

"Children-Our Most Important Asset & Future Investments"

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August 1, 2006

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2006-2007 school year! Our staff has been busy this summer preparing for the new school year. **The first day of school is Monday, August 21st. August 21st and August 22nd, are minimum days with a 12:30 p.m. dismissal. In addition, the first day of school for kindergarten is a visit day only.** Those families in the morning class should visit between 8:30 and 10:30, afternoon families may come in between 10:30 and 12:30, and all day may come between 8:30 and 12:30. Also, our all day kindergarten and both first grade classes will have minimum days for the first week of school.

Welcome to Our New Staff Members – I'd like to extend a warm St. Anthony's welcome to our three new teachers at St. Anthony's. **Mrs. Deborah Asparuhov** will serve as our new 5th grade teacher and **Mrs. Nicole Mastropalo** and **Mrs. Kristin Wolowodiuk** will serve as our new 7th grade teachers. I look forward to our students having a great learning experience with our new teachers. I also welcome **Mrs. Mary Margaret Stone** as our new office administrative assistant. The "infamous" **Mrs. Pirok** will be here to help us start the school year until her last day on Thursday, **August 31st**.

Construction – We are hoping that our construction plans will be underway soon and we ask that when you arrive at school later this month to pay close attention to any area that has been fenced off. We will explain all safety plans to our students on the first day of school.

Looking for Volunteers – Our **Parent Teacher Organization** is vital to the quality of the educational program offered at St. Anthony's. In order to be successful, we welcome parent volunteers throughout the school year. During the summer we are searching for volunteers for the New Family Ice Cream Social as well as our annual School/Parish Carnival. The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for **Thursday, August 17th** and our St. Anthony's Carnival will be held on **Sunday, September 24th**. Several volunteers are needed for our school carnival. For information on how to volunteer, please contact our Carnival Chairperson, **Mrs. Deb Martin at 225-0779**.

New Family Ice Cream Social – St. Anthony's has a tradition of welcoming its new families with open arms. Our new Family Ice Cream Social will be held on **August 17th** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for our new families to meet in a "cool" setting. We will begin in Mary's Garden for an opening prayer and general comments and then move into our Social Hall and share information about what makes St. Anthony's tick. We will also have a short tour of the campus. So, if you are new to St. Anthony's, come out and join us for dessert as we welcome your family to St. Anthony's.

More Help – We are also in need of **yard duty volunteers** and **elective instructors**. If you enjoy watching smiling children play on our playground, join us and help supervise our play area from 11:45 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. Interested parents, please call **Mrs. Becky Sarkisian at 432-6768**. Also, each year we encourage parent volunteers to teach an elective class on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to our 6th through 8th grade students. If you have a hobby such as the love of art, cooking, stock market, golf, music, or interest in a foreign language, and would like to share with our students, please call **Mr. Carey at 435-0700**. Please see enclosed flier.

Parent-Student Handbook – Please take some time with your children to read and discuss our Parent-Student Handbook. The Handbook includes our philosophy as well as all of the rules and regulations that guide us through the school year. The better our students understand what is expected of them, the more successful they will be. By the way, our Parent-Student Handbook can be found on our website at **www.sasfresno.com**. We are providing handbooks to our new families and handbooks are available in the school office for those who would like a paper copy.

Safe Environment Program – Please be aware that our Safe Environment Program includes mandatory training for all volunteer parents including: after school volunteer coaches, parent volunteer drivers for any school activity (fieldtrips or after school sports) and regular classroom volunteers. Please see page 24 of our handbook for more information.

Back to School Night – Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 and is a parent only event. The purpose of the evening is for teachers to provide their annual goals and expectations

for the school year and answer any questions you may have. The evening begins in your children's classrooms.

Parking Lot – Our first priority as educators and parents is for the safety of our children. Our school day begins in our parking lot. In an attempt to provide the safest parking lot to our families, we ask all parents to follow our parking lot rules found on page C-1 of our Parent-Student Handbook. They include:

- We ask parents to pull into marked stalls as opposed to dropping children off in a lane.
- We ask our parents to teach their children to use our safety zone.
- We ask parents to avoid parking large vehicles in our front row before 9:00 a.m. This will allow parents to view their children walking safely to the school grounds.
- Please be especially careful when backing up. In a school zone, we need to expect the unexpected. Children often become distracted and walk behind a vehicle.
- If you are leaving your vehicle to go into the school grounds before 9:00 a.m., please do not park in the front row. This will allow more spaces for a quicker and safer drop off.
- Finally, please do not park or drop ff children in the front of the school. There is limited space and this area is reserved for staff.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If we all consider the safety of our children first, we will have a safe parking lot.

Milk Payment Deadline Soon – Please note that our deadline for collecting milk money is **Friday, August 31st**. Please see page 21 in our handbook for more information.

Scrip – I want to thank you for supporting our scrip program at St. Anthony's. We continue to add new vendors for your shopping and gift giving convenience. So, if you shop for groceries, eat out, or go to the movies, stop by during our summer hours **Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 until 2:00**. Please remember to use your Savemart S.H.A.R.E.S. Card when you shop at Savemart or FoodMaxx. If you don't shop there, consider giving it to a friend or family member who does. They can be earning tuition credit for you! Thank you for your support!

Lap Top Reminder – Our Junior High students are in our *Laptop for Learners Program*. They bring their laptops to and from school on a daily basis. Seventh grade parents should plan to attend our informational *Open Box Night* on **Tuesday, August 22nd at 6:30** in our Social Hall. At this time, all laptops should have been purchased and/or rented through the school. All computers should have been dropped off to **Mr. Olson** for software configuration. Please cal **Mr. Olson** if you have any questions.

Please Note – When completing the emergency forms enclosed, please distinguish clearly the daytime and cell telephone numbers for both parents. It is very important that we are able to contact you in case of an emergency.

Macy's Benefit Shopping Day – The annual Macy's Benefit Shopping Day will be held on **Thursday, October 26th**. Many organizations in Fresno are selling tickets for \$10. Please support St. Anthony's School by purchasing your discount ticket from us. You will earn \$3 of tuition credit for each ticket sold. Please look for more information to follow in early October.

Contract and Code of Conduct Forms – We have enclosed your Contract and Code of Conduct forms for 2006-2007. This indicates that our parents and students have read and agree to comply with our school policies as outlined in our handbook. Please return no later than August 25th. Thank you!

Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and restful remainder of the summer. If you like to watch the Grizzlies, be sure to go to the **August 6th** game as our very own 2nd grader, **Olivia Johnson** will be singing the National Anthem!

On behalf of **Msgr. John Coelho-Harguindeguy** and the entire staff at ST. Anthony's, we look forward to your return for our first day of school on **Monday, August 21st**. God Bless!

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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Shawn Carey
Principal