



SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Father Phil Lloyd
Pastor

Dr. Sandra Derby
Principal

“GOOD NEWS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear St. Theresa Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We are into our third week of school, and students and teachers seem to have hit their stride already. The halls are buzzing with enthusiasm, our sports teams have begun practice and have already played a few games. The students are working hard to set up routines for themselves that will make them personally and academically successful. Thanks to our Home and School Association, we enjoyed a wonderful (and delicious!) ice cream social before the week before school started and have just finished a very successful (and exceptionally well attended) parents' night. We also celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit the first week of school with many of our parents joining us to pray for the success of this New Year together. Our new dismissal procedure has been met with great excitement and success. All in all, the St. Theresa's School Community is off to a remarkable beginning!

Our theme for the school year, taken from the Gospel of our opening mass, is ***You are the Light of the World.*** I hope that the candles that we blessed at that mass and that were taken back to each classroom will be a reminder of this beautiful truth spoken by Jesus. Each of us has the light of Christ burning within us. Every day we are given many opportunities to let that light shine or to make

it go dim. It shines brightly when we are kind to each other, when we are thoughtful, when we listen to those in our lives (teachers, parents, friends), when we remember to pray for those who need our prayers. It grows dim when we are unkind, when we are careless in our work, when we pout or have negative attitudes. It grows bright when we focus our thoughts on love of neighbor and service of others. It grows dim when we keep the focus on ourselves and think only of our own interests.

St. Theresa's is a place where I already see light shining brightly. I see it when people are friendly and greet each other in the hallway. I see it when students and teachers are hard at work in classrooms. I see it when parents have gathered and showed enthusiasm for what their kids are up to, whether in their studies or on the soccer field. I see it (and hear it) when we gather for Mass and we sing and pray with great joy. This is a place of light! May this be a year where, by thought and word and action, our light continues to burn brightly – so brightly that others will be inspired to join us in the light!

We began a contest between the classes last week. Every week we are tallying the number of tardies and the number uniform violations for each class in Grades 1 – 8. At the end of each nine weeks, the class with the least number of both will receive a special prize. Each week, the class or classes with the fewest number of combined tardies and uniform violations will receive a little reward. The winners this past week were the First, Second,

and Fourth grades. Keep up the good work, everybody!

One of the most special things we do each week is celebrate Mass together. I am very happy the Mr. Michael Valka, Camps Director for Kidventure and a former Director of Youth Ministry, will be with us most weeks to help lead us in our singing. Mr. Valka, as we have already experienced, plays and sings the guitar beautifully – and really wants to help us sing and praise God as fully as we can. I hope that parents will join us as often as possible on Thursdays as celebrate the Eucharist.

May God bless us as we begin this year of learning and growing together! May our light shine brightly all year, and may we at St. Theresa's be signs and examples of life and love for all to see!

Dr. Sandra Derby
Principal

CLASSROOM NEWS:

PreK – 3 News – Mrs. Grijalva



Mrs. Grijalva's Little Angels

The Terrific Three's are progressing tremendously! They already understand the rules, class routines, and are getting to know one another. We have played several name games, shared pictures of our family and pets, in an effort to get to know one another. The children are realizing that we are all members of Jesus' family. They were very excited about going to Little Church with Dr. Derby and their surprise visit from *God*, otherwise known as – **Father Phil**.



They loved mimicking Spanish words with Sra. Stevenson's pet parrot Perico. They also were delighted to show their artistic side with Mrs. Herbert. They also enjoy going to the gym with Mrs. Garza and Ms. Hawila who have taught them warm-up exercises and shown them how to do relays. Their favorite pastime besides centers and recess is definitely singing and dancing. We look forward to a wonderful year.

First Grade News – Mrs. Vig

First Grade had a great start this year. The children were happy to see each other as they meet and welcomed the new students to St. Theresa.

At the beginning of First grade, we are reviewing what the students learned in Kindergarten. We are learning the rules of the class and how to use our workbooks, and how to neatly tear the pages out of the workbooks. I have a good supply of scotch tape!

Many "thanks" to all the parents who came to our Open House on August 27, 2009. It was nice to see how involved you are with your child and their school activities. Thank you for a great start to the year.

Second Grade News – Mrs. Haggard

As the new second grade teacher, I am honored to work in such a caring community. I am very touched by all of the support I have received from the teachers and families at St. Theresa. It has been a wonderful first two weeks of school, and I already feel at home! Our second graders are enthusiastic, active learners and are off to a great year.

We are fortunate to be using the Smart Board during lessons this year. This exciting piece of technology should provide a more dynamic and interactive learning experience for the students. In response to parent questions about the Smart Board, I've put together some materials which are available on the RenWeb.com website. Second grade will be using the RenWeb.com website to post announcements, homework, and other pertinent information.

I look forward to this year with the same enthusiasm as the second graders! I think we make a perfect match!

Fourth Grade News – Mrs. Platt

Fourth Grade is off to a fabulous start. The class includes most of Ms. Platt's math students from last year. In addition, we welcome three new students: Caroline Martinez, Cesar Trevino, and John Thomas Villanueva who comes to us from Singapore.

All of the children are working hard and settling in to the class routine nicely. Our entire class is looking forward to a year of learning and doing a lot of fun and interesting work. Welcome!

Fifth Grade News – Mr. Sugalski

The fifth grade class has started the year on the right foot. Everyone seems very determined and eager to learn. I look forward to an exciting year. So far we have been studying place value in Math. The class has done a great job comparing and ordering numbers. In English we are working with subjects and predicates. This has been a very good review from last year. The students have also been working hard in their Daybooks and learning a lot in Social Studies class. One major thing to mark on your calendars is our annual trip to Camp Kappe. We will be traveling Sept 28th- Oct. 2. I will be sending out information later about the trip. Start collecting aluminum cans. Keep up the good work.

Seventh Grade News – Senora Stevenson

I want to wish all the Seventh Grade students a warm welcome to the school year. We are very happy to see so many faces, not only our returning students, but especially all our new students. This year, **Sarah Moreno, Nicholas Orozco, Jacob Summers, and Triston Escalona** are joining us, and we are very happy to have you as part of our St. Theresa family.

Buena suerte, Amigos!

Eighth Grade News – Ms. Dale

Welcome Back and Welcome! I am very pleased to welcome the upperclassmen of St. Theresa back to school for their last year. In addition, I could not be more pleased with the five new students who are joining them. **Jackie Conde, Emily Sanchez, Emily Gaines, Melissa Garza, and Marcos Needle** have joined us for their final junior high year, and we are so excited to have them. They act like they have been here forever! You can't ask for a better start than that. They just make the Eighth Grade class that much better!

Eighth Grade's month of September will be a wild one right off the bat. They will be visiting the feeder high schools to begin the all important process of matriculation. Picking out the high school that fits their personalities and fulfilling many of their dreams and their hopes. In addition, they will begin working on their Mock Trial case with the lawyers and law students of the Houston Bar Association. We are pleased to be participating in the valuable program that teaches the principles of civil duty and responsibility as a qualified voter in the future.

Their summer has been filled with Bar-B-Que fund raisers for their annual trip to Washington D.C. It will continue throughout the fall months and into early spring. So be sure to keep an eye on the calendar for those all important dates, especially the upcoming **BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE** on Friday, September 18. A flyer will be sent out inviting all Junior High students from St. T's. So come join us!

▶▶▶▶ BREAKING NEWS ▶▶▶▶

FROM THE OFFICE OF RHONDA LASTOVICA

If you have not turned in your 2009 – 2010 school forms into the office, please do so.

Current immunizations records are to be in the office by Sept. 30th

ST. THERESA ATHLETICS

From the desk of Coach Sugalski

Soccer and Volleyball teams have started their seasons, and both sports look to have promising and exciting seasons. We have a large number of athletes this year, and it is very exciting to see so many people participating.

The girls of volleyball will start their September with games on the road to St. Francis of Assisi on September 1, and then at St. Jerome on Thursday, the 3rd. They will then come back home against Assumption on September 8 before road games at St. Ambrose (10th) and St. Martha (15th).

The soccer team will be very busy also with road games to St. Jerome on the 31st of August, St. Martha's on the 2nd of September, and then on the 9th at Holy Rosary.

All the athletes have been working really hard to showcase our school, so come out and support the teams. **Go Vikings!!**

September Birthdays

Happy birthday to all our September babies!

Ray Tostado	4 th	Sept. 2
Maria Rodriquez-Esteban	2 nd	Sept. 2
Samantha Alaniz	PK4	Sept. 2
Anthony Jimenez	3 rd	Sept. 3
Maia Hawila		Sept. 5
Sarah Martinez	2 nd	Sept. 6
Debra Dills		Sept. 7
Karena Longoria	4 th	Sept. 7

Sofia Wagner	PK4	Sept. 7
Allen Barrera	3 rd	Sept. 8
Alyssa Benitez	7 th	Sept. 12
Jackie Conde	8 th	Sept. 12
Jennifer Bustamante	7 th	Sept. 15
Mia Rodriquez	PK4	Sept. 16
Jessica Pena	5 th	Sept. 20
Michael Pena	5 th	Sept. 20
Ediseimi Sammy	PK4	Sept. 21
Kenneth Van Doren	3 rd	Sept. 22
Isabella Cadelago	7 th	Sept. 24
Triston Escalona	7 th	Sept. 26
Scott Sugalski		Sept. 28
Mike McManus		Sept. 29
John Milan	6 th	Sept. 29
Mary Catherine Ballew	4 th	Sept. 30
William Spratt	7 th	Sept. 30


















Editorial – A letter from the editor

The start of the 2009 – 2010 school year brings an entirely new administration to St. Theresa School. It is with a great deal of pleasure that we welcome one of our own to lead us into the future. Dr. Sandra Derby, our new principal, is a longtime member of the St. Theresa Catholic parish. Her close affiliation with the parish has allowed her to watch our progress through the years, and now she has an opportunity to take our school to the next level. The teachers and staff would like to thank her for the wonderful start to the year, the amicable approach she has to making changes that benefit all, and the desire and willingness to be the captain of our ship.

I hope as the year progresses that all of us, the staff, teachers, students, and parents will continue to truly appreciate the efforts, the sacrifices, and the hard work that comes with being a principal. Thank you Dr. Derby and best of luck!

Mary Lou Dale, Editor

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  St. Francis of Assisi— Away	2  St. Martha—Away	3  St. Jerome—Away	4	5
6	7 <i>Labor Day</i>	8  Assumption—Home	9 Eighth Grade visit to St. Pius X.  Holy Rosary—Away	10 <i>Picture Day</i>  St. Ambrose—Away Student Council speeches	11  Holy Rosary—Home Student Council Elections 7:45 Coffee—4th Gr.	12
13	14  St. Catherine—Away	15  St. Martha—Away 7:45 Coffee—PK4	16 Eighth Grade visit to IWA/STT H.S. 8th grade Meeting in Comm. Ctr. 6:00 PM 8:00 AM Homeroom Parents Mtg-Rm. 203	17  St. Francis of Assisi- Home	18 Junior High Dance Spirit Day 7:45 Coffee—Kinder Progress Reports— Go Home	19
20	21  Assumption—Home	22 Autumn Begins  SEAS—Away 7:45 Coffee—7th	23  St. Jerome—Home 2:00 Fundraising Assembly	24	25 7:45 Coffee—5th Ministry Madness 5th—8th 2:30—5:30	26
27	28 Fifth Grade to Camp Kappel!  Corpus Christi—Away	29 7:45 Coffee—3rd	30  Corpus Christi— Home .			
					All coffees are AM in the Library.	