



CAT



CROSSING



Volume 6

Issue 1

August 2008

Dear St. Clement's School Community,

Greetings!

This is our first issue of the 2008-2009 Cat Crossing, and in it I hope to include all of the vital news that will keep you up to date on the happenings at the school over the summer.

The Center for Excellence is everything and more than expected. Our community has so much for which to be proud as we open up our new building after months of prayer, managing our Capital Campaign and working with many key professionals in its design and construction. Certainly, C.F. Jordan made available its best talent in the construction of our most beautiful school building.

RIBBON CUTTING

Our Ribbon Cutting ceremony is planned for first day of school, Monday, August 25, at 8:05 a.m. We will start in the church sanctuary with a welcome to our families and friends of St. Clement's School and a blessing by Father Cobb. Because of space limitations in the church sanctuary, only 5th through 8th grade students will attend this opening service. (Pre-K through 4th grade students will report at 8:00 a.m. to their classrooms.) We will thank the people who have been instrumental in the various areas of our successful campaign, and then we will all (including Pre-K – 4th grade) go outside to the Center for Excellence for the ribbon cutting ceremony. After the ribbon cutting, 5th through 8th grade students will report to class, and PK-4th grade students will go to chapel for a "blessing" service. Adults will be invited to tour the new building and grounds.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

New Family Picnic

Wednesday August 20th
6:30 p.m. at the El Paso
Country Club

Please come and join us
for a "Meet & Greet".

Hope to see you there!

R.S.V.P
To
JoLene Keipp
533-4248 ext. 0

WELCOME

Welcome new faculty:

We are happy to welcome the following new faculty and look forward with excitement to having them join our school community.

Diana Borrego will teach 3rd grade. Mrs. Borrego is one of our parents with a B.S. in Criminal Justice from UNM and a certificate of education from UTEP. Mrs. Borrego has three years of teaching experience in public school and has substituted for two years at St. Clement's School.

David Sobey will teach all levels of Physical Education and 7th / 8th grade football (more about football later) Mr. Sobey has 15 years of teaching and coaching experience at other area private schools and has valuable experience in teaching the fundamentals of football.

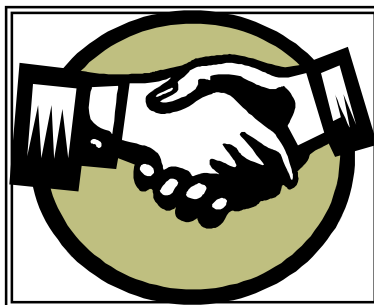
Jennifer Kemper has a B.S. in Education from Bowling Green State University. Mrs. Kemper will teach 2nd grade. She has Kindergarten and 1st grade teaching experience and has substituted for St. Clement's School for the last four years.

Jennifer Kaufmann will also teach 2nd grade. Mrs. Kaufmann has a B.A. in English and Education from Valparaiso University in Indiana. For the last two years, she has taught at a mission elementary school in Juarez.

Nancy Meza will teach 5th grade. Ms. Meza has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology at Wittenberg University and a Bilingual Education Certification 4th-8th grade from UTEP. Ms. Meza has been a 4th grade teacher at Community of Faith Christian School here in El Paso. She also has 5th grade teaching experience in the public schools.

Nethia Kelly will be our new Librarian. Mrs. Barnes, after a wonderful St. Clement's School career, has retired. Mrs. Kelly has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Radio, Television and Film from Sam Houston State University, an Associate of Arts in Journalism from Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Texas,

Tobi Purvin will teach Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten music classes. She will also coordinate the musical events for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Mrs. Purvin has 30 years of teaching experience in early childhood programs.



Change of assignments:

Laara Swanson, former 2nd grade teacher, will become our new art teacher. Mrs. Chancellor, after a superb St. Clement's School career, has moved to Tulsa to be with her family. Mrs. Swanson has a degree in Art Education from Texas Tech University and has begun working on a Master's degree in Art Education. This will be her 4th year at St. Clement's School.

Heather Graham will move from teaching 4th grade to teaching 5th grade math, science, reading and spelling.

Priscilla Pelking will become the new Director for Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Pelking's new role will be to focus on curriculum design and instructional strategies and methods based on "best practices" research. She will work to incorporate those practices within our academic program. She will also work to design and provide a strong professional development program for our faculty and will work on a regular basis with our teachers on various aspects of the curriculum and instructional program.

Beverly Longoria will become the new Director of Development. She will work to complete the last phase of our Capital Campaign Program which calls for increasing the endowment to help offset operational funding of faculty salaries and student financial assistance. Mrs. Longoria will also work with the Board of Trustee's Development Committee to help raise funds for Annual Giving. Annual Giving is a tax-deductible fund raising system that subsidizes the school's regular yearly operating expenses not covered by tuition. In addition, Mrs. Longoria will work closely with the Board's strategic planning committee as they update the long range plan for the school.

Mrs. Irma Armenta will take on the role as Secretary to the Head of School. She will be responsible for scheduling the Head's appointments along with taking care of other administrative middle school matters.

NEW FAMILY PICNIC

The New Family Picnic is an event that brings all of the school's new families, administration and faculty as well as Board Members together to meet and greet each other. This year the New Family Picnic will be held on **Wednesday, August 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the El Paso Country Club.** Each new family and host family will be receiving their invitation in the mail soon.

CARPOOL

Carpool will be similar to last year. We are asking that parents continue to either drop their child off at the carpool line on Yandell Street, or park across Montana Avenue and, **using the crosswalk at the intersection,** walk their children to the campus.

Please do not walk across Montana Avenue with your child at any place other than the crosswalk and please do not stop your vehicle on Montana Avenue (next to the sidewalk) to let your children off on such a busy street.

We have now acquired a few more parking places on Ochoa Street and beside the Center for Excellence on the Yandell Street side. Please do not allow your child to walk between parked cars on their way to the campus.

Afternoon carpool will continue to operate much like last year. The exception will be that from Ochoa Street, cars will make a right turn into the new parking area just before Yandell Street instead of making a turn on Yandell Street. The carpool line will extend to the pick-up area near the school marquee like last year. The Center for Excellence Pedestrian Mall will not be open to vehicular traffic for safety reasons. Gym carpool for Middle School students will continue as before. Please refer to the Student Parent handbook.

DISMISSAL TIMES

2:50 p.m.	Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten
3:00 p.m.	First Grade
3:10 p.m.	Second – Fifth Grade
3:20 p.m.	Sixth – Eighth Grade

ON TIME

Please have your child at school a few minutes before 8:00 a.m. each school day. All classes must be on their way to chapel by 8:00 a.m. to allow the chapel program to start on time at 8:05 a.m.

CHARACTER FIRST

We will continue to offer the Character First Curriculum for first through eighth grades. We will use Series Two this school year which contains a different sets of positive characteristics from last year's curriculum. We will also have a specialist from the Character First Program at our school on Tuesday, August 19th from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to provide training to our faculty and staff. If you wish order the curriculum for use in your home. **The address for ordering this curriculum is:**

Character First
Phone # (405) 815-0001
orders@characterfirst.com
www.characterfirst.com

SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We welcome Mrs. Andrea Taber as President of our Board of Trustees. She has been on the Board for the past three years and served as Board Vice President last year. Mrs. Taber has wonderful ideas for the Board and our school, and she will be a blessing for our community. Mrs. Taber and husband, Dr. Jeffrey Taber, have two children at our school; Alex is in the 5th grade and Scott is in 3rd grade. Welcome to this new role, Andrea!

New members to the Board are:

Mitch McBeth. Mitch and wife, Jill, are parents of Kendall in the 4th grade and Macy in 8th grade.

Hane Steadman. Hane and wife, Ida, are grandparents of Zachary, 4th grade, Victoria, 6th grade and Katherine in Kindergarten.

Dawn Stufflebeam. Dawn and husband, Joseph, have Ethan in the 4th grade and Hunter in the 6th grade.

Paul Gilcrease. Paul and wife, Jennifer, will have children coming to St. Clement's School next year. Paul and Jennifer are active members of St. Clement's Church.

Justin Chapman. Justin and wife, Victoria, have three children and are active members of St. Clement's Church.

Karen Bowden. Karen and husband, Jim, have Campbell in the 2nd grade.

We welcome our newest Board members and pray for their wisdom in making and supporting the best decisions for our school's future.



FOOTBALL

Trish Jacobes, Athletic Director, conducted a survey last year and found that many of our families in 8th grade would support a six man football program. We would like to provide the opportunity for our graduating boys to acquire the experience and fundamentals of football in order to be able to participate in high school programs if they wish. Parents of participating boys will be required to provide some of the equipment and in other ways financially support this program. If interested, please contact Trish Jacobes at tjacobes@stclements.org

Personal Note

Please know that I am available at any time to discuss or hear any compliment, concern or idea that you may have for the school. I am very much interested in creating and maintaining a learning environment in which our students will learn the skills that will propel them through their future years.

IN GOD WE TRUST

God, through our trust in the LORD Jesus Christ, has richly blessed our school! We have had to faithfully depend upon His goodness to supply our needs. Many in our community have prayed continually for God's guidance, blessings and abundant goodness for St. Clement's School.

Thanks be to God.

Nick Cobos

St. Clement's Students Soar Even in Summertime!

Coach Cobos and a group of student's attended the 2008 USATF National Junior Olympic Championship in Omaha, Nebraska and held their own against some of the country's toughest athletes.

- ~ Arabella Delgado competed in the Javelin Throw 300g, Bantam Girls for the second year in a row and finished in 17th place with a distance of 17 meters.
- ~ Meagan Bean competed in the Shot Put 6lbs, Bantam Girls and placed 17th with a distance of 5.90 meters.
- ~ David Torres competed in 1500 meter run and finished with a time of 5:03.04, coming in 14th place.



**7th & 8th grade
Volleyball teams will
begin practice
Monday August 25th
right after school!**



**Picture
Day**



**August 29,
2008**

Please contact
JoLene Keipp
with any events or
pictures you would
like featured in the
Cat Crossing.

(915)533-4248 Ext. 0

Or

jreza@stclements.org



Backpack Check



**Scott Johnson will be
in the Gymnasium on
Saturday August 23rd
from 10:00am thru
12:00 pm to check all
8th Grade backpacks
for their Outdoor Ed
trip.**

**A clothing list was
mailed out this
summer and Coach
Johnson will be
checking for all items
on that list.**

**Students with last
names beginning with
the letters A-M will
meet from 10:00 a.m.
to 11:00 a.m.**

**Student with last
names beginning with
the letters N-Z will
meet from 11:00 a.m.
to 12:00 p.m.**