

WYOMING AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUGAR CASH PROGRAM

August 2011

Hi everyone! My name is Kathy Cirelli and I am the responsible for the “Cougar Cash” orders at WACS. I know most of you are familiar with the program but for those of you who aren't I would like to explain the program to you. “Cougar Cash” is what we call our gift certificate program. You purchase gift certificates (see attached order form for available certificates) at face value. Since the school purchases these certificates in bulk at a discount from the merchants we pass part of that savings back to you in the form of tuition credit. For example, when we purchase gift certificates from Gerrity's Supermarkets they give us a 5% discount. The only catch is, we have to purchase a minimum of \$5,000.00 in certificates at a time to get the discount. Of that 5% discount the school gives you 3% and keeps 2% to put back into the program and use as needed for the school. For example, the brochures handed out at open house and the churches during “Catholic Schools Week” to help positively promote our school were funded through the Cougar Cash program. Now, some of you may think “What good is 3% going to do me?” Well, if you purchase \$100.00 per week of Gerrity's you will receive \$3.00 tuition credit. If you do this every week (assuming 52 weeks) at the end of one year you will have received \$156.00 tuition credit which is half of the current tuition increase. The only thing you had to do was buy groceries using gift certificates. If you use the program to purchase other certificates and gift cards available and maybe get your family and friends to do the same, your tuition credit adds up even faster! I have one family who receives about **\$30.00 credit PER WEEK!** I would say the average family that uses the program on a regular basis receives about \$10.00 credit per week.

A few hi-lights to the gifts cards that are offered: Kohl's allows you to use the gift cards to pay your Kohl's charge bill. Restaurant.com is one I recently added – that one is a really great value if you like to eat out! You can check their web-site Restaurant.com to see what restaurants are offered & for any restrictions. Bed, Bath & Beyond can be used at Christmas Tree Shop.

All you have to do to take advantage of this great program is fill out an order sheet, send it to school with your child on Monday (Tuesday if we are off on Monday) and I send your certificates home with your child (as long as I have your permission to do so....a form is enclosed for that) on Thursday (Friday if no school on Monday). I also continue the program during the summer so you can continue earning tuition credit. The summer schedule is sent home towards the end of the school year.

Your “Cougar Cash” credit is posted to your FACTS account monthly. The voucher credit slip I send home with your order is for your information only. You do not have to send it to the school to receive your credit. I am asking each of our families to try and buy at least \$100.00 in certificates per month. You will be reducing your tuition payment and helping **OUR** school!

Thanks,

Kathy Cirelli

