Hi PCS Families:

**P/T Fall Conferences**
Parent Teacher Conferences are set for Tuesday, October 26 starting 3:30 to 8:30 in 15-minute increments. Attached to this newsletter you will find your scheduled time. If this does not work out for you, please contact the teacher directly to reschedule.

**Scratch Cupcakes Fundraiser**
We have some exciting news to share! We started selling Scratch Cupcakes! If you have never tried these before, then you do not want to miss out! If you have had them and love them, then don't forget to get that order in!

Sales started Monday, October 4th and go until Friday, October 22nd. Delivery will be Thursday, November 11th, which makes these the perfect stress-free Thanksgiving dessert!
To order, you will have to contact a PCS student or staff member.
Orders cannot be made online. This is a link to view the menu only! You must contact someone selling to place an order!

https://www.scratchcupcakery.com/fundraising-delivering-smiles?fbclid=IwAR3QzOHyk21uiHH6hOuQiVgRl-UlgcyXfcLkHj95ubZDay8Ejhezn2tfvs4
School Pictures
Student pictures will be taken Monday, October 25th. Picture Day Flyers will come home today. Parents may order their child’s picture package with one of the two following methods:
1. You may order your picture package online prior to picture day by going to mylifetouch.com, enter our picture day ID: EVTHP87GD and follow the prompts or
2. Return the completed Picture Day Flyer with your cash or check, made out to LifeTouch.
After your pictures have arrived and if you are not happy with them, retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th. You will need to return your picture package. All students will be photographed for the class composite.

Library:
Book Fair is coming! Sale dates are Oct 18th through the 29th. Flyers will be coming home today with more information. eWallet will be an option again this year, so that you don't have to send cash to school with your students. Proceeds help purchase books for the library. The Book Fair will be open during our Fall Parent Teacher Conferences. This is a great way to start your Christmas shopping! If you do purchase items for Christmas gifts, we will be happy to hold them in the office until you are able to come and pick them up.

Grandparents and extended family members may receive our newsletter
Family members wanting to receive the PCS monthly newsletter may do so by one of the following:
1. Contact Wanda, wandarittgers@pokycatholic.org with your email address and you will receive a digital copy.
2. Pick up a paper copy attached to the Resurrection Parish Church bulletin.
3. Call Wanda at the school office, 712-335-3603, to get your name on a mailing list.

Parent Notification via JMC:
We have a new parent notification system. Parents will be notified through JMC, via a text message. The text will be identified as a Pocahontas Catholic CSD message. You must tap on the blue link to open the message. This notification system will be used to send out reminders, weather closings, and any unexpected schedule changes.

PCS Clothing Order Form
Included with today’s newsletter you will find a PCS Clothing order form. Items available are long sleeve tee shirts, 1/4 zip shirts, sweatshirts, polos, sweatpants, and fleece blankets. Please make your checks out to Pocahontas Catholic School. Orders are due by October 22nd. These items will make great Christmas gifts!

Tobacco Prevention Program
Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be attending a “Tobacco Prevention Program” presented by Pocahontas Community Hospital on Friday, October 22nd, here at Pocahontas Catholic School.

Kindergarten September News:
In Kindergarten we have been “falling” in love with books! Some authors we have been reading are Mo Willems and Tedd Arnold. Concepts of Print have been a focus of ours while enjoying these authors. The spine, front cover, back cover, title page, and how to read from left to right are all print concepts. In math we are working hard on writing and reading our numbers to 10. Every day during our calendar time we use tally marks, write our numbers, graph our numbers, figure out our calendar pattern, create a ten frame for our numbers, and exercise as we practice counting to 100! We are also busy learning how to be a good friend and how to listen to Jesus’ message in our hearts.
1st Grade News
The first graders are off to a great start this year! Some highlights include:
Mass - I am very proud of their reverent behavior at Mass. Thank you so much for encouraging your child to continue to listen carefully and participate.
Really Great Reading - The students are catching on quickly to the hand motions for vowel sounds and love building words with the letter tiles.
Math Minutes have been a big hit! While the students may not know all of the concepts, it is a great way to expose them to a variety of concepts. We have also been practicing addition concepts using pictures and manipulatives.
Mystery Doug is teaching us about sound waves.
We are wrapping up our FAST testing. The students are working hard to show me what they know.
We have also learned about friendship, apples and squirrels.

2nd Grade News
We have been working hard to begin our school year in 2nd grade. We have been reviewing our place value concepts with numbers in the hundreds. We have also been doing a variety of activities with Johnny Appleseed. We are currently preparing to read a play to our Kindergarten and First grade friends. We are also having fun in our new phonics program as we have learned to finger stretch words as well as match sounds with letters and combinations of letters. We also build our writing skills as we learn more about ecosystems in Science. We are off to a great start in 2nd grade and can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds.

3rd Grade News
September really flew by with all we did and learned! On the 17th, the third graders led their first Mass of the year. They were so excited to get many compliments on how well they read, and how beautifully they sang! We can’t wait to do it again on October 15th!
In math we started out the year by learning how to round and reviewing addition and subtraction. We have now moved on to learning the BIG thing in third grade: multiplication!
We are also wrapping up our first novel study: “Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great” by Judy Blume. This book really helps us focus on learning character traits. We have also been working on answering questions about each chapter. Third grade is the year where students switch from learning to read to reading to learn, so that is a very important skill!
The third grade students are also excited about their pen pals from Homer, Nebraska! They have received a letter and written a letter back. They are eagerly awaiting their pen pals’ responses! We also wrote another letter to help us kick off our Flat Stanley projects. They have been put in the mail and are ready to become world travelers! We can’t wait to see what we get back!

4th Grade News
We are off to a great start in grade 4. We have been learning how to type with the Typing Tutor program. We just completed our first math booklet which included work on rounding, addition and subtraction of numbers into the hundred thousands place, work on standard form, expanded form, and word form for numbers and comparing and ordering numbers. Our daily grammar includes using correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, parts of speech, and sentence structure. Our lessons in reading have focused on vocabulary, story reading, prefixes, suffixes, making inferences, and writing assignments. The new Really Great Reading program has helped us work on the foundational skills that lead to being strong decoders and fluent accurate readers. We look forward to what is yet to come!
5th Grade News
5th grade has been busy this first month of school, working in our new phonics series, *Really Great Reading*. We are enjoying our classroom book, reviewing information in math, creating slideshows to share with the rest of the class, and using the scientific process to work through some engineering problems in science. We are off to a great start and are very eager learners! We've enjoyed being the oldest group in the school, getting to help with the younger students, especially Kindergarten at Friday masses, and being leaders.

Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 5th Religion Classes
We start and end each class with prayer. We have learned several kinds of prayer...memorized, spontaneous, and silent to name a few.
Kindergarteners are learning the Sign of the Cross, the 5 Finger Prayer, and the Glory Be. They have learned a lot about the Creation Story and had many opportunities to think about all the different things God has made. We learned a couple songs about creation and animals.
First Grade has reviewed what they know about creation and how we care for God's creation. I am so impressed with their concern for our planet! They like Bible stories and singing, especially the songs for Mass each Friday.
Second Grade has focused on our response to God's gifts, including care for the planet and for each other. We are beginning to learn about parts of the Mass. Vocabulary words like doxology and tabernacle have us thinking hard.
Fifth Grade has learned about the structure of the Bible, especially connections between the Old and New Testaments and how parts of the Mass reflect the Bible. They have learned about a few saints and will soon be doing a research project about a saint that they will present to the class.
As usual, Mass every Friday is an opportunity to receive the Holy Eucharist or a blessing. The class that is providing the ministries for the week works hard to learn the songs and proclaim God’s word.

3rd and 4th Grade Religion
The children are exploring their new Religion books and participating in lessons. Each class begins with a student lead prayer. Third graders have learned about the beauty and gifts of God’s creation. They wrote about where they see beauty in nature and drew pictures which were hung up in our building for all to see. Third graders are also learning to pray the Apostles’ Creed. Fourth graders learned about Saint Teresa of Avila and her belief in the power of prayer. Each fourth grader wrote their own short prayer of praise or thanksgiving to God. Their prayers were posted in our building for others to read. They also learned that all of creation is a gift from God and how we are called to care for all that God created. The fourth graders colored fall pictures and wrote messages to our friends who live at the Pocahontas Manor. We wanted to remind them that we continue to think of them and pray for them. Both classes have been Friday Mass leaders as well this past month. The year is off to a great start.

I've had the opportunity to meet many of the PCS parents and look forward to meeting more at our Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide part of your children’s spiritual and academic needs.

Blessings,

Mrs. Edge