

ST. WILLIAM PARISH
Elementary School

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Dear Parents:

School Committee members along with our faculty have worked tirelessly, especially during the past two school years, to develop new strategies and programs that will strengthen our school programs which will ensure the viability of our school for years to come. Marketing and financial stability have become two new areas that we have focused much of our time and effort on during this time. We are committed to ensuring that St. William Catholic School will be here to provide for our students now as well as in generations to come. That is what those before us have accomplished; that is what we are called to do as well.

Our recent gathering, Celebrate St. William, was our first step to the development of an alumni organization for our school. We will be working to plan future gatherings which will strengthen this effort and some day to help provide financial support of our school by those who have benefited from it the most- our alumni. Two years ago, we implemented our new tuition policy which asked our families, both in the school and after school programs, to consider if they needed financial support from the parish in order to send their children to either of these programs. A parish subsidy was no longer given to all; it was given to those who needed it. This was innovative and was very well received by our parents. For that we are grateful. We know that each family who has their children attending our school is making a sacrifice. We are blessed to have parents who are committed to make that and so many other sacrifices to be a part of our school.

We are pleased to announce that we have yet another program we will begin this week that we are hopeful will provide further financial support to our school and parish. School Committee, Stewardship, and Fr. Michael met last week and approved the implementation of our involvement in the Scrip program. We wish to thank them for their support of us as we begin this new endeavor. School Committee strongly believes that this is one way that all of us and those whom we know can support St. William School and Parish. Some of us may be finding it difficult to support our parish as much as we would like to during these difficult economic times. However, we all need to buy groceries and other items. We can support our parish and our school by supporting and participating in the Scrip program.

As the program is explained to you in this letter, it is important for you to know our current commitment to Stewardship at this time includes the following:

- For the remainder of the school year, all proceeds from Scrip will go directly to the St. William Scholarship fund in order to support those families who need additional support in their tuition as well as those families who already ask for a tuition discount. As the program continues in the fall, we will look towards also giving families the option to earn individual tuition credits.

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- We have been given approval to do the Scrip program at least through January of 2010. We will report back to Stewardship this June as well as throughout next school year.
- The Scrip program will be advertised to our school and parish families. We will also be present at the Fish Fry throughout Lent, and at the parish spaghetti dinners and Knights of Columbus breakfasts throughout the year to sell Scrip.

Simply put, the Scrip program allows our families to earn credits through their regular shopping at grocery stores, retail stores, gas stations, restaurants, theaters, etc. There are two categories of the program- community rewards programs and the purchasing of Scrip cards through the school. Each community rewards program runs with some uniqueness, but each allows a family to indicate a recipient, St. William School, who will receive a certain percentage of credit returned as a result of regular shopping. The other Scrip programs involve pre-ordering of gift cards that once again give the organization a percentage of return for each purchase.

Community Rewards Programs **Kroger, Target, Meijer, Hillers, Busch**

- **Kroger**
 - St. William will purchase \$5 cards which we will then sell to individuals. \$5 will be your beginning balance on the card.
 - You then take the card to any Kroger store and have money put onto the card
 - Each time you use this card, St. William will be credited 5% of the sales
 - You may re-load your card at any time.
 - In May, Kroger will move towards having individuals only use their “Kroger Plus” card as the identifier of what organization you want your purchases to be credited to. More information on this will follow at that time.
 - Encourage all of your family and friends to purchase their Kroger cards through us. St. William School will receive the benefits.
 - We will receive 5% on all purchases.
- **Busch’s**
 - St. William will purchase \$5 cards which we will then sell to individuals. \$5 will be your beginning balance on the card.
 - You then follow the same procedures as with Kroger.
 - We will receive 5% credit on all purchases.
- **Target**

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- When shopping at Target, you must use their “store” credit card in order to receive the credit.
- We will receive 5% credit on all purchases.

- **Meijer**

- We will receive .5% on cash or pin debit linked with Meijer 1 card and 1% on the Meijer credit card.

We are waiting for Target and Meijer to provide us with our identification numbers for us to use their program. We will inform you as soon as we receive these numbers. At that time, you can begin to use Meijer and Target.

- **Hiller’s**

- You must pick up a Hiller’s debit card from St. William.
- These cards have no money on them, and there is no charge when you pick them up.
- You must then take the card to any Hiller’s store and activate them by putting money on the card.
- Then, we will receive 5% credit on all purchases.

All cards can be picked up at the school office or at specific parish events. If you are getting cards for other family members or friends, we will distribute those cards through our school families as well. Once you have the card, the school is not required to do anything. We will receive monthly credits back from each of these stores.

Some of the frequently asked questions related to the community rewards program include the following:

- This is not a credit card.
- It does not cost you additional money.
- Re-load your gift card using cash, check or credit card.
- You will still receive the benefits of your credit cards.
- If an active is lost or stolen, it can be deactivated by the store with the remaining balance transferred to a new card.

Our school has potential to earn a significant amount of money that will benefit us.

For example, if one family spends \$150 per week using a Kroger Scrip card, they will earn \$390/year for the school. If 100 families participated at this level, \$39,000/year would be earned for St. William School. Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth earns over \$40,000 annually from community rewards programs and additional money from the other Scrip participants.

Scrip Program

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The Scrip program that many of us are familiar with is when you pre-purchase cards from an organization such as our school. The percentages of credits that the school receives varies from store to store. It can be as low as 2% and as high as 15%. Each store has a required minimum purchase. All of this information is detailed on the Scrip order form.

As of today, our school is enrolled in the Scrip program, and we can begin to support the community rewards programs and the Scrip ordering. Our plan on how this program will be implemented at this time is as follows:

- We are sending home today an order form for Scrip cards. **We will place our first order on Friday, February 27th at noon. Delivery of the cards will be done on Friday, March 6th.** We are attempting to create a pattern of ordering and delivery of every other Friday. Some changes may have to happen due to vacation schedules, but we will notify you of these.
- **The noon deadline time is an absolute.** We must get the order in by that time in order to get the cards returned to us in a timely manner.
- **For this first week ONLY, we will be distributing the complete Scrip order form along with our St. William Scrip order form.** After that, we will only be distributing our St. William Scrip order form. Please keep the other, much like our directory, as your full list. The complete Scrip order form will always be available on our school and parish websites. You can also visit the Scrip website at www.glscrip.com for more information and the same lists.
- All Scrip orders and cards will be sent home in a specific envelope just for Scrip. All order forms must be returned to us in this envelope.
- A form will be included asking for whether you wish to have your Scrip orders picked up in the school office or if you choose to have it sent home with your child.
- The school is not responsible for the loss of a Scrip card that is sent home with a child.

We will certainly adjust our procedures as we go and learn how to better manage the program. We will need parent volunteers to sit at a table at each of the Fish Fry events, at our parish events, etc. You will receive parent volunteer credits for this. Some of our families have said that it is problematic to come during the school day so this can be a way that you can help and earn your volunteer credits. We will be sending home information on that when we return from winter break.

We are very excited about this opportunity and hope that you will support it in any way possible.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Linda Jackson

