

# From the PTO

Dear Fellow Parents-

We chose Blessed Sacrament School to educate our children because we all share a commitment to Catholic education. We have a strong belief in this school's mission and value the education received here as a stepping-stone to our children's' futures. Because of this, we are always striving for excellence in what is best for our children through prayer, involvement and giving.

Our fundraising survey during the 2009-2010 school year was very successful. Your overwhelming participation enabled the PTO to begin to make improvements in our approach to fundraising. Your survey questions and comments were reviewed and have been answered here in "Frequently Asked Questions".

We are excited to initiate the Annual Fund for the 2010-2011 school year. Both the Annual Fund and Auction will generate revenue that will help the PTO honor its commitment to the BSS operating budget, as well as provide teacher professional development, upgraded supplies, tuition assistance and facility improvement. The Annual Fund revenues will provide the extra margin of excellence not afforded by tuition alone.

Next week you will receive the Annual Fund information and intention card in the mail. Please prayerfully consider what your family will be able to contribute. Every contribution is important; every gift will directly benefit our students.

We thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to "create an educated community to serve Christ and one another."

The Blessed Sacrament PTO

# Frequently Asked Questions

**WHY DID YOU START THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE?** Raising money for the PTO requires many volunteer hours from our families. In previous years the PTO only received a small percentage of the monies earned by the selling of gift wrapping paper and raffle tickets. Additionally it received only the net balance from the Fall Festival and Spring Auction once all expenses were paid. Because Blessed Sacrament is a small school, there are fewer volunteers and very often, the same people do several jobs. Decreasing the number of **PTO fund-raising volunteer hours** by eliminating the Fall Festival, Innisbrook Wrapping Paper and the Car Raffle, enables parents to spend vital **non-fundraising volunteer hours** dedicated to events that are more likely to interest them.

**WHY \$350.00?** Annual Fund contributions of all sizes demonstrate community support for BSS's mission and values. In the past, based on PTO research, many families at our school voluntarily spent, on average, \$350.00 on fundraisers. Rather than being approached multiple times during the school year, parents would be approached twice; once for the Annual Fund Drive and once for the Spring Auction. Everyone's financial circumstances are different. Only you and your family can decide what your contribution will be. Some families may give more but your financial situation should be the basis of your decision. The drive will enable families to choose a "payment plan", stretching your giving throughout the year. This is **NOT** a **mandatory** donation amount. There is **no consequence** for those who cannot contribute. The \$350.00 is a **suggested** donation. We do, however, hope that all families will make some donation resulting in 100% participation in our annual fund.

**WHY NOT JUST RAISE TUITION?** If Catholic Schools relied solely on tuition income, they would price themselves well beyond the means of most families. Tuition covers only a portion of the total cost of educating a student. We rely on the support of the PTO fundraising as well as a *generous* parish subsidy. A tuition increase would force everyone to pay more, resulting in a loss of families no longer able to afford it. BSS needs the enrollment to remain stable in order for the school to continue to flourish. Our mission is to make a Catholic education accessible to all families who desire it. **Tuition is not tax deductible. Charitable donations are 100% tax deductible.**

## **DOES THIS MEAN I AM "BUYING OUT" OF MY PTO VOLUNTEER OBLIGATION?**

There will no longer be a "buy out" option. Volunteering provides parents with hands-on involvement in their child's school. The *Working Together Volunteer Agreement* on the school's website provides you with many volunteer choices. Your teacher or room parent will also be asking for additional volunteer help during the school year. Volunteering allows us to be ambassadors for our school. It is **suggested** that all families donate 15 hours (8 for single parents) per year, but no penalty will be assessed for not meeting this obligation.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO NOT MEET OUR PLEDGE GOAL?** Our pledge goal is **100% participation**. If the pledge goal is missed by a significant margin it will be an indication that individual fundraising is the preferred method and the PTO will then re-evaluate and possibly reinstate the individual fundraisers.