

## Parent to Parent: The Child Who Waits

When my youngest daughter, Mary, was in the second grade, her teacher invited moms to school for a 30-minute mother-daughter tea in May. This was to be their Mother's Day celebration and it was timed during the lunch hour to help working moms make the event. Since I worked in the high school across the street, I was certain I would be able to get away on that day. I completed the form, reserving my spot. On the day of the tea, I got lost in my work. By the time I surfaced for lunch, I realized the tea had started twenty minutes ago...I was beyond late for my 8-year-old's mother/daughter event. By the time I checked out of my office and *ran* across the street, there were only five minutes left, and I was distraught, imagining my daughter watching the clock and sipping tea alone.

I'm not proud of that moment. It is my biggest working-mother foul, and it remains a story that still brings regret to my heart. My daughter was indeed sad, and felt dejected; the look on her face said it all. Although her teacher was sweet enough to give us time together, the moment for my daughter was lost. This memory surfaces every time we have some sort of event that invites parents to campus during the work day. Given my mistake, I am completely sympathetic to parents' challenges. Remembering the look on my child's face, I also completely relate to our students, waiting for their guest to arrive.

Each year, during the Bring A Guest To Lunch days, there is always someone without a guest. And frequently, there are children waiting 5 or 10 minutes for a guest who registered for the event. The children, like my Mary, are really worried or at least feel really awkward (like they're being "stood up") when a guest is late. More importantly, the children were promised a lunch, and the clock is ticking! *PLEASE* make sure your child's guest is not late on that given day, and if at all possible, we'd love every child to have a guest bring lunch...it doesn't *have* to be you, but a guest is a good thing!



## THIS Sunday! Noon-2 p.m. Remember...

- Our annual tuition raffle will occur at Open House. One current family and one new family will win a tuition grant; all entries are submitted at Open House.
- We accept registrations during Open House. Mrs. Ell is in the office that day!
- We hope new families will be in attendance. Please give us your best "host" or "hostess" imitation...introduce yourself, offer to answer questions, say you look forward to seeing them next year at St. B!
- Most of all, we need you to invite a family to visit our Open House. Think about the child you'd like in your child's class, or the friend you'd like to have as a school parent. **Invite them, please.** Word of mouth is the best tool we have!

## New Tuition Grant Opportunity – Deadline approaching

The [Catholic Education Foundation](#) is awarding need-based grants to qualifying families, *regardless* of parish affiliation. To qualify for consideration, families must **complete the Facts Grant and Aid Assessment by January 31, 2017**. [This link will take you to the assessment](#). You must also upload financial documents. Check our webpage for more help.

### ON THE HORIZON:



**Technology Club begins February 3!** Mr. Hoffmann is looking for parents or grandparents who like to work with wood to build some marble maze structures for technology club. Plans will be provided, and reimbursement for materials can be arranged. Please contact him at [dhoffmann@stbernadetteamelia.org](mailto:dhoffmann@stbernadetteamelia.org). Permission forms will be emailed next week. Students in grades 3-8 are eligible.



**Mother-Daughter Brunch February 19.** This yummy and crafty event is an annual favorite. Please see the [FLYER](#) for all details. Reservations in advance (by Feb. 14) are required.

### Coming Up...

- **Monday, January 23:** Spirit Week: PJ Day \$1
- **Tuesday, January 24:** Spirit Week: Mathletes and Athletes \$1.
- **Wednesday, January 25:** Spirit Week: Class T-shirts & accessories (uniform bottoms)\$1. Mass at 8:15 K-3
- **Thursday, January 26:** Spirit Week: Wacky Tacky Thursday \$1.
- **Friday, January 27:** Princesses and Superheroes \$1 Last day for Painting Club.
- **Sunday, January 29-Saturday, February 4:** Catholic Schools Week! Packets went home, flyers are also [HERE](#).

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne S. Ingram".

### SUMMER CAMP ALERT

[Classroom Antics Tech Camps](#) are taking registrations. See their flyer for all the particulars!