

September 2009

“Grateful!”

Every summer our school selects a theme for the coming year. This theme becomes the basis for all liturgical celebrations throughout the year as well as a compass for our daily work and actions. Some of our past themes included “With One Voice”, “In This Place”, “Cry the Gospel”, and “Shine Like the Son!”

This year's theme, “Grateful!” seems particularly appropriate. We are all aware of the challenging times that we have been facing - as a nation, as a community, as a family. All of us have been affected by this climate - either directly or indirectly. And though we as adults, as parents, seem more aware of these challenging times, the way we respond to them affects all of us - young and old. We are challenged on a daily basis to stop and consider all that we have to be *grateful* for; that amidst the challenges, God has blessed us with so much. We have our faith, we have our family, and we find support and friendship in our faith community here at St. Bernardines - so much to be *grateful* for. And for our students, the importance of each realizing how much they have to be grateful for - a home, family, school, friends, their faith - such powerful lessons. We all have so much to be *grateful* for!

We as teachers are grateful for the opportunity to share our faith with your children and to walk with them on their faith journey. At St. Bernardines, we recognize that these seeds of faith are *first* planted and developed at home, and that here, we are able to nourish these seeds and watch them develop. But seeds can also be planted in the classroom, on the playground, at the lunch tables. They are planted as we celebrate liturgy together, when a child proclaims a reading or sings or brings up the gifts. And they continue to be planted at home. Throughout the coming year, we will be sending home suggestions of ways that you as a family can continue to grow in faith together. These various projects and prayers would correspond with a particular season, such as Advent or Lent, or with a special theme that the school might be working on that month. I know as parent, I am always looking for new ways to explore our faith with my children. I would love any ideas/faith traditions from *your* family that you might want to share with our school families as well! We look forward to sharing with you in your child's faith growth. We are *grateful* for your trust in allowing us to work with your child. As you continue to plant those seeds of faith, we as a school, are *grateful* for your child's gifts and take great joy in affording them the opportunity to use them and share them with others.

We invite and encourage all of our parents to join us for our school liturgies and liturgical celebrations this coming year. The dates, times, and "host class" are marked in your school calendars. Each class will have the opportunity to minister at a liturgy this year. Come check out the new liturgy board outside the school office throughout the year! It's moved to the other side of the door as we now have a window to our office! It will have reminders of when our next liturgical celebration will be, seasonal information, and some highlights from recent celebrations. Moms and Dads, be sure to highlight two dates on your calendar: March 17th at 8:30 mass, our children will honor and express their gratitude to their fathers, and May 7th at 12:00 our children will honor and express their gratitude to our mother Mary, and their mothers. Are you interested in helping with the Parent Liturgy/Service Committee? This is a great way to get involved with our liturgy prep, taking photos at our liturgical celebrations, helping with Mardi Gras, Sandwich Ministry and with our Service Learning projects. Come see me, send me an email or drop me a message in the office - we'd love your help!

We as teachers and staff are truly blessed and grateful to be teaching here at St. Bernardines and to be working with your children. We are looking forward to a great year together! God bless us all as we continue His work and live our lives with grateful hearts.

Marilyn Enos