

October 2006

Dear Parents,

Hello! It is so wonderful being back in school. It is hard to believe that we have already made it through our first month of the school year. St. Theresa School is in full swing right now. The teachers are busy teaching and the students are busy learning. Life is good here at STS!!!

September was a very busy month at our school. We had a beautiful opening liturgy during which the Student Council members took their oath of office. First grade had their Pot Luck Luncheon which was fun for everyone. Fr. Mark Weiss really enjoyed reading to the children. On Johnny Appleseed Day our school smelled like an apple orchard. Our teachers really make learning fun.

Fall has arrived and we are half way through the first marking period. Time is going by so fast. Learning is going on every minute of the day and it is important that your child is here so that they do not fall behind in their studies. Promptness is also very important. Anyone arriving after 8:20 will be considered tardy.

October will be just as busy. Two very important things occur in October. During the first week of the month students in grades 5 and 8 take their CoGat tests. During the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> students in grade 3 thru 8 will take part in the ITBS testing. Please be sure your children are in school and on time during this testing period. More information will be coming home in the near future.

I want to thank everyone for following our safety rules. I know that the safety of your children is your number one concern. Please continue to sign in and out at the office and wear the visitors' pass when you are in the building. Drop-off and dismissal have been going smoothly thanks to your help.

One of the very special things about STS is the fact that it is a neighborhood school. Many students walk to school or ride their bikes. It reminds me of when I grew up. Many families bring their dogs with them when they walk their children to and from school. I love looking out and seeing the kids greet their puppies and dogs when they leave school. But there are some students who are afraid of dogs. If you bring your pet to school, please respect those children who are afraid of dogs. Please keep them on a tight leash and don't let them jump on other children.

Also, there is a parking space in our lot that is reserved for the Gala winner. Please do not park in this spot.

Important October dates:

Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>	CoGat testing grades 5 and 8
Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>	National Walk to or at School Day
Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Liturgy St. Theresa
Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents Day grades pre-k-2 <sup>nd</sup>
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Columbus Day <b>School Closed</b>
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Saints Shoot Out Golf Tournament
Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> thru 20 <sup>th</sup>	ITBS testing grades 3 <sup>rd</sup> thru 8 <sup>th</sup>
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup> thru 27 <sup>th</sup>	Red Ribbon Week
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>	New Cumberland Parade            Come visit our 8 <sup>th</sup> grade concession stand
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Fall picture day
Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup>	grades k-2 <sup>nd</sup> Halloween Program, Class parties

Our hearts go out to the Amish community of Lancaster County in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy at the West Nickel Mines Amish School this past week. This tragedy has caused me to once again reassess the safety and security of St. Theresa School. The safety of your precious children is the number one concern for all of us here at STS. This summer the parish has installed a security system in the school. Our security system will be completed within the next three weeks. With this system both sets of front doors (inner and outer) will be locked. Any visitors will be buzzed into the lobby and then after they are signed in they will be given a visitors tag and then buzzed into the building. All teachers have been trained on our emergency procedures and the students will be practicing different types of emergency drills. The office has an emergency call box that will contact the police or fire department when activated. West Shore School District has provided STS with a two way radio so that we can contact them if we need assistance from their crisis team. The lead teachers in each grade have walkie talkies to contact the office or each other if our power goes out. This year we hope to replace the school intercom system with a system that will give the teachers the ability to contact 911 from their classrooms. Please pray that we will never be in a circumstance where we have to use these systems. Pray for an end to all violence in our society, especially in our schools.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who sent in Giant Bonus card numbers. We currently have over 1200 numbers registered! Last year we earned over \$16,000 from this program. Our goal for this year is \$25,000. It is never too late to send in numbers. I would like to see this money go toward updating our technology program.

As you can see we have not wasted anytime getting back into the swing of things. We are off to a great start. Thank you for all you have done for our fine school. Your support is greatly appreciated. I love going to my Principal meetings and bragging about how great our school is! Happy fall!

God bless you and your families,

Margaret M. Barrett  
Principal

**Halloween List**  
**Grades pre-3 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**Grades 5 to 8 DOUD orange and black**

**Suggested:**

Bible characters  
Angels  
Story Book/cartoon characters that are not violent or evil  
Animals  
Superheroes but no weapons  
American heroes i.e. policeman, fireman, military but no weapons  
Historical characters  
Pumpkins  
Presidents  
Sports Figures  
Dancers  
Famous Americans  
Food Items  
Cowboys/girls  
Native Americans

**Not allowed:**

Any violent or evil characters  
No weapons  
Witches  
Devils  
Power Rangers  
Ghosts

If you have any questions about costumes please send a note to your child's teacher.