

January 2015

DE LA SALLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



Important Dates

January 9– 1st Friday Mass (Faculty/Staff)
January 14– Chocolate Assembly
Chocolate pick-up 3-6pm in library
January 16– Winter Pep Rally/Spirit Day 11am
January 19–Martin Luther King Jr. Day **No School**
January 20-23– ACRE Testing (grades 5&8)
January 23– Progress Reports viewable on Fast Direct
January 25– Catholic Schools Week Begins
DLS Family Mass 9am
New Family Open House 10am-1:30pm
January 26– Student Appreciation Day
Alternative Dress & No Homework
January 27- Volunteer Appreciation Day
January 28– 8th Grade Teaching Day
January 29– Current Family Open House 6-8pm
January 30– Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day

HAPPY 2015!

Before we completely move on to the new year, there are several people whom deserved to be recognized for the work that they put in to such a beautiful Christmas performance. I would like to express a big thank you to our incredible staff and pageant committee, Mrs. Mares, Miss Granados, Mrs. Romero, Mrs. Gastelo and Mr. Gonzalez. Also, a big thank you to the entire 8th Grade for the re-creation of the beautiful Christmas Pageant story. Each year the 8th grade shines and we are very proud of them. I would also like to express a very special thank you to our very special guest and former Music Teacher, Mr. Allan Sims, for taking the time to be with us during this very special event. Thank you also to all the classroom teachers and aides. The teachers demonstrate such incredible patience and delight in the students' work. Each of the grade level songs were delightful and performed

with such enthusiasm. The little “extras” made each performance a special gift to the parents. We hope you all enjoyed the exciting evening and we look forward to another eventful night next year.

Farewell and Welcome

It is with great sadness that I announce the departure of our custodian, Mr. Carrillo. He will be greatly missed here at De La Salle, from seeing his smiling face every morning, to watching him help our little ones open their milk containers. Mr. Carrillo was such a great asset to our school, always making sure our campus was neat and clean. He has decided to retire and move home to Mexico to work on his properties. We cannot thank him enough for the love and dedication he shared with the De La Salle Community.

On a happy note, De La Salle would like to offer a very big welcome to Mr. Wilver Duarte. Mr. Duarte (Mr. D) will be taking Mr. Carrillo's place as our Maintenance Manager. He comes highly qualified and very highly recommended from Corpus Christi School and Parish in Pacific Palisades. We are thankful for his willingness to join our De La Salle Family and are looking forward to seeing a new smiling face every morning.

Good Luck 8th Grade

It is that time of year when our 8th Grade will need extra prayers as they prepare for their high school entrance exams. We know this time is highly stressful and yet exciting. January will be a month of intense preparation for testing day on Saturday, January 24th.

ACRE Testing

Every January, grades 5 and 8 take the Archdiocesan Religion Test. The purpose of the test is to measure what the students know about the Catholic faith and what areas need further attention. It is always interesting to see our test results. The students will be testing January 20–23. Each year the Religion curriculum is adjusted based upon the results of the test.

De La Salle Mission Statement & Student Learning Expectations (SLE's)

As part of the WCEA/WASC accreditation process, the faculty and staff evaluate the current mission statement and SLE's to determine whether they reflect the purpose and goals that we, as a school, establish for the students we are serving. After close evaluation, our current faculty and staff felt both the mission statement and SLE's could better reflect who we are as a school community. The faculty spent several months to develop both a mission statement and student learning expectations that we felt would best define De La Salle and its purpose. Below you will find the final mission statement and SLE's:

De La Salle Mission Statement

We, at St. John Baptist de la Salle, nurture and empower the whole child through academic excellence, spirituality, and values to develop responsible active citizens and compassionate leaders of tomorrow.

Working in partnership with parents, we ensure students are united in faith and eager to carry out God's mission in society.

De La Salle SLE's

Academic Excellence: Life-long learners who...

- **Think** critically and logically to communicate effectively
- **Utilize** resources to achieve set goals
- **Apply** learned skills to strategically solve problems

Spirituality: faith-filled Catholics who...

- **Practice** their faith through prayer and the sacraments
- **Follow** Jesus and form a relationship with God
- **Demonstrate** knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church

Values: responsible citizens who...

- **Contribute** positively to their community
- **Act** with compassion, integrity, and respect
- **Abide** by the Golden Rule

2015-2016 Tuition and Fees

The administration is currently working on the tuition for the 2015-2016 school year. The budget is being evaluated to establish a tuition rate that will be affordable for our families and solvent for the school and meeting its expenses. This information will be published within the next couple of weeks. The re-registration fee will remain \$80 for each returning student and \$100 for each new student. The re-registration fee is due no later than **Wednesday, February 18th**. A late fee of \$20 will be applied beginning Thursday, February 19th **and every week thereafter**. Once the re-registration form has been sent home, payments for the general fee can be made. In order to alleviate such a large payment, we will be accepting payments up until the final due date of **Friday, May 1st**. A \$50 late fee will be applied to the general fee beginning May 2nd **and every week thereafter**. Please take advantage of making a payment plan for the general fee in order to avoid paying any late fees. You can contact Mrs. Gastelo in the finance office to set-up a payment plan.

Catholic Schools Week

This year Catholic Schools Week, as calendared by the National Catholic Education Association, begins Sunday, January 25th and ends Friday, January 30th. The 9:00 a.m. mass on January 25th will be our *DLS Family Mass*. In order to show our presence as a school community, we are asking that all students wear their church uniform on that day (this includes the proper socks and shoes). Please remember students are representing who we are at De La Salle, keeping in mind prospective families will be present.

After mass, prospective families will be invited to the school where tours will be given. We ask that current families allow this time **only** for the prospective families.

Our *current family Open House* will be held on Thursday, January 29th from 6-8 p.m. The teachers will be here and welcome you to visit your child's classroom. Please remember this is a time for you to enjoy your child and their work displayed in the classroom. If you wish to discuss your child's

progress, please schedule a conference with your teacher at a later date.

Student Appreciation Day is Monday, January 26th. The school celebrates our children and their delightful enthusiasm and curiosity. They are the reason why the school exists. To honor our students, no homework will be assigned on Monday. That evening might be perfect for a special family night. Students are also welcome to wear alternative dress on that day. Jeans (no leggings) and alternative tennis shoes are allowed to be worn except the following: Uggs, Toms or Chuck's. Please refer to the DLS handbook or contact the school office with any questions regarding alternative dress.

Tuesday, January 27th honors the volunteer workers for the school. The school will invite our volunteers to an afternoon dessert in the library to celebrate their contributions to the school. We hope that all who volunteer their time for the school will come and be honored. No school can function without this vital core of people. De La Salle is grateful for their time and efforts on behalf of the children.

Wednesday, January 28th, the 8th grade classes will be participating in "Teaching Day." They will be visiting TK-7th grade and teaching a lesson for the afternoon. The students look forward to this day every year and we enjoy hearing their experiences as "teachers."

The faculty/staff will be honored on Friday, January 30th. Teaching is a noble profession and teaching in a Catholic school is a call to ministry. As I watch our teachers and the way they instruct, support, discipline, and care for the children, I am continually reminded of their dedication and love of children. God truly blesses them with patience and strength. On this day we extend our appreciation to them. The PTO treats the faculty and staff to a wonderful lunch where they are made to feel special. This year, the Appreciation Luncheon will be on Friday, January 30th at 12:15pm. School will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. and there is no Extended Care. It is extremely important that all students be picked up on time as there will be no one available to supervise day care. The school truly appreciates your cooperation. This time will allow the faculty/staff to enjoy this delightful lunch.

Catholic Schools do make a difference. Catholic education offers more than just a solid education and self-discipline. It offers values based upon the life and

teachings of Jesus Christ especially our commitment to service. Catholic Schools....an Advantage for Life.

2015 Golf Tournament

The Eleventh Annual St. John Baptist de la Salle Golf Tournament is calendared for Monday, April 20th at Porter Valley Country Club. We are excited to be returning to Porter Valley. This year Individual golfers will be \$165 and a foursome will be \$660. The last ten tournaments have been so successful that it has developed into a major fundraiser for the school. Parent involvement on the Golf Committee has grown and we greatly appreciate their assistance and especially their creativity and ideas. We need help. Golfers! Golfers! Golfers! are needed. Brochures will be available in the Main Office and more information will be posted on the web site in the next couple of months. Any company that would like to donate to the tournament or help with underwriting costs would be appreciated. Monetary donations truly help to cut our expenses in order to have more profit for the needs of the school. More information will be coming over the next two months.



Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 19th is a national holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There will be lesson plans and activities to mark his contributions to our history and to stress the importance of the dignity and value of each person. There will be no school that day.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be viewable on Fast Direct on Friday, January 23rd. Please be sure to log on and check your child's progress thus far. It is important that you monitor your child's progress on a consistent basis in order to avoid any surprises. Again, we encourage you to utilize Fast Direct as much as possible. It is a tool to not only monitor your child's progress but a primary means of communication between you and your child's teacher.

Chocolate Sales

Chocolate sales will begin Wednesday, January 14th. Pre-sale order forms were sent home last month. Please be aware that all pre-ordered boxes as well as boxes picked up on the day of distribution, must be paid for at the time of pick-up. All pre-order checks will be deposited on January 14th. Chocolate pickup will be held in the school library on Wednesday, January 14th from 3-6 p.m. Only persons 18 or older may pick up chocolate, as a signature is required at the time of pickup. If you did not preorder chocolate you may still purchase chocolates on the day of pickup, however, payment must be made at that time (only checks will be accepted). Boxes will continue to be sold until supplies last. All chocolate sales account for 50% of your fundraising obligation. If you have any questions please contact PTO.

Casino Night

This year, Casino Night will be held on Saturday, January 31st. The theme for this year is "Wild Wild West," all are invited to come decked out in your Western gear. The Casino Night committee and PTO have been working diligently to plan a fun and exciting night for our DLS family and friends. Ticket order forms went home yesterday. The night will consist of gambling with funny money, silent auctions, live auctions (of your child's grade level projects), raffles, music, and dancing. We invite you all to attend this fun-filled evening. If you have any questions you can contact Mrs. Lisa Ramos and/or Mrs. Laura Manzano.

Fundraising/Service Hour Balances

This month, families will be receiving both their fundraising and service hour balances thus far. Please cross-reference your records with the notices to ensure you are being credited accurately. At this point in the year, you should have already completed half of your hours. There are still several fundraising opportunities which include the upcoming chocolate sales, Casino Night, Jog-a-Thon, and the Golf Tournament. Please make sure both of these obligations are being met in order to avoid being charged in May.



A New Year's Prayer. . . Anonymous

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value,
without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen.

