

# ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

Building Faith, Achieving Excellence

December 3, 2009

## ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with the home and parish, we are here to promote Christian Catholic faith and academic excellence in an environment of love, opportunity, service, forgiveness and cultural diversity.

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel.....Celebrate Advent**  
During Advent, St. Matthew students participate in short Advent prayers services in the church on the following dates:

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> grade), Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> grade), Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> grade), Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> (teachers), Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten). You are always welcome to join us in prayer.

God Bless,

*Thank you, Lord, for the gift of community.....*

**SCRIP SEASON HAS ARRIVED!!!WHAT A PERFECT WAY TO CHRISTMAS SHOP WHILE SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL.** Sales in the school on Monday, Wednesday, Friday after school and Friday morning before school. Please support St. Matthew School by selecting your Christmas gifts from a huge assortment of **gift cards!**

Our **drama club** members will be hosting a night of sketches, improvisations and snacks *Commedia dell'Arte* style. Senorita Arlene Martinez, drama teacher, has introduced middle school students to a new art form this fall. There are two presentations... one at 3:30pm, convenient for parents picking up children after school, and a second presentation at 7:00pm. Please join us in the Community Center Conference Room.

**Regarding St. Matthew Christmas Concert on December 16<sup>th</sup>** ...information about the Christmas Program and the costumes can be found on the website by going to "Classes - Music Dr. Grytting - Christmas Program - General Information about the Christmas Program" and "Classes - Music Dr. Grytting - Christmas Program - Costumes for K-7 or 8th grade costumes."

## **Fulcrum Tuition Assistance Application for 2010-2011**

To obtain a Fulcrum tuition assistance grant to apply toward tuition for next year, your family must complete a confidential application found on the Fulcrum Foundation Website at [www.fulcrumfoundation.org](http://www.fulcrumfoundation.org). Go to the tab for Grant Application. After submitting your application online, please bring a printed copy of the application and the required financial documentation to Virginia Arnoux in the Parish Office. Ms. Zadra will forward to the Fulcrum Foundation all completed applications. If you are unable to complete the form online or have any questions at all, please contact Virginia Arnoux at 206-363-6767 for assistance. **In order to receive any tuition assistance from St. Matthew School, a Fulcrum Application must be completed. The deadline to submit online and turn a copy into Virginia is February 19, 2010.**

## **DECEMBER DATES OF NOTE**

- 04** 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades to Seattle Symphony;  
Drama Club presents Commedia Night;  
3:30pm & 7pm in Community Center
- 08** Feast of Immaculate Conception 9am Mass
- 09** Advent Penance Services with Father Barce for students in grades 3-8
- 09** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Black Nativity
- 10** St. Matthew Christmas Store
- 11**
- 12** Bishop Blanchet Speech Tournament
- 15** Parent's Club Meeting 7pm
- 16** St. Matthew Christmas Concert 7pm
- 18** All School Mass – 9am – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Noon Dismissal

# OUR GIFTS TO OUR CHILDREN

First and Foremost

*We give them the most precious of all gifts; the principles of brotherly love and the love of God, as taught so many years ago by Christ, whose birth we celebrate.*

We Give Them a Sense of Value

*A place for the individual in the scheme of things, with all that accrues to the individual: self-reliance, courage, conviction, self-respect and the respect of others.*

We Give Them a Sense of Humor

*Laughter leavens life.*

We Give Them The Will to Work

*Satisfying work is not the lasting joy, but knowing that a job is well-done, is.*

We Give Them The Talent for Sharing

*That it's not so much that we give, as to what we share.*

We Give Them the Love of Justice

*The bulwark against violence and oppression, and the repository of human dignity.*

We Give Them the Passion of Truth

*Founded on the precept of example, truth is the beginning of every good thing; the power and the faith engendering mutual trust.*

We Give Them the Beacon of Hope

*Which lights all the darkness.*

We Give Them the Knowledge of Being Loved

*Beyond the demand for reciprocity, praise or blame, for those loved are never lost.*

What Shall We Give the Children?

*The open sky, the brown earth, the leafy trees, the golden sand, the blue water, the stars in their courses, and the awareness of these; birdsongs, butterflies, clouds and rainbows, sunlight, moonlight, firelight; a large hand reaching down for a small hand, impromptu praise, an unexpected kiss, a straight answer, the glister of enthusiasm and the sense of wonder, long days to be merry in and nights without fear, and the memory of a good home.*

These Things We Shall Give The Children

Author Unknown

# DO YOU VOLUNTEER AT ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL?

Every adult who works or volunteers in the school must go through an Archdiocesan Program entitled **SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING**

**INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW....Take one course per year**

**STEP 1. (First year ) ..In person course...**

**Do you know about Safe Environment Training?** This 3-hour training, **required** of ALL Catholic school staff and volunteers with *regular, unsupervised* interaction with children and vulnerable adults, is one way for the Archdiocese to show their commitment to the eradication of sexual abuse.

**Do YOU need to attend the Safe Environment Training?** If you plan on driving for a field trip, chaperoning outdoor ed, coaching a sport, moderating a club, supervising recess or the lunchroom, or leading a scout troop or other activities where you would be regularly working with children in a setting without the supervision of a certified teacher or the principal– the answer is YES.

**If you have NOT taken the training**( takes between 2 and 3 hours depending on the presenter and length of Q and A) please plan on attending the training as soon as possible. To find the schedule of classes:

1. Go to the Archdiocese of Seattle website:<http://www.seattlearch.org>.
2. Click on the Safe Environment logo.
3. Then click: Register for classes. Many different locations and times are available.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about the Safe Environment Training or background checks.

**STEP 2. (Second year) 1<sup>st</sup> on-line course....**

**What if you completed the in person training last year?** All parents or guardians who completed the Safe Environment Training last school year need to complete a refresher course this year. The refresher course is on-line and takes about 20 minutes. (At least that's how long it took me.) It is well done and will help everyone be more conscious of ways we can work together to protect children from sexual abuse.

**Instructions for the On-Line Refresher Course Training...** To get started you need to go to [www.seattle.setanet.org](http://www.seattle.setanet.org) Click on "My Obligations". Enter your name and address.

Click submit. Click "Update Information and Continue" Choose a class to take.

**STEP 3. (Third year)...2<sup>nd</sup> on-line course...**

**Instructions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> On-Line Refresher Course Training...** To get started you need to go to [www.seattle.setanet.org](http://www.seattle.setanet.org) Click on "My Obligations". Enter your name and address.

Click submit. Click "Update Information and Continue" Choose a class to take.

Once you have completed any of the above courses and received your email certificate, please forward a copy to me at

[lzada@stmatthewseattle.com](mailto:lzada@stmatthewseattle.com)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.