

~~~~~  
July 1, 2010

Dear Parents of St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School :

This is a very difficult letter to write.

As many of you will recall, last spring St. Francis School was closed for a few extra days around the Presidents' Day holiday so that engineers could carry out some maintenance and safely perform a seismic safety inspection of our facilities.

We expected to find some issues-it's a 90-year old building, after all-but what we found was much more serious than we anticipated and we wanted to bring it to your attention as soon as possible.

The long and short of it is that St. Francis of Assisi School has some serious seismic safety and structural engineering issues that have to be addressed. These problems are severe enough that we need to close our campus on 25th and K Street at least temporarily and move the school to another location. The engineers estimate that the repairs will cost \$3 million to \$5 million.

In our time of need, another parish here in the Sacramento area has stepped forward to offer our school a hand.

All Hallows Parish, located in Tahoe Park, has offered us the use of their school facilities, which were closed at the end of this last school year. Fr. Oscar Gomez-Media and the parishioners there have agreed to provide us with temporary quarters while we make plans for the long term future of our school. We cannot thank Fr. Oscar and the parishioners at All Hallows enough for the sacrifices they are making on behalf of our school and our parish.

We know this information comes as a tremendous shock, but having the opportunity to move our entire school-faculty, staff, students and traditions-all at the same time is an incredible blessing and one that lets us keep all that is good about St. Francis of Assisi School. It also means we can make the following commitments to all the families and students at our school:

- The mission and philosophy of St. Francis Elementary will remain intact; we will make certain that your child's spiritual development and strong academic growth are at the forefront of our school.
- The love, fellowship and family community that we have at St. Francis will not falter in any way. We are the same loving family, just temporarily living in a new home.
- Our traditions, such as our Christmas Pageant, First Communion, Spring Concert, Choir Concert, Graduation, etc. will continue to be celebrated back home at St. Francis Church.
- We will do everything in our power to make sure that everything at our school that we love so much will continue at our new location, and that our school will continue to carry the name of St. Francis of Assisi.

The new location is close by and freeway friendly, but for those of you who may be inconvenienced, we will assist in organizing carpooling and other means of transportation.

Obviously, this is not what we had planned for the 2010-11 school year, however, we are confident that our loving God has provided and will continue to provide us with guidance to lead us through this adventure.

Father Anthony will continue to be our pastor and spiritual leader, and will be present weekly on campus with our students. Our staff will also remain intact, providing your child daily with the same loving and unified community they are accustomed to.

We have taken a tour of the air-conditioned school campus and find it to be in a very quiet, residential neighborhood. The large, vacant school building and convent will provide a lovely place for our children to grow and learn. It does need some TLC (which we will do) but it has large, bright classrooms, and the schoolyard and gym are both huge.

We are sure you have many questions. It is therefore appropriate and necessary that we come together for a parent meeting to discuss this situation with you. We have scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, July 6th at 6:00pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church. This meeting is for parents only. Our school counselor, as well as many of our staff, will also be at meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meeting on July 6th, please call the school at 442-5494 or email us at any of these addresses and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

1. [principal@stfranciselem.org](mailto:principal@stfranciselem.org)
2. [financeoffice@stfranciselem.org](mailto:financeoffice@stfranciselem.org)
3. [mainoffice@stfranciselem.org](mailto:mainoffice@stfranciselem.org)

We look forward to continuing everything that makes St. Francis Elementary School the wonderful community it is. Our faith, traditions, values, and high standards of overall excellence will prevail!

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Fr. Anthony M. Garibaldi, O.F.M.  
Pastor

Mrs. Laurie Power  
Principal