

Ram Review

Principal's Message

You Are Invited...

When Fr. Markey founded our school in 1963, it was unique in that Good Shepherd was *interparochial*- it was governed by three separate parishes. He hoped this would give variety to our student population and improve our enrollment. However, being interparochial is more challenging than Fr. Markey had envisioned. A parochial school that is attached to a parish has a building in which to worship and it also has one parish community to which it belongs. We belong to three communities, but at times in our history we have not really belonged to any of them. The two factors that improve our association with the churches are:

the degree to which the pastor values Catholic education and strong parent liaisons between the school and the parish(es).

Within our five-year plan, our hope is to strengthen these two factors. Although we are blessed to have pastors now who value Catholic education, we won't have much control over who is assigned to which parish in the future. The second factor is one that we can control. Thankfully, we have families at all three of our parishes right now, working to build these relationships. Some Good Shepherd parents attending St. Joseph's Church have taken the initiative to establish a monthly Children's Mass with Fr. Matt.

The first one will be this **Sunday, Dec. 6th** during the **9 a.m. Mass**. All children from the parish are invited, but we hope to have a significant number of Good Shepherd students. Even if you don't attend St. Joseph's regularly, please plan on attending this mass. We are also in need of 8-10 K-8 students willing to help with different parts of the Mass and to be included as a part of Fr. Matt's homily.

If you are interested in helping at this Mass, please contact **Lisa Holdaway** at 475-7445.



Teacher Highlights

Mrs. Gabrio teaches Sixth and Seventh-grades Literature and Middle School Language Arts. She is looking forward to Middle School's February visit to *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* exhibition at the de Young Museum and The California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park located in San Francisco. In preparation for the exhibit, her students are reading novels about daily life in ancient Egypt.

She joined the Good Shepherd family in 1988 as a parent and began teaching middle school Language Arts and Literature in 2006. Her time outside of school is filled with Religious Education at St. Joseph's, completing her teaching credential, and her family.



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Kudos

Thank you to *Santana Noble* and *Santana Paving* for paving our playgrounds over the Thanksgiving holiday. They worked very hard to get it done by Monday.

Please Keep Sending Your Annual Giving Contributions!

On behalf of the boys and girls here, thank you for your tax-deductible donations. Parents, grandparents, faculty, alumni, staff, board members and other friends of the school have reached \$9,500 to date. Our goal is to attain 100% family participation in our Annual Giving campaign by June 1st, 2010.

If you haven't yet made your gift or pledge to pay by installments, please take a moment to do so now.

Your generous support allows students to learn and flourish in a constantly improving academic environment because these funds are directed towards curricular enrichment. *There is no better investment for your philanthropic dollars than education.*

If you have questions or need another giving envelope, please email or call me and I'll get one to you. (831) 325-9379 or sandragresham@yahoo.com Thank you for making Good Shepherd School your philanthropic priority.



BOX TOPS CONTEST

We will be collecting the final box tops from each class on Friday, December 4th! Make sure to bring in all of the box tops you've collected and drop them off in your classrooms. The winning class will be announced once all of the box tops have been counted. Thanks for everyone's contributions!

Reminder

We recently received a phone call from a neighbor in The Villas. While driving his granddaughter to school last Wednesday, he was almost hit by a parent who was frustrated by the traffic at the gate of the apartments.

Please respect our neighbors and yield to apartment traffic at the gate. Your courteousness and consideration is appreciated, especially in the morning when everyone is in a hurry.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Dec. 3 Reconciliation
Grades 3–8
- Dec. 4 Deadline Contest
Box Tops for Education
- Dec. 7 1st Gr. Field Trip
Last day to order scrip
For delivery before
Christmas
- Dec. 8 9:00 am Mass w/ Fr. Matt
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 9 6:30 pm Science Fair Mtg.
Grades 5–8
- Dec. 10 December B-Day
Free Dress
- Dec. 11 Deadline for donations
For Adopt-a-Family

Remember to check the calendar & announcements on RenWeb.com

Parent Survey

Around this time of year, we invite you to participate in a parent satisfaction survey. It helps with planning for next year and it shows if parents' priorities are aligned with the current staff's objectives. All responses are anonymous, but writing your name can be helpful for follow up. Additionally, the survey shows us how many families take time to read the e-newsletter and Principal's Message, so please take the time to participate. Thank you. You can follow the link at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NGDCT9C>.

SANTA PICTURES



Show Your School Spirit!

Green and Red Day on Wednesday December 9, 2009.

Everyone from preschool to eighth grade is encouraged to wear green and red clothes to celebrate the Christmas Season.

Students can wear jeans but hats are only allowed before school, at recess and lunch, and after school. Santa will be visiting and you can take your picture with Santa.

The pictures cost \$2.00 per picture. Ho Ho Ho and Merry Christmas! Love,

Your Spirit Commissioner
Anna Erickson

MERRY CHRISTMAS PARENTS

Teacher's Gift to You

On Friday, December 11th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, The Preschool through 8th grade teachers are giving parents a night off for Christmas shopping or a date night.

Child care and dinner will be provided for your Good Shepherd child. This should be a fun evening.

A limited number of spots are available based on supervision. Please sign your Preschool/PreK student up in their classroom. Spots for students in Kinder and up can be signed up for in the Office. DEADLINE IS: Tuesday, December 8th at 2:30.

Toy Drive

Ms. Shannon and the Preschool Program are collecting new and gently used toys to help brighten some children's Christmas morning. Please drop off unwrapped toys in the pre-K or preschool classroom before December 15.

Science Fair Meeting

Grades 5—8



On Wednesday, Dec. 9th at 6:30 PM we will be having a science fair meeting. 5th–8th graders will be participating in the Science Fair. This meeting will be led by Nancy Serigstad, who is the Science Fair Coordinator for Santa Cruz County. She is an amazing resource and will be here to explain the Science Fair process, show examples of past projects, and answer questions. All 5th–8th parents and kids are encouraged to attend!!

Book Fair Victorious

This year our annual Scholastic book fair was a magnificent success. With your help we went far and connected students with books they want to read.

Destination Book Fair brought a weeklong celebration of reading to our school and the book fair team would like to especially thank; *Sue Armstrong, Brigit Kienhoefer, Laura Garvin, Dominique Hansen, Cindy Alaga-Bettencourt, Mary Lytle-Walsh, Renee Jones Howell, Rebecca Liljenstolpe, Shari Scruton, Theresa Wolfe, Shannon Fidium, Virginia Anderson, Lisa Holdaway, Valdemar, Ms. Sandy*, and all of *Good Shepherd's staff* for their above and beyond participation. A special thank you to *Parent Club* for the \$500.00 in matching funds from the Book Fair to upgrade our Follett library software. Our student crew was excellent; *Kyle LeBlanc, Jacob and Kelly Shipley, Elle Rogers-Garcia, Anna Noto, Gina Devencenzi, Elisa Bargetto, and Elena Phares*. Thanks to *Fr. Matt and Fr. Ron* who came to read and encourage all students to enjoy the love of books. If I accidentally left off your name please let me know because I would like to appreciate you, too.

All proceeds raised contribute to the school's library book circulation and computer system. We are able to replenish our shelves with new books for all students from Preschool to 8th grade.

I would particularly like to thank our dedicated Book Fair team, for this fair would not be possible without: *Karen Shipley, Randi LeBlanc*, and retiring this year *Sharon Bargetto* ~ Sharon, thanks for all the magic throughout the years, you are remarkable.

If you would like to continue the excitement of the book fair, I am looking for volunteers to share their time and talents to process these incredible new books. Please stop by the library or send me an email; kthomas@gsschool.org. Keep Reading!

Christ's Peace,
Kathy Thomas
Librarian

COUNSELOR'S DESK

***Is your child stubborn, grumpy, sensitive, angry, wild or just plain difficult?
Read on ...***

When my highly active firstborn was 1 year old, we were visiting a friend who had a toddler the same age. When this mother commanded “No” at the edge of a flower bed, her child stopped short.

“Yours listens? And stops?” I asked incredulously. That’s when I knew for sure that my energetic and persistent child really wasn’t quite like most other kids.

As every parent knows, some children are harder to handle than others. Various referred to by experts as difficult, sensitive, challenging, quirky or spirited, children with atypical temperaments can become much easier to manage when you learn just how broad the range of “normal” is. Your child may scream, “You’re not the boss of me!,” but what he’s really telling you is “I’m not you,” and it’s sometimes done in ways that leave you at a loss. By learning more about what to expect, you can keep both you and your child from toppling off the developmental roller coaster.

Label Me Not

Labels have a lot of power. That’s why Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, author of *Raising Your Spirited Child: A Guide for Parents Whose Child Is More Intense, Sensitive, Perceptive, Persistent and Energetic*, prefers the word “spirited” for lively, eager, intense and assertive children.

“Many negative labels seem to say that those qualities are forever immutable: loud, wild, nosy, stubborn, picky and so on,” Kurcinka says. “But focusing on your child’s strengths is the best approach.”

Kurcinka cites research showing that a positive perspective actually changes our behavior toward our kids. Not only that, but research has recently shown that actual biochemical changes occur in the brain depending on how kids are nurtured. In light of these findings, she advises parents to exchange negative labels for ones such as these:

- holds high standards (rather than “demanding”),
- strongly committed to one’s goals (rather than “argumentative”),
- energetic (rather than “wild”),
- cautious (rather than “anxious”).

Labels can actually get in the way of optimal parenting. For example, 3-year-old Lila has lately become combative toward her mother, Marge. Whenever Lila doesn’t get her way on a trip to visit her grandparents, she stomps up the stairs to her room and slams the door – three times.

Lila’s father, Terrence, doesn’t like the idea that there is anything “wrong” with his child. After all, he points out, she doesn’t exhibit this level of anger around him. Remove the label of “wrong” and Terrence can begin to understand Lila’s behavior as the product of one person’s temperament in the context of the whole family’s dynamic.

“Problem behavior based on temperament is no one’s fault,” says Stanley Turecki, M.D., a child and family psychiatrist and author of *The Difficult Child and Normal Children Have Problems, Too*. “It’s not just the child or just the family – it’s how the two interrelate.”

If the mother is the primary one to struggle with the child over bedtime or clothes, the child may behave better with the father. The mother then may feel frustrated, confused, inadequate or guilty.

Whereas certain kinds of kids – the overactive and impulsive, for instance – will be evident in the pediatrician’s office or in school, according to Turecki, other kinds – such as the very stubborn, the very persistent or the very picky – may drive one parent up the wall but won’t be a problem elsewhere. Rather than placing blame on one parent or the other, therefore, everyone who is concerned about the child’s behavior needs to work together to improve the situation.