



Cat Crossing

Volume 1

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Mission Statement: Within a nurturing Christian environment, St. Clement's Parish School promotes each child's academic, spiritual moral, artistic, physical, and intellectual growth.

After a rewarding and successful school year, it was great to take a summer break. The administrative team has been busy after their June break planning and looking forward to another wonderful year with you. The faculty will return on August the 16th for a week of professional development and preparation for the return of our students on August 23rd.

We are very proud that forty St. Clement's School students visiting Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. in June participated in the placing of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Lauren Bagg, Jordan Stiles, Claire Kim and Juan Jasso, were chosen to place the wreath. This was a special moment for them, for all the attending students and for St. Clement's School. We are thankful for Carissa Ketchum and Maggie Jackson who organized and accompanied the students on their annual visit to Washington D.C. and for giving their personal time to provide such a rich experience for our students. Please read the extended article in the El Paso Inc. News of July 4-10, 2010.

This past year, we were extremely pleased with our new block schedule in grades 4 through 8. Teaching in a 90 minute block of time gave our teachers and students much more in depth lessons and projects time. We reaped wonderful benefits from the block schedule such as fewer classes per day, less homework each night, creative projects and problem solving and great results on the ERB exam. Last year's ERB results were excellent and surpassed all previous years. Please contact Priscilla Pelking for details about ERB results at ppelking@stclements.org.

Nick Cobos, Head of School

Announcing this year's new teachers and STAFF assignment changes :

Tessa Copeland 7th – 8th grade Science.

Ms. Copeland graduated this past year from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and Certification in Mathematics / Science for grades 4-8.

Brenda Morrow – 7th -8th grade Math

Mrs. Morrow is a long time teacher at St. Clement's School. She is highly regarded as a master teacher.

David Sobey – 6th grade English & Math / Football

Mr. Sobey has taught and coached for eighteen years in private schools. He has taught in our P.E. department and coached our football team for two years. Prior to his coming to St. Clement's, Mr. Sobey taught junior high and high school math, language, social studies, science, and physical education. Mr. Sobey holds a Master of Arts in Education: Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix.

Kenneth Hannah – 7th and 8th grade Christian Education

Mr. Hannah is the Youth Pastor at St. Francis on the Hill Anglican Church. He holds a B.A. degree in Bible Theology from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago Il. He has been active in missions work in the Juarez / El Paso region and has a heart for teaching the bible to young people.

Maggie Jackson – Student Advisor

Maggie Jackson will take on a new role this year as **student advisor**. Mrs. Jackson will continue to teach 6th grade Christian Education and 8th grade Health, as well as organize the Thursday Veggie Chapel.

Maggie Jackson (Cont.)

She will meet with students both individually, in groups, and by grade levels to discuss such issues as bullying, interpersonal challenges, guidance and self development goals. Mrs. Jackson will help students develop skills on how to avoid and stop bullying behavior. She will organize a student recognition program for those students who demonstrate positive character traits.

Amy Jackson, Kindergarten teacher, has moved out of town. We will miss Amy and wish her well. Lupita Acosta will move to take over the Kindergarten class while Helena Quintanar will teach the Pre-Kindergarten class.

Other Changes:

Jolene Keipp – from receptionist to Administrative assistant to the Director of Development and to the Business Manager.

Jessica Arriola – from Media Specialist and In-School Suspension supervisor to receptionist.

Rebecca Robinson - will be our new I.T. Network Administrator

Athletic Fees:

Our Athletic Department continues to grow and become increasingly more competitive each year, as well as expensive. We are certainly proud and thankful for all our coaches who so generously contribute their time to develop our student's athletic skills. However, because of the need for equipment, uniforms and stipends, we will charge a participation fee for team membership as follows:

\$75.00 – football

\$50.00 – cross country, volleyball, basketball and track

Please call Trish Jacobes for information regarding team membership and fees.



Your Administrators @ a glance:

Nick Cobos - Headmaster of School; ncobos@stclements.org

Terry Dillon - Lower School Division Head; tdillon@stclements.org

Priscilla Pelking - Director of Curriculum; ppelking@stclements.org

Gretchen Love - Director of Admissions; glove@stclements.org

Lou Cisneros - Business Manager; lcisneros@stclements.org

Lisa Brock - Dean of Students; lbrock@stclements.org

Jessica Karlsruher - Development Director; jkarlsruher@stclements.org



ST. CLEMENT'S SCHOOL
2010-2011 ANNUAL GIVING FUND FIRST



We're Counting On You!

Be part of a great tradition, please help us reach our goal.
We need the whole community to come together to support our
wonderful school!

Our fabulous faculty has almost reached 100% participation.
We need our parents too!



...Every Child Benefits



...Every Gift Counts



Reading Tips from the Literacy Center

We hope this message finds all of you enjoying your summer with a multitude of activities which engage your entire family! We all need time to relax, refresh and regroup before we begin another active academic year! It has been a pleasure to receive the many e-mails and calls which have shared your excitement about the “Reach for the Stars and Read” program! So many students have said they are enjoying reading and exploring the books which are on the various grade level lists for this summer.

Research tells us that it is the literacy-rich home that produces the children who excel. What is a literacy-rich home? It is one that encourages children to become life long readers by making certain reading, writing, and talking together is a natural part of daily life. It is important that the children read on their own, but even more important that a regular time is set aside for family reading, even if it is only twenty minutes each day. Let the children see you reading. Share what you read, just as they are expected to share their books or magazines with you. When the children finish reading a book, or when you finish reading to them, talk about what you have read. Ask questions and honor the opinions of the children about what they have gotten out of the literature.

Having a wide variety of reading materials around the house is also a characteristic of a literacy-rich home. It can be magazines, comic books, journals, books, newspapers, recipes, graphic novels which are new or used, borrowed or purchased. We learn to write by reading and speaking about a multitude of subjects. Let’s all see if we can set a priority this summer of making our homes literacy-rich for the sake of the success of our children. Happy summer!

Pat Swaney
PLSwaney@aol.com

Student Advisor's Note:

I am looking forward to the 2010-2011 school year for many reasons. It is always exciting to welcome students back to school and get to know those who are new. This year will be especially exciting for me, as I have been asked to serve as student advisor. I have been at St. Clement's School as a faculty member since 1999, serving as librarian, health and Christian Education teacher, outdoor education chaperone, and school nurse. I have watched not only our school grow, but many students as well.

Growing up is a hard task to accomplish. Children need to know that they have plenty of support. As student advisor, I will be available to listen when "growing" pains occur and assist in working on solutions to student concerns. I will also be there to offer assistance when conflicts arise.

I am proud to work at St. Clement's School, and consider it to be the best school in El Paso. I want our students to take pride in our campus and the school grounds. Along with this, I would like to encourage more school spirit and pride in what our student body represents. Our students are given every opportunity to excel in sports, the arts and academics and are encouraged to do so. It is my goal that our students also excel in kindness, respect and consideration of others. We want to have a school where everyone not only belongs, but feels like they belong.

Peer pressure and negative influence have long been a problem among children and they can take many forms. Most recently, the opportunity for cyber bullying has been opened up through social networking on the internet and has become a concern. At St. Clement's School we want our kids to get MAD and Make-A-Difference in our world. We can all work together and learn to respect each other for the person God made us to be.

Children need permission and support to tell adults about their concerns and feelings. They need to feel that they will be protected from bullying and have positive role models. Children need supportive relationships with adults they trust. For all children, the feeling of security needs to come first.

Maggie Jackson
Student Advisor



Development Corner

Welcome to the Development Corner. Our office is responsible for philanthropic gifts to St. Clement's School and for activities and communications related to Alumni.

St. Clement's School, founded in 1958, was an idea first conceived by Rev. Robert T. Gibson as a school of academic excellence and Christian education that would include the development of high morals and values of its students. To accomplish these goals, the entire school community would need to be involved. The tradition of philanthropy has always played a crucial role in our School's development and its importance cannot be underestimated. If not for the generous families who preceded us, St. Clement's School would not be the outstanding School our students enjoy today.

Below are some upcoming fundraising activities and we encourage your participation. Each family will also be receiving a comprehensive Development packet with all necessary information regarding the Annual Fund, including ways to give and fundraising events throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact this office for any specific information or questions you may have. Every Child Benefits – Every Gift Counts.

Jessica Karlsruhe
Development Director

Development Calendar:

August 23	Kick-off Annual Giving Campaign
October 18	Golf/Tennis Event at El Paso Country Club
November 1	Wrap Up Annual Giving Campaign
April 2	Havana Nights Spring Gala
May 20	Wildcat Round Up



Legacy Pavers

Congratulations to our 7th graders and their successful transition to 8th grade. As we approach the 2010-2011 school year what better way to honor your 8th grader than with a Legacy Paver on Grace Lane.

Pavers are \$250 each and are the perfect graduation gift!

**Contact Jessica Karlsruhe, Development Director,
at ext. 8054 or jkarlsruher@stclements.org.**

We thank you for your years with St. Clement's.

Tile Decorating – Building Our Foundation

We will have a garden dedication in the Fall 2010 school year and this will include the tiled pillars showcasing your talented artwork. Don't miss out on this special event. Thank you for helping Build our Foundation.

Stop by At the Clayground any time this summer and paint your tiles.

Tiles are \$25 each.

At The Clayground is located at 5860 N. Mesa 915-533-2529



Join us for a fun, fellowship and friendly competition

with our first annual

St. Clement's Parent Golf/Tennis event

Monday, October 18th, at 9am

The El Paso Country Club

Information about the event, including sponsorship opportunities, will be sent out in the mail.

This is a great event you don't want to miss!!

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Parents, do you know where in cyberspace your kids are? Come and learn how FACEBOOK works, the positive and negative aspects of it, and ways to keep up with your kids on the FACEBOOK and other cyberspace technology. This “For Parent’s Only” class will be taught by Yaden Smith, the youth pastor for the Church of St. Clement, **Thursday, September 16th** in the Center for Excellence from **6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

St. Clement’s Alumni Corner:

Pat Garven’s daughter, Karen, heads to Villanova!

On Monday (7/26) Karen Garven left to Philadelphia where she is enrolled as a Master’s student at Villanova University. She is particularly interested in Victorian English literature, and, in preparation for one of her classes this fall, she is reading *Olysses* by James Joyce. It’s a pretty long novel (more than 1,000 pages), and she is very glad when she can calculate what percent of the book she’s read. Now we’re somewhere around 70%. I have told her numerous times that the degrees go to the most persistent (rather than the smartest.....), so keep at it, even when it seems impossible. “I think that’s true regardless of your current educational level!”

PSIA – Private Schools Interscholastic Association

PSIA is a statewide academic and artistic competition for private school students. Hundreds of students in districts across the state compete each year in district and state tournaments.

St. Clement's middle school students compete in nine academic areas and five artistic areas at the district tournament in the Dallas, Ft. Worth area. Students who qualify for the PSIA State Competition will compete one month later in Ft. Worth

Frequently asked questions about PSIA:

How do I become a member of the PSIA team?

All students in grades 6-8 are tested in nine academic areas in October. Students' scores are ranked and those students who rank in the top six on two or more tests are considered for the team. Speech, art, and music teachers look at the list and rank those students in the fine arts areas. Report card, citizenship, and effort grades are calculated into the rankings. Finally, teacher input is added to determine the final PSIA team.

Why do you choose the team this way?

PSIA team members must be able to devote extra time to preparation for competition. This includes weekly meetings with the PSIA coaches, homework, and time away from school for the trips.

If I don't make the team this year, do I have a chance next year?

All students in grades 6-8 are tested every year. The list of team members is always determined based on the same criteria. No student is guaranteed a place on the team for all three years.

What are the specific academic and artistic competitions?

We compete in Math, Calculators, Number Sense, Listening Skills, Maps & Graphs, & Charts, Ready Writing, Science, Spelling, Vocabulary, Modern Oratory, Poetry/Prose, Impromptu Speaking, On-Site Drawing, and Music Memory.

How can I get more information about PSIA?

General information is on their website – www.psiaacademics.org. The website includes information about obtaining extra study materials for PSIA academic subjects. Students and parents interested in information specific to the St. Clement's team are welcome to contact Leanne von Mittenwald – 533-4248 ext. 8075.