

Kim's Korner

August 27, 2010

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Agnes Catholic School,

God blessed us with another great start to a school year. I have to say my favorite day of the year is the first day. Parents and students entering the building, with mostly all smiles, truly makes my heart jump for joy. There were the occasional tears from moms and dads, as they sent their little ones to their classrooms and entrusted them to our care for the year. However, overall it was a great start.

This morning, I was out front for morning drop off greeting the students as they rushed in to begin their second day. I asked one of our second graders how his first day went and he enthusiastically responded, "It was only the best day of my entire life!" I couldn't help but smile and laugh a little. Hopefully, today, his teacher will be able to top that experience.

On Wednesday, as the teachers, staff, and I gathered for our last meeting, before the children came charging in, I reminded the faculty that we play such a huge roll in what kind of day our students have. I believe with all that I am that being an educator is the best job in the world. If I didn't, then I certainly wouldn't be doing it. Having the opportunity to make a difference in children's lives is a huge responsibility, but it is such a blessing.

Yesterday, as I visited all the classrooms, I thought to myself how lucky the students at St. Agnes are. They have such wonderful, caring teachers who are dedicated to the vocation of Catholic education.

Later, I spoke to several of the teachers to see how their day went. Mrs. K, in our Montessori, told me she had the best day of her teaching career. She was so excited that on the first day of school her students wanted to jump right into their work. Our preschool and prekindergarten teachers were elated that their students came in and seemed to feel comfortable on the first day. As I visited with the K-3 teachers, they were beaming with excitement at all they hope to accomplish with their new groups of students.

Our 4-5 teachers spent the afternoon collaborating and working to plan the weeks ahead. The middle school teachers spent the morning going over rules and expectations with the students and talking to them about being the leaders in the building. Of course our inclusion specialists, aides, and paraprofessionals will be busy working with kids as we start the beginning of the year assessments.

Lyn and Linda, in the school office, were actually able to leave the building and go out for lunch! This is rarity, so it made me happy to see them get out of the office and enjoy themselves. Mrs. Orpin and Mrs. Cramer also enjoyed dropping in on classrooms and seeing all the students return. Today, our specials teachers were filled with excitement as they see the students for class. I know the children will be excited to see them as well.

If I could bottle the excitement of the first day of school I would, because realistically, there may be a day that your child comes home feeling overwhelmed, tired, or frustrated. What I want our parents to know is that your child's teachers, support staff, and administration are here to partner with you in the academic, behavioral, emotional, and spiritual growth of your child.

I wish that every school day could be the "best day" of your child's life. While your child is with us during the school day I want them to feel challenged, safe, care for, cared about, and most importantly, loved. I want them to know that it is ok to just be themselves and to bloom and grow into the person God has intended them to be.

This year we piggybacked on the state of Kansas' 150th anniversary. Our school theme is "To the Stars, St. Agnes Catholic School, There Is No Place Like Home.

For the next 36 weeks, St. Agnes Catholic School will be your child's second home. I know our former students feel that it is still home to them. We already had visitors from some of them yesterday. They told us they love high school, but they miss the teachers at St. Agnes.

I am praying that all of our students have a wonderful school year. Each night, I truly pray for every student in the school, for the teachers who will touch their lives this year, and for you the parent, who entrust their academic, behavioral, and spiritual growth to us each day. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share in that growth.

May God bless us all this school year as we work together, to one day get your child to Heaven. And tonight, as you ask your child about his/her school day, may you receive the joy of hearing your child say, "Today was the best day of my entire life!"

God bless!!!

Dates To Remember

Sept. 1 8:15 School Mass

Sept. 2 7 p.m. Parish
Council

Sept. 3 Early Ed Praise
Assembly

Tips for Helping Your Child Have A Successful School Year

- Make sure they are getting plenty of sleep
- Fix them a healthy breakfast
- Check their homework
- Help your child learn organization skills such as filling out his/her planner
- Set a homework routine in your house
- Talk to your child about his/her school day
- Communicate with your child's teacher
- Read all communication that comes home from the school
- Get involve. If your child sees that the school is important to you, it will be important to them.
- Pray! Pray! Pray!