

St Paul the Apostle School ... *grow in the grace* *and knowledge of our Lord. - 2 Peter 3:18*

February 6, 2009

Dear St. Paul the Apostle Parishioners and School Families,

Thank-you for your time in attending the St. Paul Town Hall Meeting (THM) and/or completing the survey regarding the prospect of a merger with IHM School. There was not a consensus that we pursue this any further at this time, so together we will continue our endeavors toward increasing enrollment and improving upon our already excellent school.

We have a strong parish and school community, and we need to be united as we move forward. Our challenges are very real and require work to maintain the quality of education that we expect from our school. It will take many hands to help us through the difficult times ahead. There were many great suggestions given at the THM, and we hope that *all* interested parents will find a way to become involved in implementing them. We will seek three new board members in May to fill open positions. We also currently have open positions for Chair and Co-Chair of SPAuction for next year and would like to see Casino Night reinstated with volunteers stepping forward to coordinate this worthwhile fundraiser. In addition, we will be holding Spaghetti Dinners during Lent and invite families to come and help out. If you have a specific idea for fundraising or are interested in any of the above activities, please contact the school or a board member.

Our next School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 17, and you are welcome to attend. We will discuss our plans for moving forward at this time, including our principal search. We've begun pre-registration for next year for our preschool and kindergarten programs and have determined that we will increase our offerings to include the choice of AM kindergarten or an all day option to better meet the needs of many families. Our new school website should be up and running by Monday at www.stpaul-school.org.

Please understand, the School Board at St. Paul's is made up of nine parent volunteers whose positions impart the responsibility of making sure the school is fiscally sound as one of our missions. Our monthly Board minutes are published on the school website, and as you read them, you will see that most of our meetings have focused on our marketing strategies including a new website (please visit it!), fundraising including coordinating all of the efforts that fund the various areas of the school, balancing our school budget, and improving our school environment. All of these efforts are geared toward recruitment and retaining school families. The topic of merging schools was brought up as a possible solution to declining enrollment and the subsequent decreased income to the school. Any and all work that has been done in regards to potentially merging schools was an exploratory measure and presented at the Town Hall Meeting. Your input was invaluable and very much appreciated.

Again, thanks so much for your continued support, and we hope to see you at SPAuction on Friday, February 13! ALL proceeds from SPAuction will go directly to the school budget.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Ernie Schneider
Jim Rabaut
Jen Brom
Bridget Mull

Julie Palmer
Dale Manske
Laurie Daum
Jeff Potter

Dan Springer
Lisa Gutting
Todd Mellema