



# St. Rose School

## CHELSEA, MA

October 28, 2010

Dear Families,

Last Sunday's Gospel reminds us how challenging it is to admit our own imperfections and accept people as they are without judging them or thinking we are better than them. One of the hardest lessons to learn is the lesson of humility. We are all far from perfect because we are human. Only God is perfect. Sometimes we think that we can earn God's love or blessings by "being good" or doing good, but God loves each of us as we are. While we should try to be the best we can be and do as much good as we can do, we should also try to make sure we are doing it for the right reasons; not in hopes that nothing bad will happen to us, or as a way to make others think we're great. It is so easy to judge others, but as Mother Teresa said, "If you judge others, you have no time to love them." We never know the burdens our neighbors are carrying inside or the challenges they're facing. Let's all try our best, this week and always, to appreciate one another, and to love rather than judge. Jesus was a great model for us in this way. Please read on about all that is happening this week:

Lunches: Please see attached letter to order the school lunch for your child for the week of November 8-12.

Lunch/Recess Monitors: A BIG thank you to all of the parents who have been coming to help monitor lunch. We could use some more, as well as parents to help with monitoring recess; if you are interested, please contact Sharon Rodriguez-Alvarez, who is the parent coordinator for this at: (781) 640-9649 or [alvarodsol@comcast.net](mailto:alvarodsol@comcast.net). Thank you!

Responsibility: I'm sure we all agree that this is one character trait we hope to foster in our children. As they get older, they should be taking on greater responsibility, both at home and at school. Please encourage children at home to do all of their homework each night, as well as to keep track of their belongings here at school. We will do the same here at school. We have had many students misplacing sweaters, lunchboxes, etc. lately. We do have a Lost & Found bin in the office. If your child is missing something, please come and check to see if we have it. It is also helpful to write your child's name on everything! ☺

Halloween Celebrations: Thank you to everyone who contributed to, volunteered at, and participated in last Friday's Halloween celebrations. A lot of fun was had by all, and we appreciate your support as we try to build community and fundraise for the school. Please know that your feedback (both positive and constructive!) is always welcome.

Christmas Festival: This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year's festival will be December 3-4. Mark your calendars! We will need everyone's help to make this a success. There will be a planning meeting next Thursday, November 4 at 6pm for anyone who can come. Thank you to all who have returned flyers volunteering for this event. Enclosed you will find more flyers; please return as soon as possible, so we know we can count on you!

“Cookies for Santa” Fundraiser: Although the calendar says this officially begins on Monday, we thought it would be easier for us to send the packets home today since you’re expecting the Thursday folders anyway. We hope you will enjoy this new fundraiser, which is replacing the pies this year. Since we know everyone is so busy anyway (but especially this time of year), we thought these pre-separated balls of cookie dough would be easy to just throw on a cookie sheet and bake for a few minutes; no prep time whatsoever! Please help us out by asking friends/family members/co-workers, etc. if they would like to purchase them to help St. Rose School. They WILL be delivered before Christmas! All orders MUST be in by Monday, November 15. IMPORTANT NOTE: There may be traces of nuts in these items; if you have a child with a nut allergy, I do not recommend purchasing this cookie dough for your family. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Absences/Tardies: Just a reminder that it is very important that your child be at school on time and every day. We have had a significant number of absences and tardies recently. I know with the change in weather, illnesses increase, but I ask you to send your child to school when possible. Students may enter the building at 7:45. After 8:00, they are marked tardy. Thank you for your help with this matter. Studies have shown that students who are in school on time perform better and are more successful.

FTO: The next meeting will be TONIGHT at 6:30pm.

Table of Remembrance: Please bring in pictures or mementos of loved ones who have died for our table of remembrance in the lobby. We will have this table leading up to the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (Feast of All Souls) on Tuesday, November 2. The Church sets aside this day each year to remember and pray for those who have died (although this is something we can do every day!). Different cultures have different customs related to this day. In Mexico, families create altars in their homes to remember loved ones who have died (similar to our Table of Remembrance). In the Philippines, people decorate loved ones’ graves and pray novenas for them.

Mission \$ to Sisters of Providence: In honor of their Foundation Day, which we celebrated last Friday, we will be donating next Monday’s (Nov. 1) Mission Money to the Sisters of Providence for their capital campaign, which will renovate and preserve Providence Hall. Providence Hall is the heart of the motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. Several Sisters who have served here at St. Rose that are now retired have moved back there to live. This is a small way we can give back to the Sisters who have helped this school in so many ways over the years. Please contribute what you can.

Student Handbook Reminders: In the past, this has been distributed to all NEW families. We did not do this this year because we are in the process of revising it; however, if you would like a copy of the old one, they are available in the office. A few rules have been questioned, so I am copying them here as reminders:

- Students are required to wear uniforms. Students arriving at school in improper attire and without a written explanation will be required to contact a parent/guardian to bring suitable clothing. (Should there be a case of emergency, we just ask that you send a note so we know.)
- Ostentatious jewelry, body piercing (other than earlobes for girls), and unnatural hair color are not permitted. The hair of all students should be styled in such a way that facial features are visible at all times. Hats and caps are not to be worn in school by either girls or boys.
- BOYS: Boys’ hair length should not reach below the top of the shirt collar or over their ears. No fad, shaved, dyed, streaked, braided or “dreadlocked” hair styles are allowed.

- GIRLS: No dyed hair is allowed. No extreme make-up is allowed. For safety reasons, long dangling or large hooped earrings should not be worn. High heeled shoes are not allowed.
- On gym days, we ask that no jewelry be worn by either boys or girls.
- Boots may not be worn in school. Children should carry shoes to school with them during snowy weather and change once they get to their classrooms.
- On TAG days (no uniform required), students may not wear t-shirts with suggestive or violent messages, halter tops, spaghetti straps, clothing that exposes the mid-section, short shorts, or shoes that may cause injury (such as flip-flops, clogs, high heels, or backless sneakers).

Toiletries Collection: We are still collecting deodorant, shampoo, and soap as Christmas gifts for the men living at Bridgewater State Hospital. Tomorrow will be the last day. Please help if you can.

Christmas Eve Choir: Please see enclosed flyer regarding the Christmas Eve choir. All students are eligible to participate in this choir, which will perform one time, at the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Halloween Safety Tips & Celebration: Please see enclosed materials from the Chelsea Community Schools and State Fire Marshal. We wish everyone a safe Halloween!

Fencing Club: Fencing lessons with Mr. Morales started this week. Students who are registered will be getting information about payment for these classes.

First Communion: If your child is in Grades 3-8 and has not yet received First Communion, please attend the meeting for parents on November 10 at 7 pm with Father Moran and Mrs. Wallace here in the school. We would love to celebrate this Sacrament with your child this spring.

Girl Scouts Event: Girls in Grades 4-8 are invited to participate in the “Math Moves U” event on Sunday, November 14 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Middlesex Community College in Bedford. A flyer went home earlier this week. See Mr. MacNeil for more information.

Mark your calendar:

Friday, October 29 - Halloween Party for all students hosted by Grade 8; students may wear Halloween costumes to school today.

Monday, November 1 - School Mass hosted by Grade 2 for the Solemnity of All Saints; “Cookies for Santa” fundraiser begins

Tuesday, November 2 - NO SCHOOL - Election Day

Friday, November 5 - 11:30 Dismissal for Professional Development

Wednesday, November 10 - 7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Communion meeting for all 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade parents

Blessings,

Caitlin Keeton, Principal