



Saint Philip Neri School

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School Newsletter

October 21, 2009

Dear Parents,

I have quite an assortment of items to share with you this week:

- We have two confined cases of H1N1 at SPN and several other students out sick with flu symptoms. I am not surprised considering the closure of Archbishop Carroll High School, the earlier than anticipated occurrence of this flu strain and the fact that many schools are now reporting cases of the H1N1 virus. It is a reasonable conclusion that we would be affected, too. Our attendance has not been overly impacted and we continue to stress good hygiene with students and staff. As I said at Back to School Night, I am trying to be cautious and balanced in my approach to this illness. I will again reiterate, please keep your child at home if he/she doesn't feel well and has a temperature. If your child complains of not feeling well during the day we are automatically sending students home to be on the safe side.
- I had mentioned to you earlier that SPN was registered as a vaccine site but nothing was definite. I will no longer pursue this option but will follow the lead of the public school districts and the Montgomery County Health Department. When information is forthcoming about vaccine dates and sites I will pass it along to you. I would strongly encourage you to contact your own pediatrician for up-to-date information.
- On the academic front, no written progress reports will be issued anymore except if your child is in danger of failing a subject. You will be contacted by the teacher and a course of action will be implemented to help your child succeed. There is no need for a paper progress report since all families have access to GradeBook, our online grading program. If you can't remember your password, please contact Mrs. Hunt at khunt@saintphilipnerschool.com for help.
- Please return a conference request for each child for our school conferences on November 12 & 13. This form went home today in the Communications Envelope.
- I strongly recommend that you keep up to date with all school fees and financial responsibilities. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is any difficulty in this area.

- The Home & School Association have two great events coming up. Friday night, October 23, is our annual Fall Festival which is a great, fun-filled family night. On Saturday, November 14, Joe Conklin is back by popular demand. More information about both of these events is included in today's email distribution. Please join us.

Happy Autumn,

Mrs. Annechini





SCHOOL INFORMATION

A REMINDER

During the school day, all visitors must report to the Main Office including parents. We will deliver forgotten lunches, books or assignments, cupcakes for birthdays or whatever a student might have forgotten or needs. Parents are not to deliver items directly to the classrooms nor should they be walking the hallways without an appointment. This disrupts the routine of the classes and is not fair to students or teachers. Thank you for respecting this school policy.

EMERGENCY CARDS and EMERGENCY RELEASE FORMS

- **Keeping Emergency Cards Updated:** It is essential that parents keep their child's emergency card updated at all times. The school must have a home and work number where the parent can be contacted in the event of an emergency. When you change jobs, residence, or your phone number, please call the office or send a note with the new information. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.
- **Other Contact People:** Please list friends or relatives on these Emergency Forms who are usually available if you should not be. For your child's safety and protection, *only those people listed on the emergency forms will be able to pick up your child during school hours* unless the office receives written permission. Make sure your friends, relative, or neighbor has agreed to this responsibility.

SCRIP is available at the church office. I strongly encourage all of our families to participate in this program. Scrip is sold after the Sunday masses and in the church office during the week. It is not sold at school. The program is a way to support our school and help with your tuition payments.

DID YOU KNOW...

Check the *Uniform Closet -- Winter Uniform Begins November 2*

Beginning Monday, November 2, students are required to wear their *winter uniform*. Please consult the *Dress Code* in the *SPN Handbook*, which is available on the school website. There is a nice supply of jumpers, pants and long-sleeved shirts/blouses, as well as some gym clothing and sweaters, in the *uniform closet* (located in the stairway by the cafeteria – across from the boy's bathroom). Take what you need; please leave the hangers!

"Be a Phanatic About Reading"

SPN students are participating in a school-wide Reading program as part of our Middle States review. It's called "*Be a Phanatic About Reading.*" Each student is asked to read for 15 minutes each day, and keep a log of the days he/she does this. We will have posters hanging in the hallway to show each homeroom's progress. The upper and lower grade homerooms who return the most logs will earn a dress down day. This program

will run through February 19th. At the end of the program, participating students will complete a paper for the Phillies, and we will return our results to them. If we are one of the most successful schools in completing our goal, we will win a visit from the Philly Phanatic. All students will receive pencils and bookmarks, and participating students will receive a certificate of completion.

“Sticks and Stones: Cyberbullying”

Students in Grades 6-8 viewed the presentation of *“Sticks and Stones: Cyberbullying”* last Wednesday. *“Sticks and Stones: Cyberbullying”* was created by the Office of Attorney General Tom Corbett to address the trend of online bullying. The program shared the emotional stories of two middle school students who were victimized by their own peers. The Attorney General’s purpose was to raise awareness and educate young people about the consequences of online bullying and the far reaching devastation this type of behavior can inflict. This is a topic of conversation for all middle school parents and their children. This behavior occurs all too frequently and it can happen to your child!

Supplies Needed

We are looking for *Legos and KNex*. If your children have outgrown these toys, would you consider donating them to SPN? Several of the teachers, and not just the early childhood grades, are planning to use the blocks as part of project based learning lessons.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Students in grades 1 - 8 will participate in a *Physics is Fun* assembly and workshops on *Tuesday, November 10*. The day will begin with all students (grades 1-8) attending an assembly in the cafeteria from 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. Following the assembly, classes will take turns coming back to the cafeteria for @ 35 minutes to participate in "hands-on" workshops dealing with areas of scientific interest.

To make this an educational and enjoyable day for the students, @ 20-30 volunteers are needed to help with the *hands-on* demonstrations. No “scientific expertise” is needed! The demonstrations will be simple and instructions will be provided by the presenters prior to the workshops.

If you are able to volunteer from 8:00am – Noon or from Noon – 3:00pm, please email Peg McBride at pegbillmcb@msn.com. It will be important to be available at the beginning of your scheduled time (either 8:00 a.m. or Noon) so that you can receive the necessary training. (Grades 1-4 are scheduled to attend before Noon, grades 5-8 will attend after Noon...unless there are last-minute schedule changes.)

Thank you for your willingness to help!

SPN SCHOOL HANDBOOK is found on the school website. This handbook contains our school policies. Certain sections of the handbook have been revised and these revisions will be explained in upcoming newsletters. Please read and familiarize yourself with these

policies. It is our hope that a clear understanding of these expectations will allow us, both faculty and parents, to build a cooperative partnership.

Illness:

When to keep your child at home:

Children are not to be sent to school when taking Tylenol (or any other aspirin type product) to reduce a fever. A child needs to **be fever free for 24 hours** before returning to school.

The school reserves the right to send a child home who exhibits any of these symptoms during the school day. If the parents cannot be reached, the emergency contacts will be tried.

Communicable Diseases:

Any students suspected of having any form of communicable diseases must remain out of school for the indicated time, and must return to school with a parent's or a physician's note indicating the type of treatment. Since these diseases are contagious, school authorities (the main office and the classroom teacher) must be notified. It will be the job of the school to notify the classroom and school community.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones may be carried in a book bag for emergency use. **Cells phones must be "off" during school hours and may not be used in school or on the school grounds without the permission of a teacher or staff member. Text messaging is prohibited in school. Cell phones will be confiscated if they are used during the day without permission.**

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM: For all school volunteers who regularly interact with children, the following are required: Attend a "Protecting God's Children" Workshop, Complete a State Police Criminal Background check, a Child Abuse Clearance check, and an FBI Fingerprint Card (for those who have moved to PA with the past two years).

For the appropriate forms, please download them from the diocesan website:

www.archdiocese-phl.org. When these forms are returned to you in the mail, please send forms into school. When you attend the "Protecting God's Children" sessions, please submit that form also. A list of workshop dates and locations can be located on the diocesan website.

MOM'S AND TOTS DAY RETURNS TO SPN

Playgroup for ages 0-4 will meet every Friday starting on November 6th from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at St. Philip Neri School. If interested please email nicoleroedl@yahoo.com or call 484-686-8144. Hope to see you there!

SPOTLIGHT ON--

St. Philip Neri Adult Faith Formation is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Germantown on Tuesday, November 10th. The bus

will leave St. Philip Neri Church parking lot at 9:15 AM and return around 2:30 PM. The day will be led by Diana Von Glahn co-producer of *The Faithful Traveler* (www.thefaithfultaveler.com), and will include transportation, a tour, novena, Mass celebrated by Monsignor Vance, lunch, and time for the museum and gift shop. Give yourself the peaceful gift you'll need to gear up for the holiday frenzy by spending time with Our Lady and with fellow pilgrims. The hours are perfect for moms whose children are in school. Cost is \$20. Please contact Linda Banecker (610-828-0344) or LindaBaneckerAFF@aol.com by November 8th to register.

FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Fall Festival is almost here! Join the school community this Friday, October 23rd for this fun-filled event! If you are able to help out with Setting up, Selling tickets, Working in the Kitchen or Cleaning up, please contact Linda Pizzi at lpizzi@verizon.net. Thanks!

Joe Conklin will make a return visit SPN on November 14th. Plan to join us for a fun-filled night with a great comedian. Tickets available soon. Contact Dee Higgins or Steve Dessner for additional information.

The *Annual Mother/Son Event* will be held on Sunday, November 8th. The day will begin with attendance at the 8:30am mass and then move to the SPN gym for a basketball tournament. A continental breakfast will be served. Registration is due by Friday, October 23rd. Contact Patti Dowling at medowling@aol.com for additional information.

FROM THE CYO

PHOTOS NEEDED!

Please forward photos of any and all sporting events to Kendra Feeney at mjfeeney17@verizon.net for inclusion in the yearbook.

A meeting for the parents of all students who signed up to play *CYO Basketball* will be held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, October 27th at 7:30pm.

Player evaluations will be held in the SPN gym on the following dates:

- 5th/6th grade girls – Monday, November 2 at 6:30pm
- 5th/6th grade boys – Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30pm
- 7th/8th grade girls – Monday, November 2nd at 7:45pm
- 7th/8th grade boys – Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:45pm



ON THE CALENDAR

October 23	Fall Festival
November 2	Winter Uniforms Begin
November 2 and 3	CYO Player Evaluations
November 8	Mother/Son Event
November 14	Joe Conklin Event benefiting Home and School initiatives

THE NEXT ISSUE

Saint Philip School Newsletter is published bi-weekly during the academic year. Our next issue is Wednesday, November 4th. Please forward all items for the next issue to Katie Shields at embrians@comcast.net by November 2nd.