



OCTOBER 1, 2009

Father Phil Lloyd
Pastor

Dr. Sandra Derby
Principal

“GOOD NEWS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear St. Theresa Parents,

The month of October is filled with the Feast Days of several favorite saints within the Catholic tradition, including our own St. Theresa of the Little Flower on October 1. We also celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4) and St. Theresa of Avila (October 15). Each of these saints teaches us ways of coming closer to God by the choices we make and by the way we live our lives.



One of the things the Little Flower is remembered for is a practice she called “The Little Way.” In trying to understand what it meant to be a child of God, Theresa sought the way of holiness in the ordinary and every day events of her life. She believed God was a God of mercy and forgiveness, one of generous and unending love. Theresa experienced and wrote about God’s love as the love of a parent towards a child. She encourages us to approach God with open arms, trusting and without fear, knowing that

God would take us in his arms, embrace us, and care for us.

St Theresa translated “the little way” in terms of a commitment to the tasks and to the people we meet in our everyday lives. Everything and everyone she encountered provided her with the opportunity to show her love for God and for others in small, often hidden ways. It can sometimes be hard for us to be in the ordinary and to find meaning in it. It can be challenging to show mercy and forgiveness to people who have hurt us or to be patient with people and situations that are difficult. And yet, St. Theresa’s “Little Way” teaches us that each time we can practice this spiritual discipline, we are happier people, and we recognize God’s presence in each other and in our world more easily.

It is not surprising that so many Catholics and brother and sisters from other Christian denominations have such a devotion to St. Theresa. St. Theresa’s “little way” teaches us that a life of holiness, a life united to God, is within the reach of all of us ordinary people in our ordinary lives. She encourages us to have confidence in God’s love for us. She teaches us to recognize the gift that every day brings us, and to realize that the smallest acts can have an enormous impact.

As we move through the month of October, I encourage all of us at St. Theresa’s to very consciously adopt the “Little Way” in our daily life.

How might this look in each of our lives? There are thousands of opportunities every single day to make a small but significant difference in somebody's life. How will we respond to this invitation from our patroness?

May God continue to bless us and may we continue to show others His deep and abiding love through our choices and actions.

HAPPY FEAST!

Dr. Sandra Derby
Principal



Reminder: Parent – Teacher conferences will begin on Thursday, October 22 from 3:30 – 6:30 P.M., and continue of Friday, October 23, from 7:00 A.M. until 2:00. **There are no classes on that Friday, so plan accordingly.** Your student will be bringing a note home from the office with your scheduled time and date. If there should be any conflict, please contact Mrs. Lastovica with the information.

CLASSROOM NEWS:

PreK - 4 – Mrs. Lewandowski

Pre K Four is busy, busy, busy. We have a full class of twelve girls and eight boys.

We are already on letter “G” with our thematic lessons and the number “5”. Our “**Apple Unit**” was so much fun. We learned the names of different types of apples and tasted them too!

“Patterns” is our newest math term. We have been busy cutting, gluing, and arranging our **AB** and **AABB** apple patterns. This week we will dive right into our St. Theresa of Lisieux presentations. The girls will dress up as St. Theresa, and the boys will recite St. Theresa facts. Join us for this presentation, Thursday, October 1, or come visit us anytime!

Be sure to keep an eye out for scarecrows, pumpkin patches, not to mention witches, goblins, and ghouls later this month!

First Grade News – Mrs. Vig

In September, First Grade started to work on the core curriculum of first grade materials. We have begun reading in our reading text with all the exciting stories in it. We are learning to add and subtract using our rulers or a counting line. In science, we observed living and non-living things as well as collected rocks, shells, plants, and bugs (one of our snails escaped from the box, but we found it the next day in the window).

On October 20, 2009, we are going to observe farm animals by when we visit the “Oil Ranch”.

First Grade wants you to know we are having a wonderful year so far, and many thanks go out to all of you for your help.

Fourth Grade News – Mrs. Platt

Fourth Grade continues to work hard in all subject areas. In Science we're studying cells and bacteria. The class was very interested to find out that bacteria can be good as well as bad.

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our free Water Kits from the Houston Water Subsidence District. When they arrive, we will begin a very interesting unit on water. We will end the unit with our yearly visit from Susan Brown **AKA** “The Water Lady”, “Water Princess,” or “The Diva of H2O.” We have invited Third Grade to join us when she makes her presentation.

In Social Studies, we just finished learning about the United States government. If you get a chance, stop by the bulletin board outside of our room. We created beautiful autumn trees and then labeled them with the three branches of the U. S. government.

Eighth Grade News – Ms. Dale

It's already October! Wow, the months are really moving by quickly. Our students are really in the swing of things, and the environment around school is awesome. So many good things going on, with the reinstatement of Student Council, St. Ts student of the week award, and the soccer and volleyball teams working hard and winning games. Then, we have so many great activities to look forward to this month, and into next. Eighth Grade is really busy, and they are actively preparing themselves to meet the next important hurdle in their lives – high school application time.

Visiting the feeder high schools has provided our students with the opportunity to “feel” what next year will be like. They know, however, it is only the beginning of a long and important process.

In addition, our students are currently preparing for the First nine weeks to end and taking the various midterm exams. FYI the Language Arts and Reading midterms will be on October 13 and 14 respectively. Students (all Junior High) should be preparing over the next week.

We look forward to a **spooktacular** October!

See you in the patch!



**REMEMBER – STUDY FOR YOUR
MIDTERM EXAMS!**

▶▶▶▶ **BREAKING NEWS** ▶▶▶▶

FROM THE OFFICE OF RHONDA LASTOVICA

All orders for the Joe Corbi's fund raising program are due on **Wednesday, October 7**. The estimated date of arrival for the orders is the first week of November, 2 – 6, 2009. Good luck and sell, sell, sell!

Virtus Training for all who are interested in being certified will be held on October 28, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. in the Community Center. You may register on line at virtusonline.org. *Parents remember that if you wish to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone a trip, the Archdiocese requires you to be certified.*

▶▶▶ **Even Bigger News** ▶▶▶



During the month of October, we will be putting together our Fall Pumpkin Patch. Again this year, the classes are being asked to make a scarecrow to keep in our patch so we can keep the animals from eating our pumpkins! The classes should have their scarecrows ready to stand, sit, or..... in the patch by October 26. We will be judging the defenders of our patch for creativity, beauty, and many other attributes! So get planning!

REALLY BIG NEWS

Mark your calendars, plan ahead, and join the fun of the upcoming Fall Festival on October 25th. It is sure to be a day of fun, good food, and friendship. Tickets are limited and only 500 are available, so get them early.

And not to be forgotten is the *Mardi Gras in the Park Auction Dinner and Dance* on February 6, 2010. It will be a night to remember. So get your tickets early, seating is limited!

Be sure to see our flyers on Renweb!

ST. THERESA ATHLETICS

From the desk of Coach Sugalski

Soccer and Volleyball are in full swing, and our two teams are really putting on some great shows!

Soccer, under the direction of Coach Celso Mendoza, is having a really fine season with some hard fought defeats, and some great victories against teams in our division. These young men and women are playing some truly inspired ball. With the season coming to a close you really need to come out and cheer them on. Our next home game will be October . So come out and cheer us on to victory!

The Lady Viking Volleyball team, under the direction on Coach Caruthers, has to be one of the most exciting and fun venues for sports watching in Houston. These young ladies are tearing up the court and their opponents with tough serving, controlled “bump-set-spike”, and all around good team play. The Lady Vikes will be in action October 6, at home, against St. Elizabeth Anne Seton. It’s too much excitement to miss!

. Go Vikings!!



October dates

October 1	Feast of St. Theresa
October 2	In Service – No School
October 6	First Grade Coffee in Library
October 9	Pep Rally
October 13	Language Arts Midterms 6 – 8 Pre-K 3 Coffee in Library
October 14	Reading Midterm 6 – 8
October 16	Second Grade Coffee in Library End of the Nine Weeks Mock Trial at the Courthouse
October 20	Eighth Grade Coffee in Library
October 22	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 23	Parent Teacher Conferences No classes due to conferences
October 30	Halloween Parties



October Birthdays

Happy birthday to all our October babies!

<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>
Bailey, Callie	08	10/02
Friedemann, Tracy	06	10/02
Garza, Isabella	08	10/06
Smith, Bernadette	01	10/08
Boyaki, Stella	PK4	10/09
Mumford, Jordan	PK3	10/12
Garza, Isabella	01	10/14
Garza, Melissa	08	10/20
Banda, Erica	07	10/21
Pruneda, Jonathan	03	10/27
Mercure-Larson, Loren	07	10/28
Droullier, Sophia	K	10/30

