

Guardian Angels School
217 West Second Street
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September 24, 2009

Items sent home the week of September 21, 2009:

- Lunch free and reduced lunch (flyer)
- Picture Day reminder (flyer)
- Dr. Kahn's featured article (attachment)

Dear Parents,

ANGELFEST

This is the word of the day, the week, the season, at GA! Let's take a look at a few details to make it all run smoothly before, during and after.

***Friday school changes**-Please note that First Street, between the front of the school and the church, will be closed on Friday to accommodate set up. Buses will be dropping off Friday morning along Cedar Street (the west side of the school). Staff will be present for directing the procedure, but there will be an increase in traffic, so please drive carefully. –

No drop off for anyone in front of school! After school dismissal will also be along Cedar Street, so parent car pick up will be facing some bus arrival along First Street to make that turn. It's just a one day change so be extra vigilant! ***Preschool parents and School Age Child Care Parents*** – follow directions about locations from the teacher, and if you have any questions, please call them.

***There will be some fun school involvement in the 11:00 shortest Parade on Saturday – check it out and be part of the fun.**

***Thanks for the outpouring of help for the weekend! I know there are still areas that need help, so please consider helping, if you haven't yet found an area. The Parish and School need every set of hands and everyone's smiles to make this event a huge success and to allow every visitor and guest to find warm, welcoming hospitality.**

PUMP IT UP (RAKE IT UP!) RAKE-A-THON 2009

Week #1 was fun for all of us last Friday, but hopefully the fun will grow this week as does the total. Week #1 winners were:

3rd place for the week – Ms. Hritz and the 2nd graders

2nd place for the week – Ms. O'Donnell's/Mr. Jones' MS Homeroom

1st place for the week – Mr. Leach's MS Homeroom

The first 3 students to bring in their \$200 were Harrison Michael, Nate Erickson and Max Luft – congrats and thanks to you guys!!

The week's total was \$4,488 or 9% of the goal. Please help us – we have a long way to go to be FIT! Talk it up at AngelFest this weekend; continue collecting from those you know – or even those you may not know☺; support our students reading and collecting at the weekend Masses over the next few weeks. Those of you who are parishioners at St. Nicholas or St. Victoria, please talk it up at your parishes too. Let's all try to "pump it up" in more ways than one!

Important Information for Next Week

ISD#112 has the first of four “Late Start” school days of the year; it will be this Wednesday, September 30. The school building will not be opened until 10:55 because teachers are in meetings on these days. All buses will run exactly 2 hours late, so our school day begins at 11:10. We do change our lunch schedule that day and eliminate the lunch time recess. Lunch times will be:

K,1,2 11:30 3,4,5 11:55 MS 12:15

Because of the late start, **there will be no Wednesday Mass at 9:20.** The student planned Mass **will be on Friday, October 2nd – the Feast of the Guardian Angels at 9:20.**

Thank You

- To the Van Pelts of Felicities for the \$140 check to GA from uniform sales
- To Michelle Godzak for her school supplies
- To Mateo Safie for the coffee from Guatemala
- To Kris Zupan for the donation of library books

Welcome: We extend a warm welcome to Mateo Safie, an 8th grade student from Guatemala, who will be with the Dave Schepers family and our 8th grade family until the third week in December. Mateo is here through a program called “Friends Around the World”.

Food Service

Last chance for October counts! We are sending home once more a form to complete to apply for Free/Reduced Lunch for school lunch. Please know that these forms are confidential – names are entered into the computer with a code, only numbers are reported to me for reporting purposes. I just want to make sure that anyone who could qualify gets the opportunity for savings. Two other reasons make a difference to you – and to us – 1) your job situation may have changed which may affect your status, so if in doubt, take the time to complete and return the form 2) Title 1 funds to help students needing extra academic services are based on the percentage of free and reduced lunch counts in each of your designated public schools – based on where you live.

Library

Our students have selected (by popular vote) the next character to join us in the GA Library. Mrs. Aberle tabulated the results.... And Scooby Doo it is! Mrs. Menden will be contacted and Scooby will be on his way soon.

All of the GA faculty and staff hope to see all of you this weekend – for a great celebration and loads of fun!

Blessings,

Nancy Ronhovde

Photo Release Information – One last time

Most of you noticed and signed the photo release form on the back of the Handbook form, but there was some confusion and a few questions, so we will try to clarify: If you do not want your children photographed, please realize, they could not be part of Prairie Fire Theatre, as we put those pictures on the website. They would not be able to anchor or be filmed on GATV because those video clips go on the website also. Rather than have school contact those who left it blank, let's alter to state that if you **DO NOT** want your child photographed, you call the school and we will send a form home to you for a signature.

Prayer Corner

- For Jackie Weber who was hospitalized, her daughter Molly is in Grade 1
- For Jenny Sopsic Graczyk, her son Wyatt is in Grade 2

Directory

The directory is now available on line! ☺ Please review the directory and provide me with any changes **by NOON TOMORROW, Friday, September 25th**. Your directory order(s) will be sent home by the end of the week. Please note, I am able to enter only **ONE** email address within the directory, please check to make sure it's the one you want. All families please check spellings on names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers. To access the directory, go to the GA school website at <http://www.gachaska.org/schoolhome> click on parent resources, and then on school directory 09/10. You will then be asked for a user name (gafamily) and password (angels). Please respect the privacy of all of our families by not sharing this user name and password with non-GA families. We appreciate your cooperation!

Mrs. Reznick

Rake-It-Up Announcers Needed:

FOURTH GRADERS thru EIGHTH GRADERS:

We are looking for students to make an announcement before a weekend Mass asking parishioners to donate money for the Rake-a-thon. Please contact Ms. Hritz via email ahritz@gachaska.org or leave me a phone message. There are benefits in wearing your uniform at the Sunday Mass and collecting the money.

KINDERGARTENERS thru THIRD GRADERS:

We are looking for students to pass out and collect the green envelopes that the parishioners will put their money in for the Rake-a-thon. Please contact Ms. Hritz via email ahritz@gachaska.org or leave me a phone message. There are benefits in wearing your uniform at the Sunday Mass and collecting the money.

AngelFest

How would you like to Win one or more of the following???

- Ipod Nano w/\$30 Itunes Card (donated by 7th & 8th grade classes)
- Digital video camera (donated by 3rd grade class)
- Large Pirates Lego Set (donated by 1st grade class)
- Barbie Three Musketeers carriage w/horse, Barbie & More (donated by Kindergarten class)
- Guitar Hero 5 for Wii (donated by 4th grade class)
- Dining out Gift Certificates valued over \$100 (donated by 2nd grade class)
- Night Out Gift Certificates valued at \$80 (donated by 6th grade class)
- \$100 Target Gift Card (donated by 5th grade class)
- Star Wars Lego Ship (donated by 1st grade class)
- Handmade Mickey Mouse Afghan & Minnie Mouse Afghan (handmade & donated by Mary Ann Stacken – Grandmother to Matthew and Kaitlyn Meger and Aaron Stacken)

- As well as several other GREAT prizes~!

Come to Angel Fest and check out these FANTASTIC PRIZES that you can win at the Chance Raffle. Tickets will be \$2.00 each and you can drop them in a box in front of any prize you would like a chance to win.

PTO MEETING-RESCHEDULED

Due to the Vikings/Packers October 5 game, we are rescheduling the PTO meeting for October 12. The Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. and general meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. I will schedule it to be held in the Library. Thanks. *Heather Hessman*

Little Ringers

Little Ringers will be performing on Saturday, October 3rd at the 5pm mass. Rehearsal will be at 4:15 in St. Francis Hall prior to mass. If you have any questions please contact Tami Hed 952-448-0557.

Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 25 – 2nd Rake a thon turn in day
- Sept. 26 – GA Angelfest
- Sept. 28 – Pictures Prek & Grades 1-8 (casual clothes)
- Sept. 29 – Pictures Prek & Kindergarten (casual clothes)
- Sept. 30 – LATE START DAY-school starts at 11:10am
(NO MASS)**
- Oct. 2 – 9:20 Mass (7th Grade)-Feast of Guardian Angels**
- Oct. 2 – 3rd Rake a thon collection day
- Oct. 4 – 2:00 pm Blessing of the Animals-Friary Gardens
- Oct. 5 – 10:00 3rd grade fieldtrip fire station
- Oct. 6 – 6:30 Camp Long Lake Meeting (6th Grade parents)
- Oct. 7 – 9:20 Mass
- Oct. 9 – 9:45 fieldtrip Apple Orchard Prek
- Oct. 12 – 7:00 PTO Meeting
- Oct. 14 – 9:20 Mass (5th grade)
- Oct. 15&16 - **NO SCHOOL MEA**
- Oct. 20 – SAC
- Oct. 21 – 9:20 Mass (4th grade)
- Oct. 23 – Prayer Service for Rake a thon
- Oct. 23 – Rake a thon &
(final collection day)

Lunchroom & Playground Helpers

Lunchroom Playground Playground

Mon	September	28	Kari Bork	Carla Shermock	S. Dunlap
Tues	September	29	KelliAnn Mechtel	LuAnn Koebnick	Heather Hessman
Wed	September	30	Lisa Aberle	Pete or Debbie Nolan	Mark Robling
Thurs	October	1	Stacy Dunlap	tonya dubois	Mark Robling
Fri	October	2	Kathe Matthews	Teresa or Chris Gess	Jane Miller

SPORTS CORNER

THANK YOU!!

A BIG thank you to the parents that worked shifts at our home games last Thursday. Most of the parents filled in the whole three hours. Your help did not go unnoticed.

Basketball

Registrations are past due. If your child is interested in playing, their form needs to be in tomorrow. Teams need to be registered with the league ASAP!

We need girls in grades 4-6th grade! Our girls should be out there to represent Guardian Angels! If your daughter is interested, but nervous about trying something new, Mrs. Tesch would be willing to hold a few clinics to take the fear out of the game. If you think this would help, please contact her at mtesch@gachaska.org.

Those of you that got your registrations in on time, thank you! Look for more details about the season in the weeks to follow.

Volleyball

Varsity played Tuesday and unfortunately lost against SACS, but defeated Annunciation.

Saturday, September 26

Cub Gold Volleyball plays at 8:00 & 9:30 a.m. at SACS in Shakopee.

Soccer plays at St. Hubert's 9:00 a.m.

Sensitive Souls

One of my favorite children's movies of all times is *The Lion King* and one of the most memorable scenes from that movie for me is when the warthog declares,

“I’m a sensitive soul, though I seem thick-skinned
And it hurts that my friends never stand downwind.”

That one line has been reverberating through my mind ever since the first day of school. In fact, it seems as if all I have been doing the last few weeks is working with sensitive souls and their parents.

The new school year brings many changes and new challenges. Bus routes may have been changed. Children may be starting in a new building. They almost all will have new teachers, a new curriculum, new behavior plans. Some of their new teachers will be more business-like and less touchy-feely, perhaps for the first time. New recess times and the need to connect with new children at recess. The school day might be starting earlier or later, and there is probably more homework and a higher need for organization than last year.

So many of our children are sensitive souls! They might not be worried about the same thing that worried the warthog, but they do worry. Will my teacher like me? Will there be anybody I know on the bus? Will I get picked for classroom projects or recess activities? What if I drop the ball and my team loses the game? And the worries aren't all about the school day. Just try bringing home something for one child and not the other. Or making a meal that is known as the favorite meal of only one of your children. And if you or your partner travel for business and have to be away for a few days now and then, the sensitive souls in your family will surely let you know how much they are hurting when you are gone.

Was it always like this? Perhaps. In any case, it is probably impossible to compare with previous generations, but when I try to picture my parents or grandparents, uncles and aunts, as children, my sense is they were thicker-skinned than our children. I remember being told that life included hard times and that it was up to us to be ready for whatever came our way. Is this different from the messages we are sending our children today?

It makes sense to me that the children would be sensitive souls and that isn't what worries me. But I sometimes worry when the parents seem to be sensitive souls too. That is, if the child is nervous about whether or not there will be somebody to play with at recess, that seems perfectly normal. But if the parent is heartsick about the possibility that their child might not be perfectly comfortable every minute of every day, then I am more likely to worry.

It is up to us to use the uncomfortable moments of our children's lives to teach them something about themselves and about what to expect from life. One of my favorite mantras when children are upset or worried about some less-than-perfect moment in life is "life includes this." And the other is "let's see what we can learn from this." Even though the school year is just a week or two old, I have shared these two clichés with dozens of parents. By how we are with our emotions, we teach our children how to be with their emotions. Resilience and optimism are taught by parents only and the richest times for teaching resilience and optimism are uncomfortable times. Maybe this is why our children need to have uncomfortable times so often during their childhood. May we all find the strength to resist the impulse to step in, rescue, and do too much for our children. May we be able to see the uncomfortable times for the teaching opportunities they provide.

Dr. Steve Kahn is the author of *Insightful Parenting: Making Moments Count*. Please check www.drstevekahn.com for additional (free) articles about parenting or to learn more about the book, available both in paperback and as an audio book. Please feel free to share this article with others.