



St. Rose of Lima School
Michael Floyd
Principal

May 7, 2008

York Revolution Night: There are only 2 tickets remaining(they are side by side) for the June 1st St. Rose Night at the York Revolution. If you are interested, send money in by Thursday. Tickets will be first come first served. The cost per ticket is \$7.50. Tickets are included in this folder for those who ordered them ahead of time.

HSA Meeting: There will be an HSA meeting this coming Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 PM. We are inviting any parent who wishes to get involved in their child's school to attend the meeting.

Tuition Amounts: Enclosed are the new tuition amounts along with a letter explaining the new amounts. I would like to thank Dave Fullerton for his hours of hard work that he put in to this task.

Spring Carnival/Yard Sale: The annual St. Rose Yard Sale has graciously agreed to share the date with the spring carnival. I went around yesterday to talk to the 5th and 6th graders about helping with this endeavor. Enclosed you will find a form that I would like any interested 5th or 6th grader to fill out and return by tomorrow.

Good Luck: Good luck to the 5th and 6th grade Envirothon team as they compete in the York County Envirothon competition. We know that they will work hard and do their best!

E-mail: If you are going to communicate with a teacher here at school I ask you to please utilize their school e-mail address, not their personal address. All teachers, Mrs. Whiteford, and Mrs. Burger have e-mail accounts. The e-mail addresses are very simple, they are the first initial followed by the complete last name @stroseschoolpa.org.

Discipline Meeting: Thank you to all who attended the discipline meeting on Sunday, April 27. The school board is in the process of reviewing what changes we will make with the procedures. I have been in the process of gathering information from other schools both in our area and outside our area regarding their discipline policies and procedures. It has become evident that something needs to be done and will be done to

address several issues that have been perpetual problems. Our goal is to develop a school wide discipline plan that will place all adults within the school on the same page as far as how we respond to incidences of misbehavior during the school day. It is not our goal to set up a system of crime and punishment, but to set up a system of correction of behavior and compliance with the rules of the school. I will have a framework for what this will look like and send it to the school board this week. After we bat it around for a couple of days, I will refine it and send it out to you. We are serious about improving the atmosphere in the school and will work very hard to do so.

Other Improvements: Another thing that has become evident to us is that we need to go the extra mile with our students and offer opportunities for them to extend and enrich their education. I am a firm believer in the fact that we need to enrich the lives of ALL of our students. A letter that asks for your input in this matter is enclosed in this communication folder. Please look at it and consider your input as valuable. We really want to offer as much to our students as we possibly can.

Communication: I really want to encourage you to contact your child's teacher first if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child. Often I am contacted first and, while I appreciate the trust, I may not know exactly what is at the root of the problem or question. I understand that some of you may not be getting the prompt response that you feel you would like and I also understand that this can be frustrating. If you do not get a response within two school days, kindly send me a note or e-mail(easiest method) regarding the situation and I'll look into it. I defer classroom decisions to the teacher as long as they are within our school and Diocesan guidelines and in line with best practices in teaching. Many times the disagreements stem from a miscommunication or misunderstanding. The path I like to take is suggested by Steven Covey in his book **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People**, "Seek First to understand and then to be understood." This is the path I try to use with the students and all the adults I come in contact with. I want to make a goal for all involved, teachers, students, parents, and me, to use this one habit of Steven Covey's. Another anonymous philosopher also made a statement about the word "assume", one which I feel would be inappropriate to re-type here, but feel appropriate to refer to. We cannot always assume that others know how we are feeling or what we are thinking. We need to communicate these thoughts and feelings in open and constructive ways. We can't let them fester inside of us and it is damaging to people when we get into a "feeding frenzy" with others about them. Conflict resolution must be handled on a one party to one party basis. The key word in the phrase "Conflict Resolution" is not conflict but resolution. Let us seek to understand and resolve our differences so that we may move forward and grow.

God Bless,
Mike Floyd