



Pre-School through Eighth Grade

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September 2, 2009

Dear Parents,

Today's unprecedented economic challenges have impacted many in our community, and St. Martin families are no exception.

As you know, we have chosen to limit our tuition increase to only 2.5%, despite the financial deficit the school continues to face. It is our fervent hope that we can keep our tuition as manageable as possible to allow St. Martin children and families to continue receiving the exceptional education provided at our school.

This year we will face a serious deficit in collected funds. We are pleased to offer financial aid to 29% of our families, secure in the knowledge that as circumstances improve, our generosity will be returned ten-fold. However, we still have to pay bills.

In order to bridge the gap between tuition due and the actual amount collected, PTG, SAC, and Development have created two programs that will help us meet our financial obligations while providing opportunities to build the sense of community and family that make St. Martin a special place.

Family Fundraising Program

The goal for the Family Fundraising Program is for each family to raise \$860.00 in profits for the school through a variety of fundraising opportunities. Families may also choose to make a tax-deductible donation in that amount rather than participate in the fundraisers. (You can also arrange to make payments toward the \$860 contribution.)

When each family produces \$860 in fundraising profits, we will have collected **\$129,000.00**. We hope to recover any deficit through the auction, the annual appeal, and other generous gifts.

Volunteer Service Hours

The other important program for our families to embrace is the Volunteer Service Hours program. Each two-parent family is expected to volunteer thirty hours this year. Single parent families will volunteer fifteen hours. We have created multiple opportunities to help out at special events, regular school functions, and in the classroom. We cannot possibly succeed without the dedicated time, talent, and treasure provided by our families.

PTG and SAC will discuss both these programs in more detail at the Back to School Night assembly on Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the school hall. Aurea DeFranco, our development director, will also discuss steps we're taking to recruit and retain students.

I am so proud to be a part of the wonderful St. Martin family. I look forward to a busy, productive year as we build and strengthen our community.

God bless you all.

Sharon Lydon
Principal