



# Principal News

August 15, 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2007 – 2008 school year. It has been an exciting summer as we have watched the Snoqualmie expansion project come to fruition! The addition of four new classrooms is the result of the enormous generosity that is a hallmark of St. Joseph Parish and School. A special thanks goes to our Project Manager, Martie Bohn-Himes. Her business expertise, professionalism and commitment has ensured that the construction process has proceeded according to expectations. A further thanks goes to School Commission members Jennifer Ballsmith and Jeff Kelley for their significant contributions in the areas of accounting/finance, planning and engineering. Lastly, we are very grateful for the dedication of the crews from LZL Construction and Pacific Mobile. Their commitment to meeting deadlines for the opening of school has been extraordinary. If you have not had the opportunity to visit our school website, please do. A pictorial is available of the project from start to present. We look forward to welcoming you to our expanded Snoqualmie Campus!

**Please review the following information carefully as it contains important dates, times, staffing and announcements regarding the new school year.**

## **First Day of School – September 4, 2007** (See below for possible construction delay schedule)

Due to challenges encountered with the City of Snoqualmie during the permitting process, full permit was not received until July 16<sup>th</sup>. The result has been a significantly condensed timeline in which to meet the opening school date. Presently, we are on track to begin classes for grades 4 – 8 in Snoqualmie on September 4<sup>th</sup>, however, the new classrooms will not be ready for a few more weeks. Classes for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will begin in temporary classrooms in the main building and relocated to the new classrooms within about 3 weeks.

**Present timelines do not anticipate a delay in the start of school;** *however, a slim possibility exists that the construction in the main building may not be completed for the September 4<sup>th</sup> start date. A special School Commission meeting was held on August 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss options if this delay occurs. It was the consensus of the School Commission to delay the opening of school until September 10<sup>th</sup>, if necessary, to have classrooms in the main building completed. A longer delay will activate classroom contingency plans in place with Mary, Queen of Peace (on the Sammamish Plateau). As a practicality these plans are in place, but we do not expect to utilize this option.*

Crews have been working 12 hour days and weekends to make every effort to have the main building ready for occupancy on September 4<sup>th</sup>. However, I am encouraging parents of K – 8 students to **have a back-up plan** for childcare in case a delayed start occurs. September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> are full days, September 7<sup>th</sup> a half day.

**The decision regarding a delayed start will be available on TCBD.**

## **“Taking Care of Business Day” (TCBD) – August 29, 3pm (Issaquah Campus)**

The new school year will start with Taking Care of Business Day (TCB Day) on **Wednesday, August 29**, from **3-8 pm**. Plan to come to the Parish Hall on the Issaquah campus between 3 pm and 8 pm on this day to take care of all your back to school business.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Update forms you have already submitted, such as **Student Information Form** and **Immunization Form** (if you need a new immunization form a link is available on the school website).
- Complete or collect new forms, such as:

**Authorization for Administration of Oral Medication at School** This form **MUST** be completed by you and your student's physician if your student requires any medication during the school day, even over-the-counter medications. Medications can be dropped off at TCBD if they are accompanied by a completed, physician-signed form. (Available on the website.)

### **Extended Day Information, Registration, and September Commitment Calendar**

#### **Bus Transportation Information**

**Parents' Club Event Check Worksheet** The Parents' Club requires you to pre-pay for Parents' Club expenses including: class auction project, yearbook, and Field Day. (On the website)

**Volunteer Time Sheet** Please use this form to keep track of any volunteer hours you complete. (On the website.)

**Volunteer Background Check Authorization** This form is required every two years if you will be working with children at any time during the year. (On the website.)

You may complete some of these forms before you arrive by downloading them from our website, complete them on the spot, or take them with you and return by the first day of school. **Please note: if you need blank copies of these forms before TCB Day, follow the link to Forms on our website ([www.sjsissaquah.org](http://www.sjsissaquah.org)) to download.**

- Class assignments will be posted.
- Purchase/sell used uniforms. If you plan to sell items, please arrive by 2:30 pm. You must supervise your own items.
- St. Joseph School spirit items will be on hand for purchase. A form to order additional spirit items will be available.
- Parents' Club will be available to answer questions and take your Parents' Club Event Check. (Available on the website.)
- You will be able to sign up for a variety of school and parish activities and volunteer opportunities.
- Pre-ordered school supply packs will be delivered to your student's classroom for the first day of school.

### **Mandatory Volunteer Orientation:**

You may not volunteer in any capacity that involves students without attending a Volunteer Orientation. Dates are: Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm or Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in Issaquah. Sign-up for the session you plan to attend at TCBD. For questions, please contact Teri in the Issaquah office, 425-313-9129 ext. 321.

### **First Day of School**

The first day of school for Grades 1-8 is **Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>** with a regular school schedule (please above regarding possible construction delay schedule):

<b>Snoqualmie Campus</b>		<b>Issaquah Campus</b>	
<b>8:20 am</b>	<b>Students may enter building</b>	<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Students may enter classroom</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>School begins</b>	<b>8:55 am</b>	<b>School begins</b>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Snoqualmie dismissal</b>	<b>3:20 pm</b>	<b>Issaquah dismissal</b>

Please be punctual for the beginning and ending of school each day. During carpool, remember to exercise caution, good grace, and patience (and a sense of humor). Keep the safety of our children in mind and don't rush!

Please join fellow parents in a **coffee hour** on the first day of school at the Issaquah campus in the downstairs Social Hall. Drop the kids off and come in for a visit!

## **Kindergarten Open House & First Day**

Kindergarten will have an Open House on **Tuesday, September 4, 11 am - 1 pm**. The Open House is an opportunity to stop by and meet the kindergarten teacher in the classroom. Your child can meet the teacher, sit in his desk, and drop off school supplies. Free dress.

**Morning Kindergarten:** Please drop-by your classroom anytime from 11 am to 12 noon.

**Afternoon Kindergarten:** Please drop-by your classroom anytime from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Kindergarten First Day of School is **Wednesday, September 6:**

**8:45 am** AM K and KE may enter classroom  
**8:55 am** AM K begins  
**11:45 am** PM K arrival  
**12:30 pm** AM K dismissal  
**3:20 pm** PM K dismissal

## **LARS Program**

The LARS Program is a new program that will be offered this year beginning in September. The LARS Program is supplemental reading and writing instruction for students needing additional support in these subject areas. The students will meet in small groups for 3-5 students during the school day. The support is given 2 or 3 times per week for 30 minutes. The students are not taken out of class during basic skill instruction. There is an additional fee for the program. If you feel that your child would benefit from the program and have not signed up, please contact Jackie Olund in the school office.

Teresa Waldo, our first grade teacher, will be teaching the LARS Program 4 half days each week. Mrs. Waldo has a degree in Special Education and many years of experience working with children who have specific learning needs. She will continue to teach reading and writing to the first graders 6 half days each week.

## **Faculty and Staff**

The new school year brings the return of our wonderful St. Joseph School staff as well as the opportunity to welcome new members to our community! The following lists new and returning staff as well as campus related changes. Please see information regarding new staff following this list.

### **Primary and Intermediate Grade Faculty**

**Kindergarten:** Helena Baldasty – am and pm classes

**Kindergarten Enrichment:** Michel Frerker

**First Grade:** Mrs. Melissa Myers  
Mrs. Teresa Waldo and  
Mrs. Sheila Ober

**Second Grade:** Ms. Molly Druffel  
Mrs. Peggy Fursman

**Third Grade:** Mrs. Jeanne Metzger  
Mrs. Jan Catlin

**Fourth Grade:** Mrs. Carol El Koury  
Mrs. Katie Niemer

**Fifth Grade:** Mr. Raleigh Wilson  
Miss Mandy Yocum

### **Middle School Homeroom and Specialist Faculty**

**Sixth Grade:** Mrs. Judy Lash

**Seventh Grade:** Mrs. Jana White and  
Mrs. Lynn Kittridge

**Eighth Grade:** Miss Patricia Waltner

**Math:** Mrs. Debi Totten  
Mrs. Carmen Sanchez

**Religion (7):** Mrs. Mary Gangl

### **Specialists**

**Art:** Mrs. “Skip”

**Band:** Mrs. MacDuffie

**Choir:** Mrs. Gangl

**Drama:** Mrs. White

**Technology:** Mrs. Winterstein

### Administrative Team

**Principal (Both Campuses):** Mrs. Peg Johnston  
**Vice-Principal (Both Campuses):** Mrs. Jackie Olund  
**School Office (Iss.):** Mrs. Teri Negrin  
**School Office (Sno.):** Mrs. Christine Vollen  
**Business Manager (Sno.):** Mrs. Carol Willard  
**Development & Activities Coordinator  
(Both Campuses):** Mrs. Ann Shikany  
**Technology/Office Support (Both Campuses):**  
Mrs. Michelle Winterstein

### Instructional Assistants

Mrs. Kim Boys - Issaquah  
Mrs. Monica Eddy - Issaquah  
Mrs. Barbara Merchant - Issaquah  
Mrs. Melody Scherting - Issaquah  
Mrs. Michelle Steinberg - Snoqualmie

### Extended Care

Mrs. Lisa Scott  
Mrs. Barbara Merchant  
Mrs. Monica Eddy

## Welcome Our New Staff

Please join me in welcoming new members to our wonderful St. Joseph School Staff.

### **Mrs. Ann Shikany - Development Coordinator – New Position**

Ann Shikany is the St. Joseph School Development Coordinator which is a new position for our school. She will create a framework for an in-house Development Office. Ann is working with the guidance of our previous Development Consultants. She had a BS in Financial Advising and Planning with a minor in Management from Purdue University. She has worked as a financial specialist, a financial counselor and supervisor for several years. Ann is a member of St. Joseph Parish and is a school parent. She was our well loved Preschool 3's teacher for many years. Last year Ann served as the Activities Coordinator for the school.

### **Mrs. Sheila Ober – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

Sheila will be job sharing 1<sup>st</sup> grade with Teresa Waldo four half-days per week this year. Her focus will be on Math, Religion, Social Studies and Science. Teresa will teach reading and writing to their 1st grade class. Sheila was raised in the Seattle area and attended Seattle Prep and Seattle University. She has a BA in Education with an emphasis on Special Education. Sheila has been a regular face around St. Joseph School over the past few years as a parishioner, parent and substitute teacher. She has worked extensively in our first grade classes.

### **Mrs. Peggy Fursman – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Peggy lives with her family in Snoqualmie and is a member of our Lady of Sorrows Parish. She is a graduate of St. Louise, Holy Names, Seattle University and Heritage University. She has experience teaching all elementary grades as a substitute teacher in the local school districts. Peggy looks forward to dedicating herself to making each day a positive learning experience for each student.

### **Mrs. Judy Lash – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Judy Lash will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Judy lives in Sammamish with her husband and daughter. They are members of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. Judy was born and raised in eastern Washington and is a graduate of Central Washington University. She later became an adjunct professor at Central Washington. She has worked on several academic projects including Project Read which focused on teaching educators how to effectively improve reading skills in the classroom. Judy has been in education for 30 plus years with experience spanning 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades, as well as undergraduate college classes. She is looking forward to being part of a smaller, more personal school community.

### **Mrs. Michel Frerker – Kindergarten Enrichment**

Michel Frerker is our new Kindergarten Enrichment teacher. She lives in Sammamish and is a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish. Michel has a BS in Education with an emphasis in early childhood and reading. She has many years of experience teaching the primary grades and preschool.

## **Uniforms**

School uniforms are an important part of the Catholic school tradition for a variety of reasons. Enclosed is a copy of our school uniform policy. We are asking for parent support in seeing that your student follows the uniform policy. This year there are two changes to our policy. The changes are: Uniform shorts may be worn all year; and socks must reach above the ankle. Some of the problem areas that need to be emphasized with students include: inappropriate pants with outside pockets or top stitching, non-uniform sweatshirts, shoes that do not meet the uniform policy and socks below the ankle or not uniform colors. We have seen a wide variety of clothing articles worn in these categories that are not on the uniform list. Please read the policy carefully and watch that the policies are followed. We appreciate it!

Our summer break is coming to a close and it has enable staff, students and parents to reenergize for a new school year. I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year to provide a productive and safe learning environment that supports strong student success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peg Johnston".

Peg Johnston  
Principal