

Dear STM School Families:

Welcome to the 2010-2011 St. Thomas More School year! What an exciting year that lies ahead for all of us! Our campus construction is near completion and Bishop Michael Burbidge will dedicate our new buildings in a ceremony and celebration on Saturday, October 23. Also this summer, Smart Boards were purchased with HSA funds and installed in the classrooms. What a great instructional tool these will be for our students! And we welcome staff and faculty who are returning to STM, as well as those teachers who are new to our school this year. This truly promises to be a memorable year for everyone!

*To our returning families of students, welcome back! And to the families of new students, we offer an especially warm welcome. The St. Thomas More Home and School Association (HSA) is an organization comprised of STM parents, teachers and those who care about the ongoing growth, improvement, and success of the school. It is an organization that is similar to a PTA with three main points of emphasis as its purpose: 1. **encourage and coordinate volunteer involvement** to enrich school programs; 2. **maintain and improve the social environment** among students, parents and teachers; and, 3. **raise funds** to support the St. Thomas More School, students and enrichment and extra-curricular programs. Being involved with HSA is the key to being connected to your child's school.*

*So where do you start? **Volunteer!!** First, read through the HSA 2010-2011 Parent Guide. Included in it are descriptions of our school's committees and a list of volunteer opportunities. Think about how much time you have to offer as a volunteer and what type of activity you would like to do. Volunteering is a great way to meet other parents, meet your child's classmates, and get to know the school staff.*

Second, do you still have questions about HSA or getting involved? Included in the Parent Guide is a list of HSA officers and committee chairs. Do not hesitate to call a member of this board with your questions.

Third, look over the calendar of events and important dates and mark these down on your personal calendar. You won't want to miss the social events that are scheduled. Similarly, note that HSA meetings are held the second

Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend.

HSA strives to keep the STM community well informed. General committee specific information will be routinely communicated through the newly updated HSA website and via the bi-weekly school newsletter, The Knight Times, which is emailed to all families.

Once again, welcome to a new and exciting school year at STM!

Joanne Vance

President, STM Home and School Association