



August 10, 2020
School Newsletter

The God in me greets the God in you! We are excited to be able to start a new school year, and teachers were thrilled to work with their new students this morning. The campus, though, is so quiet. We are grateful you have chosen to enroll your children at St. Ann School!

There have been many questions and concerns with our mandated distance learning to start the year as well as a projected date for a tuition discount should distance learning be our reality for longer than we had hoped. First, if/when our waiver is approved, the school will make that announcement via a Gradelink email. Once we are allowed to have students return to campus, if your family is not comfortable sending your child(ren) back, you may continue to use distance learning. We are hopeful to hear good news (we hope!) soon about the waiver, but we realize this is a long and involved process with the government, so things in this world tend to move slowly. Having said that, if we haven't received word of reopening to students on campus by September 10, then we will institute a tuition discount beginning on September 14. Because FACTS will already have made your regular full-tuition payment, we will apply a credit to each family's account for the month of September. This is financially a difficult decision to make as unfulfilled fundraisers from last spring combined with lower than normal tuition have made our budget extremely lean; however, we also acknowledge and understand the heavy burden facing many of our families distance learning is causing. Likewise, parent hours may also need to be adjusted (less hours required), but we will need a lot of help throughout the year. One area of particular need is our volunteer IT group. John Murphy, who was a part of this group for years, has "retired" as his youngest child is now a Burroughs High School freshman. Our two main experts could absolutely use some help. Please call or email the office if you are interested in helping. Many hands make light work! Scrip requirements will remain intact. This is a valuable fundraiser for the school with the potential to really help us this year if increased participation among our families, St. Ann parishioners and Our Lady of the Desert parishioners. Again, I ask you to join me in prayer that we will be granted the waiver, and that we can open our campus to students safely and successfully!

We would like to take the time to welcome our new faculty members to our St. Ann School family:

- Ms. Michelle Perry – Fifth Grade
- Ms. Katheleen McKinney – Sixth Grade
- Ms. Soledad Gonzalez – Seventh Grade

Even though we do not have students here on campus yet, we were blessed to have three work parties that have transformed the entire playground area clearing it of weeds, debris, etc. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Our Lady of the Desert Confirmandi students, Rick Johnson, Gina and Rick Silong, Helanie and Matt Boggs, Cathy and Chris Haugen, Laurie Ostermann, Michelle and Pat Blubaugh, Vic and Missy Walkling, and Eric Laskey. Having working Chromebooks and a stable internet is more important than

ever, so we would also like to thank Eric and Kim-Son Laskey and Micah Hall for their countless hours fixing, upgrading, troubleshooting Chromebooks, internet and so much more!

While we are on distance learning, the school office will keep our summer hours of being open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00-12:00. The deadline for Scrip preorders is Monday morning by 8:30 AM.

St. Ann School has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StAnnsSchoolRidgecrestCA). You may also request to join the Saint Ann Families page, which is a closed group only open to our current school families. If you do a search on Saint Ann Families, you can request to join this group.

Please mark your calendar for Back to School Night next Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Details to attend this event online will be sent next week.

Upcoming Events:

Tue. Aug. 18.....School Advisory Board Meeting 5:15 PM via Zoom

Wed. Aug. 19..... Back to School Night 6:30 PM via Zoom

Mon. Sep. 7.....No School; Labor Day Holiday

Have a great first week!