

Good Shepherd Catholic School

September 2008 News

Welcome Back to School!

New Staff to GSS

We would like to welcome five new faces to our Good Shepherd family this year. We are happy to have them join us as wonderful additions to our teaching staff.



Linda Pratt - 4th grade

Mrs. Pratt is joining us after a career teaching 4th and 5th graders, including time at All Saints in Dallas. She has taught for several years, but took a year off to be with her daughter and new grandson. We are glad to have such an experienced teacher join our staff!

Erika Pace - Kindergarten

Ms. Pace is a recent graduate and is starting her teaching career at Good Shepherd School. She will be working with our kindergartners this year. She is enthusiastic and very excited about working with our young students. We welcome her to our school!



Jacqueline Clark - Pre-K 4

Ms. Clark is another new face at Good Shepherd. She will be working with the preschoolers in the Marlow House. Her sweet and gentle disposition makes her a perfect match for the little ones in her care. We are glad to have her on our staff!

Claudia Wontor - Middle School Math

Mrs. Wontor has been a familiar face at Good Shepherd as a parent and substitute teacher. She has 2 children in our school, Shelly in 7th grade and Timothy in 4th grade, and her older daughter Kendall attends Ursuline. We are glad that she has chosen to use her math background to teach our 5th - 8th graders. Welcome to the "permanent" staff!



Marcia Sandoval - Spanish K-5

Mrs. Sandoval joined our school a year ago and has been actively involved, including volunteering with the auction for Casino Night. She has 2 children in Good Shepherd, Victor in 4th grade and Alexandra in 1st. We are glad she has chosen to join our staff teaching Spanish to our K through 5th grade students!

St. Matthew the Apostle

Saint of the Month
September 2008
Feast Day – September 21

Patron Saint of : accountants, bookkeepers, bankers

Profile: St. Matthew, one of the twelve Apostles, is the author of the first Gospel. Matthew was a tax collector in the city of Capernaum, where Jesus was living. He was a Jew but he was working for the Romans, who had conquered the Jews. For this reason, his countrymen disliked him. They would not have anything to do with these "public sinners," as tax collectors like Matthew were called.

But Jesus did not feel that way about Matthew. One day, Jesus saw Matthew sitting in his office and he said, "Follow me." At once, Matthew left his money and his position to follow Jesus because he seemed so holy and king-like. Matthew gave a big supper for Jesus. He invited other friends like himself to meet Jesus and listen to him teach. Some people found fault with Jesus for sharing a meal with those whom they considered sinners. However, Jesus had a ready answer. "They who are well do not need a doctor; the sick do. I have not come to call the just, but sinners to repentance."

When Jesus went back to heaven, St. Matthew stayed in Palestine. He remained there for some time to preach about the Lord. We are familiar with the Gospel of Matthew, which is the story of Jesus and what he taught. St. Matthew presents Jesus to his own people. The Lord is the Messiah whom the prophets had said would come to save us.



After preaching the Gospel to many people, St. Matthew ended his life as a glorious martyr for the faith.

Represented by: winged man, an angel holding a pen, man holding a money bag

Character Trait: Citizenship

Virtue: Love

Family Activity:

Talk with your family – Do we ever make assumptions about other people without knowing all the facts? When we start to label people as "bad" or as "sinners," it's time for us to say a prayer to St. Matthew. We can ask him to help us avoid labels. We don't want to imitate the wrong things people might do, but we shouldn't look down on them either. We just say no to sin and we leave the judgment of people up to God.

Prayer:

O Glorious Saint Matthew, in your Gospel you portray Jesus as the longed-for Messiah who fulfilled the Prophets of the Old Covenant and as the new Lawgiver who founded a Church of the New Covenant. Obtain for us the grace to see Jesus living in his Church and to follow his teachings in our lives on earth so that we may live forever with him in heaven. Amen.

Achievement Testing

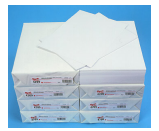
Beginning Monday, September 29, students in grades 2-8 will be taking standardized achievement tests. Please be aware that these tests must start on time and your child's attendance is required. Late students will not be allowed to interrupt testing once the class has started. Students should have a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast to sustain their attention during this process. Testing will be every day in the morning until Friday, October 2.



Donations/Recycling

Copy paper needed. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

Please recycle your ink and toner cartridges with us. The paper recycling is going so well, we're hoping we qualified for the \$1,000 bonus. Thank you for supporting our school!



Saint of the Month

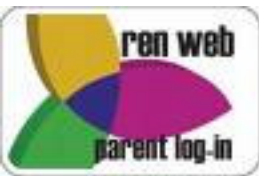
This year we will be working on learning more about saints. Each month we will feature a certain saint and his or her feast day, virtues, prayers and family activities to do at home. The saint will be featured in the newsletter and also in the classrooms.

This month's saint is St. Matthew. His fact sheet can be found on the previous page.

At the end of September we will choose a student from the K-8 homeroom classes to be recognized as the "Saint of the Month".

Parent Handbook

The parent handbook is on our school website and on RenWeb. Please read the handbook and sign the parent/student agreement with each child. Then return the signed agreement to your children's homeroom teacher. If you are not able to access the internet, please request a handbook from the office and we will give you a printed copy.



RenWeb

We have been working to set up RenWeb for months and everyone should now be able to access their family information through this

system. You can access your tuition account to review payments, check your child's attendance and grades. Homework is listed under "Classrooms" There's also a school calendar and useful downloads, such as the school handbook.

As of this week every family should now be on the system. If you are having trouble accessing RenWeb or receiving emails, please let us know. As new features are added, we'll let you know.



Progress Reports

Progress Reports and report cards will be available through RenWeb. During the month of September, students in grades 2-8 will be receiving progress reports though email. It is very important that your email is working and accurate. Families that do not have email, please let the office know you need a paper copy. Grade 1 will use the traditional form since they do not use a number average, but a letter grading system. Parents, if you do not get a progress report on the calendar date, please let us know!

Open House

Be sure to join us for the PTO Meeting and Open House on Thursday, September 11 at 6:30. Find out what's going on at school, how to get involved and visit your children's classrooms to see what they've been learning. We hope to see you there!



Volunteer Hours

Just a reminder that every family must complete 25 hours of volunteering throughout the school year. Remember, all hours must be logged in the volunteer book under your family name at the front office. Any families that do not complete 25 hours will be assessed a \$500 fee at the end of the year.

Arrival and Dismissal

All students are to be dropped off in the mornings in the back of the school. Please proceed through the carpool line and follow the directions of the teacher on duty. No students may be dropped off in the front of the school.

In an effort to protect our students from danger, rain, heat and cold, we will continue using the indoor dismissal system this year. Students in PK—2nd grade may be picked up in their classrooms. Students in grades 3rd—8th will be seated in the gym. Parents must pick up their child from the teacher. Please remember this is not a time for conferencing with your child's teacher. If you are unable to get your child from school, you must call or send a note with the name of the person allowed to take your child or the child will be sent to After School Care.

Once students have been picked up they must remain with their parents. If students are in the school without supervision, they will be placed in After School Care for their safety.



**GOOD
SHEPHERD
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL**

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▶ **Get inspired!
Get involved!**

goodshepherdcatholicsschool.org

Safe Environment Training is required
for parents to be in the school or
around children by the Diocese of Dallas

Tuesday, September 2 7:00 pm

Internet Safety

(only for families who have taken "Family of Faith" training)

Friday, September 5 1:30 pm

Family of Faith

(new and returning families)

Tuesday, September 9 7:00 pm

Family of Faith

(new and returning families)

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day No School	2 Volunteer Retraining 7pm	3	4 Band Meeting for Parents 7pm in Room 502	5 1st Friday Mass Volunteer Training 1:30 pm Cafeteria	6
7	8 Advisory Council 7:00 pm	9 Blue Jean Tuesday Volunteer Training 7pm	10	11 PTO/Open House 6:30 pm	12 School Mass 5th-8th Progress Reports	13
14	15 Eligibility begins	16	17	18	19 School Mass 1st-4th Progress Reports Middle School Birthday Lunch	20
21	22 8th Grade to the Pines	23 8th Grade at the Pines	24 School Mass 8:00 8th Grade back from the Pines	25 Spirit Day	26 State Fair Day No School	27
28	29 Achievement Tests Grades 2-8	30 Achievement Tests Grades 2-8	1 Achievement Tests Grades 2-8	2 Achievement Tests Grades 2-8	3 Achievement Tests Grades 2-8	
			October	→ →	→ →	