

ASSUMPTION SCHOOL NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Welcome Back to School !!

It is hard to believe another school year is here and the teachers and students are back into the swing of school already!

As we begin the school year, I want to welcome back all of our returning staff and introduce Ms. Tena Purvis, Early Childhood Teacher, and Mrs. Kathy Pantzar, Technology/Library/Gym Teacher. Please stop by and welcome them to our school community!

I would also like to welcome all our new students and their families. For the third straight year our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten numbers are up! Even in the midst of the current economic environment people are choosing to enroll proving the value of a quality Catholic education is well worth the cost of tuition.

We appreciate the choice and financial sacrifice you make when you choose Assumption School!

Please continue to visit the school website to keep up to date with news, calendar, pictures, lunch menu, and other things that are going on at school.

(www.assumptionschoolgranger.org)

We are looking forward to a successful year of working with all Assumption students and families. If you have questions as we progress through the school year, be sure to contact us. By working together as a team, we will be sure to have a great year!



Before students returned, teachers spent time getting certified in CPR/AED.



BRAG 2010

The 5th Annual Assumption School BRAG fundraiser will be held on Friday, September 24. This should be a fun time for all, parents, students, and staff.

Kickoff

- August 27

Turn in/Drawing dates (by 8:30 a.m.)

- September 3
- September 9
- September 17

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School Mass Times for the Month

Thursday, August 26

Thursday, September 23

Thursday, September 2

Thursday, September 30

(Communion Service)

(Communion Service)

Thursday, September 9

Thursday, September 16

(Communion Service)

Please join us in this prayerful time. School Masses are at 8:30 a.m.



Specials Corner:

Technology:

In computer class this month we will be talking about cyber-safety. Once we are safe we will head into keyboarding.



Gym:

It's hard to believe summer is over and new school year is upon us. In PE we will be working hard, having fun, and getting ready for our fall fitness test the end of September. Remember to bring your sneakers on Mondays and Fridays to participate in all the fun.

Library:

This year in Library we will be implementing the "Reading Tigers Rock" program. Each month your child will bring home a new calendar. They will turn this in at the end of the month. If they read the recommended books or minutes for that month they will get to take a trip to the treasure box. At the end of the school year all those turning in all of their calendars will get a great prize. Happy Reading :)



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Music:

The school year is here and music is in the air. Hopefully you all enjoyed your summer break. How did you incorporate music into your daily schedule? Probably more ways than you realized. Now we will be gearing up to sing, listen, play, and enjoy music for the upcoming school year.



Students once again will be leading us in song during our weekly masses. This is a great opportunity to nurture a lifelong service to the church. We will enjoy singing favorite and familiar songs when also adding new songs to our repertoire. Students will review the responsibilities of being a song leader. We will discuss how their actions are important and inviting to everyone who comes to celebrate with us. Students are enthusiastic and enjoy sharing their talents as part of our worship service.

The month of September will be reviewing music skills we have learned. Singing many songs together as a group will also be on the agenda. During the summer months our voices take a rest and need to ease back into use during this first month (mine included)! We will also learn about a new composer each month. Some will be ones we are familiar with and others will be new names for us to learn. The month of September will kick off with Francis Scott Key.

Band lessons will also be available again this year. Students in grades 5-8 are welcome to embark on this musical adventure. Each student receives a weekly lesson, participates in different programs throughout the year. Contact me for more details if you are interested.

Mark your calendar for the performances that are scheduled for this year. The first one is December 7. Our spring program is scheduled for May 12. All PS - 8th students grade will perform in both concerts.

Parking Lot Information

For our students safety, we ask that you please drop off and pick up your children in the church parking lot. Please enter the lot from the West Street entrance (closest to the playground) and exit north onto State Street. Also, avoid using the driveway near the gym entrance as students are exiting the building there.

Be sure to pass this request on to daycare providers or others who may transport your children!

Professional Development Information

Throughout the course of the school year you will see notes sharing a little bit more about the faith formation and professional development the teachers in our school will be engaged in this year.

Through research we know that the best way to improve student achievement is to provide teachers with professional development that will stretch their thinking and improve their skills in the classroom as students. In our Catholic schools, this means that our teachers take part in activities that strengthen their teaching of the academic subjects, but also strengthen their faith so they can better share the Catholic faith with their students and be examples of that faith on a daily basis.

This year teachers and administrators have already experienced a workshop in the area of faith formation. In August all teachers and administrators attended a Liturgy Workshop where they learned about the new Roman Missal translation. During this workshop, which was led by Kyle Lechtenberg of the Office of Worship, teachers and administrators were exposed to some of the translation changes and the thought and process behind how these changes have come about. This was just one workshop being held across the diocese as a precursor to the new Roman Missal coming to all of our parishes later in 2011. Teachers will continue to be engaged in faith formation through the *On A Journey Together* program.

During this school year teachers will be involved in professional development around instructional strategies and assessment practices. We will also begin our work of implementing the Iowa Core. Please look for the information to come in your newsletters that will further explain the specific professional development and faith formation experiences our teachers are engaged in and how these opportunities will enhance your students' education.



We are looking for volunteers with the following committees. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Hartman.

Marketing Committee:

This committee began work last school year and will continue its work. We would like a few more members who are willing to help market our wonderful school. The number and frequency of meetings will be determined at a later date.

Technology Committee:

The school has vastly improved its technology over the past three years and will continue to strive to keep up to date. This committee will work closely with the principal and technology teacher to evaluate and set goals for the future. The number of meetings will be minimal and spread out throughout the school year.

**7&8 Grade Dances for 2010-11
7-9 PM \$7.00**

August 27 Holy Trinity
 October 29 Holy Family
 November 19 Christ the King
 December 17 St. Pius X
 January 14 St. Theresa
 February 11 Sacred Heart
 March 4 St. Anthony
 April 15 St. Francis
 May 13 St. Joseph **

** 6th graders invited to this dance!

K-8 Field Trip

As a part of the diocesan centennial celebration, Bishop Richard Pates has invited all Catholic school children to tour St. Ambrose Cathedral, celebrate Mass and have lunch with him. This will replace Bishop Pates visiting and celebrating Mass at each school, for this year only. Assumption School will be taking our K-8 students on Tuesday, September 7, 2010.



The school will be packing sack lunches for the students (menu for the day is posted on the regular lunch menu).

Important Dates

- August 27** – BRAG kickoff (1:30-2:00 pm)
 - Early Dismissal (2:15 pm)
- September 1** – \$1 Dress Down Day
 - Early Dismissal (2:15 pm)
- September 2** – Communion Service (8:30 am).
 - Board of Education Meeting (7:00 pm) in church conference room.
- September 3** – BRAG money turn in day.
- September 6** – Labor Day. No school – office is closed.
- September 7** – Kindergarten through 8th Grade Field Trip to tour Cathedral and celebrate Mass with Bishop Richard Pates.
- September 8** – Early Dismissal (2:15 pm)
- September 9** – School Mass (8:30 am).
 - BRAG money turn in day.
- September 10** – No School. Diocesan teacher professional development.
- September 15** – Free Dress Down Day.
 - Early Dismissal (2:15 pm)
- September 16** – Communion Service (8:30 am).
- September 17** – BRAG money turn in day.
- September 20** – Last day to turn in BRAG money to count toward student total.
- September 22** – Early Dismissal (2:15 pm)
- September 23** – School Mass (8:30 am)
 - PTO meeting (3:45 pm) in Mr. Stotts' room.
- September 24** – Bike Ride Around Granger (BRAG)
 - Lunch begins at 11:00 am.

Where Faith and Knowledge Meet



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

The third and fourth grade class will again be organizing the pop tab collection for Assumption School this year. Students will be in a classroom contest for bringing in the most pop tabs. The contest will go on from the beginning of the school year through December and then January through the end of May. There will be a container in each classroom for students to put their pop tabs in. The pop tabs benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines. Please help us out by keeping and sending in your pop tabs!