



August 3, 2009

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family enjoying these beautiful summer days.

Great News

Mr. Jamie Columbia and his wife Kristen welcomed Grayden James Columbia, "Grady," into their family on Monday, July 20th. He weighed 5 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations to the Columbia family and may God bless Grady, their new little angel.

First Day of School

The first day of school for students in grades 1-8 is Monday, August 24th. The first three days of school, Monday, August 24th, Tuesday, August 25th, and Wednesday, August 26th we will dismiss at 12:45 p.m. (Students should bring a snack and a drink each of these days.)

Wednesday, August 26th, Dr. Curt Hinson, creator of the Trouble-free Playground Program, will be visiting St. Louis School for the day and evening. We are asking students to wear their gym uniforms so that they may participate in games during his presentation. **We are also inviting the parents to attend his presentation in the evening from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** We are grateful to the many parents who give their time to assist us at recess time. Dr. Hinson's evening program is particularly important for lunch/recess volunteers. We have scheduled our annual orientation session for lunch/recess volunteers from 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. on August 26th immediately following Dr. Hinson's presentation.

Dr. Hinson will be sharing with us his suggestions for helping students play and socialize in a constructive manner during recess. We feel that if the teachers, students, and parents hear the same presentation it will be very beneficial. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

The first day of school for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students is Monday, August 31st.

There will be no buses the first week of school as Howard County schools are not in session. Aftercare will be offered the entire first week of school. Thursday, August 27th and Friday, August 28th will be full days with no busing. Students should bring lunch and a drink on these two days; milk delivery and school lunch service begin the following week.

Theme

The parish and school are continuing the theme of "Do This In Memory of Me." This year the focus is on living a life of service.

Staff News

As I mentioned in a June bulletin, Ms. Michelle Kemp, an alumna from our class of 1999 has accepted the third grade teaching position. Ms. Kemp is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where she completed her Master's Degree in Education. She taught fourth grade for two years in San Antonio, Texas, while working on her Master's

Degree. Also, Mrs. Anne Goudreau, who has been serving as a first grade assistant for four years has accepted the second grade teaching position. Mrs. Goudreau, a registered nurse, has been working on her Master's Degree and teaching certification at Loyola College and will graduate in December. Mrs. Lynn Devroye, (teacher's assistant for pre-k) has accepted the first grade teacher's assistant position for Mrs. Duckhorn's class. Mrs. Laurie Tyler, who has completed the 90 hour State of Maryland Child Care Teacher Certification requirement, will be the full time pre-kindergarten teacher's assistant.

I wanted to share with you some additional faculty/staff assignments for the 2009/2010 school year. They are:

Mrs. Maribeth Riser will be teaching 8th grade Religion and Grade 6 – Course 3 Math; Grade 7 - Pre-Algebra/Algebra; and Grade 8 – Integrated Algebra.

Mrs. Deborah Murphy will be teaching Language Arts for 6A and 6B and Religion for 7A and 7B.

Mrs. Lori Schenk, a former teacher's assistant in our fourth grade, will be our part-time Library Assistant, helping Mrs. Ryder.

Mrs. Mary Jane Tomasic will be joining us as our physical education teacher for students in grades K-8 and computer teacher for students in grades K-3. Mrs. Tomasic has her Master's Degree in Computer Science and has coached St. Louis Basketball and Western Howard County Softball.

Mrs. Ligia Chadwick stepped in as Spanish teacher for students in kindergarten through fourth grade in March and is very excited to be returning as our full time Spanish teacher for the primary grades.

Mr. Victor Pellechia has been hired to serve as our Coordinator of Academic Affairs. He comes to us from Archbishop Carroll High School where he has served as Campus Minister. He is currently finishing his masters degree in Supervision and Management at George Washington University. He has been interning with me this summer and has been a tremendous asset to Mrs. Ewachiw and me as we prepare for the 2009/2010 school year. His main responsibility will be overseeing our curriculum mapping efforts, but he will also help with standardized testing, planning masses, professional development opportunities for the teachers, etc.

We feel blessed to welcome these faculty and staff members to our school community, and we know that you will make them feel welcome. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year.

Carnival Day

Carnival Day was, as it always is, a fun-filled day. The early morning rain cleared away, the sun broke through and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the cotton candy, games, inflatable slide, raffles, and funnel cakes. We raised \$3,164. With the proceeds we were able to make donations to the St. Louis Parish Needy Family Fund and the fund that was established to assist the cousin of the Smith family Mr. Driscoll, who was injured in a serious car accident). We were also able to use the money to do some additional painting in the school over the summer.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Musick, Mrs. Coyle, Mrs. Wilson, and Mrs. Parker for all the time they gave to coordinate this successful and enjoyable event. We would also like to thank the many teachers and parents who volunteered their time to help make it such a success. I know that the children look forward to this day all year, and they are never disappointed.

Parent Student Handbook

The 2009/2010 Parent/Student Handbook will be sent home the first week of school with the Wednesday packet of information. We ask that you review it, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let one of the administrators know.

Tuition Payment

The next tuition payment is due August 31, 2009; your statement/bill will be mailed in early August. If for some reason you cannot make this payment, please call Mrs. Hurst, our bookkeeper. If your payment is received after the due date, we will automatically assess a \$25 late fee on your next bill. Each month, beginning with the September payment, you will receive your statement in a blue envelope; please submit your payment in the blue envelope and be sure to mark your check for the appropriate month. If you pay by automatic withdrawal, you will still receive a statement each month.

Please remember to record your volunteer hours and return the statement and blue envelope to the school office. Please do not write on the blue envelope as we reuse it.

Scrip Credit

For those families who purchase SCRIP, the SCRIP credit from the 2008/2009 school year will be reflected on your August statement. If you have any questions, please call or email Mrs. Hurst in the school office 410-531-6664 or mhurst@stlouisparish.org.

Lunch for New Students

Mrs. Ewachiw, Mr. Pellechia, and I would like to invite the new students from grades 1-8 to join us for lunch in the Howard Bishop Rooms on Friday, August 28th at their respective lunch times (grades 7 & 8 – 11:40 – 12:00, grades 5 & 6 – 12:00 – 12:20, grades K, 1, & 2 – 12:25 – 12:45, and grades 3 & 4 – 12:45 – 1:05). We will order lunch from Chick-fil-A. Chick-fil-A uses peanut oil for frying, therefore, if your child has a peanut allergy, cheese pizza will be provided. Of course, any of the children may bring their own lunch, if they choose.

The pre-kindergarten teacher and kindergarten teachers will be sending a letter, the end of this month with orientation information for the students and their parents.

School Hours and Bus Information

The school day is 9:05 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Students may enter homeroom at 8:45 and must be in homeroom by 9:05 for prayer and announcements. Children arriving after 9:05 will be considered late and will need to report to the office for a late slip. We do understand that sometimes buses arrive after 9:05; in that case the students will not be marked late. Consequences for repeated tardiness are specified in the Parent/Student Handbook. Before Care is available from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. Please contact Sister Lois @ 410-740-0920 if you are interested in registering.

There will be no buses the first week of school as Howard County schools are not in session. Aftercare will be offered the first week of school (and yes, especially during those three half days). Thursday, August 27th and Friday, August 28th will be full days with no busing.

*Bus schedules will be available on the weekend of August 15th on a table in the narthex of church. You may also pick them up at the school office during the week of August 18th.

Before Care/Aftercare

We are happy to offer another year of Before Care and Aftercare at St. Louis School. Sister Lois and Mrs. Sandy Osborne continue to offer a wonderfully enjoyable program for our children. The first day of Before Care and Aftercare will be Monday, August 24th. Tuition for full time Before Care will be \$150 per month, and the tuition for full time Aftercare will be \$200 per month. Part

time for Before Care will be \$10 per day and Part Time for Aftercare will be \$15 per day. **Please see the attached letter from Sister Lois.**

Homeroom Assignments

Homeroom assignments for grades K through 8 will be emailed to all parents **the week of August 10th.**

School Calendar

A tentative school calendar is attached to this email. Please be aware that as the year unfolds, some changes may need to be made. An updated calendar will be sent home each month.

Snow Days

We have built 5 snow days into the last week of this year's calendar. If we do not need all of our snow days we will consider ending school earlier than June 11th.

Lunch Reminders

On days when we have a 12:45 dismissal, we will not have lunch/recess time; milk will not be provided. Instead, children will need to bring a snack and a bottle of water. For those parents who do not order milk: Please make sure to pack a drink for your child/children to have with lunch. If a student is without a drink he/she will be permitted to go to the water fountain.

School Lunch

Three Brothers Italian Restaurant will be catering our school lunch program two days a week (Wednesdays, and Thursdays) and Chick –fil- A will be catering our school lunch program once a week (Tuesdays). We are excited about our selections this year. The price for lunch this year will be \$4.75, an increase of 25 cents from last year. The school lunch order form for the first half of the year, through December, is attached to this email. **Please make sure to print one order form for each child and return the form and payment to the school office no later than Wednesday, August 12th.** Please keep a completed copy of each form for your reference.

Uniforms

The St. Louis School Uniform Policy for 2009/2010 is attached. The flyer with information about the uniform shoes was sent home previously.

All students may wear the summer uniform from August 24th through October 14th. The summer uniform is not mandatory. On October 15th students are required to be in their regular uniforms.

N.U.T. and P.E.A.N.U.T. Cards Reminders

The N.U.T. card program (grades 4-8) and the P.E.A.N.U.T. card program (grades K-3) is our way of recognizing and rewarding students who are displaying awesome effort, showing kindness to a fellow student, or following our Golden Graces. This card enables a student to come to school out of uniform.

NUT/Peanut Card redemption days are Thursdays and Fridays. (NUT/Peanut cards may not be redeemed on days when the students will attend church for mass, prayer services, reconciliation, etc.)

In all cases, out of uniform attire should be appropriate for St. Louis School. Students will be asked to call home for a change of clothes if the administration or faculty deems that the clothing is suggestive or inappropriate. Students may not wear explicit or offensive clothing, torn clothing, excessively baggy clothing, belly shirts/midriff baring shirts, low cut tops, halter tops, pajama bottoms, low cut slacks, flip flops, or sandals. **Skirts/dresses/skorts and shorts may be worn but must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee.**

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

All students new to St. Louis School must submit immunization forms and a history and physical form (conducted within one year). The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has informed us that children without the required documentation will be excluded from attending school 20 calendar days from the start of school. This applies to children with incomplete documentation as well.

We are encouraging you to send your health forms in as soon as possible so that they may be reviewed. You will be notified as soon as possible if there are any omissions in your child's immunization records. If you have any questions, please call the Health Room at (410)531-7936.

Please remember that if you want the nurse to be able to administer over the counter medication to your child, you must complete the bottom of the "Consent for Administration of Over the Counter Medications" form. Likewise, in order for the nurses to administer prescription medication to your child, your child's physician must sign the "Prescription Medication" form. These forms are located on the school's website www.stlouisparish.org. After the forms are completed, they must be signed by your child's physician and returned to the school health room. **New forms must be completed each school year.**

Health Emergency Form (Attachment)

This form is kept on file in the school office and in the nurses' office. **It is imperative that a new form be submitted for each child each school year.** We are attaching a copy of the form along with this summer letter. The form is also available on the school website. It may be mailed to school or sent in with your child in August.

Milk Order

A milk order form is attached. The cost of milk is \$10.00 for the year. If you wish to order milk for your child/children, please print this form and send it along with a check to the school office **no later than Friday, August 7th. The check should be made payable to St. Louis School. Due to government regulations, the milk fee may not be included with any other items. Thus we are required to request a separate check for the milk fee.** The cost of milk for Pre-kindergarten students is included in their tuition, but please fill out an order form to indicate milk preference.

Family Service Program

The Family Service Program Letter of Acknowledgement is in the back of the Parent/Student Handbook. When you sign the Letter of Acknowledgement, you are agreeing to provide 30 hours (15 hours for single parent families) of service to the school. You will be receiving a mailing in August from the H.S.A. which will include a form indicating various ways that you can volunteer. Please remember that every \$100 of SCRIP purchased counts as ½ hour of service time.

Families are asked to indicate the number of service hours they have accumulated each month on their monthly tuition statement. For those families who have selected "Automatic Payment of Tuition" please be sure to return your tuition bill each month with the number of hours volunteered.

School Supply Lists

School supply lists are posted on our website www.stlouisparish.org/school.

Summer Reading Lists

Summer reading lists are posted on our school website. Please share the joy of reading with your child.

Accommodations

It is important that we receive current information on the accommodations needed by our students. It sometimes happens that we are unaware that parents have had students tested or that students are in special programs. In many of these cases, it would be in the student's best interest for us to be provided with the information, as some of the recommendations issued could be useful in the classroom or school setting. If your child has been tested for physical, emotional, or academic issues, we would appreciate having a copy of the report or at least a copy of the recommendations. If we presently have a copy of the report and you have received updates or revisions, it is important that we have the most up-to-date copy. It often happens that the student may be eligible for extended time in testing, special seating accommodations, etc. Without the written recommendations, we are not always able to provide the needed assistance. Please be assured that all information is kept in a confidential folder and is only shared with those staff members who need the information.

We would ask that you provide us with the current information no later than August 7, 2009. This will allow us time to determine which of the accommodations we will be able to provide.

A+ Bonus Bucks

St. Louis School earned **\$4,702.86** this past school year in Giant's A+ Bonus Bucks Program. We would like to thank everyone who registered with Giant and designated St. Louis School to be the recipient of the Bonus Bucks Program. We would also like to thank Mrs. Wilkinson for the many hours she gave to coordinating this program. We would also like to ask that every family register for the 2009/2010 school year. The money earned benefits every child in the school.

Annual Appeal

Great News! The annual appeal has reached its goal of \$75,000. We are delighted! We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Colleen Craig and Mrs. Dana Riley for the many hours spent chairing this fundraiser. We also want to thank all of the school families, grandparents, friends, parishioners, faculty, and staff whose contributions will be of great benefit to our children.

H.S.A. Information

Would you like to know how to get involved at St. Louis School? Please see the attachments from our Home School Association.

Attachments

- ❖ Milk Order Form (1 per family) – Form and money due by **August 14th - This is a firm deadline**
- ❖ Health Emergency Form (1 per child)
- ❖ School Calendar
- ❖ School Lunch Form (1 per child) – due by Friday, **August 14th - This is a firm deadline**
- ❖ St. Louis School Uniform (the shoe flyer was previously sent home as a hard copy)
- ❖ Letter and Activity/Committee Sign Up Sheet from H.S.A.

Peace and God's Blessings,

Mrs. Weiss