

## Kim's Korner

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Agnes Catholic School,

It is hard to believe we that next Wednesday is the last day of school. This year has gone by so quickly. I am sure you and your family are making many summer plans. Because many of your children are involved in numerous activities over the summer, your pace may not slow as much as you would like. Not having homework is a part of the routine that students, and often time their parents, look forward to for the next three months.

However, I will say, that as an educator I highly recommend that your child continues to do something academic over the summer months. What that looks like depends on the needs of your child. Some children need the structure of summer school or one on one tutoring. Others of you may enroll your child in a summer enrichment program. The libraries usually have a lot of fun activities for your child. I also want to encourage you to enroll your child in the St. Agnes vacation bible school. It is going to be wonderful. My parents always sent us to VBS. It is a part of my childhood that I still treasure today.

Research shows that children can loose anywhere from one to three months of information over the summer. Children who do not engage in any academic and enrichment activities spend the first two months of school relearning material from the previous year.

The past several years we have had our students in the incoming 2nd-8th grades complete a summer reading packet, and our incoming 1st graders have been giving a packet with site words and other materials that will prepare them for the next school year. Last September, a survey was sent home to you asking for your input on our summer reading program. Thank you to everyone who completed and returned the survey. It was so helpful to us. We have taken those suggestions and made some adjustments. The goal is for the summer reading packets to serve as an enrichment for our students and not a burden to parents.

Most parents like having something that their child is required to do over the summer. However, many were concerned with the amount of work that was assigned for our upper grades. We have made those adjustments to make it more pleasurable for both parents and students. The packet for 6th-8th graders also includes examples, links to websites, and book lists. Mr. Agnew has even allowed students to check out some of his personal books.

Each child in grades K-7 will be given a summer packet. Please make sure to check with your child so that you know what they need to turn into their teacher on the first day of school. I also know that your child will come home with a mountain of papers next week, and often the book bag sits in the corner until you can get to it on a much later date. We will post all the summer packets on the school website so that you can easily get to them. It is important to mention that these summer packets are required and students receive a grade for the work completed.

If you would like some more academic activities for your child over the summer months, please e-mail your child's teacher, Ms. Mosher, or Mrs. Gustafson. They have materials that can be sent home with your child.

There are many other things you can do with your child that are not paper and pencil work, yet will still help them to maintain the skills the have gained this year. Of course reading to and with your child is important. Yes, even older children still love having a book read to them. You are modeling good reading when you do this and it is a great way to bond with your child.

Make math part of every day life. Let your child cook with you. When you go shopping have them figure out how much change they will receive after they purchase a particular item. If you go on a trip, even a day trip, talk about what they see as you drive. Play the alphabet game with billboards or the license plate state game.

Playing board games, card games, and working puzzles are also great ways to spend family time, as well as enrich your child in a fun way. There are also tons of academic websites that children love. They make learning fun and they are safe sites for your child to visit.

I also truly believe that summer should be a time for children to sleep in, run outside without their shoes, play baseball, go swimming, have picnics, lay in the grass, catch fireflies, ride bikes, visit family, play with their friends, eat ice cream, and of course continue to pray and attend Mass. I hope to do some of these things myself.

Summer is a gift from God. The warm days and bright sunshine gives students, parents, and teachers a chance to recharge and rejuvenate before school begins again in late August. I hope we will all take advantage of this time to do just that!

May God bless all of us as we enter into the season of summer. And may He keep all of our children safe and happy!  
God bless!

### Dates To Remember

- May 25 Spirit Day  
2 p.m. Assembly
- May 26 Last Day of School  
8:15 School Mass  
11 a.m. Dismissal
- May 27 Teacher Checkout  
Day!
- May 28 School office open  
8:30 a.m.-2:30 pm

## A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...  
The pace of life  
slows...

Lord, help me to rest  
a while in the  
cooling shade of  
Your presence.

Slow down my rest-  
less heart and fill me  
with gentle  
compassion for all  
your people.

Amen.