

GENERAL INFORMATION • SEPTEMBER, 2007

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS. Prior to hurricane Katrina, I wrote a letter to the parents each month and for special occasions. The purpose of the letter and the general information is simply to inform parents and the girls about spiritual and emotional development, using the feasts of our Church year to remind us of ways to grow closer to God, to one another and to mature. We address issues which are current in the lives of the girls and adolescents. Many people, over the years, have thanked me and have requested that letters are sent to them. I hope to restore this practice this year.

In the past, we mailed the letters as we mailed the book day information and student schedules. I know that there was a long delay in some people receiving the letter. We would prefer to post the letter on the website, www.mtcarmelcubs.org, and have parents read it. The next option we have is to try to obtain correct e-mail addresses and email the letter to the parents. Finally, we can certainly use the postal service which is the most expensive option at the present time. For this month we will use the website and the postal service until we have **Edline**, our e-mail program, established. We are still struggling with a return of all the technology which was wiped out by Katrina and hope and pray that we will soon be finished. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS. In order to expedite the drop off and pick up of students coming to school and leaving school, we ask that you follow these directions:

EIGHTH & NINTH GRADERS are to be brought to school through the Louisville gate. Once you drop off your daughter, you may exit either from the Louisville gate on the opposite side of the Assembly Center or through the Walker Street gate. When you drive up to the gate it will open.

TENTH GRADERS are to be dropped off in front of the Duplantis Athletic Complex (gym) on Milne Boulevard.

JUNIORS & SENIORS enter through the horseshoe.

Traffic is a greater problem now because of the construction on Robert E. Lee. I found the traffic coming from West Esplanade very heavy since UNO has opened. Search for other ways to get to school, keeping in mind the area you need to reach.

Please be more considerate when bringing your daughter to school and especially when coming to get her. People have parked and blocked the driveway. When you drive through the horseshoe and do not see your daughter, please do **NOT** stop to wait. Drive through and come around, again. I hope that the newly requested traffic patterns will help. We have been asked by the police to try to avert this problem. It is also **illegal** to park on the Milne Boulevard neutral ground.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES. Any parent who takes her daughter to school before 7AM must send a note to Sister Camille Anne so we will know who is here and inform her where she may go. Any parent who picks up her daughter after 4:30 PM each day must send a note to Sister Camille Anne so we can give her instructions. This is in reference to students who habitually arrive and depart at these times. I am not referring to students who remain for a meeting or a practice who remain in the care of the teacher in charge.

CALENDAR. Please review the calendar we post each month and compare it to the calendar in your daughter's agenda to check for changes. The website should have the latest information.

UNIFORM SHOES. The shoes are destined not to last an entire year and even longer if you are walking on the backs of the shoes. The shoes belong on your feet with toes and heels securely in the shoe. Thank you.

PARKING. The Lupo family has given us an area in which to park across the street behind the shopping center. There is a sign, **MOUNT CARMEL STUDENT PARKING**, clearly indicating the area reserved for our students. At the present time some of the places are taken by the equipment needed for Robert's. Please park beyond our area if our area is filled or unavailable and respect the area closest to Robert E. Lee Boulevard which is reserved for the people who visit the offices in the building.

Please do not park in driveways, regardless of the condition of the property. People want to have access to their property and the driveway still belongs to them. Students are parking on the wrong side of the streets facing the wrong way. Police will begin ticketing soon, so please take the warning and park in the correct direction.

TWILIGHT RETREAT. We have a retreat for all the eighth grade students and ninth grade students who begin with us this year on **Thursday, August 23, beginning at 3:30 for the students and at 5:30 for the parents.** Our chaplain, Reverend Pat Williams, will speak with the parents before the students join us for Mass at **6:00 PM. Parents report to the Assembly Center when you arrive.** There should be some parking spaces in the area surrounding the Assembly Center, on Louisville, and even Walker Street, which are closer than parking in the area off Robert E. Lee Boulevard

PARENTING HANDBOOK AND MEETING. On **Tuesday, September 18, 7:05 PM,** Sister Camille Anne will meet with the parents of the new students and address the parents. Sister will provide a parenting handbook with some recommendations for the parents. This is an early notice. Please mark your calendars and check the website for additional information.

DRUG TESTING. We will begin our drug testing program with the hair samples after Labor Day.

INFORMATION OVERLOAD. There is a lot more I could add to this communication; however, I believe that this is more than enough for now. We will send additional information about the dances and other activities in the near future. Please try to remember to check the website for the announcements, www.mtcarmelcubs.org.