

September 27, 2011

Dear Madeleine Parents,

As the month of September ends, I thank all parents who participated in our new parent meeting, first day school coffee, and back to school nights. This is one way School of the Madeleine can communicate our programs to you and help you become more involved in your child's education. Parent participation and open communication are important ingredients to the success of any school and are at the heart of any Catholic school.

I further want to **thank all the former room parents and their assistants** for helping to get out the information concerning the canceled junior high back to school night and the closure of school on Friday due to the power outage.

Please remember that October is the month of Our Lady of the Rosary. It is a perfect opportunity to re-dedicate our families to the Blessed Mother and remembering her gift of the rosary to our world.

### **EXTRA PROGRAMS AT MADELEINE**

School of the Madeleine is very fortunate to have many extra programs as part of our regular school day. These programs are free for our students even though there is an extra expense to the school! Some of the enrichment programs are: Spanish in grades 5-8, music in grades 1-5, advance math in grades 5-8, a librarian, a challenging computer curriculum for grades 1-8, teachers' aides for grades K-8, science lab, Renaissance Reading Program for grades 2-6, 50-mile club for grades 3-5, Everyone a Reader Program for grades 1-3, Arts Attack program for grades 1-8, counseling services, and a free on-line World Book Encyclopedia program for our students. Last year, all our teachers (K-8) were trained in a new writing program. This program is called **"Step Up to Writing"** and will help our students be better writers. This year all our teachers attended a two day inservice that will assist our teachers in helping students meet the needs of a variety of students' learning styles. This inservice was presented by Dr. Carolyn Coil and was called **"How Do you Monitor Student Progress to Guide Instructional Decisions?"** The third phase of this inservice will take place in November. Many Catholic or public schools do not have the variety or diversity of the programs to enhance student learning.

### **AVAILABLE STUDENT OPENINGS**

We still have openings in **kindergarten**. If you know a family who may be interested, please have them call the office.

### **GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY**

Every year our neighbors, who live on Magdalene Way, call me to complain about parents speeding down the street in the morning. They tell me that it is almost impossible for them to pull out of their driveways safely in the morning because of these speeding cars. They recognized that many of these individuals were probably rushing off to work but ask if I could remind my parents that there are many elderly individuals on this street and other adults trying to go to work too. It is very important to remember that we represent School of the Madeleine at all times. In addition, it is very important that we demonstrate that we are Christians and thinking of other people. Please slow down and think of our neighbors!

## **PHILOSOPHY, MISSION, AND SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS**

Attached to this newsletter are the school's mission statement, philosophy, and schoolwide learning expectations. Please read and review these important documents and call me if you have any questions.

## **PSA RESERVED PARKING**

Three of our parents have purchased reserved parking spaces in the church parking lot as part of the "Hassle Free" Dinner Dance Package. Please **do not park in these three spaces at any time.**

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE ON SCHOOL DAYS**

Since School of the Madeleine is a Catholic school, we offer the opportunity for children to participate in daily Mass. Daily Mass starts at 7:45 a.m. and ends approximately at 8:20 a.m. Students should immediately report to the office and inform office personnel that they were at Mass. All students going to Mass should be on time and not interrupt church services by arriving late.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

First quarter **progress reports** will be sent home on **Wednesday, October 5**. This report is given to students in first through eighth grades to inform parents of their child's progress. **Progress reports are sent home mid-quarter, four times a year.** If you have any questions concerning your child's progress report, please be sure to make an appointment with the teacher. All progress reports should be signed and returned promptly.

In addition, parents with children in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 5-8 grades can check their progress by opening the "**Parent Portal**". Letters were sent out in September giving you instructions on how to preview your child's grades through this application.

## **REPORT CARD CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS**

For the first quarter, all parents will be asked to make an appointment for a conference with their child's teacher to receive their report card. The school will be sending home a form requesting your choices of the **time frame** that will be most convenient for you for this conference. This slip will be sent home on **Wednesday, October 12 and must be returned by Wednesday, October 19**. You will receive a confirmation of your specific appointment time by **Thursday, October 27**.

## **AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP PROBLEMS**

When picking up your child(ren) at the end of the school day, it is important that you keep the **area at the top of the stairs leading to the kindergarten and preschool play areas clear**. We ask parents not to wait for their child(ren) at the top of these stairs. With too many parents gathered in this area, it becomes chaotic, congested, and unsafe for our kindergarten and preschool students. Because of this problem, many kindergarteners are separated from their teachers or from extended care personnel. Therefore, for student's safety, we ask that you wait in the parking lot convent area.

The passenger zone in front of school is for picking up students only. Please do **not park and leave your car** for any reason. If there is not a space for you to pull over, you will need to circle or park in the church parking lot. **Never stop and block the through traffic lane!** *If your child(ren) have not come to the car by the time you reach the top of the passenger zone, you will need to circle so as to not block a space for others.*

## **SAFETY OF STUDENTS**

Safety of our students is a primary concern at School of the Madeleine. Please remember to follow these simple rules:

- Please do not ask your **child(ren) to meet you at the bottom of Illion Street or in front of the parish church/hall at dismissal time.** These are unsupervised areas and very unsafe. **Students**, whose parents park down at the bottom of Illion Street, **must wait at the crest of the hill.** These parents may call their child(ren) to let them know if they are parked on Gardena Street and then the child(ren) can proceed down the hill and immediately get in their parent's car. Many parents have called us and have complained that our Madeleine students are misbehaving and even playing in the streets. The rectory has also called us and informed us that the students who are waiting in front of the church or hall have done damage to plants and bushes.
- Remember, there is no charge for the use of the extended care program beginning at 7:45 a.m. **Please do not wait outside of the classroom with your child.** Other students will join you creating supervision problems. If you wish to stay with your child and wait for the 8:00 a.m. bell, do so in your car or at the lunch tables at the back of the main building.
- Parents of **kindergarten students should wait at the tables** in the kindergarten/preschool courtyard. **Please do not allow your child to use the swings or the play structure.** Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts to keep all students safe!
- **Please use the crosswalk in the parking lot. Do not cross at the driveway.**
- Please **use the designated walkways in the church parking lot** to get to your vehicle. This area provides a safe passageway for students and adults. Please do not stand and talk in the walkway.
- Please **pull all the way forward in the designated parking spaces** in the church parking lot. This will avoid the traffic lanes from being blocked. Thank you for your cooperation!
- Please follow the teacher's directions before **entering the passenger zone area in front of the school.** You may have to circle and then try again if this lane is full.
- Please **do not park** your vehicle in the rectory or hall driveways at anytime. In addition, parents should **not park** in front of the school driveway.

## **PARKING PROBLEMS IN FRONT OF SCHOOL**

There have been many days when the school custodian could not enter or leave the school grounds because of cars blocking the driveway. **Parking in the white passenger zone** in front of the school is not allowed. This zone is for picking up or dropping off your child(ren). When people park in this area, it creates a traffic jam and causes a hazard to the safety of the students. When picking up or dropping off, the driver should not get out of their car.

## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

The first box top coupons collection week will be October 3-7. Please see the flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information. Thank you for your continued support with this valuable program. Also, you can register on the Box Tops for Education website for the Big Clip Sweepstakes until 10/31. The school could earn \$50,000.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

We are fortunate again this year to have two on-site counselors at School of the Madeleine. **Ben Fishburne** will be here on **Monday and was here last year**. Mr. Fishburne is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and has been working with children for nearly 20 years. Please see the attached letter from Mr. Fishburne. The paper work for this service can be downloaded from the Madeleine web page.

**Rita McCreary** will be returning to School of the Madeleine and will be available to our students on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Rita McCreary is the parish counselor who has also been working with the school for several years. She is also a licensed therapist. We are fortunate to have both counselors here at Madeleine.

Our counselors will begin seeing clients immediately. Please feel free to contact them through the school office. They are available to all students from preschool through eighth grades. Our counselors can help our students with emotional problems, difficulties with friendships, and organizational or study skills.

## **NATIONAL TESTING**

Students in second through eighth grades will be taking the **National Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS)**. **This test will be given during the week of October 10.** In addition, **third, fifth, and seventh grades** will be taking the **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** on October 17 and 18. By giving the ITBS battery of tests/CogAT at this time of the year, teachers will be able to analyze the scores of each child to develop an educational program to better meet students' needs. Make sure your child(ren) have plenty of rest and has a nutritious snack for each day. If possible, please avoid scheduling doctor or dentist's appointments during ITBS testing. Please be aware that if a child misses four or more tests during this week, no make-ups will be given.

## **JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY TALENT SEARCH**

We are pleased to inform you that School of the Madeleine will be participating in the Johns Hopkins University Institute for the **Academic Advancement of Youth**. Johns Hopkins University sponsors Talent Search 2011-2012 for qualifying students in seventh and eighth grades. The purpose of the Talent Search is to identify, assess, and recognize the academic abilities of highly able students. To qualify for the Talent Search, a student must have scored in the 95% percentile or higher in a single area (mathematics, verbal, or composite scores) on a nationally normed, standard aptitude or achievement test. We have researched and assessed our seventh and eighth grade students and have found **48 students who qualify!** If your child qualified for this special honor, you should have received a letter, an application, and a brochure. We are very proud to be participating in this prestigious program. In the past, many of our students have received high distinctions on these tests.

## **MADELEINE'S MAIN EVENT**

Our Madeleine main event is scheduled for **Saturday, March 3**. The theme of the evening will be **Madeleine Rocks**. This is our school's biggest fundraising event and a great opportunity to build community. This wonderful affair not only earns money for our school, but also provides you with an opportunity to have a great time out on the town. Please watch for more information in our monthly newsletters. Our main event promises to be a fun night in which we can celebrate community and our successes! See you there!

## **BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC**

Our back to school picnic was an outstanding hit this year. I thank all our families who participated in this fun event. This was an excellent opportunity to build community among our families. A **BIG THANKS** goes to the volunteers for their hard work in organizing our back to school picnic: *Linda Yahnke, Mia Lloyd, Sarah Kaderbek, Teresa Moujaes and Corey Stewart*. Our Madeleine families appreciate all your hard work in planning and organizing a successful picnic! Other volunteers who helped are: **Steve Hine, Kaz & Sharon Druzynski, Patti Aline, Paula Cross, Alba Wylie, Paul & Mike Fornes, Carol Smith, Josh DeGano, and Larry & Angela Varela**. A thank you goes to our Student Council members who helped with clean up. A special thanks goes to **Chris & John Hickman**, our Ecology Officers. These two boys organized and helped with recycling during the picnic. Other students who pitched in and helped us tremendously were: **Jarred Druzynski, Matthew Lloyd, Thomas Varela, Jack Kaderabek, and Christopher Lloyd**. Those helping with balloons are: **Kaycee Lazott, Kaylin Greisen, Max Schaldach, William Stonehouse, Bruno Esquivel, and Isabella Avila**.

## **WEB PAGE**

Thank you, **Daphne Acebedo**, for keeping School of the Madeleine's web page updated with all the latest information. You can find our web page at [www.schoolofthemadeleine.com](http://www.schoolofthemadeleine.com)

## **EMERGENCY PLAN**

As part of the emergency procedures already in place at School of the Madeleine, we want to inform parents of our **evacuation plan**. These procedures would be put into effect for any reason we need to leave the buildings on campus. Depending on the specific reason evacuation is necessary and the safety of each of these areas, the students will be gathered and held on the school's field, the lower church parking lot, parish hall or church. If these areas are not considered safe, the students will be walked down to **TECOLOTE PARK**. Tecolote Park is located at the end of Sea World Drive/ Tecolote Road, east of Morena Blvd.

**If it is necessary for parents to pick up their child(ren) from school because of an emergency situation, it is imperative that parents remain calm and follow the directions and procedures given by the staff!** Procedures for emergencies are practiced often with the students to ease their fear in case of a real disaster. Children will become more frightened if parents are hysterical!

It is also important **for your child(ren) to know a phone number**, other than their home number, where they can reach you during any emergency.

## **LUNCH DUTY SUBSTITUTES NEEDED**

We are looking for more individuals who could substitute for **lunch duty** between 12:00-1:00 p.m. for the first semester. In addition, we need individuals trained in first aid who could assist in the **nurse's office** during our lunch hours, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **STUDENT PICTURES ON FACE BOOK, ETC.**

I remind all parents not to post pictures of students in uniform on Face Book, My Space, or any other blogs. Posting of such pictures endanger the safety of our students.

### **SCHOOL EMAIL POLICY**

Each teacher at School of the Madeleine should have given out their email address to all their students' parents. Please remember the following rules for email use:

1. Teachers emails are for school business and for parents only.
2. Teachers will answer or reply to emails within a 24 hour period.
3. Teachers will not pick up their email during the weekend or non-school days.
4. Be concise with your emails. This is not the best means of communication for long explanations.

### **PSA END-OF-THE-YEAR SURVEY**

Attached to this newsletter is a reply from our PSA president, Jessica Rowland, to a question from the end of the year PSA Survey. We will occasionally include answers to questions that were asked from that survey. Please take time to read it.

### **TELEPHONE NEEDED**

We are looking for a donation of old analog telephones that do not require electricity to operate. These phones could be used in an emergency if there is another electrical outage situation like the one on **Thursday, September 8**.

### **ADVISORY AND PSA MEETINGS**

**All Advisory and PSA board meetings are open to parents.** Please look on the school monthly calendar for dates and time. Sometimes **there are unexpected changes in meeting times so please call the day before if you intend to come to a meeting.** Please check September's newsletter for the PSA yearly budget. Periodically notes from both boards are printed in the newsletter to keep parents informed.

### **HELP NEEDED**

I need an individual who is willing to **plant flowers** in the planter box in front of the office and on the hill in front of the library. The individual who volunteers must be able to do it during the school day (M-F) before 5:30 p.m. If you can help, please call me at (619) 276-6545.

### **PRAYERS REQUESTED**

Please pray for Catholic teachers, especially those at School of the Madeleine. Please keep in your prayers all Catholic schools that are struggling with enrollment this year.

Yours in Christ,

*Donna*

Donna Wittouck

## **THANK YOU**

*Lauren Wolff and Kate Latham*—for donating money from a lemon aide stand.

*Mrs. Lisa Reitz*—for purchasing fans for the classrooms.

September 13, 2011

Dear Families of the School of the Madeleine,

Welcome to another school year filled with potential. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Ben Fishburne, and I am the School Counselor here at Madeleine. I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFC 42328), and have been working with children for nearly twenty years. This is my eleventh year working as a school counselor. I am excited to be back at the School of the Madeleine.

Referrals generally come to me by one of three avenues: children request to meet with me, parents request that I meet with their child, or the faculty requests that I meet with a child. In all cases, parental consent is obtained prior to meeting with the student. While most of the counseling done at the school site is individual, I have met with groups and families.

There are two important forms to use. The **parental consent form**, which allows me to work with the child, and the **referral form**, which lets me know why the child is to be seen.

If a parent would like their child to meet with me, it is important that both forms be completed. The forms are available in the school office, and can also be turned in there.

If I met with a child last year, I will not automatically meet with them again this year. Consent and referral forms need to be completed for the new school year.

I am thrilled to be back as a part of the team here at the School of the Madeleine. I look forward to a great year. If there are any questions, please feel free to meet with me at the school or call. I am here every Monday, and can be reached through the school office at (619) 276-6545. I also have email at the school. My email address is [bfishburne@schoolofthemadeleine.com](mailto:bfishburne@schoolofthemadeleine.com). Please note that as I work at other locations during the week, I am only able to respond to messages on the day that I am here. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Ben Fishburne, MFT  
School Counselor  
St. Michael's School

September 2011

Dear Students, Staff, and Families:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Pastoral Counseling services to students, families and staff of the School of the Madeleine. These services are offered onsite, at no charge in a confidential, one-on-one, couples or group environment. Pastoral Counseling in this setting is the integration of Spirituality, our Catholic Faith Tradition and Licensed Psychotherapy.

Pastoral Counseling is appropriate for individuals, couples, children and families who are seeking support for a variety of concerns including school performance, anxiety, depression, crisis management, grief and bereavement, life transitions, chronic illness, single parenthood, retirement, divorce/separation, career changes, parenting, interpersonal relationships and individual spirituality and growth. As well, I will work with your Primary Care Provider, Mental Health Provider, Teacher, Principal, Outpatient Medical Team or Homecare Team as well as provide information and referral to community services or the many support ministries offered through our parish and school.

My background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, a Master's Degree in Social Work, a Master's Degree in Pastoral Counseling and a License in Clinical Social Work. I have had over 35 years experience providing Social Work and Counseling Services in Acute Hospital Settings, Rehabilitation Facilities, Home Care Agencies, Hospice Programs and Outpatient Psychiatry Clinics as well as 40 years experience in a variety of Parish Ministries in San Diego. I have been the Pastoral Counselor at The Church of St. Mary Magdalene for 9 years.

Please know that I am available to support you and your student in any way that I am able during this upcoming 2011-2012 academic year. Hours are flexible. For more information or to make an appointment, feel free to contact me at (619) 276-6805.

Sincerely,

Rita McCreery, MSW, MA, LCSW (#12880)  
Pastoral Counselor

# SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

**A graduate of the School of the Madeleine is:**

**1. A compassionate Catholic/Christian who:**

- knows Scripture and Catholic doctrine
- understands the meaning of a personal relationship with God
- understands and models Christian values and has a spirit of service within the school and community
- has an awareness of God's presence in others and has a respect for life
- unites with others as God's children in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church

**2. An independent learner who:**

- has a foundation in the fundamentals of all subjects
- is able to use technology appropriately
- is able to use critical thinking and problem solving skills
- is aware of his or her own academic strengths and weaknesses
- understands the importance of being organized, following directions, and setting personal goals

**3. A responsible individual who:**

- understands how to establish personal and group goals
- is aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle
- understands the importance of respecting authority, self, and others
- accepts consequences for his or her actions
- has an ability to stand up for beliefs in the face of peer pressure
- is aware of how his or her decisions will affect himself or herself and others

**4. An effective communicator who:**

- can articulate ideas effectively and appropriately
- expresses written thoughts clearly by using proper writing techniques
- is able to deliver opinions and information
- is an active listener of others' thoughts and ideas
- recognizes the importance of evaluating information objectively

**5. A globally aware citizen who:**

- follows the decisions of authority
- has a sense of responsibility for social justice
- is cognizant of current events and their effect on his or her life
- recognizes others' cultural diversity

# SCHOOL OF THE MADELEINE

## Philosophy

Each student at School of the Madeleine is a unique creation of God actively involved in the process of his or her own spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth. The administration, teachers, staff, and parents, as the primary educators, are committed to the development of each child by providing loving support, inspiration, and quality instruction, while integrating Catholic values, traditions, and worship throughout the school environment.

Revised 3/06

# SCHOOL OF THE MADELEINE

## Mission Statement

The mission of School of the Madeleine:

**“Our love is not to be just words or mere talk,  
but something real and active.”**

**1 John: 3:18**

Students at School of the Madeleine are empowered to be committed to their Catholic faith, to become aware of their personal potential, and to mature spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

We achieve this by:

- encouraging an atmosphere of respect, dignity, faith, love, forgiveness, and stewardship to the school, parish, and global community
- providing an instructional climate which fosters academic success
- presenting opportunities for our students to practice ethical and moral decision-making
- supporting the development of good habits of physical activity and wholesome attitudes toward personal health

Revised 3/06

SEPTEMBER 27, 2011  
NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

NURSE'S OFFICE

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE TURNED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

Emergency Cards, Earthquake Comfort Bags, and YELLOW Earthquake Release Cards. These items should be sent to your child's classroom immediately if you have not already done so.

Dear Parents:

As emergency cards are returned, it has been brought to our attention that several students are allergic to bee stings, have food allergies or asthma and require an Epi-Pen, inhaler, or medication such as Benadryl or Tylenol. If the latter is true for your child(ren), the Epi-Pen or inhaler must be in the nurse's office or with your child's respective teacher. In no instance can this medication be solely in your child's backpack.

If your child requires an Epi-Pen, inhaler, or medication including Benadryl or Tylenol to be kept at school on an ongoing basis throughout the year, the California Education Code requires the school to have a "Physician's Recommendations for Medication" form completed and signed by the student's physician and signed by a parent. The information required on this form is necessary to comply with the law and to insure adequate protection for our students.

We do not have a full time registered nurse on staff. Our Nurse's Office is staffed only part-time by volunteer parents, so this form is very helpful for the school to have on file in the event of an emergency.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding this matter.

GIFT WRAP NEWS

It is not too late to turn in your Innisbrook catalog order form and payments. Please complete your orders and turn them into your child's homeroom teacher by the end of the week (9/30/11) to receive credit towards your \$240.00 PSA Fund Raising Commitment. You can also receive credit through Internet sales, which will run through January 15, 2012. Our school gets 40% of every purchase made. Thank you for your continued support!

Kate Venchiski & Michelle Karvounis

CASA DE LOS POBRES

We are not collecting for Casa de los Pobres at this time. We will announce if the program starts up again.

COLLECTION FOR CCSA  
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SERVICE AGENCY

During the month of October St. Mary Magdalene Parish is asking for donations of CANNED Soup, Chilli, Stew, and Spaghetti O's, pop-top cans please. We ask that Madeleine families take their donations to the rectory office, or to the vestibule of the Church between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. You may also bring donations to the school office.

Kindergarten News

Hello and welcome to all Madeleine families!! We welcome back Mrs. Giacalone (KA), Mrs. Nielsen (KB) and Mrs. Emery (KF). This first month of kindergarten is an exciting time as we all get to know each other and become accustomed to new routines. We have introduced the students to our Reading Room, and they are busy learning consonant sounds as well as blending sounds together to make words. A big part of student progress in our Madeleine reading program is volunteer participation. Volunteers who have been cleared by the LiveScan process may sign up to volunteer in the Reading Room! Please do! Volunteer participation is essential to steady reading progress for your children. A sign up sheet is available outside of the KF classroom. Remember to sign up ahead of time so teachers can ensure that all parents have been LiveScanned. We want to ensure the safety of your children. Thank you now for your cooperation! In Religion we are learning that each one of us, as well as our friends and families, are special gifts from God. In Practical Life we have worked on letters, apples, and autumn, and will soon be working on colors, bats and cats, and spiders! In Math we have worked on position words, patterns and will soon sort by size, color, and shape.

Thanks to all the new Kindergarten families who attended Back-to-School Night! We are going to have a great year together

1A/1B

Welcome to a new school year. The children are gradually adjusting to their daily routine, following classroom rules, and expectations. We are trying not to overwhelm the children too much. Learning how to transition from subject to subject can be quite a challenge these first few weeks of school. We love going to Mass, learning more about our church community, about the changing seasons in Science and Johnny Appleseed in Social Studies. We are writing in our journals everyday and will start the first of many spelling tests next week. We are excited about the new learning adventure this school year will bring.

Second Grade News

Our new second graders have been very busy bees! In math, they have been reviewing the number line, reading and writing numbers, ordering numbers, comparing numbers, estimating how many, and problem solving using reasonable answers. In religion, they are learning more about their church community and the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. In science, the students just started learning about plants. Each week in reading, they read two different stories and learn a different reading strategy. We enjoyed meeting all our second grade families at Back to School Night! The second graders are doing a great job so far, and we are looking forward to a fun-filled year in second grade!

### 3A and 3B News

This is what we've been doing in third grade. We've been learning place value to the hundred thousands. We learned the three types of number forms. These are the forms: word form, standard form, and expanded form. We've learned the three sacraments of initiation in Religion. In Science, we've been learning about plants. In English, we've been learning about sentences. In Phonics, we've been learning about hard and soft g and c. We've enjoyed the stories from our reading books. Especially "When Charlie McButton Lost Power." It reminded us of the city's power outage. We are excited for a fabulous year of learning and fun!

Written by: Ian Cosgrove and Anna Fontes

### 4A and 4B

Summer has ended and we are now fourth graders. We are learning many new things already and are excited about this new year! We are learning about subjects and predicates in English, place value and rounding in math, maps and geography in social studies and animals in science. We are looking forward to a fun year!

### Fifth Grade News

Welcome back! We'd like to extend a special thanks to all of our wonderful fifth grade families for a great back-to-school night. We are looking forward to a great year of learning in fifth grade. We're off to an amazing start! We're looking forward to some super fun science experiments, challenging art projects, beautiful religion lessons, and much more. Please remember to send your son or daughter with a substantial snack, as we have 12:30 lunch this year. God bless you for all your help, donations, and prayers!

### News from 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

In the month of September the sixth graders are writing books for our little buddies in kindergarten. We all just can't wait to meet them. Sixth grade is also starting school sports in volleyball and soccer. During the summer, the school made changes on campus such as in the playground and the fencing, which we like. Sixth grade would also like to welcome the new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Alarcon, to School of the Madeleine.

-Written by Sarah Blacker, Connor Cruz, and Gage Lindsey

## Greetings from 7A & 7B

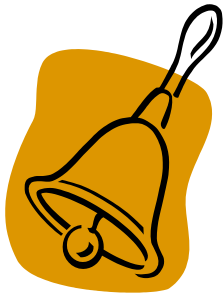
Well here we are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade! We have been busy these past few weeks getting used to the routine with all the different teachers and classes. In Social Studies we completed our first chapter on the Roman Empire and did very well on the test. Mrs. Alves said our country reports were fantastic! Currently we are beginning our study of the Byzantine Empire. In Literature we have completed our first unit and survived the first vocabulary test! All students should be reading a novel of their choice and this book must be completed by Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be doing an in class book project. In Science we completed our study of Photosynthesis and are now studying the Cell Cycle and Mitosis. We have started our Science Fair Investigation and many of us have chosen our project title and have started our research to learn more about our topic. In Religion we have learned about the parts of the Mass and look forward to reading at our second school Mass on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We have learned that God is the source of all life and we are beautifully made in His image. In addition to learning our subjects we are also learning organizational skills and time management—skills for life! So far we are doing well following uniform rules, so let's keep up this positive trend. We are growing so it is important to get eat right, get a good night's sleep, and hang up that cell phone. Bye for now.....

## Eighth Grade

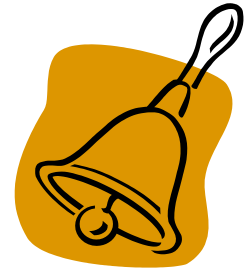
All the eight graders this year are having a great time learning and being the leaders of the school. We are very busy with work and can't wait for the science fair next month. We all enjoyed the visit we had from OLP and Saints and are very excited to visit Cathedral, OLP, and Saints next month. In history we are learning about the being of our country, and the Declaration of Independence. English this year has been filled with grammar and writing. In October we will be participating in the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. Math is already very hard but we're all enjoying it!

# October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
Note: Children's Choir meets Thursdays 3:00-3:45 pm  2	-Turn in Progress Reports  3	Box Tops Collection Week			8th Gr to OLP&Saints Visitation Day  Children's Choir 3:00 pm  6	<b>Mass 11:00 am</b>  <b>Minimum Day</b>  7	OLP Open House 9:00-11:30 am  8
1st Reconciliation Parent Mtg. (Hall) 10:15 am  9	Columbus Day <u>School in Session</u>  Group Pictures Grades 1-4 10:30 am  10	-Group Pictures Kindergarten & Grades 5-8 10:30am <b>-6th Gr. Fundraiser Begins</b>  11	<b>ITBS Testing</b>		-Report Card Conference Slips Sent Out  12	Singing Practice 11:20 am  Jr. High Dance 5:00-7:00 pm  14	CCHS Open House 10:00-2:00 pm  15
16	Handbell Choir begins 3:00 pm  17	Preschool Group Pictures 8:30 am CCHS Principal/Teacher Reception 4:00 pm PSA Board Mtg. 5:30 pm  18	<b>Hot Lunch</b> Report Card Conference Slips Returned  Ladies Club The Wine Pub 6:00-9:00pm  19	20	<b>Mass 11:00 am</b>  21	22	
23	Report Card Conferences Scheduled  24	<b>Newsletter</b>  6th Gr. Fundraiser Ends  Advisory Board Mtg. 5:30 pm  25	<b>Red Ribbon Week</b>			Report Card Conference Appointments Sent Home  Singing Practice 11:20 am  28	29
30	Halloween Carnival 9:00-11:30 am  <b>Minimum Day</b>  31						



# CHILDREN'S HAND BELL CHOIR



We are starting our fifth year with the School of the Madeleine Hand Bell Choir. The choir will not only be playing at certain school masses during the year but they will also be playing for the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass! This choir is for students in grade 4—8. Your child does **not need to know how to read music to be a part of this choir.**

We **need** to have at least **8 students** to continue the choir but would really like to have **16 to make a full sound.**

**Rehearsals** are on **Mondays** from **3:00 pm to 3:45 pm.** Our goal is to be ready for the Thanksgiving day school mass. Our first rehearsal will be **Monday, October 17th.** This will give us **six weeks** to get ready!

Hand Bells are a beautiful instrument, but must be treated with care. The children are required to wear gloves which we will supply. If you think your child is interested please complete the attached application and return it to the rectory, or have your child bring it to the first rehearsal.

---

## Application for School of the Madeleine Hand Bell Choir

Return to: St. Mary Magdalene Church  
1945 Illion Street  
San Diego, CA 92110  
Attn: Mary Kay Evanko, Director of Music

Child's  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Appropriate Box:  
After rehearsal my child:

- will be picked up by parent at church     will go directly to extended care at school



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The St. Mary Magdalene Children's Choir completed its seventh year to rave reviews.

We are hoping to continue to grow in our eighth year and are looking for additional voices to join the choir. **All boys and girls in grades 3-8** are eligible to join. Rehearsals are held every **Thursday** afternoon from **3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.** in the church.

**We are also flexible with the time for sport practices and will dismiss children early .**

**\*\*\* First rehearsal will be Thursday, October 6th \*\*\***

We have an active schedule planned for the new year with the Children's Choir. We will immediately begin rehearsal for Advent and Christmas. The Children's choir will be the principle choir at the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass.

If your child is interested please complete the attached application and return it to the school/rectory, or have your child bring it to the first rehearsal.

-----  
**Application for St. Mary Magdalene Children's Choir**

Return to: School of the Madeleine/St. Mary Magdalene Church

Attn: Mary Kay Evanko, Director of Music

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Appropriate Box:

After rehearsal my child:

will be picked up by parent at church     will go directly to extended care at school



**Sunday Gospel Readings and  
Questions for home reflection:**

***Gospel October 2, 2011***

Matthew 21:33-43

"Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times." Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes'? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.

**Questions for Adults:**

Jesus is telling a story about a vineyard whose owner is God. What did His People do to those He sent? Still, God keeps inviting us to do what is right. Are we rejecting God's numerous invitations to recognize what is most important in our life?

**Questions for Children:**

God sends people to help us love and obey him. How do we respond to them? What is our response if a classmate reminds us to be quiet while the teacher is talking? What do we say to a sibling who tells us that it's our turn to do the dishes? Do we respond kindly to someone who was trying to help us?

Ask the Lord to teach you humbleness and patience.

***Gospel October 9, 2011***

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

**Questions for Adults:**

This is a story about Jesus inviting people to live and celebrate with him. Why did the people first invited refuse to come? Who did Jesus invite the second time?

Are you willing to accept God's invitation to the kingdom? Or will you allow things to get in the way, and reject God's invitation to the kingdom? If you accept the invitation, what will it require of you?

**Questions for Children:**

Jesus invites us to be with him, to live as sisters and brothers and to share in his banquet at mass. How do you show Him that you accept His invitation? Do you love Him in your thoughts, words, and actions?

Every Sunday, just before Communion, the priest says, "Happy are we who are invited to his banquet." What can we do to prepare to receive Jesus?

## ***Gospel October 16, 2011***

Matthew 22:15-21

Then the Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap him in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

### **Questions for Adults:**

What do you think Christ means when He says to give to "God what belongs to God"?

### **Questions for Children:**

Jesus said that the government is good—but we worship only God.

What do we give the government?

What do we give to God? How must we obey God?

## ***Gospel October 23, 2011***

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

### **Questions for Adults:**

Who is your neighbor?

How do you learn to love those who are difficult to love? Does loving those who are difficult to love mean you have to accept their individual beliefs and situations? How do you show your love for them?

### **Questions for Children:**

How can we show our love for God?

How can we show love for ourselves? How can we show love for our neighbor?

## ***Gospel October 30, 2011***

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

### **Questions for Adults:**

What does the phrase "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted" mean to you? Who presents a good example of humility in the world today?

Do you ever find yourself "performing to be seen"?

### **Questions for Children:**

Jesus teaches us that we shouldn't do things just to get attention or recognition? Do you practice what Jesus preached in this Gospel?

In this Gospel, what is Jesus teaching us about the way we should act?

### **INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER, Pope Benedict XVI,**

#### **FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

**General Intention:** That the terminally ill may be supported by their faith in God and the love of their brothers and sisters.

**Missionary Intention:** That the celebration of World Mission Day may foster in the People of God a passion for evangelization with the willingness to support the missions with prayer and economic aid for the poorest Churches.