



# St. Anne Catholic School

www.stannecatholic.org

## August 2009 Newsletter

Volume 0910

Issue 2



### *Mission Statement*

*St. Anne Catholic School provides a quality Catholic education and develops responsible, Christian, young adults with an emphasis on moral and religious values of **FAITH, COMMUNITY, AND SERVICE.***

### ***From the desk of the Principal***

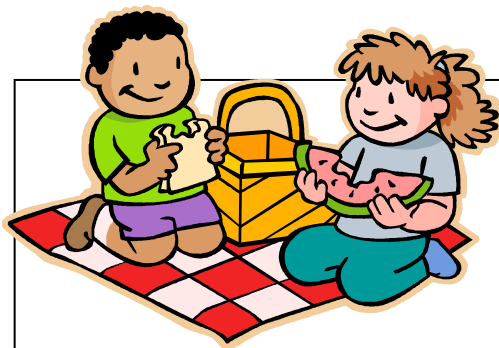
Greetings and may the love of God be with you and your family in this new school year. There are a few items that we will be implementing at the start of the school year. We are excited to report to you the following adjustments and developments.

St. Anne is pleased to announce that we have established our own cafeteria program for 2009-2010. The '*Cat Café*' will be open for business when school starts and we are excited to be able to offer nutritional meals at the affordable price of \$3.00 per lunch. We have hired a nutritionist with vast experience in the area of food service and cafeteria management. You will receive menu items soon and an explanation of how to order for your child or children.

It is important for you to read the other articles in this newsletter and understand about some of the other ways we are improving and adjusting. Moreover, we will have a general Home and School Meeting on Monday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. At that time I will be reviewing some of this information and talking about the ways we are taking St. Anne to the next level of excellence. Please plan to join us that evening.

In Christ,

Todd A. Higginbotham



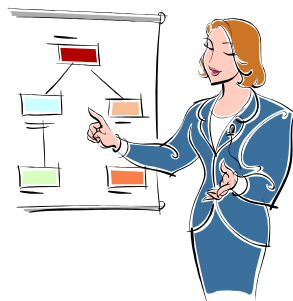
**THE DATE FOR THE WELCOME  
BACK PICNIC HAS BEEN  
CHANGED TO THURSDAY,  
AUGUST 20 FROM 5:00-7:00.**

## NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION

All new families are welcomed to our school family and invited to an orientation night on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 in the Cafeteria.

Please come for a special look at the procedures, policies and plans for the new year.

Children may attend but are not encouraged as it will be a parent/adult focused presentation.



## Dismissal and Carpool

In order to better organize the afternoon carpool pickup time, and retain every moment of valuable teaching time per day, we are making some adjustments to carpool and dismissal.

The Express Carpool will still be available but ONLY for children in Pre-K or Kindergarten who are the only child being picked up in the vehicle. Those children will be dismissed and taken to the porch outside the Primary building at 2:45 p.m.



**All other students – regardless of grade level – will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m.** Children in the Primary Building who are riding in carpools with students in the Secondary Building will be moved to the Secondary Building sidewalk where they will wait together and be put into the car.

This year, we will move to assigned carpool numbers and will use rear-view mirror hang down tags. You will be able to get more than one tag of the same number for multiple vehicles in the family. The tags will be distributed at Meet-the-Teacher day.

## MEET-THE-TEACHER DAY

The schedule for the day has been on the website for some time. Please print it out if you need a copy to remember your class meeting times on that day. The teachers will begin promptly and ask that you be on time for meeting times and the presentations so that they can accommodate everyone.

Pre-purchased school supplies and apparel items already purchased will be found in the student's classroom. Every parent who has not yet activated an Edline account will be required to do so before leaving the classroom that day.

Again this year the cafeteria will have a centralized "check-out" process with multiple cashiers. We hope it will be helpful to write a single check for multiple purchases including lunch tickets, directories and Carnival shirt purchases among other things. Make sure you stop by the cafeteria and let us help you take care of business.

## Website Upgrade

During the summer months the St. Anne website, [www.stannecatholic.org](http://www.stannecatholic.org), took on a new look. We hope you like it and that you are able to navigate easily to the forms and other information that you need. If you need information that you do not find there or through Edline, please let us hear from you.

## EDLINE

Again, all parents will be required to activate their personal Edline account, if not already done. We know you will be glad to have this service available to you with lesson plans, assignments will be posted regularly as well as assignments and grades. Many people tell us they would like to receive the regular mass-mail emails that the school sends to parents, but we cannot do so unless you have provided your email address through your Edline account. The classroom teachers will be prepared to help you with this process individually so that by the close of the day, on August 17<sup>th</sup> we will be a 100% Edline-active, on-line technology campus!

# Welcome to the 'CAT CAFÉ!

We are so excited to be opening the newest eating establishment in Beaumont - the 'Cat Café! Head Chef Connie Prewitt brings to us a culinary history that spans many generations and includes education as a nutritionist with training in some of the best kitchens in the state. We were fortunate to snag her skills and expertise and bring her back home – to her own school cafeteria.

Mrs. Prewitt will have the very experienced restaurateur Maria Fazio assisting her. Mrs. Fazio, too, has several years of food industry business in different area restaurants. Most will remember her as one of the owners of the Front Porch Pie Company. We are **SO** excited to have them both accept this assignment and again begin managing the St. Anne cafeteria.

We know everyone will want to try the new lunch options so the School Board has decided that this year there will be **NO OUTSIDE LUNCHESES**. (Of course, children may bring lunch boxes and brown bag lunches as always.) **Parents** are still very welcomed to come dine with their son or daughter but **may not bring in food from another food establishment**.

The cost of lunch tickets this year will be **\$3.00 for a regular lunch; \$4.00 for a Big Blue Lunch (which will be a double-size entrée)**; and breakfasts will be \$1.00. For convenience and good management, orders will be placed for a month at-a-time through our St. Anne 'Cat Café personalized on-line service. You have the option of paying on-line by credit card or by sending a check to the school. Once meals have been paid for, parents will actually print out the student's ticket and send it to school. Watch the website for information, and make sure the cafeteria is a stop for you during the Meet-the-Teacher Day.

The 'Cat Café is in need of volunteers to work! Mrs. Prewitt is accepting volunteers for regular scheduling and needs committed moms and dads who will be here to serve the students. If you can schedule to work a lunch day, please call Mrs. Prewitt and tell her you want to be a part of the 'Cat Café staff. You may reach her through the school at 832-5939.

Lunch Schedule will remain:

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Pre-K & K | 10:30 - 11:00 |
| 1         | 10:50 - 11:20 |
| 2         | 11:00 - 11:30 |
| 3         | 11:05 - 11:35 |
| 4         | 11:40 - 12:20 |
| 5         | 12:30 - 1:00  |
| 6         | 12:10 - 12:40 |
| 7         | 11:30 - 12:00 |
| 8         | 11:35 - 12:05 |



St. Anne will be the talk-of-Beaumont as **THE** place to eat lunch!

## **St. Anne to begin using School Security System called “Raptor”**

Beginning immediately, St. Anne will register visitors and conduct an instant background check on all parents, guests, visitors, vendors, and contractors. The Principal was the first one to step up to be checked and teachers and staff will be scanned prior to the start of school. Please read the information below and join us in our effort to maintain a safe school environment for students. Bring your driver's license when you come to check in at the Receptionist's desk.

### **Raptor V-Soft Visitor Tracking System Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***What is the Raptor V-Soft system?***

V-Soft is a visitor registration system that is used to protect the students, faculty, and visitors at school campuses. It enhances school security by reading visitor driver's licenses, comparing information to a sex offender database, alerting campus administrators if a match is found, then (assuming no match was made) printing a visitor badge, which includes a photo.

#### ***Why is St. Anne using this system?***

Safety of the students is our highest priority. Raptor will provide a consistent system to track visitors and volunteers while keeping away people who present a danger to students and staff members. The system quickly prints visitor badges that include a photo, the name of the visitor, time and date. It is also how we will track and record student tardies to have a consistent and thorough record.

#### ***How does it work?***

Drivers' license information is compared to a national data base of registered sex offenders from 48 states including Texas. Raptor is only scanning the visitor's name, date of birth, and photo for comparison. The system has the ability to provide alerts on people who may jeopardize the safety of the campus. If a match is found, campus administrators and law enforcement personnel will take steps to keep the campus safe.

#### ***Who is scanned?***

Anyone wanting access to move past the school's front office will need to present a valid driver's license to be scanned using the visitor tracking system. Vendors and contractors entering areas where students are present must also be scanned. Everyone must state the location they wish to visit. At the end of the visit, the badge is to be returned to the front office so the individual can be cleared from the system.

#### ***Besides sex offender data, is any other data is used?***

This is NOT a background search – no other criminal information is searched or provided such as traffic tickets, warrants, felonies, etc. The data collected is exclusively for the use of the school, Diocese, and law enforcement. This information is not sold/shared with any outside resources.

#### ***What if a visitor does not have an identification card or driver's license?***

Visitors will **not** gain access to the campus if they do **not** present a driver's license, identification card, work VISA or green card. The Texas Department of Transportation can issue an identification card once a consulate office has provided the appropriate paperwork to the individual.

#### ***If a “hit” comes back indicating that the person just scanned as a sexual predator or offender, what is the protocol?***

The staff member scanning the I.D. will verify that the information retrieved is correct. Administrators and law enforcement will be notified immediately. The Principal will identify what kind of access the visitor needs. No identified visitor with a positive “hit” will be allowed into the building without an escort.

#### ***Does the school have the right to require visitors, even parents, to produce identification before entering the campus?***

Yes. The school needs to be sure who is visiting the campus and why they are there. The primary obligation is to keep the students safe.

#### ***What if I don't have a driver's license or state-issued ID card?***

State-issued identification cards are issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and can be obtained by visiting your local DPS office.

## New Faculty Join the Family

New teachers have been hired and re-assignment of duties is complete. Our school staff is all in place and ready to begin the year together. We will introduce all faculty who are in attendance at the New Family Orientation and the Home and School meeting on the evening of August 17.

To begin with, we announce that we will have two administrators with the title of **Dean of Curriculum and Discipline**. One will be assigned to the Middle School and one to the Elementary School. Middle School Dean responsibilities will be assumed by former junior high Math teacher Jodi Kraus. Mrs. Kraus has a Masters degree in Curriculum and has taught at St. Anne for 3.5 years. She previously taught at schools in Virginia.

Mrs. Kraus' counterpart in the Elementary School will be Lauren Smith. Mrs. Smith is new to St. Anne as a teacher or administrator but was here last year as parent of Claire who will be in Kindergarten this year. Mrs. Smith was a teacher at Marshall Middle School and holds several advanced certifications in areas of education.

Replacing Mrs. Kraus in junior high Math will be Rebecca Sanders. Ms. Sanders is a veteran teacher with 32 years of experience in public schools in Vidor, Beaumont, Orangefield, and Port Neches. She is a Lamar University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and is certified in Math and Science. We are delighted to have her joining us and bringing such experience and expertise to our junior high students.

Joining our Fifth Grade team will be Jody Moss. We were fortunate to have Mrs. Moss move with her family from Friendswood where she was taught 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders Math, Science, and Social Studies, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Language Arts at the Galloway School. As a graduate of LSU, she earned her teacher certification after working in industry and as a substitute teacher in Clear Creek ISD. Mrs. Moss brings her experience as well as her three children to St. Anne: Collin will be in grade 2, Victoria in grade 3, and Braden in grade 6.

New Kindergarten Aide will be Brandi Wulf. Mrs. Wulf is a certified Early Childhood and elementary teacher also and will have two children enrolled this year – Cody in first grade and Caroline in PK . She has had previous teaching experience at St. Jude MDO and in BISD.

We welcome all the new teachers and administrators and look forward to hearing and learning more about you.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| August 17                  | Meet-the-Teacher Day   |
| August 17 at 6:30 p.m.     | First Home and School Association meeting  |
| August 18 from 7:45-8:45   | Kleenex and Coffee – Holub Hall  |
| August 20 from 5-7:00 p.m. | Welcome Picnic-in-the-Park and Buddy Family Social hosted by School Board              |
| August 31 at Noon          | Early Dismissal (normally every last Monday of the month – check the website calendar) |

# MORNING SCHEDULE

At St. Anne Catholic School, begins with prayer each day. This year, Mr. Higginbotham will join the elementary school students in the Cafeteria to lead prayer and devotional with them. He will then go to the gymnasium to pray with the middle school grades prior to dismissing them to classrooms. Refer to the schedule below and join us when you can.



7:35 Prayer/Devotional in Cafeteria  
for Pre-K to 4<sup>th</sup> graders  
Dismissal to classrooms

7:40 Prayer/Devotional in Gym  
for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders  
Dismissal to classrooms

7:45 First Bell

7:50 Tardy bell

8:00 General announcements

## Prayer for the Opening of School

We give you praise, O God,  
for everything that is new and beautiful,  
for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.  
Bless us as we start this new year  
with our friends and teachers.  
Help us to make the most of every opportunity we have  
to start anew.  
May we show respect and love to one another and to all.  
May the beginning of this school year remind us  
that you give us chances to start over again and again.  
Help us to learn to work together.  
Help us to be good listeners  
and to speak only words of kindness and truth.  
Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness.  
We thank you for our friends.  
Help us to cherish everyone we meet this year.  
And help us to be patient with ourselves and with others.  
Protect our school and keep us safe.  
Be with us as we travel to and from school each day.  
Bless all those who care for us in school and at home.  
Help us show our gratitude for all they do for us.  
May Our Lady protect us and help us to live as her faithful  
children, giving thanks and glory to God for the gift of  
education at St. Anne Catholic School. *Amen.*



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