

November 10, 2009

Brothers & Sisters in Catholic Education

... --- ... ! ... --- ... ! (SOS SOS) We need your help in the hunt for the \$100,000 being given to ten schools by U.S.Cellular. As of December 4<sup>th</sup> we were not even in the top 25! I believe we can do this! It really is quite easy and many of the U.S.Cellular employees are just giving 'bunches' of the codes out. We just need to go get them and then input them (2-4 minutes each!). Please help. We could make wonderful use of that \$100K.

I am continuing to seek ways to increase enrollment and to find out root causes for your neighbors choosing to not send their children to Our Lady's School. I will be sending out a survey to the families of the approximately 150 students who are registered members of the Congregation who are not currently attending here. I am trying to be as open and honest as I can be. Included in the survey I am sending them is a chance to point fingers. Is it the Teachers? The Staff? The Administrator? Just what is the cause? I know it can't just be cost because there are ways to help in that area if that is truly a factor. If you're speaking with any of the families of the non-attendees, please encourage them to at least respond to the survey so I know what I need to try to fix.

Included in this weeks' 'Folder' is a survey for the K through 4<sup>th</sup> grades parents concerning the possibility of opening a middle school here in Our Lady's School. I know what support there is among the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents. Now I need to know what the strength of the sustainability of such a program would be.

I expect to have some grant proposals ready for submission soon. I am seeking financial support for outside sources. I am in awe of the outstanding support given by the parents of our school for our internal fund raisers. Now I'm looking for deeper pockets. If any of your places of employment have 'Matching Funds' programs please contact your HR office to find out what we need to do to get involved.

Ask your student about the school wide effort to "name the baby" to be born on December 25<sup>th</sup>. In a program led by Mrs. Goetsch the children are learning several of the scripture names given to our Lord and the explanation of that name. Each week of Advent Mrs. G. has members of her class present two new possibilities to the whole school in a very nice, very solemn, Monday morning service. Just before we take our Christmas time vacation the students will vote for their favorite name for the baby. Mrs. G. deserves a special 'thank you' for all of the work she and her class have put into this learning experience.

A (not so) gentle reminder --- please review the dress code with your student. We will always error on the side of the safety of the student when it comes to common sense things like dressing properly for recess. I'm sure all of the students can tell you they have heard my "coach's voice" in the hallway as they leave in the afternoon as I exhort them to "button/zipper up that coat!"

Your Servant in Catholic Education,  
Rick Erickson, PhD  
Principal/Administrator