

August 5, 2009

Dear St. Andrew's Episcopal School Parents,

What a fantastic summer for St. Andrew's Episcopal School and for the Lecky family.

I arrived in New Orleans on June 12 and was immediately greeted by several School parents who quickly assisted with unpacking my car and U-haul trailer and helped to make me and my two dogs, Beau and Bear, feel right at home.

Since that time, the summer has been a whirlwind of hospitality and activity. Home-cooked meals brought to my home, memorable dinners at some of New Orleans' famed restaurants, assistance with unpacking when the movers arrived in late July, or simply dropping by the office for introductions and a welcome to the community—I want to thank each of you for your warmth and kindness during this transition, particularly during my time away from my family. Megan and my two sons, Patrick and Carter, arrive in New Orleans on August 11, and we are all looking forward to seeing you in person when School resumes in just over two weeks.

As for St. Andrew's, though my aim in writing is always brevity, you will have to forgive me as I detail the many exciting developments at the School over the past few months. I am going to begin with some housekeeping items and a few key upcoming events.

Health Forms

Students may not enroll on August 19 unless all health forms and applicable immunization records have been submitted to the School Office. If you have not already submitted your child's forms, please do so as soon as possible.

Drop-Off and Pickup

Drop-off and pickup for preschoolers is at the Short Street gate near Zimpel Street. The car pool line forms along Short Street. Please do not park there in the morning, at noon, or at the end of the day. If you wish to walk your preschooler to the gate, kindly park elsewhere, and walk with your child.

Drop-off and pickup for grade-school children is on Zimpel Street at the entrance to Parish Hall. This is also a car pool line, so please do not park along Zimpel Street. Please do not drive northbound on Short Street or turn left onto Short Street from Zimpel Street.

If your child is tardy to School, please drop him or her off at the new School Office on Short Street (explained in the following pages).

Upcoming Events

Wed.	Aug. 19	Classes 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon. (Noon dismissal for all students; no lunch or After School Care)
Fri.	Aug. 21	Parents' Coffee 7:45 A.M., New Parent Orientation 8:30 A.M. (Pick up your copy of the <i>CUSTOMARY</i> and purchase Spirit Items)
Sun.	Aug. 23	2:00 P.M. Ice Cream Social
Wed.	Aug. 26	7:00 P.M. Newcomers' Party
Fri.	Sept. 4	Faculty Retreat (No classes for students)
Mon.	Sept. 7	Labor Day (No classes for students)

Faculty and Staff

You will notice many new faces at St. Andrew's this year. We have hired, or are in the process of hiring, new personnel for the following positions: 2nd grade lead teacher, 2nd grade assistant teacher, 1st/3rd grades assistant teacher, 7th grade English teacher, Athletic Director/PE Teacher, and Business Manager. While this is an unusually large number of hires for the summer months, I want to stress how blessed we have been by both the quantity and quality of applicants. We received well over twenty applications for each vacancy and were in the fortunate position of selecting among several qualified and interested candidates for each position. I am pleased to introduce them to you now, and I urge you to please make them feel welcomed when you greet them in person.

Liz Amoss returns to St. Andrew's to teach 7th-grade English and to serve as those students' advisor. In 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 at St. Andrew's, Mrs. Amoss taught 2nd grade and served as the middle school writing skills teacher, respectively. Mrs. Amoss brings over ten years of classroom experience, having taught at Isidore Newman School and Metairie Park Country Day and earning high praise during her previous years at St. Andrew's. Mrs. Amoss holds a B.A. in English from the University of New Orleans.

Paula Apffel, who served as part-time 1st-grade assistant teacher in 2008-2009, moves to the 2nd grade, where she will serve as the full-time assistant teacher. Mrs. Apffel has a background in both teaching and in the legal profession, and her St. Andrew's ties run deep, as the mother of Conner '13 and Lillian '19 and the wife of Neil '81. Mrs. Apffel holds a B.A. in English from the University of New Orleans.

Aaron Burns is the School's new Athletic Director/PE Teacher. Mr. Burns is a graduate of the University of Georgia, from which he graduated with honors while serving as the captain of the Bulldogs' lacrosse team. Mr. Burns has experience teaching PE to students ages 3-12, and he spent the past year teaching English in China. In addition to his PE responsibilities, Mr. Burns will coach several sports for St. Andrew's, and we are in early discussions of helping Mr. Burns introduce a lacrosse program to St. Andrew's.

Rene Polacheck joins St. Andrew's as the new business manager. Mrs. Polacheck brings nearly thirty years of accounting experience to the position, including five years on the accounting staff at Newman School. Mrs. Polacheck holds a B.A. in music from the Musicians Institute in

California and has completed significant accounting training through UCLA. Mrs. Polacheck will work alongside me to enhance the School's functional capabilities in the areas of finance, accounting, human resources, facilities management, and strategic planning.

Brenda Stier will serve St. Andrew's as the 2nd-grade lead teacher. Mrs. Stier has over twenty years of teaching experience, including fifteen years at Hynes Elementary, where she chaired several School committees and was voted Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. Mrs. Stier holds a B.A. in psychology and a master's in education, both from the University of New Orleans.

We are in the final stages of extending a contract to a new 1st/3rd grades assistant teacher. **Daphne Childress, Erica Thorne,** and I have interviewed several outstanding candidates, and we will be pleased to introduce this newest member of the faculty to you on August 19.

Facilities

The campus has been abuzz with work this summer. To begin, we have moved the Head of School Office from Kimball Hall to the Old Rectory, at 1116 Short Street. When you visit School, you will notice significant renovations to the Old Rectory, including a sunny new reception space, a dedicated conference room, and a more centrally located—and visible—location for the head of school. I am excited to be able to look out my window and to see the children at play on the recess court, and to be seen and known by them, as well.

We have connected the Old Rectory (or “the School Office”) to De La Vega Hall with a beautiful new deck, and we have transformed the former PK science room and Church atrium into a stunning new Art Studio, filled with natural light and ample storage space. The first impression of visitors considering our key entry grades of PK and K will be a sunny and warm art studio that showcases student artwork in grades PK-8.

Moving down De La Vega Hall, walking away from Short Street, the former Extended Day classroom will become a combined PK and K science classroom, the former Chinese classroom will house Extended Day materials, and the former K science classroom will become a shared meeting space for PK and K to work in small groups with students and to conduct meetings with faculty and parents. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Extended Day will utilize the PK classroom for large-group activities.

Parish Hall has benefited from a significant amount of attention this summer. You will first notice the beautifully refurbished hardwood surface of the stairs, sanded, treated, and stained by **Julio Lima**, our director of facilities, and **Wayne Smith**, our custodian. Moving up the stairs into the hallway, a fresh coat of white paint has been applied to the entire stairwell, hallway, classrooms, and bathrooms. Finally, all previous carpeting has been removed and replaced with highly durable and attractive carpet tile. **Jeff Stolier**, father of Ella '16, has been instrumental in acquiring this top-line carpet tile for the School at a very reasonable cost.

Staying in Parish Hall, Mrs. Polacheck will run the Business Office from the office space previously occupied by **Lisa Witter**, our director of admissions and development. Mrs. Witter

and the functions of admissions and development will relocate to the former head of school space in Kimball Hall, providing a much more attractive location to receive visitors.

Also in Kimball Hall, the former Business Office becomes our 4th-grade classroom, equipped with new Smart Board technology, fantastic natural light, and ample counter and storage space. This location is ideally suited for the size of this year's fourth-grade class. For 2010-2011, we are already contemplating renovations to Kimball Hall that will accommodate that year's fourth-grade class (this year's third-grade class), with numbers happily above twenty students.

With PK and K in De La Vega, 1st and 2nd grades in Rueff Hall, and 3rd and 4th grades in Kimball Hall, the second floor of Parish Hall becomes dedicated space for our oldest students—our grades 6-8 middle school students, as well as our 5th graders, who bridge the gap between our elementary and middle school programs.

Finally, you will no doubt notice a promising bed of grass on the vacant Satimore Lot. By the end of the month, you will see early developments of the new St. Andrew's Community Garden. I have tasked 4th-grade teacher **Nancy Jaynes**, herself an accomplished and avid gardener, with creating and cultivating a series of teaching-and-learning community garden plots, for use by our students and faculty. This concept is the early stages of planning and development, so if you would like to become involved by donating time, treasure, or much-needed gardening materials, please contact Mrs. Jaynes directly.

I want to extend particular thanks to the entire Buildings and Property Committee, led with dedication and wisdom by **Don Fant**, father of Elise '14. The School has accomplished all of the preceding on budget and within a six-week time frame, a remarkable achievement. I also want to thank parent volunteer **Ashley Boisfontaine**, mother of Brandon '14 and Madison '16, for supporting yours truly as a much-needed interior designer.

Not to be outdone, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church has experienced significant improvements of its own this summer, most notably replacing the entire Church nave floor with beautiful new stone tiling. I encourage you to attend one of our morning meetings in August to see for yourself!

Website

St. Andrew's has a new website and a new url! Please make a note of www.standrewsepischool.org, check it out, and let us know what you think. I hope you will find the new site to be attractive, informative, and a positive reflection of our community. **Matt Shelton**, the School's talented art teacher and soccer coach, will also serve as webmaster, and you can send him an e-mail with your suggestions at webmaster@standrewsepischool.org.

On the site, you will find regular news updates, and the dynamic School calendar will contain the most recent St. Andrew's event information, so be sure to rely on it as your source for School news and information. Good websites evolve with time, so please understand that this site will grow with us over the years. We are pleased with the launch of the site, and I am particularly grateful to the leadership of Mr. Shelton and Mrs. Witter on this front.

Along with the change to a new website url, you will notice that all of our faculty and staff have new e-mail addresses. You may reach any St. Andrew's employee as follows: first letter of the first name, combined with the last name@standrewsepiscopalschool.org (e.g. mlecky@standrewsepiscopalschool.org). I am encouraging all faculty, staff, and parents to conduct School business via our new e-mail accounts, so I ask that you not write teachers at their personal e-mail addresses.

Lunch

In late July, I learned from Dino's Catering that they would not be returning as our lunch vendor. With less than one third of our families electing to participate in the voluntary lunch program in 2008-2009, I viewed this news as a welcomed opportunity to enhance the meal service we provide for our students and our faculty and staff.

I solicited recommendations from several ISAS schools, and I met with and received bids from four local catering companies, each eager to partner with St. Andrew's. I am pleased to announce that Lakeview Deli and Catering will serve as our lunch vendor for the 2009-2010 school year.

Lakeview currently provides lunch service for Trinity Episcopal School and St. Paul's Episcopal School and has received rave reviews from both schools. In the short time Lakeview has worked with Trinity School, the number of students electing to participate in the lunch program has increased from 30 to over 200, a testament to the quality of service provided by Lakeview.

In the next several days, you will receive an e-mail from the School (please be sure Renee Nason has your correct e-mail address on file) with instructions on how to participate in the new lunch program. We hope you will support the School by participating in this exciting new program.

Spirit Items

Enclosed with this letter you will find information about exciting new St. Andrew's "Spirit Items." Thanks to the good work of the School's Marketing Committee, particularly **Carolyn Teaford**, mother of Anne '86 and Thad '88, St. Andrew's has signed a contract with Redhouse Outfitters to provide families with the option of purchasing attractive apparel and accessories—ranging from athletic wear to polo shirts to duffel bags—adorned with the official School logo.

I want to emphasize that purchasing and wearing these items is strictly optional, though we certainly encourage you and your children to do so as a means of increasing St. Andrew's spirit and to share the good word of St. Andrew's to the larger New Orleans community. Further, a small portion of the proceeds from Spirit Item purchases is returned directly to the School. When ordering items, please refer to the online sizing chart or speak directly with an ordering agent.

St. Andrew's Cottage (formerly known as the Early Learning Center)

As you return to campus, you will also notice exciting facilities improvements to St. Andrew's Cottage, formerly known as the Early Learning Center. The Cottage is expanding into the

School's Multi-Purpose room that formerly housed music and PE equipment storage (music will primarily be conducted in the Church, and PE equipment will be stored in a new outdoor shed). Old and deteriorated lockers are being replaced with large and attractive wood cubbies for our 3rd and 4th graders, and the Cottage has received durable new carpet tile for its floors. Plans are underway to renovate the existing exterior play space.

As you have likely heard, the Cottage was unsuccessful in its bid to lease space at Tulane University. For the foreseeable future, the Cottage will be located here at St. Andrew's School. I hope you will join me in embracing the presence of the youngest members of our Church and School community here on our campus. How wonderful to have 18-month and three-year-old children share space with our own children and adolescents. The continuity of a St. Andrew's education—embracing the decade of childhood (and more!)—is profoundly evident.

If you are interested in more information about St. Andrew's Cottage, or if you would like to refer a family to this growing program, please contact **Kathy Smith** at 865-1347.

If you have made it this far in the letter, congratulations and thank you. I hope you have just read the longest letter of my St. Andrew's headship.

Before signing off, I do want to emphasize my gratitude to the many individuals who have played a role in the preceding accomplishments, the foundation of which was laid well before my arrival with a U-Haul trailer and two dogs in June.

And while much has transpired in less than two months, I am most excited to report that what likely drew you to St. Andrew's in the first place—the intimate, nurturing, and faith-based environment—has not changed one bit.

I look forward to seeing you and your children on August 19.

Yours,

Mason Lecky
Head of School