

Saint Agatha



School News

Enthusiasm for Learning and Love of God

February 2012

February

1

9:15-11:15 Catholic Schools Week
Coffee and Open House

2

Service Day

3

SPIRIT DAY!

1:45 Faculty-Gr. 8 Volleyball Game

4

7:30 Parish Dance and Dessert

5

Feast of Saint Agatha

6

7:00 P.M. Middle School
Information Meeting for parents and
4 & 5th grade students in parish hall

9

Spirit Dinner at Carsonie's

10

Dance for 6th and 7th graders in gym

11

Father-Daughter Dance

14

RED SPIRIT DAY

2:10 Basketball Pep Rally

15

P/T Conference Evening 3:30-8:30

16

Interim Progress Reports

17 and 20

NO SCHOOL

22

Ash Wednesday

23

7:30 Science Fair Viewing in the
Gym

25

BWHS 8th grade entrance test

28

6:30 Grade 2 Family Reading Night

29

6:30 Stations and Soup Supper

Dear Saint Agatha School Families,

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK COFFEE AND OPEN HOUSE: Please join us for coffee following the 8:30 Mass and know that you are welcome to visit your children's classes Wednesday morning. This year, a parent program will also be presented during the coffee.

A sincere thank you to all of the children who participated as ministers and musicians in the Masses this past weekend and to Ms. Katherine Florian who trained our children's choir and cantors. Several parishioners spoke with me after the masses to say what a wonderful job our students did in all ministries and how proud I must be. I am proud! Your gifts enhanced our worship and glorified God.

Reregistration of Current Students: Please complete the yellow form in this newsletter envelope to notify us regarding your intentions for the coming school year. This very important information, **due February 9**, is used by our School Board for planning the budget for 2012-2013. The \$150.00 fee will be applied to tuition.

Tuition ASSISTANCE: Diocese of Columbus Tuition Assistance Program is now accessible on-line www.factstuitionaid.com and applications for the Dorothy Faber Endowment Funds of Saint Agatha are now available in our office. Please consider taking advantage of these opportunities. Note that these must be postmarked by March 15. In order to be considered for St. Agatha Parish tuition assistance, you must apply for Diocesan aid.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: February is a good month to check in with your child's teachers. We have set aside the evening of Wednesday, February 15 for these conferences. We encourage discussions to address concerns for the second semester of school. Please call the school office, send a note or email to your child's teacher to schedule a conference, if you have not already done so.

COFFEE with the SCHOOL BOARD: Please plan to have coffee with the school board following the 8:30 A.M. Liturgy, Ash Wednesday, February 22. This hard-working enthusiastic group is sincerely interested in your questions and suggestions. We are committed to continuous improvement and your perspective is essential and appreciated.

Catholic Schools: Celebrating Faith. Academics. Service



Family Matters



The MARRIAGE and FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

DIOCESE of COLUMBUS WINTER 2012

Read Across America Day - March 2, 2012



In 2011 President Barack Obama declared March 2 as Read Across America Day. Read Across America Day marks the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known to the world as Dr. Seuss.

The goal of Read Across America Day is to get families across America reading on a regular basis. So plan to join in the celebration on March 2; keep it up all year, and help your family "resolve to read any way, every day!"

Need a little help getting started? Why not try one of these ideas:

Have your whole family read the same book. Family members can take turns reading aloud. Encourage long-distance relatives to do likewise. When the whole clan is assembled (or via phone or Internet), host a book discussion.



Invite your family to read books about the same topics. Mom and Dad may want to read books about gardening. The kids might find their parent's book even more interesting if everyone is also reading *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Young readers might enjoy reading Eric Carle's *The Tiny Seed*.

Encourage your family to actually "read across America."

Book lists can be found at the web site below. There are book titles from all 50 states, including both fiction and nonfiction.



<http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm> (Adapted)

*"The more you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go."
~Dr. Seuss*

KEYS TO A GREAT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Good communication between parents and teachers is essential. Make time for at least a couple of conferences with your child's teacher each school year. Here are some tips for making the most of your conference:

Go in with a positive attitude. Your teacher is on your team! She wants to see your child succeed, and will likely welcome information which helps her in the mission. Even if your child has struggled in the past, see each conference as a fresh start, full of possibilities.

Do your homework. Teachers and administrators often send home reams of communication about school policies and classroom procedures, only to find themselves reiterating the same information to parents who never read the memos. With these basics out of the way, your conference time can be spent focusing on the particular needs and goals for your child.

Get Focused with iMOM's Teacher Conference Worksheet. (available on their website) It's a bit like a doctor's appointment: you have a set amount of time and a million questions you want to cover. Make sure you discuss the most pressing issues by looking over the worksheet before your conference. During the conference, use it to take notes.

Respect the teacher's schedule. The school day is jam-packed with instructional demands with little room for error. Be on time for your conference and wrap it up as scheduled. Also, don't bring your other children. You'll never be able to concentrate if you're wrestling a toddler the whole time.

See the opportunity in the conflict. Even if your conference is born out of some conflict or negative circumstance, see it as a chance to grow as a parent, or to help your child's teacher broaden his understanding of your child. Look for positives, and don't act defensive or accusatory.

Follow-Up. Once your conference is over, jot your teacher a note of thanks. Both parents can then review notes from the *Teacher Conference Worksheet*. Look over past conference notes to spot patterns, and how your child has progressed. Finally, discuss the conference with your child. Talk about the things they're doing well, and the things they need to work on.



www.imom.com (Adapted)