



## The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi

September 13, 2011

Dear Families,

Peace and blessings to each of you! We've had an unusual beginning. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has been affected by floods. Your children are coming to school prepared and eager to work. Please be sure that your child is reading for at least 20 minutes **each** evening. Limit television and computer use during the school week.

A few reminders:

- **Drop-off:** Students **must** be dropped off on Lind St. **Do not drop off or park in front of the school. Do not park in the lot.** You may not double park, or wait to watch your child walk across the parking lot. There is a drop-off monitor to help with the children walking to the waiting teacher. The Totowa police will (and have) issued summonses to parents who double-park, get out of the car, or wait while their child walks. Thank you for your cooperation to keep all of our children safe.
- **Breakfast and Lunch** is moving smoothly. Thank you for instilling good manners in your children.
- All **personal items** must be *labeled* with your child's name.
- **Back-to-School Night** is next Wednesday, September 21, 7:00. Please gather in the auditorium at 7:00 for a brief meeting and directions for the evening's procedure. Be sure to arrange for child-care for the evening as children may not be present. Thank you.
- Please be advised that gently used clothing and non-perishable items are available for pick-up in the auditorium for families affected by flooding. Thank you to Alyse Berardi, Nicole Yurcheniuk, and Leslie Dreps for organizing this effort!
- **Tag Day/Bake Sale** is this Friday, sponsored by the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- This Sunday, September 18 is **CATECHETICAL SUNDAY**. The teachers will be recognized as instructors and imparters of our faith at a special liturgy. Please make every effort to **be present** with your children (in uniform) at the 10:00 mass. We are so proud of our students and teachers!

Forms for you to complete and return to school *tomorrow, Wednesday, September 14:*

- **School Family Income Survey** – this is required for Free and Reduced prices for breakfast and lunch
- **Cell phone** permission slip
- **After Care** policies and procedures
- If you haven't yet returned the 2 forms sent out in the summer mailing, please do so tomorrow:
  - *Free and Reduced* meal application (this is in addition to the School Family Income Survey)
  - *Talent Database* form

Be sure to:

- Visit our website often: [www.academyofstfrancis.org](http://www.academyofstfrancis.org) Here you will find the most up-to-date information for our school and each class. Teachers' contact information is provided in the **CONTACT US** link. Our goal is to eliminate paper communications and use the website for weekly information by December.
  - **Read the policies and procedures outlined in the *Parent/Student Handbook*** – this is on the *Notes and News* link
- Update *your* contact information on the Honeywell Instant Alert system

### A Parent's Precious Prayer

Never underestimate the ponderings of a parent. Never underestimate the power that comes when a parent pleads with God on behalf of a child. Who knows how many prayers are being answered right now because of the faithful ponderings of a parent ten or twenty years ago? God listens to thoughtful parents. Praying for our children is a noble task. If what we are doing in this fast-paced society is taking us away from prayer time for our children, we're doing too much. There is nothing more special, more precious than time that a parent spends struggling and pondering with God on behalf of a child.

Peace and prayers,

Linda Kostenko, Ed.D.

Principal



# The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTES AND REMINDERS

From the desk of Dr. Kostenko

September 13, 2011

- **Back-to-School Night** is this Wednesday, September 21, 7:00. Please gather in the auditorium at 7:00 for a brief meeting and directions for the evening's procedure. Be sure to *arrange for child-care* for the evening as **children may not be present for this meeting**. Thank you.
- **AdvancED** is a nationally recognized institution for **accreditation** and is used by many school districts and Catholic dioceses throughout the United States and the world. The AdvancED global mark of quality is reflected in their endless pursuit of excellence and continuous improvement in education. The principals of the Catholic Schools of the Paterson Diocese are driving this accreditation process for our schools. The AdvancED protocol is based on the four improvement process elements:
  - *Vision—what future are we pursuing?*
  - *Profile—what is our current reality?*
  - *Plan and Implementation—what actions will we take to improve?*
  - *Results—what have we accomplished?*

*Our commitment to AdvancED reflects our commitment to the children of the Paterson Diocese. Teams will be visiting our schools in the spring. We will prepare for the spring visit with 6 principal visits beginning in October. The principals will conduct interviews with teachers, parents, and students.*
- Please be advised that gently used clothing and non-perishable items are still available for pick-up in the auditorium for families affected by flooding until Thursday, September 22.
- All **personal items** must be *labeled* with your child's name.

**FUND RAISING** is a necessity in order for school operations to run smoothly. Each of you signed a contract recognizing the need to raise funds. Our fund raising efforts begin **today** with KIDS STUFF coupon books! Please read the enclosed brochure and take the order forms with you to work and family visits. The sale ends on October 3. Pre-paid orders will be filled within 48 hours.

Thank you for your support.

If you haven't yet returned the forms requested please do so ASAP:

- *Free and Reduced* meal application (this is in addition to the School Family Income Survey)
- *Talent Database* form
- **School Family Income Survey** – this is required for Free and Reduced prices for breakfast and lunch
- **Cell phone** permission slip
- **After Care** policies and procedures

Be sure to:

- Visit our website often: [www.academyofstfrancis.org](http://www.academyofstfrancis.org) Remember our goal is to eliminate paper communications and use the website for weekly information by December.
  - **Read the policies and procedures outlined in the *Parent/Student Handbook*** – this is on the *Notes and News* link
- Update *your* contact information on the Honeywell Instant Alert system

*The mission of the Academy of St. Francis of Assisi is to prepare students to be literate, articulate, and computative life-long learners so that they may become productive citizens guided by Gospel values.*

**Together Everyone Achieves More**

