



**"Children-Our Most Important Asset & Future Investments"**  
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November 21, 2006

Dear Families,

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to express how very thankful we are to have such a generous and caring community such as ours here at St. Anthony's. Nearly every family returned the commitment cards for the new Community Center. Our school families have always provided support in a time of need and we are continuously thankful for that generosity. Over \$300,000 has been pledged toward the new Community Center. I can't wait to see our children in action on the gym floor or learning in one of our new classrooms. Our prayers of need will be replaced with prayers of thanksgiving for the bounty of blessings by which we are surrounded.

If your children were tired on Friday, they earned it because they ran their hearts out at the Annual Raider Run. Thank you for supporting this very important fundraiser that sponsors the many field trips that our students enjoy. Special thanks to **Mr. Neumeier** for coordinating this large event and also, to all of the parents that helped him! If you haven't done so, please send in your pledges.

**Feed the Hungry** – Thank you to everyone who has brought food in for our annual food drive. We will be delivering the last load tomorrow, **Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please have your student bring their food donations to their classrooms (not the school office) and we will pick it up from there.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nativity Raffle** – **Mrs. Gennock's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** is back this Advent season with chances to win one of three beautiful Nativity Sets. The raffle will run the first 2 weeks of Advent. **Tickets are \$1 each and \$10 buys you 12 chances! All proceeds will be added to our recycle money (\$430 and counting) to benefit the Holy Cross Women's Shelter.** There is an envelope in the office marked "**Nativity**". You can simply order tickets by sending in a check/cash with your name and phone number or stop by the table outside the office during the first two weeks of advent. Please support this very worthy cause!

**Classroom Happenings** – Those **K3 & 4P** "buddies" are at it again! Over the last couple of weeks they have gotten together to share information on their saints that they have created and researched. It was a great learning time for both age groups. Also, the **K3** students had a "Teddy Bear Talk" where each child did a fantastic job of getting up in front of the class and talked about their favorite stuffed animal and even **Mrs. Schiro** joined in on the fun!

Recently in **Ms. Morris' 4<sup>th</sup> grade** they had volunteers from Guide Dogs for the Blind give a presentation with the dogs to see what they can do. It was a great learning experience and they plan on having a "healthy treats" bake sale in the spring to raise money for this wonderful organization. They also made PEACE shirts to wear during Religion class with loving sayings to remind everyone how to treat others at all time as Jesus did.

The Mayflower has landed in **Mrs. Renner and Mrs. Simonson's** morning and afternoon kindergarten classes. They performed their annual Thanksgiving play today where they incorporated a lot of learning in Language Arts, Religion and a little Science. They read their parts and enjoyed learning about our new America.

**Cards anyone?** – If you like to play cards and would like to help raise funds for a great cause then save the date of **Friday, January 19, 2007** for the card tournament benefiting SJM Baseball and Football programs. See the flier in the office for details.

**Football Champs** - The Memorial Youth Football Pee Wee Team went undefeated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight season after winning the Championship game against Kerman (18-0). St. Anthony's students **Joseph Moreno, Tyler Jones, Daniel Frea and Patrick Rood** contributed to the team's success. St. Anthony's parents **David Soto** (Head Coach) and **Alan Bennett** (Assistant Coach) worked with Coach Lupe, Coach Sam and Coach Moore to teach and mode the 8, 9 & 10-year-olds into a great team that continues to succeed on the field and has had a great head-start on life. Congratulations to all!

**Respect Life Campaign** – The annual Respect Life Campaign was a real success thanks to everyone's generosity. Nearly **\$5,000** was raised for this very worthy cause and I would like to thank

**Mrs. Jennifer Butcher** for all of her work. They are still missing quite a few baby bottles so if you haven't returned yours, please do so as soon as possible (full or empty).

**SCRIP** – Well, the shopping season has begun and we are ready to help you with all of your holiday shopping needs. We keep adding new stores and some of the newest are **Gymboree, Disney (can be used for anything Disney), Crate & Barrel, Brookstone, Albertsons, Uncle Harry's Bagels & Betty's Toasted Sandwiches**. We also have plenty of restaurants as well as other stores. Please place your orders as early as possible to ensure all of your choices. Orders placed by 9:00 Wednesdays will be available for pick up on Tuesday afternoons (an extra day is needed during the holiday season). Why stand in lines when you can simply send in your order and pick it up when you pick up your children. Enjoy shopping off of the Scrip Order Form found in the school office or on the website.

**Yearbook Orders** – Don't forget to order your yearbook by **Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** before the price goes up. All orders placed by then will be at the \$30 rate and any order as of December 21<sup>st</sup> will be \$40. Don't miss out on the discounted rate! Also, if you plan on purchasing an ad in the yearbook you must submit the payment by **December 20<sup>th</sup>** to secure and guarantee a spot in the book. The actual ad is not due until January 31, 2007. Call the school office if you have any questions.

**Panther Prep Baseball** – The tryouts for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in playing Panther Prep Baseball against other local schools will be held on **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at SJM. Please look for the sign up sheets in today's packet. Please contact **Alan Asdoorian at 285-5632** with any questions.

**Nutcracker** - The Nutcracker performance at the Saroyan Theater coming up this weekend, **November 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>** is featuring 5 of our very own students: **Alexis Boone (7W), Mylan Biltz (2G), Nathan Biltz (4P), Hannah Giardullo (4M) and Rachel Giardullo (2G)**. These students will be performing with the Sacramento Ballet's 37 professional dancers and the sets were designed by Alain Vaes (who designs for the New York City Ballet) and constructed in St. Petersburg, Russia. This will truly be to the caliber of a Broadway production. You won't want to miss this one!

**Campus Care News** – Ms. Kathleen Sherman would like to thank everyone who so kindly donated new and gently used stuffed animals for our Campus Care Jr. Staff to give to the Ronald McDonald House of Madera. It was exciting to see the number of donations.

**Christmas Vacation Office Hours** - The following are the office hours during Christmas Vacation:

<b>Friday, December 22</b>	<b>9:00 – 1:00 (Last minute Scrip Shopping)</b>
<b>Thursday, December 28</b>	<b>9:00 – 1:00</b>
<b>Friday, December 29</b>	<b>9:00 – 1:00</b>
<b>Thursday, January 4</b>	<b>9:00 – 1:00</b>
<b>Friday, January 5</b>	<b>9:00 – 1:00</b>

We had a visit recently from Sr. Jean Williams, Assistant Superintendent of schools in the Diocese of Fresno and I thought that I would share with you some of her comments. Sr. was very impressed with the spirit of prayer, faith and caring that shows at St. Anthony's School. She traveled from class to class and enjoyed watching the children learn in a Catholic environment and interact with the students and staff. I feel this positively reinforces the dedication that the staff and students have toward our Catholic learning environment.

On behalf of our entire staff at St. Anthony's, I'd like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. We have so very much to be thankful for and I am reminded of that every time I see our supportive parents, our wonderful students and our dedicated staff. Please note: Tomorrow is a **minimum day with dismissal at 12:30** and Campus Care will be available but there will not be Campus Care on the last day of school before Christmas vacation, Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Shawn Carey  
Principal