

March 19, 2009

Dear Parents,

The end of the 3rd Quarter is here and Parent Conferences are planned for the week of March 22nd. Conferences begin on the 24th. If you do not have a parent conference scheduled for your child you should contact the school office ASAP.

I would like to thank all of our families who have met the enrollment deadline for this coming year. The school is experiencing a wonderful response to enrollment with new families waiting to enroll in the grades that are not full. Next year's Kindergarten class is full with 24 siblings and 9 new students completing the class. Our school enjoys a wonderful reputation within the community and that is a compliment to the parents, students and staff of St. Bernard's School.

The economic situation in America is being shared throughout the country with major sacrifices being made by everyone. At the school, we have been advised that for the coming year we should expect the following to increase above this school year:

- Medical Insurance-15%
- Worker's Compensation-10%
- Property/Liability Insurance-15%
- Retirement Contribution-tbd

In our attempt to help the families of St. Bernard's Catholic School and do our part to help with this economic time, the Finance Committee of the Parish has approved the suggestion of the school. Tuition costs for the coming year will have no changes. This is a decision made by the Finance Committee of the Parish for only the coming year. Some would ask, "How can you afford not to raise tuition when your costs are increasing?" That is a question which the school hopes to answer with increases in enrollment and a very conservative budget. We all must do our part to support St. Bernard's Catholic School in whatever way we can and encourage those who have the ability to help to do so. The recommended increase-if the school were to increase tuition-would be from 3%-5%. This in dollars would mean from \$105-\$175. With a family total of 185 this would mean an increase in tuition revenue from \$19,425-\$32,375 for the school budget. We do have a reserve and it may need to be used this coming year. It is the school's hope that those who are able to will help through donations and school fundraisers.

I would like to remind all of our families that the end of April will be here soon and all parent obligations must be completed by the 30th of April. The obligations of tuition, profit, Mass attendance and volunteer hours are requirements for all of our families which all have agreed upon last May at registration.

Sincerely,

Gary Abate, Principal