

## BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

August 15, 2011

School Time is here. Ready or not! I hope the summer has been enjoyable for all of you.

This year our faculty consists of: Mrs. Cathy Wolters – principal; Mrs. Lisa Silvey – kindergarten; Mrs. Leann Higgins – 1<sup>st</sup> grade; Mrs. Janice Smith – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Mrs. Susan Meller – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; Mrs. Fran Hubbard – 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Mrs. Dawn Crader – 5<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom, and grades 5-8 literature, Mrs. Susan Bruemmer – 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom and grades 5 & 6 math, 7<sup>th</sup> pre-algebra, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade algebra; Mrs. Melissa Rockers – 6<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom and grades 5-8 science; Ms. Jill Otto – 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom and grades 5-8 history; Mrs. Rosemary Bardwell – 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom and grades 5-8 English; Mrs. Beverly Coffelt – music and band; Mrs. Rosemary Berhorst – PE, resource and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade math; and Mrs. Valerie Jackson – computer technologist/teacher.

Our staff consists of Mrs. Linda Schulte, secretary; Mr. Travis Hoskins and Mrs. Jan Morff, maintenance; Mrs. Mary Wheeler, Mrs. Judy Berhorst, and Mrs. Pam Brauner, food service; Mrs. Pat Schulte, lunch program supervisor and bookkeeper; Mrs. Janice Smith, Mrs. Rosemary Bardwell, Mrs. Bev Coffelt, Ms. Jessica Hinton, and Mrs. Alice Bounds, after care.

Mass for the children will be celebrated at 7:50 a.m. on Tuesdays for grades 1-4; Wednesdays for grades 5-8; and Fridays for all children. For your convenience, school will open at 7:00 a.m. with formal supervision provided in the gym. Please enter through the front door. Children within walking distance are asked not to arrive before 7:20 a.m. unless it is necessary. Please note that classes begin at 7:40 a.m. and the students are to be in their classes by that time. School will be dismissed at 3:10 p.m.

Any child not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be sent to After School Care and parents will be charged for their care for that day. Bills are sent at the end of the month for the days attended and payment is expected upon receipt of the statement. For more information about the program, please call the school office at 893-3519 or refer to the handbook.

This year the sustaining fee is \$220.00 per child. You have already paid \$50.00 at registration leaving a balance of \$170.00 due by October 1. Please remember to subtract SCRIP credit if it applies to you. There will not be additional fees for assignment books, Bibles, or control paper.

Attached is a request form as to how you would like to receive school information. Since we are “going green” this year, most of the bulletins will be placed on the web rather than sending home a hard copy. Information will also be posted in the Sunday bulletin. For those of you who will receive notes via the web, we will try to post on Thursdays or Fridays for the coming week. Also, during the last week of each month, a monthly news letter will be posted for the upcoming month. Please be patient with us and inform us of problems.

This year you will receive all 9 months of lunch envelopes at the beginning of school. Please keep them in a safe place. Lunch fees are \$39.00 per child unless you qualify for free/reduced lunches. Payment is due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please keep payments current.

Also, attached is information regarding the hot lunch program in which 100% participation is expected unless there is a medical problem. If anyone finds paying the full cost a burden, please consider free or reduced rates. We urge all parents, who can legally qualify, to take advantage of this program. The government reimburses us significantly for free and reduced lunches. This is one way to take advantage of your tax dollar. Information on free and reduced applicants is confidential. Your child is not singled out in any way in the lunchroom or anywhere else. If you have any questions, please call Pat Schulte, the lunch program supervisor at 893-5328.

As in the past, if you want to join your child for lunch at St. Martin, you are welcome to do so. You **MUST** call Mrs. Wheeler at least 2 days in advance at 893-2479. This helps her in preparing for the meals. This year adult lunches are \$3.00 and children lunches are \$2.00. Send your payment to school marked LUNCH and the date you plan to visit. Payment will no longer be taken in the cafeteria. It needs to be sent directly to school. Parents may bring in lunch and sit with their child; however, lunch may not be brought in for the student. Thank you for your cooperation. The USDA is handing down new guidelines beginning this year. One of the main changes is we can no longer offer 2% milk – it must be 1% or skim. Another change is that each child must take a fruit or vegetable every day.

St. Martin School is in compliance with The Federal Government mandated wellness policy. In after school care groups we will strive to serve only nutritional snacks and drinks - water being the primary drink. Also, morning snacks have been eliminated throughout the school. A complete copy of the wellness policy for St. Martin School is available for review in the school office.

Your child will also be bringing home several forms for completion is due **TOMORROW**. All other forms are to be filled out by Friday, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. If your child has received any immunizations, please send a note so we can update our records. The ruling from the Dept. of Health states that all children must have all immunizations up to date by the **first day of school**. Students not in compliance may not attend school until all required immunizations have been received.

In closing, I again ask your support and cooperation to make this another successful year. Also, let us ask God's blessing on St. Martin School, its parents, teachers, pastor, students, staff, and supporters for providing a Catholic education as a means of passing on our Catholic heritage. In these times of economic stress it is not an easy commitment to make, but a rewarding one. After all, your children are your most precious asset. If questions or problems arise, I can be reached at school during the day. However, if the need occurs, feel free to call me at home at 893-2945.

Cathy Wolters