

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS ACADEMY

PARENT NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 11, 2008



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Martin of Tours Academy is a Catholic parish elementary school whose purpose is to provide students with moral and spiritual formation and a solid academic foundation. Faith, culture and life are brought into harmony through a curriculum and system of education that equips students with skills for lifelong learning. Each student is challenged to internalize values and prepare for life as a committed Christian who contributes to the need for justice, love, and peace in the world.

The Beatitudes

In the Old Testament, Moses went up to the mountain and brought back the 10 commandments which tell us what not to do.

In the New Testament, Jesus went up to the mountain and brought back the Beatitudes which tell us what to do.

This year, we will reflect on each of the Beatitudes and renew our commitment to being Beatitude people.

Dear Parents,

Welcome! The St. Martin of Tours faculty and staff and I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of you, especially to those families who are new to our school community. (See list that follows.) The teachers and staff have worked hard preparing themselves and their classrooms. Also this summer we were able to make several improvements to our school campus. (See list that follows.) We are very excited and look forward to working with you and your children this year.

I believe this first newsletter is a good time for all of us to reflect on our mission statement (see above) and to renew our commitment to Catholic education. First and foremost, your children are the primary focus of our mission. We strive to develop the whole person as prescribed in the Workshop Way philosophy. Here at St. Martin of Tours Academy, we concentrate on the spiritual aspect as well as the intellectual, social, and emotional component of every individual. Our students have the opportunity to learn and practice their Catholic faith on a daily basis. This added element of faith gives the children a greater awareness of their responsibility to themselves and the world at large, making compassion, tolerance, and respect for all life their major concern. We strive to put our students on a path to self-discipline and to empower them to make decisions in an atmosphere of self-respect that ultimately honors the dignity of all individuals.

None of this of course can be accomplished without your help and support. Parental involvement is a key aspect of Catholic schools. As parents, you are the primary educators of your children, both spiritually and academically. The mission of a Catholic school is to assist you in the awesome task of directing and guiding your children. Our role, as Catholic school educators is to open our children's ears to the Christian message, to make sure that they are able to hear God in their daily lives. We do this through our liturgies, classroom prayer, daily religion instruction, integration of Christian values throughout the day and last, but certainly not least, by our example. Together, we can provide a strong foundation for spiritual growth for our children.

The faculty and I are hopeful and optimistic as we begin another school year. We appreciate your involvement, cooperation, and support. We are grateful for our pastor, Fr. Jim Poulsen, and all the parishioners who so strongly endorse our school. We are truly blessed!

Toni Dimuzio
Principal

Regarding membership in a parish community.

At St. Martin of Tours Academy we continue to emphasize the importance for each family to be involved in a parish community wherever in the diocese that might be. The majority of our families live in this area and so we encourage participation at St. Martin of Tours so that when attending Sunday Mass there is a sense of community for the children and also a feeling of "belonging". We encourage families to register in and contribute to their respective parishes. Registration at our parish can be done at any time through the parish office (rectory).



We extend a warm welcome to the families
that are new to the Academy this year:

<i>Maria & Ruben Arballo</i>	<i>Julianne-K</i>	<i>Cinthia & Robert Poling</i>	<i>Jack-K</i>
<i>Julianne & William Attaway</i>	<i>Nicholas-K</i>	<i>Selene & Eric Roddy</i>	<i>George-K</i>
<i>Katrina & Rafat Ayyash</i>	<i>Anya-K</i>	<i>Katie & Christopher Romero</i>	<i>Dominic-K</i>
<i>Benjelyn Barrera</i>	<i>Jade-6</i>	<i>Monica & Remo Sagastume</i>	<i>Gavin-K</i>
<i>Desrien & Carl Bradford</i>	<i>Xavier-K</i>	<i>Johanna & Jason Seifert</i>	<i>Kilee-5</i>
<i>Claudia & Hector Casanova</i>	<i>Hector-K</i>	<i>Rebecca & Joseph Serrano</i>	<i>Eva-K</i>
<i>Regina Gardella & Thomas Wyatt</i>	<i>Annabella-4,</i>	<i>Esperanza & Phillip Serrato</i>	<i>Pablo-6,</i>
	<i>Abigail-2</i>		<i>Miguel-K</i>
<i>Stacey & Christopher Cokeley</i>	<i>Kaylee-4</i>	<i>Elizabeth & Glenn Simpson</i>	<i>Chamonix-3,</i>
<i>Kathy & Gerald Horner</i>	<i>Ashley-7</i>		<i>Parker-1</i>
<i>Olga & Kenneth Joaquin</i>	<i>John-3</i>	<i>Jacqueline & Roberto Valdivia</i>	<i>Faith-K</i>
<i>Samantha & Joseph Lopez</i>	<i>Chloe-K</i>	<i>Jennifer & Jeffrey Wangler</i>	<i>Olivia-K</i>
<i>Tammi & Steve Marshall</i>	<i>Charles-K</i>	<i>Richard & Donna Williams</i>	<i>Brooke-6,</i>
<i>Maria & Charles McRoberts</i>	<i>Marissa-K</i>		<i>Luke-K</i>
<i>Theresa & Jose Narezo</i>	<i>Joshua-3</i>		
<i>Camhong & Vincent Nguyen</i>	<i>Mai-1</i>		



School Improvements



• wrought iron railing for day care porch & field water fountain	Lemon Grove Ornamental Iron Works	\$7,421.00
• Lexmark color printer (front office)	Lexmark	\$ 754.00
• concrete resurfacing of breezeway & stairs to lower grades	Apex Pacific, Inc	\$6,650.00
• new carpet (gr. 8, staff workroom)	Sid's Carpet Barn	\$2,197.00
• new carpet (day care building)	Sid's Carpet Barn	\$1,874.72
• privacy screen around lower playground	Security Fence Co.	\$2,128.00
• SMA sign over entrance	OMNI Graphics	\$ 785.00
• stone directional sign at entrance on hill	OMNI Graphics	\$3,723.77
• Network upgrades to office & classrooms	DRH Network Consulting	\$ 800.42
• 3 white boards (gr. 2, 4, 8)	Catholic Purchasing	\$1,477.78
• blinds for windows (gr. 2, 3 & staff room)	Lowe's	\$1,053.12
• accordion doors (gr. 2)	Lowe's	\$ 185.34
• security camera/monitor for front entrance to school	Home Security Store	\$ 981.61
• concrete curb at new memorial wall	L. Luna Construction, Inc.	\$1,475.00
• shed for equipment by field	Dixieline Lumber Co.	\$ 812.44
• motion sensor faucets, towel & soap dispensers in all bathrooms	Catholic Purchasing	\$2,068.58
• light fixtures lowered in gr. 2,3 & 5	Donated	\$2,565.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



September Classroom Meetings: (held in the classroom of each grade)

Please plan to attend these very important meetings. (Remember that every year is new!) The teachers want 100% parent attendance in their classes that evening! (**adults only, please**). Agendas include an overview of curriculum and daily schedule, class projects, expectations regarding “homework” responsibility sheets, *Workshop Way* schedule/tasks, class projects, policies, etc.

PARENT MEETINGS IN THE CLASSROOMS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

• Grades K-3 @ 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

• Grades 4-8 @ 6:00 p.m.



Weekly Parent Information Envelopes: Please stay informed!

As an aid in providing complete and organized communication, we send home a parent envelope each week. It is the vehicle for all written communication coming from school: parent newsletters, monthly calendars, lunch menus, sports and extra-curricular sign-ups, classroom curriculum updates, etc. We ask that you remove and read the contents each week, sign the envelope and send it back to school the next school day. There is just one envelope per family. (The oldest sibling will be given the envelope if there is more than one child enrolled.)



SMA Web Site: www.stmartinacademy.org & E-Mail Policy:

Check out our web site! It provides the weekly newsletter and monthly classroom newsletters and calendars. The hot lunch menu and sports schedules are also available. Every teacher has their own e-mail on the school's web site. Although we understand it is important for communication to be fast and efficient, as a faculty and staff we do not want to compromise the Workshop Way® philosophy which encourages each child to grow in her/his own way and time regarding responsibility and self management. In the upper grades, especially, students are responsible for knowing their own homework and long-range assignments. As parents and teachers, we do not want to enable our children by managing their lives.

The purpose of e-mail is not to replace personal contact with teacher/parent/student or replace conferences by phone. If parents are concerned with their child's progress, an appointment with the teacher can be made via e-mail. Parents can continue to obtain general information through the office or on the web site which is updated weekly. E-mails directly to teachers should be related to issues or concerns that only the teacher can address. Teachers will check their e-mail every day and will respond within 48 hours if possible.



Sick/Tardy Students:

Parents are required to call or e-mail (info@stmartinacademy.org) the school office by 8:00 a.m. if a child is sick or tardy. Reminder: lunch is ordered at 8:10a.m. If your child is tardy and needs a lunch please call before 8:10!



Student Pick-Up Information:

We are not able to release a child to any person who is not listed on the contact/emergency release form. A note must be sent to the school office in the morning if you are authorizing another person to pick up your child. (Phone calls will be accepted only in emergency situations.) Students who are not picked up by 2:45 p.m. are directed to check in at day care. Students arriving at school before 7:45 a.m. must also check in at day care. (There is not a charge for 5-10 minutes.)

Morning drop-off for Academy students should be ONLY IN FRONT OF SCHOOL (do not park in upper parking lot or drop off in front of church) We are very concerned with the safety of our preschoolers and their families, especially during drop off time from 7:45-8:00 am. Please adhere to this school policy.



At Dismissal Time: (2:30 - 2:45)

We ask for your cooperation at this time. All teachers and instructional assistants need to be present in front of school to supervise their respective students. We request that you do not go to the classrooms or approach teachers during this period of time. Their focus needs to be on the students during this particular 15 minute period. You are, however, welcome to come at 2:45 when the teachers return to the school building. (FYI: There are staff meetings each Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.)



Regarding Birthday Invitations:

Invitations may not be distributed in the classroom or on the school campus unless every student in a class (or all the boys, all the girls) are invited to a birthday party. Otherwise it is the parents' responsibility to send out the invitations from home. If all the children in a class are not invited to a party, please encourage your child not to be talking about his/her party, who is invited, etc. at school. (We don't want children to feel excluded or hurt ... and it has happened more than we would like to see.) Also, do not bring to school any cupcakes, candy, etc. Your child may come in free dress the day of their birthday and it will be celebrated in a special way in the classroom.



Parents/Visitors on Campus: (policy)

The school grounds are private property. For security purposes, anyone coming on campus must first report to the school office to sign in. Permission from the principal is required of all visitors to the classrooms or other facilities during school hours. Visitors will receive a "visitors" badge. When the visitors leave, they must sign-out and turn in their badge. This policy applies to all except employees of the school, parish staff and students currently enrolled here.



Hot Lunch:

Ticket books are for sale in the school office for \$30.00 (10 lunches) or 20 for \$60.00. Please make checks payable to St. Martin Academy. Students need to have a ticket in order to have a hot lunch. Lunch coupons cannot be sold separately. Please note: some families may qualify for free or reduced lunches. Applications are in the school office. Lunches are ordered by 8:10 each day. **If your child is late and needs a lunch, please call the school office by 8:10 so a lunch may be ordered.** The cost of milk and juice is 35¢ if purchased separately.



Involvement in School Masses (choir members: grades 4-7)

Choir: We will again be forming a choir for the 2008-2009 school year. Choir members will have the responsibility of leading the congregation in singing at our school Masses throughout the year. **Criteria/Expectations:** prayerful reverence during Mass, ability to sing on pitch, willingness to take direction. More information will be presented in each classroom next week and sign-up forms will be distributed.



RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation

The Rite of Christian Initiation is the way the Catholic Church accepts new adult members, as well as children of catechetical age, 8 years or older, who have not been baptized. If you or some one you know is interested in becoming Catholic, returning to the church, completing sacraments of initiation or learning more about your faith we would like to invite you to join us next Tuesday. The RCIA process has started in the rectory conference room at 7PM on Tuesday evenings. If you would like more information about the process, please, contact Christine Davis at 619-698-8434 or chris@saintmartinoftours.cc.

UPCOMING SMA EVENTS:

JOIN SMA AT LAKE MURRAY FOR CA COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday (9/20) 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(Kiowa Street entrance -boat/dock)

- a volunteer opportunity!
- wear walkathon '07 t-shirts

Permission slips are in the school office.

SAVE YOUR ELECTRONICS! RECYCLE E-WASTE

**Computers- Monitors-Laptops-TV's
Printers-Cell Phones-Fax-VCR-DVD Stereos-Cameras-Scanner etc.**

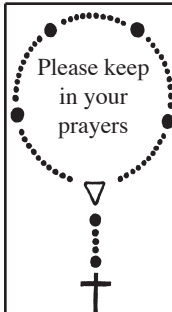
Saturday, October 4

**Free & easy drop off in school lot
Proceeds benefit the Academy**

Storage unit will be on site beginning Monday, 9/27 for early drop-off.

ENCLOSURES:

- ~ Class of 2009 sweatshirt order (due Monday 9/15)
- ~ classroom newsletters (grades: 2, 3, 5, fine arts, computer)
- ~ Recycle E-Waste fund-raiser
- ~ "Gimme a Break" (GAB) - *parent sponsored events throughout the year -all are welcome*
- ~ Sing N' Speak Spanish after school class (grades 1-5)
- ~ Cub Scout Sign-Ups (boys-grades 1-5)
- ~ parish bulletin 9/7/08
- Courtesy flyer: Simply Charming - Public Speaking Class @ Macy's



Leonardo Velazquez (Jesus Verdugo's grandfather)

Bob Cotter (Aubrey & Keegan Bushey's grandfather)

Oscar Beltran (Julianne Arballo's grandfather)

Ortensia Santos (Alex Mazzara's grandmother)

Penny Berridge (Buzz Gardipee's grandmother)

Jhorani Peralta who was 4 years old died from an accidental drowning. Please keep the Doane & Peralta families in your prayers