



# St. Rose School

## CHELSEA, MA

September 8, 2011

Dear Families,

First, I just want to thank all of you for being so wonderful! We have had a great start to the school year, and it is largely because of you and your commitment to be partners with us in your child's education! Today we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Mary. We honor Mary, Jesus' mother on earth and our heavenly mother. Let us pray that we might always have the courage to say "yes" to God's will, as Mary did, and the strength to face all that discipleship requires of us. As always, there are many great things going on here at St. Rose in the coming week. Please read on:

Thursday Envelopes: Great job with this procedure! We got a lot of folders back last Friday. We're hoping EVERYONE remembers to return their folders tomorrow. Please sign and date the folder so we know you saw it each week. Otherwise, please do not write on these folders. We hope to use the same folders for the whole year. Thank you!

Arrival Procedures: We ask that you please do not double park in front of the school in the mornings. This holds up traffic on Broadway and causes some students to be late who otherwise would arrive on time. If you need to park, please find an actual spot on the street or in the rectory parking lot across the street and walk your child in. Thank you for your cooperation.

Fundraising: Your child(ren) should have received a yellow plastic bag on Tuesday which contained a KidStuff coupon book. We are asking each child to sell ONE book for our school. The school receives \$12.50 (half!) of the \$25.00 that each book costs, which means that if every student sold one, our school would bring in over \$2,000! Our goal is to use this money for field trips this year. The coupons are good for over a year (through December, 2012), so you have plenty of time to use them! If you would like to sell more than one book, please let us know. We have extra books in the office. If you cannot sell a book, please return it in the yellow bag. There will be another opportunity to sell more goodies for our school later this month!

Important Forms: If your child has not yet returned his/her emergency forms, we really need those ASAP. If something were to happen to your child, it's very important that we are able to contact you in a timely manner. If you need another one, please let us know. Thank you to those of you who have submitted CORI forms! We are so excited to have so many volunteers this year. CORI forms need to be brought in BY the parent/guardian so that we can make a copy of your driver's license when you come in. We cannot process the paper without a copy of your ID. Again, this is for the students' safety.

Lunches: Please see attached letter to order the school lunch for your child for the week of September 12-16. We are also sending home applications for free/reduced lunch. We are asking ALL families to please complete this form, even if you don't think you will qualify! This helps us to have the data we need in order to apply for grants and also to complete required surveys each year. ***This information stays here at school; we do not send the applications anywhere else.*** Please contact the office if you have any questions.

After School Program: The After School Program will start on Monday, September 12. Sharon Rodriguez-Alvarez is the program director this year. Applications are available in the office if you are interested in sending your child. You MUST complete an application before your child will be permitted to stay.

Gym/book/computer fees: If you have not yet paid the \$350, please do so as soon as possible. We let all kids go to gym this week, but starting next week, if you have not paid your fees, your child(ren) will not be allowed to go to special classes. Thank you for understanding.

Uniforms: We realize that some of the uniforms have not come in yet, and are happy to be flexible these first few weeks of school. Please make every effort to get them as soon as possible. Also, just a reminder that the students must wear shoes that are all black or all navy (except on gym days when they may wear sneakers). Thank you!

Weekly Missions: It has long been a tradition at St. Rose to collect money for missions each week. This is an opportunity for our students to make a small sacrifice to help those who are less fortunate. Frequently families collect spare change in a common place and the students bring that in on Thursdays, or some students choose to give part of their allowance if they receive one. Mission money often goes to our friends at the St. Boniface Foundation in Haiti. When it is designated for another cause, we will let you know in this newsletter and/or on the monthly calendar. Thank you for supporting this cause!

Exciting Opportunities: Please be sure to check out the booklet that went home in last week's envelope, "Chelsea Community Schools' Fall and Winter Catalog." There are many activities for children and families, for little or no cost. Some options include: dance, piano, guitar, dodge ball and other sports, tutoring, and homework help. The book is in both English and Spanish. All programs are open to St. Rose students. Take advantage and enjoy!

First School Mass: Next Monday, September 12 will be our first School Mass of the year, at 9 am in the Upper Church. Please join us if you can! Grade 8 will be hosting. Please call the office or send a note tomorrow if there is anyone you would like for us to include in the prayer intentions. We will be praying for all those who lost their lives on 9/11/01. It is so hard to believe it has been ten years! We continue to pray for peace and an end to all terrorism and violence in our world.

Back-to-School Night: Please plan to come to school at 6 pm next Wednesday, September 14. The evening will begin in the hall, where I will welcome everyone and make a few comments about the year ahead. Then I will dismiss everyone to go to their children's classrooms and meet the teacher and learn about that grade level. I will be happy to stay and share in Spanish afterward, as well as answer any questions you might have.

Home/School Organization: Interested in getting more involved in your child's school? Please consider coming to the first informational meeting on Monday, September 19 at 6 pm. The other meeting dates for the year are included in this week's Thursday Envelope. Mark your calendar! We intentionally scheduled the meetings on different days so that hopefully if one day isn't good for you, that doesn't prevent you from coming to all the meetings!

Blessings,

Caitlin Keeton, Principal