education Network, or M.E.N. for short, on the faculty!)

I am also thrilled to have a new Administrative Team in place to help meet the day-to-day and long-term demands of keeping our school focused on faith, solid academics, and innovation. Mrs. D'Amico will focus her energies on grades K-3, including facilitating program cohesion across these grade levels, and providing support with supervision and discipline. Miss Grover will do likewise for the middle grades (3-5), and will continue to be the Curriculum Coordinator for the school. Mr. Kropp will provide scheduling and disciplinary support in the junior high, run the junior high Advisory program, moderate Student Council, and oversee all student activities.

I would also like to mention another layer of collaboration, the Leadership Team. This is comprised of the administrators noted above, as well as our Campus Minister (Rose Maynes), Development Director (Laurie Galdes), Technology Coordinator (Joyce Klepacki), and Administrative Assistant (Eva Sutton). Together with the administrators, this group will meet monthly to review all aspects of the school to ensure smooth operations and a clear flow of communication. In particular, I have asked Laurie Galdes to monitor and collaborate with various groups who conduct fundraising. As part of the traditional Development role, this is a specific effort to address parent concerns about multiple asks, when well-intentioned groups may be operating at cross-purposes due to overlapping fundraising efforts. As my appointed representative in the area of fundraising, she will oversee and support major fundraising/development endeavors, including the PTG and the Scrip program. She is also working to eliminate roadblocks to parent volunteerism by streamlining school forms and building a robust database for use by all constituents. You have already seen her efforts pay off in our most compact summer mailer to date, and in the creation of a school-wide fundraising calendar that helped us decide to move one September fundraiser (the 8<sup>th</sup> grade car wash) and eliminate another (the September Student Council read-a-thon). In the area of Campus Ministry, Rose Maynes has been bringing a fresh new approach and applying the two years she has spent in the diocesan Institute for Leadership in Ministry. We have already seen an impact on student participation in our opening mass last Friday, with a the reiteration throughout the mass of our school-wide theme for the year, "Shine Your Light." Mrs. Maynes also spearheaded a schedule change that permitted school-wide practice of the songs prior to mass to increase student participation through song. I am confident that the team approach will bring much to our program, facilitate ongoing innovation, and support the development of leadership capacity within our school

These and other changes not all listed here have combined to create an energized and enthusiastic return to school for all of us. This is a great year to be at St. Lucy School, and we're glad you're part of the community! We'll see you at tonight's Back-to-School Night, and throughout the year!

With gratitude for all you do,  
Jennifer Martin

**Important: If your child attends EDC it is IMPERATIVE that you pick up no later than 6:00 p.m. if you are past 6:00 p.m. twice in a 30-day period your child/children will not be able to use EDC for the net 30 day period. Thank you.**

**School Advisory Board** held a regularly scheduled meeting August 19. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Final Financial Report for the 2007-08 fiscal year
- Upcoming Annual Appeal
- Exciting Campus Ministry program
- Recently completed capital improvements.

All parents are invited to attend the School Advisory Board Meetings. The next meeting will be held on September 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center.

**Sports** – All 5th-8th graders interested in playing Boys' Football or Girls' Volleyball **must** turn in their Sports Consent Form and \$65 to the office by **Friday, August 29th**.

**Enclosures** – Booster Club Golf Flyer, Sep & Oct Tues/Thurs Hot Lunch Menu, Edge Flyer, Photo Release Form, Fun Fest T-Shirt Order Form, Sports Welcome Dinner Flyer, St Lucy Parish Choir Schedule