

## **August 2011**

Dear Parents,

Blessings and peace! I invite you to take a few moments and reflect on our mission statement and our school philosophy:

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*“Jesus Christ is the foundation for our school community.” In our community, we strive for the education of Catholic values and faith that promote faithfulness and stewardship. Saint Benedict School is also committed to the development of the whole child, while maintaining an environment that provides an academic program designed to develop the diverse learning abilities of each child.*

*Saint Benedict School works together to nurture the individual character of each child and embrace the cultural and ethnic diversities. The school community encourages praising others, modeling peace, building values and emphasizes the importance of each individual’s responsibility towards others.*

### **SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY**

*The philosophy of Saint Benedict School is committed to the intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of each student. The school community teaches the importance of our Catholic faith encouraging students to work hard and pray hard.*

*We strive for the excellence in teaching knowledge and critical thinking skills to our students while maintaining values of respect for themselves, others, and above all God. In the spirit of Saint Benedict and Saint Augustine, our school environment promotes love and learning through the praising of one another, emphasizing the importance of assuming responsibility of one’s actions, and invites students to help build a community of faith, mutual respect, with peace at home, at school and in our community.*

These are our words, these are our hopes, and this must be our vision as we prepare for the 2011-2012 school year.

As principal at Saint Benedict, I have stressed that a Catholic Identity must be visible within the school and parish community. I do feel that we have made great strides in this area and each of you is to be commended for your spirit of cooperation.

My personal vision for this year is that every effort will be made to continue strengthening our student assessment in core subject areas. It is my hope that we will

strengthen our Catholic Faith, Math, Reading, Writing Skills and Technology and incorporate these skills into all subject areas.

All of this will take great work on the part of each one of us. Let us approach the task at hand with God in mind. Together we can provide an environment as described in our school mission and philosophy.

Let us also reflect upon the Student Learning Expectations we have developed that are particular to Saint Benedict School: See attachment.

I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with helpful dates and information prior to the beginning of our school year.

### **2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR**

Classes begin on Monday, August 15. We will have modified day schedule for the first day **only** with classes beginning at 8:00 a.m. and dismissal at 2:00 p.m. All students are to be in uniform. Beginning the second day, classes will end at 3:00 p.m. Any students on campus after 3:15 will be signed into After School Day Care. **We will conduct FULL UNIFORM inspection Thursday, August 25 and P.E. UNIFORM inspection on Friday, August 26.** This will give us an opportunity to observe that all students abide by the school uniform policy.

Breakfast and Lunch will be available beginning Monday, August 15.

**Make your check payable to Rosalio Salas. \$3.50 (K-3) \$4.00 (4-8)**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Enclosed you will find the following information. We are asking that parents fill out an after school permission slip. This slip is to inform the teacher and the office as to how your child will be dismissed from the school grounds. This is for your child's safety. All forms must be signed and returned in the family envelope on the first day of school, Monday, August 15, 2011.

### **YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO CLASS WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING:**

- Your child's admittance card
- Parent Agreement (acceptance of philosophy/parental expectations; sign and return)
- Handbook Waiver
- Emergency Information (Front and Back), Height and Weight form and Nourishment Snack Packet (complete and return)
- Parent Participation Hours Service Form (complete and return)
- Pre and After-School Care form (complete and returned if interested)
- After school permission slip
- Media, Use of Computer Consent Forms

- Child Custody Information (if applicable)
- Email Form

### **INFORMATIVE MATERIALS**

- Parent/Student Handbook
- School calendar with important dates for 2011-2012
- Pizza Party Flyers
- Bruin Den Uniform Order Form
- School Band Registration Form
- Junior High Academic Program (See page five)

### **INFORMATION ONLINE – GOING GREEN**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| • August/September calendars | Email Form                               |
| • Hot Lunch Menu             | Tuition Chart                            |
| • Supplementary Reading List | Annual Calendar                          |
| • Required Mass Schedule     | Bake Sales/Teacher Appreciation Schedule |
| • Supply List                | Student Picture Schedule                 |
| • Registration Forms         | Health Screening Schedule                |
| • Emergency Forms            | Parent Sacramental Journey Schedule      |
| • Breakfast/Lunch Menu       |  |

### **BRUIN DEN**

The “**BRUIN DEN**” is a positive addition to Saint Benedict School. Parents purchase P.E. Uniforms, sweatshirts, socks, vests, mock turtlenecks, gym bags, polo shirts, etc. The “**BRUIN DEN**” is located in the primary wing east of room 4B. Orders are to be placed in the school office. All orders may be picked up after school, or the next day, in the Bruin Den. Hours of operation: **First day of school, August 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Regular hours Monday-Friday (4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.).**

### **SCHOOL OFFICE**

Beginning Monday, August 15, 2011, the school office will be open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:00pm.

### **DAY CARE**

Please see the enclosed information regarding “Pre and After-School Care” that outlines the hours and fee schedule.

**Pre-care will begin on August 15, 2011. You may drop your child(ren) off at 6:45 a.m. Your child/children will report to room 4A and will be supervised by the day care director. After-School Care will also begin on August 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Parents, please provide a snack if your child will be attending after-school care the first day of school August 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## **TARDY POLICY**

Reminder...if a student is not present during morning attendance, the student is considered late and is to report to the school office. At no time is a child to be dropped off unattended. This is for safety reasons.

**Late arrivals are disruptive to the academic environment. Any student who is tardy four times within a month, a fee of \$50.00 per child will be charged to the family.**

## **SCHOOL TUITION**

School tuitions are handled through FACTS Tuition Management. If you have not yet made the arrangements and signed the necessary paperwork, please stop by the school office so that the process can begin. **Families who are two months behind in tuition and /or other fees will be asked to withdraw.**

## **GIFT WRAP FUNDRAISER**

Our Gift Wrap fundraiser will end on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Fundraising is part of the school budget in order to make up the difference in tuition and the actual cost per pupil for education. We have been very successful in our fundraising efforts in the past and we know that you will continue your wonderful spirit of cooperation. Our chairperson will be Rose Cruz.

## **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

We are accepting students in grades Junior Kindergarten-Seventh grade. Every child should have an opportunity to receive a **CATHOLIC EDUCATION and Saint Benedict School can provide one!** Visit the school office for an application or visit the school web- site: [www.st-benedict.com](http://www.st-benedict.com).

## **MASS ATTENDANCE**

We will have required school masses monthly. It is the obligation of the parents to take their child/children to Mass every Sunday. Our first required School Mass will be August 28<sup>th</sup> the Feast of Saint Augustine at 9:00 a.m.

In order to qualify for the "In-parish tuition rate, families and students must be attending Sunday Mass, contributing to the church through family/student offering envelopes a minimum of 24 envelopes per year, completing Service Hours and participating in fund-raising events.

Morning Mass on Wednesdays will begin on August 17. Remember, all students are to arrive by 7:50 a.m. in School Mass uniform. Junior High students will change into P.E. uniform after Mass.

## **CONSULTATIVE SCHOOL BOARD 2011-2012**

### **Executive Board:**

President      Rene Casarez  
Vice-pres.      Rose Lopez

### **Members:**

Jasmine Garcia  
Gerald Gonzales

### **Members:**

David Lopez  
Donny Madrid

Secretary  
Finance

Salvatrice Cummo  
Joe Canzonieri

Joe Flores  
Carlos Cruz

David Valdivia

## **PARENT MEETINGS**

*PARENTAL REQUIREMENTS* – Please review the Parent/Student Handbook on page 8 that indicates attendance at school meetings and events. Parents not attending these required meetings will be fined \$50.00. An adult (18 years and over) must represent your child at meetings or events. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Notices will be sent home.

## **PICTURE DAY – Parish Hall**

Mrs. Maria Figueroa will continue to coordinate our Picture Day on August 30<sup>th</sup>. **Regular Parent Volunteers, School Board Members and Festival Board Members will be offered identification pictures on August 30<sup>th</sup> between 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** The make-up date for absent students will be September 9. If you wish to purchase pictures, please have the correct amount in the envelope or a money order/check made payable to: **John Malvaez.**

## **VOLUNTEER COACHES**

Parents who are interested in becoming a volunteer coach for participation hours this school year; please call Mr. Galvan our Vice-principal at 721.3348 ext. 13.

## **WASC/WCEA**

This year our faculty, staff and school board will be diligently preparing for the WASC/WCEA Visit on March 27-29, 2012. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Western Catholic Educational Association, provide the accreditation for Archdiocesan schools.

The purpose of the three-day visit in March will be to extend the accreditation process for our school. Commendations were made six years ago along with recommendations for implementation. We have worked very diligently during the past six years. As I reminded the teachers, WASC is not a one-time event. We are in WASC all the time. We are always looking at **WHAT** we do, **WHY** we do it and **HOW** we can continue to improve.

### **Mark your calendar:**

The school will not be in session on the following dates for WASC preparation meetings.

*September 26, 2011*

*October 17, 2011*

*November 28, 2011*

## **JUNIOR HIGH ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

Our junior high students have experienced coed education in grades kindergarten-fifth grade at Saint Benedict School. In 2009 the junior high teachers and administration implemented a new pilot program with our sixth graders. Students began the day as coed

homerooms but attended their subject classes with their own gender. We had a positive response by teachers, students and parents, but most important, grades improved. This school year we are implementing this program to all junior high students. This is a great opportunity to prepare your child for a Catholic High School experience!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

- August 15 Gift Wrap Kick-off. Emergency Snacks due.  
Coffee and pastries for parents in parish hall following 8:00 a.m. Morning Assembly.
- 17 First School Mass 7:50 a.m. Full Uniform.
- 24 Free Identification Pictures grades K-3
- 25 Free Identification Pictures grades 4-8. Full Uniform Inspection
- 26 Welcome Back Pep Rally. P.E. Uniform Inspection
- 29 Free Dress August Birthdays! “Back School Night” grades Third-Fifth (5:30-6:30p.m.)
  
- 30 School Pictures K-8.  
“Back to School Night” grades Six-Eighth (5:30-6:00 p.m. in the hall and 6:00-7:30 p.m. in classrooms)
- 31 “Back to School Night” grades Junior Kinder-Second grade (5:30-6:30p.m.)

As we look forward to the school year 2011-2012 let us pray for one another and ask God to guide us so that our students receive the best that we have to offer. I’m looking forward to serving you and your child/children.

**Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!**

**Frank Loya Jr.**  
**Principal**